

Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board

Agenda

Tuesday, 16 April 2024 at 5.00 p.m.
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel

Members:

Chair: Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury

Councillor Kabir Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Performance
Councillor Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Maium Talukdar, Cabinet Member for Education & Childrens Services
Dr Somen Banerjee, Director of Public Health, LBTH
Denise Radley, Corporate Director, Health & Adult Social Care & Deputy Chief Executive
Steve Reddy, Corporate Director of Children Services
Matthew Adrien, Service Director at Healthwatch Tower Hamlets

Stakeholders (non-voting)

Dr Ian Basnett (Public Health Director, Barts Health NHS Trust), Councillor Ahmodur Khan (Chair of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee), Councillor Amy Lee (Non-Executive Largest Opposition Group Councillor), Amy Gibbs (Chair of Tower Hamlets Together), Vicky Scott (Chief Executive Officer THCVS), Charlotte Pomery (Representative from North-East London NHS Integrated Care Board) and Kosru Uddin (Tower Hamlets Housing Forum)

Substitutes: Councillor Suluk Ahmed, Councillor Iqbal Hossain and Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury

[The quorum for this body is 3 voting Members]

Contact for further enquiries:

Joel West, Democratic Services Officer (Committee),
joel.west@towerhamlets.gov.uk
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Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BJ





TOWER HAMLETS

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Public Information

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A Guide to the Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 created a statutory Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) in every Upper-Tier Local Authority in England, effective from April 2013. The HWBB is a formal committee of the local authority charged with promoting greater integration and partnership between bodies from the NHS, public health and local government.

The intention of the HWBB is to steer, advise and lead approaches that improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Tower Hamlets. It will seek to do this by encouraging joint work across different services and organisations in the Borough, and by promoting greater integration of health and social care system, as well as services that can help to address the wider determinants of health. In addition, the Board provides democratic oversight and accountability of the local Health & Care Partnership and Tower Hamlets Together (THT).

The HWBB sets out its plans for improving the health of local population through a statutory Health & Wellbeing Strategy. In the current strategy (2021-2025), the HWBB sets out its key improvement principles for the local system as well as its ambitions for local residents

The quorum of the Board in the Terms of Reference is a quarter of the membership.

Public Engagement

Meetings of the committee are open to the public to attend, and a timetable for meeting dates and deadlines can be found on the council's website.



London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board

Tuesday, 16 April 2024

5.00 p.m.

1. STANDING ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1.1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence and subsequently the Chair to welcome those present to the meeting and request introductions.

1.2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising (Pages 7 - 12)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board held on 6 February 2024. Also to consider matters arising.

1.3 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (Pages 13 - 16)

To note any declarations of interest made by members of the Board. (See attached note of Monitoring Officer).

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1.4 Draft Special Educational Needs Disabilities & Inclusion Strategy: 2024 - 2029 (Pages 17 - 54)

1.5 Covid Booster update

1.6 Health and Wellbeing Story - Just Say Hello (Pages 55 - 60)

1.7 Be Well Report

1.8 PEG Mental Health Prevention Concordat next steps

2. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other business the Chair considers to be urgent.

Next Meeting of the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board



Monday, 20 May 2024 at 5.00 p.m. to be held in Council Chamber - Town Hall,
Whitechapel



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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE TOWER HAMLETS HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

HELD AT 5.05 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL

Members Present:

Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury
(Chair)

Dr Somen Banerjee (Member)

Councillor Ahmodur Khan (Stakeholder)

Councillor Amy Lee (Stakeholder)

Warwick Tomsett (Stakeholder)

– (Director of Public Health)

– Scrutiny Lead for Adults and Health
Services

– Joint Director, Integrated
Commissioning

Apologies:

Denise Radley

– (Corporate Director, Health & Adult
Social Care & Deputy Chief
Executive)

1. STANDING ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1.1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Denise Radley and Councillor Abdul Wahid.

1.2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and there were no matters arising.

1.3 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

2. HEALTH PROMOTING LEISURE SERVICES - TO FOLLOW

Amy Amandeep and Simon Jones provided the Board with a brief presentation on the Health Promoting Leisure Services. Amy explained that from the 1st May 2024 the Leisure centres in Tower Hamlets were being brought back in house by the council. This insourcing project provided a huge opportunity to come together as a system to implement activities that will support health and wellbeing and address inequalities. This required strong relationships and integration between leisure and health and social care partners. Developing a theory of change was a first step towards this

integrated approach, helping to provide a joined-up strategic vision on how the new leisure service will deliver health and wellbeing outcomes.

Further to questions, the Board made the following observations:

- It was important to establish the pathways from clinical services into leisure services.
- It was important with the new brand that the service was future proof as possible.
- It was important to have the joined up strategic vision about how the new leisure will deliver health and well being outcomes, and who will be prioritised with the new offer.
- It was important to emphasise more commissioning targeted offer. The groups of people who face physical challenges and additional barriers.
- It was key to further strengthening pathways between primary and secondary care into physical activity intervention.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Board noted the presentation and supported the delivery of theory of change.

3. NORTH-EAST LONDON JOINT FORWARD PLAN

Warwick Tomsett, Joint Director Integrated Commissioning, provided the Board a brief presentation on the NEL Joint Forward Plan (NEL JFP) 2024-2025 refresh draft document, at, follows on from the first JFP 23/24 submitted in June 2023. The expectation is that our system's five-year plan is refreshed yearly and submitted to NHSE by the end of March each year. It will therefore continue to describe how we will, as a system, deliver our Integrated Care Partnership Strategy as well as core NHS services.

- Further to questions from Board members, Warren and Ann Corbett (Director of Community Safety) explained
- That there was a need to incorporate the feedback from the big conversation which was one of the biggest engagements that was taking place across North East London, which saw local residents input to the plan.
- This has been a two way process about what needs to be set across North East London and how does the work that's happening in boroughs need to be reflected in a North East London plan as well. Tower Hamlets priorities are reflected in here and the priorities of NHS NE London are reflected in the THT plan and some of the additional changes that have been made to this plan since the last time the board convened which saw the description around health inequalities that are in the plan and the demands and challenges.

Further to questions, the Board made the following observations:

- workforce strategy that has been brought coaching co created across northeast London with partners to the ICB Board this this month for sign off.to give opportunities to the population.
- Tower Hamlets has taken this to a work force group making sure local agencies are represented, looking at path work pathways into domiciliary care.
- Right care right person models the mental health waits in any were increasing and this was across the board, it was noted that there was more work that needed to be done on this aspect.
- Work was being done together on areas such as improving productivity, making sure that prevention and early intervention spaces were delivered.
- The Board were keen to implement Future care and health and care models and to make sure it is in bedded in that evidence-based approach smoking cessation was an area for that.

RESOLVED that the Board noted the presentation and approved the final submission to the NHSE in March 2024.

4. TOWER HAMLETS TOGETHER PRIORITIES

Amy Whitelock, and Warwick Tomsett, Director of Integrated Commissioning provided the Board with a brief presentation on the Tower Hamlets Together Priorities. Amy explained that there were certain areas which were a working progress and that they had been working on for some years as a partnership, but they were very much developed with those outcomes It was highlighted that the outcomes came from residents as well as frontline and operational delivery staff in mind.

It was important to highlight the localities and neighbourhoods work, which was really crucial to how the services were delivered as joined up and as close to people and where they lived, and how they access services most easily, closer to their home as possible. It was crucial for delivering on the kind of health inequalities agenda and also the issues around of anti-racism and equality that needed to be highlighted much more.

Having a core priority was important for the board and the partnership and each of the seven priorities as a board member kind of leading the work stream and which is supported by clinical leadership., with good joint leadership across management and lay representation and clinical inputs and sort of sitting across these is the coproduction work that were still committed to and this was led by Muna Hassan, Tower Hamlets community voice lead.

Further to questions, the Board made the following observations:

- It was important to note the rapid process of hospital discharge, and that the term bed blocking was a negative one, which was broadly used the board should be encouraged to stop using this.
- It would be beneficial to include co production plan.
- The first priority which was the access to primary urgent care, and the third one on the list around our localities and the neighbourhood's model, both are places where the access to primary care was part of that priority there was a huge amount of work happening on this.
- There was new development in which pharmacists where they will be able to deliver some of the things that GP's will be able to currently deliver these priorities and should be included in this Board.

RESOLVED that:

2. The Board noted the presentation.

5. PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP PLAN

Kirsty Roberts Corporate Strategy and Lead, introduced and presented the board on the Partnership Executive Group Plan, the plan was agreed by cabinet a November it has been Co produced with the partnership and were in a review period trying to work out how to set ourselves up to an ambitious partnership plan.

The board today was asked to call to action and how the board felt the work plan and priorities are aligned to the course to action and the partnership plan. The feedback in the partnership plan showed great strengths, particularly in the statutory boards and real confidence from across the partnership in the relationships and trust built again, particularly for those thematic partnerships and the statutory boards.

Further to questions from the Board, Kirsty:

- Explained the A new shared vision: Residents and partners working together to improve quality of life, advance equality, opportunity and empowered communities.
- Shared outcomes including to address inequalities, improve neighbourhoods and tackle climate change
- Each call to action can add value to current work and prepare us for the challenges and opportunities of the future
- Commented on the statistical relevancy of the respondent sample of 1,000 responses. She stressed that, whilst the sample was relevant, the feedback formed part of an ongoing, not a one-off, conversation. She expressed hope the work would develop and future feedback would supplement those received to date.

Further to questions, the Board made the following observations:

- The Board noted Tower Hamlets together and were keen to know the percentage of Council officers and other organisations, were present on the board.
- The Board felt that there was some level of duplication taken place between the health and well-being board and Tower Hamlets Together
- There has been a suggestion to have some form of resident champion voice on PEG and on some of the other partnership boards.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Board noted the presentation and the group plan.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury
Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board

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DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 4.1 (a) of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

You must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Dispensations Sub-Committee of the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

Further advice

For further advice please contact:-


Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance & Monitoring Officer,
Telephone Number: 020 7364 4800

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Board</p> <p>16th April 2024</p>	
<p>Report of: Steve Reddy, Interim Corporate Director of Children’s Services</p>	<p>Classification:</p> <p>Unrestricted</p>
<p>Report Title: Draft Special Educational Needs, Disabilities and Inclusion Strategy: 2024-2029</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Lisa Fraser, Director of Education
Wards affected	All wards

Executive Summary

The draft Special Educational Needs, Disabilities and Inclusion Strategy 2024 – 2029 sets how the partnership, led by the SEND Improvement Board, will secure the improvements needed so that we deliver the right support at the right time for children and young people with SEND and their families in Tower Hamlets.

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to agree that the draft strategy is published for consultation during May and June 2024, with formal approval of the revised strategy to follow in late summer 2024.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is grounded upon 6 principles that matter most to residents of Tower Hamlets. Detail how this report relates to these principles:

- | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. Resources to support health and wellbeing should go to those who most need it</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people with SEND are amongst those in Tower Hamlets who need support in order to thrive. The draft strategy describes the steps the partnership will take to ensure the most effective use of resources so that children and young people with a range of needs and backgrounds receive timely, appropriate and high quality support at the earliest opportunity. |

<p>2. Feeling connected and included is a foundation of wellbeing and the importance of this should be built into services and programme</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 6 is focused on connection and inclusion : A borough that welcomes and celebrates children and young people with SEND and supports them to thrive.
<p>3. Being treated equally, respectfully and without discrimination should be the norm when using services</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1 includes a cross-cutting focus on equality which will be developed as part of the consultation process. • Priority 6 includes a commitment to a coordinated workforce plan to enhance appropriate skills and capacity for all professionals across the SEND partnership. Skills and capacity include equal and respectful treatment for all children and young people with SEND and their families.
<p>4. Health and wellbeing information and advice should be clear, simple, and produced with those who will benefit from them</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 2 focuses on user-friendly services in response to calls from professionals, families and young people for clear, accessible information on the SEND system and services.
<p>5. People should feel that they have equal power in shaping and designing services and programme that impact on their health and wellbeing</p>
<p>The Let's Talk SEND Ambassadors group have been involved in development of the strategy, and we have also drawn on previous engagement with parents, carers, children and young people, and professionals.</p> <p>The new SEND co-production charter is included as a commitment within Priority 2 and will help to embed co-production across SEND services.</p>
<p>6. We should all be working together to make the best use of the assets we already have that support people's health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>This is a partnership strategy and includes commitments from services beyond the SEND system which have a key role to play in improving the lives of children and young people with SEND.</p>

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The current SEND Strategy (2020 – 2024) is set to expire shortly. A new strategy will be developed to ensure a clear vision and priorities for the partnership, aiming to deliver sustained improvements in support for children and young people with SEND and their families.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1. The current SEND Strategy (2020 – 2024) could be allowed to lapse. However, as part of the SEND area inspection anticipated in 2024, the partnership is expected to demonstrate shared outcomes that leaders will collectively work to achieve for all children and young people with SEND, as well as how partners will collaborate to attain these outcomes. An agreed-upon strategy is a crucial element in this process.
- 2.2. While the option of extending the current SEND Strategy (2020 – 2024) with a very light-touch refresh exists, it was initially considered at the beginning of the strategy development process and subsequently rejected. The prior strategy was formulated before several key developments: the Covid pandemic, the 2021 SEND Area Inspection, rapid increases in the number of children and young people with SEND, and the launch of the national government's SEND and Alternative Provision reform programme. Consequently, the decision was made that a new strategy is necessary.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1. The partnership's new Special Educational Needs, Disabilities and Inclusion Strategy describes the steps we will take as a partnership to realise our vision of Tower Hamlets as a child-friendly borough, where children and young people of all abilities and from all backgrounds thrive, are listened to, achieve their best, and have opportunities. The strategy – to be delivered by the SEND Improvement Board – sets out six priorities that we believe will provide the appropriate support at the right time for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, as well as their families.

Policy context

- 3.2. The duties of local authorities, health bodies, schools, and colleagues to provide for children and young people with special educational needs are set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and described in greater detail in the 2015 Statutory Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years.
- 3.3. The Government's SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper was published in 2022 and echoed the widely held view that the 2014 reforms failed to achieve the goal of improving provision for children with SEND. In March 2023, the Government set out an improvement plan addressing

national standards, preparation for adulthood, accountability, and financial sustainability. A clear timeframe for legislation has not been established yet.

3.4. This strategy sets out how the partnership will work at pace to deliver our statutory responsibilities. At the same time, we set out the ways that we will work together and with families to build confidence in the SEND system, to provide earlier support, to improve the sustainability of the SEND system, and to ensure wider opportunities in our borough are inclusive for children and young people with SEND.

Local context: children and young people with SEND in Tower Hamlets

3.5. In common with other areas, Tower Hamlets has seen an increase in children and young people with SEND needs since the Children and Families Act 2014.

3.6. There have been substantial increases in the number of children and young people with SEND needs receiving support.

3.7. Between 2015/16 and 2022/23:

- The total number of children and young people aged 0 to 24 years resident in Tower Hamlets with EHC plans increased from 2066 to 4111. Some of this increase resulted from 20-25 year olds becoming eligible for EHC plans for the first time through the 2014 reforms. However, there were steady increases across all age groups with the exception of pre-school children. (Source: Statements of special educational needs (SEN) and education, health and care (EHC) plans, gov.uk)
- Amongst pupils in state-funded schools in Tower Hamlets, pupils with an EHC plan increased from 1850 to 2889 (from 4% to 5.9% of all pupils) and pupils with SEN support increased from 5870 to 6038 (12.6% to 12.4% of all pupils). (Source: Special educational needs in England)

In the two years since the Covid pandemic, there has been a particularly steep growth in new requests for EHCP assessments. In the academic year 2022/23, there were 780 requests compared to 465 in the 2020/21 academic year. Much of the increase has been for assessments for young children, for Autistic Spectrum Disorder, and for Speech and Language assessments, with assessment referrals for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder also growing.

3.8. The SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (to follow) will provide a detailed picture of the needs and experiences of children and young people with SEND in the borough. The most common primary SEND needs amongst pupils in Tower Hamlets schools receiving SEN support are speech, language and communication needs and social, emotional and mental health needs. Amongst children with EHC plans in Tower Hamlets schools, Autistic Spectrum Disorder is the most common primary need, followed by Speech Language and Communications needs. Many children with SEND have multiple needs which are not reflected in the 'primary needs' data.

3.9. Projections developed as part of the borough's SEND Sufficiency Review (2023) point to a likely growth in the number of EHCPs up until 2030. The three main areas of need are likely to be Speech Language and Communication; Autism; and Social, Emotional and Mental Health. This increase in need, combined with a declining school-age population will mean that children with SEND will make up a growing proportion of the school-aged cohort.

Local context: the partnership's support for children and young people with SEND

3.10. Improving the timeliness and quality of the support that children and young people with SEND and their families receive is a priority for the partnership. The previous SEND Strategy (2020–24) had 5 priorities:

- Leading SEND
- Early identification and assessment.
- Commissioning effective services to respond to local needs
- Good quality education provision for all children
- Supporting successful transitions and promoting independence.

3.11. There are many strengths in education support for children and young people with SEND in Tower Hamlets. 96.7% of pupils attend schools rated Good or Outstanding, with 3 out of 5 Special Schools rated outstanding. Attainment for children with EHCPs or SEN support exceed the national average at Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and GCSE levels. Rates of absence, exclusions, and suspensions for children with SEND are also better than average. More than 9 in 10 children with SEND are educated in mainstream schools, and a lower percentage of them are in long term alternative provision in Tower Hamlets than nationally. Our recent SEND sufficiency review (2023) has identified priorities for expansion of specialist provision – now and in the future – to meet the educational needs of children with SEND in the borough.

3.12. In 2021, a SEND Local Area Inspection by Ofsted and the CQC found that leaders had a good understanding of what worked well and what does not. It noted improvements in SEND provision but identified significant weaknesses. These are the focus a SEND Improvement Plan, underpinned by a Written Statement of Action to address the quality and oversight of EHC plans and annual reviews; lengthy waiting times for ASD assessment and diagnosis; fragmented speech and language therapy; and weaknesses in communication between area leaders and parents. Progress has been supported with additional investment: an extra £1.1 million in council funding and £870,000 from the NHS. Further resources have been earmarked in the council's new Medium Term Financial Strategy for SEND Services and SEN Transport.

3.13. In 2023, a Local Government Association SEND Peer Challenge assisted the partnership to take stock of progress. The challenge recognised the commitment across the partnership to drive better outcomes for children and young people with SEND. It highlighted the need to continue to improve

the timeliness and quality of Education, Health and Care Plans and Annual Reviews, improve information sharing, and to develop a common and widely understood graduated response for children with different needs across the partnership, supported by a clear, concise strategy and strong governance through the SEND Improvement Board.

- 3.14. Alongside our commitment to improvement, the partnership has been exploring how to sustain high quality SEND support whilst the High Needs Block allocation (funding to support costs of pupils with additional education needs, across mainstream and special schools as well as the associated support costs) fails to keep up with growing levels of need. Through its participation in the Delivering Better Value Programme, Tower Hamlets will provide an improvement programme designed to meet children's needs earlier, bringing together multi-disciplinary teams to support children with SEND in mainstream education settings, and to rationalise financial top-up bandings and what support children should expect to receive at each level. The implementation of the SEND Sufficiency Review recommendations will also contribute to financial sustainability, by increasing the number of children who have their educational needs met in local state-funded schools, reducing the number of higher cost independent and out-of-borough placements.

SEND and Inclusion Strategy development process

- 3.15. The starting point for the strategy is the Tower Hamlets Partnership Plan 'A Tower Hamlets for All', supported by the Accelerate! Children and Families Partnership Strategy (2024-2029) They include the partnership's ambition that Tower Hamlets should become:
- 3.16. A child-friendly borough where children and young people from all backgrounds thrive, are listened to, achieve their best, and have opportunities,.
- 3.17. Young people, families and partners have requested a concise SEND strategy which clearly sets out the main things the partnership will do to support children and young people with SEND and their families. Although the strategy document itself is short, it is underpinned by engagement with stakeholders and residents, by the ongoing SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and survey and analytical work conducted for the SEND Sufficiency Review and Delivering Better Value Programme.
- 3.18. The draft strategy has been informed by consultation with young people, families, and professionals, including:
- an in-person discussion with the Our Time all ability youth forum to find out about the issues that matter most to young people with SEND (November 2023)
 - online surveys with partner representatives and Special Educational Needs Coordinators in schools (November to December 2023)
 - an online workshop to map initial challenges and issues (November 2023)

- an in-person workshop attended by 50 people to which partners, parents and young people were invited, with a focus on developing practical strategy actions (January 2024)
- analysis of recent consultation and engagement conducted as part of the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme – including survey responses from more than 100 parents and carers (2023 – 24)
- Feedback from families attending Let’s Talk SEND events.

3.19. The strategy has six priorities:

- Priority 1 - Timely, effective, and well-coordinated support for children and young people with SEND - focuses on delivering continued improvements in the support provided for children and young people with SEND and their families in a context of increasing need for support.
- Priority 2 - User-friendly services for children and young people with SEND and their families - reflects feedback from families and professionals that services are hard to navigate, and not sufficiently designed with children and families’ needs in mind.
- Priority 3 - Early identification and support for the under-fives - is part of our broader commitment to early identification and support. Providing early evidence-based support without delay can support children’s development, avoid problems escalating and in some cases will mean that statutory assessment and plans are not required.
- Priority 4 - A great education and support for every school-age child with SEND – includes wide-ranging commitments to ensure that more children’s needs can be met within mainstream schools, whilst expanding supply of local specialist placements within the state-funded sector for children who need them.
- Priority 5 - Opportunities and support for young adults with SEND – includes the development of more education, training, and employment opportunities for young adults.
- Priority 6 - A borough that welcomes and celebrates children and young people with SEND and supports them to thrive – responds to calls from children and young people with SEND to make Tower Hamlets a genuinely accessible and inclusive borough, with opportunities for friendship, enjoyment, and activity for young people of all abilities.

3.20. Following review and feedback by the Health and Wellbeing Board, it is proposed that children, young people, parents and professionals are consulted on the draft strategy in May and June 2024. A final strategy, taking their feedback into account, will be agreed in late summer 2024.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1. An initial equality analysis is attached. The issues identified will be explored further through the complete SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, consultation and engagement on the draft strategy, and additional actions incorporated into the final strategy if required.

4.2. The strategy has potential to have a positive equality impact, by enhancing the opportunities, life chances and outcomes for children and young people

with disabilities and promoting a child-friendly borough where services and facilities are inclusive for disabled children and young people.

4.3. There are significant potential equality considerations in developing a strategy for SEND. These will be addressed through a full Equality Impact Assessment:

- In some cases, prevalence of different needs and disabilities can vary by age, sex, and/or ethnic background, and needs are affected by poverty and deprivation.
- Children with some characteristics may be more likely to have SEND identified than others.
- Children and families' experiences of accessing services and receiving support may vary according to their background.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2. There are no other statutory implications.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1. The financial context for the SEND Strategy is determined by the funding provided by the Government through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This is a ring fenced grant provided by the DfE to fund all education provision. If the Strategy is to realise its aims, then there will be financial implications and they will need to be achieved within the available resources and agreed by the Schools Forum

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1. Section 27 of the Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to keep under review the educational provision, training provision and social

care provision made for children and young people for whom the local authority is responsible who have special educational needs or a disability.

7.2. Section 30 of the Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to publish information about the local offer for children and young people in their area who have special educational needs or a disability.

7.3. Statutory guidance, SEND and disability code of practice 0-25 (2015) sets out the requirements on local authorities relating to children and young people with a disability.

7.4. The matters set out in this report demonstrate the Council's compliance with the above requirements.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Draft SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2024 – 29
- Children and Young People with SEND: an overview
- Initial Equality Impact Assessment

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

Tina Sode, Acting Head of SEND

Frances Winter, Strategy and Policy Lead

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Tower Hamlets

Special Educational Needs, Disabilities and Inclusion Strategy 2024–29

Page 27 Consultation draft

Contents

Foreword	03
Tower Hamlets Special Educational Needs, Disabilities and Inclusion Strategy: 2024–29	04
Priority 1: Timely, effective and well-coordinated support for children and young people with SEND	05
Priority 2: User-friendly services for children and young people with SEND and their families	06
Priority 3: Early identification and support for the under-fives	07
Priority 4: A great education and support for every school-age child with SEND	08
Priority 5: Opportunities and support for young adults with SEND	09
Priority 6: A borough that welcomes and celebrates children and young people with SEND and supports them to thrive	10
How we will measure change	11

Foreword

On behalf of our Children and Families Partnership, thank you for taking the time to read our draft Special Educational Needs, Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion strategy for Tower Hamlets.

We are personally committed to making sure that we provide the very best services for our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Delivering SEND improvement is a Mayoral priority. The council is making additional investments in SEND improvement, and we know that the borough's excellent schools and our colleagues in the NHS work every day to do their best for children and young people with SEND. Community, voluntary and faith groups also make a big contribution. All organisations, families and communities must work together to provide the support our children deserve.

Page 29

Over the past few months, we have listened to what parents, young people and professionals have to say about our SEND services in Tower Hamlets. We have discussed how we can do more of the things that work well, and how we can tackle problems together where services fall short.

The strategy needs to be built around the things that matter to children, families and young people with SEND. Please take part in our consultation and help us to make sure that this really is a strategy for all our children and young people with SEND. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lutfur Rahman

Executive Mayor Tower Hamlets

Councillor Maium Talukdar

Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member
for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning



Tower Hamlets Special Educational Needs, Disabilities and Inclusion Strategy: 2024–29

As a Children and Families Partnership we want Tower Hamlets to be:

A child-friendly borough where children and young people from all backgrounds thrive, are listened to, achieve their best, and have opportunities.

We are so proud of our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We are determined that our vision of a child-friendly borough is inclusive, where the focus is on meeting children’s needs, and children of all abilities are welcome, and are nurtured to fulfil their potential.

To achieve this, our SEND and Inclusion Strategy sets out six priorities for 2024 – 29 that we believe will deliver the right support at the right time for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families.

These priorities were developed in discussion with young people, parents, carers and the professionals who make up our SEND Local Area workforce. They told us that there is lots to celebrate. We have great schools in Tower Hamlets and pupils with SEND achieve well. The young Our Time Ambassadors are passionate advocates for the rights of young people with SEND. Working together, we have made progress in meeting statutory requirements for assessments, Education, Health and Care Plans, and annual reviews. Families and professionals strive to do the best for children and young people, and there is a wealth of expertise and professionals who have worked in Tower Hamlets for many years.

But we don’t always get things right for children and young people with SEND. Our overriding priority is delivering the right support at the right time, working closely with children and young people, and those that know them best – their families. We will focus on providing early support so that children can fulfil their potential. We have also listened to what young people have told us and included a focus on the things that make for a good childhood : fun with friends, and inclusive play, sport, leisure and youth services.

At the same time, this strategy looks to the future. As a partnership we need to make sure we have the right services, staff and funding for the next ten years. The number of children and young people needing SEND support has been rising in Tower Hamlets and beyond. Through early support and the right education placements in local schools and colleges, our strategy sets out how we intend to meet this growing need with high quality and financially sustainable services for our children and young people with SEND.

Inclusion is everyone’s business. Our SEND Improvement Board brings together young people and family representatives in partnership with local decision makers from education, health and children’s services. The Board is accountable to the Tower Hamlets’ Health and Wellbeing Board. It will lead delivery of our SEND strategy and work with other organisations to make sure Tower Hamlets is an inclusive and child-friendly borough for every child and young person.

Priority 1: **Timely, effective and well-coordinated support for children and young people with SEND**

What we want to see

1. Strong leadership and governance, positive relationships and clear communications which build confidence and drive improvements for children with SEND and their families.
2. A whole system approach to delivering the right care, in the right place at the right time for early years, school-age children and young people through graduated pathways which everyone understands.
3. High quality case management and comprehensive management reports that are used by all partners to improve performance and make strategic decisions.
4. Statutory timelines met for all children and young people who need assessments, EHC Plans and annual reviews, with improvements in quality and the voice of the child reflected throughout.
4. Develop and implement a proactive SEND Improvement Communications plan to build parental confidence and ensure that families and professionals feel part of our improvement journey.
5. Through the new Designated Social Care Officer, deliver and implement a social care and SEND quality assurance framework and ensure high quality social care input into early intervention strategies, needs assessments and EHC plans.
6. Invest an added £400,000 to deliver high quality Education, Health and Care Plans for children who need them within statutory timeframes, with a co-production meeting as part of every EHC plan from 2024, and amendments at each Key Stage and during education transitions.
7. Improve our case management system through a 'hosted' system and an online SEN module which can be accessed by the SEN Service, parents and carers, and selected professionals in the Local Area.
8. Improve the SEND Management Information Report to inform decision-making, with performance measures across the partnership, benchmarked to assess progress
9. Use data from health visitor reviews and section 23 notifications to develop an understanding of emerging need and plan for future service provision.
10. Based on our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and management information data, identify, understand and address inequalities in identification and support.

What will we do together?

1. Reform the SEND Improvement Board to provide strategic and focused leadership.
2. Co-produce a shared understanding of a graduated response and inclusion across the local partnership. This will inform the universal offer, targeting of additional support, strategic commissioning and a consistent approach to growing needs.
3. Improve joint working between health, education and social care to achieve more strategic and efficient commissioning and a greater focus on prevention.

Priority 2: **User-friendly services for children and young people with SEND and their families**

What we want to see

1. Everything from individual plans to the strategic ambition for Tower Hamlets is shaped by the voices and views of children and young people with SEND and parents and carers.
2. Families and young people from all backgrounds can find out what they can expect from services and how the SEND system works, particularly at important moments for them.
3. All professionals have a good understanding of the support on offer and the role of different organisations
4. The number of times families and young people have to repeat information to different professionals and services is reduced.

What will we do together?

1. Launch and roll-out our SEND Co-production Charter, and review annually with professionals, parents and young people to ensure that meaningful coproduction at strategic and individual level is happening.
2. Introduce a new SEND 'front door' so that schools can access support for children easily and appropriate support can be identified systematically.
3. Develop our Local Offer so that it is accessible and supported by increased engagement, use of new technologies, and regular 'Let's Talk SEND' events.
4. Increase the impact of the independent Tower Hamlets and City SEND Information, Advice and Support Service through work with Family Hubs to ensure staff working directly with families have information about SEND services.
5. Develop support for 16 – 25-year-olds as laid out within the Minimum Standards for Information Advice and Support Services
6. Develop proposals for health passports for children and young people with SEND.
7. Gather annual feedback from children and young people with SEND about their lives, experiences and aspirations.

Priority 3: **Early identification and support for the under-fives**

What we want to see

1. Children's needs identified earlier and more consistently across different needs and characteristics.
2. Evidence-based support for young children so that needs do not escalate while they wait for an assessment
3. Parents and carers of babies and infants with SEN are supported by a confident, skilled workforce and through peer support, including before birth.
4. Fewer families feel they need to undertake lengthy statutory assessment procedures to secure the support their child needs.



What will we do together?

1. Develop and sustain a SEND Early Intervention approach and front door model, building on Family Hubs and bringing together different services in multi-disciplinary teams to meet children's needs as early as possible, through a graduated approach and increased use of group based interventions.
2. Develop and roll-out early identification and support programmes for infants as part of our Start for Life programme including a universal 12 month review, and a programme of parent-led therapy to support social and communication development in infants displaying early signs of autism.
3. Adapt and extend the Inclusion Framework and self-assessment tool to early years education settings.
4. Co-produce and implement a programme of speech and language therapy for 3 to 5 year-olds.
5. Development of pathways, skills development and communication for parents and professionals for supporting children, to include children with social communication needs as well as other areas of development

Priority 4: **A great education and support for every school-age child with SEND**

What we want to see

1. Expanding Tower Hamlets' successful inclusion model so that even more children with SEND are educated in a local mainstream school.
2. Education in state-funded settings for children who need specialist placements.
3. Well planned and supported transitions when children start primary, secondary and post-secondary education.
4. Reductions in rates of absence, suspensions and exclusions for pupils with SEND.
5. Effective planning for the long term so that current and future needs for specialist placements can be met through high quality provision in state-funded schools.

Page 34

What will we do together?

1. Implement an Inclusion Framework and self-assessment tool to support inclusion for children with SEND in mainstream primary and secondary schools for whole class and SEN support levels.
2. Introduce a more consistent approach to top-up funding and expected levels of support in mainstream schools.
3. Introduce and pilot SEN Units attached to mainstream schools: specialist Additionally Resourced Provision – in key areas where there is a shortfall in specialist placements – including in Autism, Communication and Interaction; Social Emotional and Mental Health; and Severe Learning Disabilities.
4. Continue work to develop and deliver a pipeline of appropriate support and placements for children and young people with more complex needs.
5. Support and learn from programmes such as the Phoenix Specialist Classrooms project where expertise in the borough is shared to benefit children and professionals.
6. Introduce an integrated therapies package for children in school, delivering a core offer with quality-assurance and monitoring.
7. Work together to deliver evidence-based interventions and advice to support attendance and reduce suspensions and exclusions for pupils with SEND.

Priority 5: Opportunities and support for young adults with SEND

What we want to see

1. Planning for adulthood starting at age 14 for young people with SEND.
2. More local education places for young people aged 16 and over with SEND.
3. More options for vocational learning or part-time alternative provision for young people with SEND
4. Timely and well-planned transitions for young people who will need support from adult social care services.
5. Support for life skills such as travel training, welfare entitlements and wellbeing for young adults.

Page 35



What will we do together?

1. Increase in-borough places available to young people over the age of 16 years, especially in Autism, SEMH and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties.
2. Review the offer in sixth forms to ensure inclusivity for young people working below level 2.
3. Extend the Inclusion Framework and self-assessment tool to 16+ education and college settings.
4. Increase our investment in support for 18 to 30 year-olds with SEND as they transition to adulthood.
5. Implement the Transitions Protocol and pathways for young people with EHCPs who will transition from support from Children's Social Care to Adult Social Care, with oversight by the Transitions Board, and learning from regular quality assurance audits.
6. Conduct and implement the recommendations from a Preparing for Adulthood Audit with key stakeholders.
7. Develop a wider range of support options for young people with EHCPs who do not receive support from Children's Social Care.
8. Develop and implement a three-year action plan for supported internships and apprenticeships to meet the demand from young people with SEND for pathways to employment.

Priority 6: **A borough that welcomes and celebrates children and young people with SEND and supports them to thrive**

What we want to see

1. Children and young people with SEND are visible and celebrated in Tower Hamlets
2. A SEND workforce that promotes inclusion and has appropriate skills to enable children and young people with SEND to meet their potential.
3. Children and young people with SEND and their families feel connected with friends, peers and the wider community.
4. Children and young people have fun and improve their wellbeing by taking part in play, youth, leisure, and holiday activities.
5. Children and young people with SEND feel safe and supported.

What will we do together?

1. Support for the Our Time SEND Ambassadors forum, Independent SEND Parent Carer Forum, and Parent SEND Ambassadors to advocate for inclusion at a local, regional, and national level.
2. Recognise and celebrate our children and young people with SEND.
3. Agree a coordinated workforce development plan to enhance appropriate skills and capacity for all professionals across the SEND partnership.
4. Consider how best to meet the needs of children and young people who may have undiagnosed SEND and use other local services.
5. Work with partners to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND as part of the borough's Child Healthy Weight Programme.
6. Co-produce and implement an inclusive play programme which



7. covers infrastructure, play sessions and communications.
7. Ensure a minimum of 50% of new play equipment in park upgrades is accessible.
8. Co-design and deliver an inclusive Young Tower Hamlets service which is open to all abilities, and offers dedicated sessions for young people with SEND, supported by well-trained staff.
9. Improve accessibility to leisure services through environmental improvements, workforce development and more inclusive and holistic offer for people with disabilities, as part of bringing leisure services under council management.
10. Increase the number and range of free and low cost holiday activities that are accessible for children and young people with SEND.
11. Ensure the needs and experiences of children and young people with SEND are addressed in the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership's work programme around keeping children safe.

How we will measure change

	Priority	Measures
1	Timely, effective and well-coordinated support for children and young people with SEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent EHC plans completed within 20 week timeframe (including and excluding exceptions) • Number of SEN appeals • Number and time on waiting lists for ASD assessments. • Children and young people assessed by CAMHS within 5 weeks. • Therapy Referrals (all therapies excl. CAMHS): average waiting time after referral (weeks) • Number children on learning disability register that have received an annual health check. • Families and professionals' knowledge/feedback on outcomes achieved
2	Services that are user-friendly for children and young people with SEND and their families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual feedback survey from children, young people and parents • Percent young people and parents who rate the Local Offer as good or excellent.
3	Early identification and support for the under-fives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of children with good level of development at EYFS
4	A great education and support for every school-age child with SEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of children and young people with EHCPs being educated in Tower Hamlets. • % of children and young people with SEN support and EHCPs who are excluded, subject to fixed term exclusion or on a reduced timetable. • Absence and persistent absence rates for children and young people with SEN Support/EHCPs • Attainment for children and young people with SEN support and EHCPs
5	Opportunities and support for young adults with SEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit against Transitions protocol • % young adults with EHCPs receiving education in Tower Hamlets
6	A borough that welcomes and celebrates children and young people with SEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people with SEND at a healthy weight. • Annual Feedback from children and young people with SEND. • Number of Children and Young People with SEND accessing Young Tower Hamlets services.

Children and young people with SEND in Tower Hamlets: an overview

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This annex provides a brief overview of children and young people with SEND in Tower Hamlets, as background to the SEND and Inclusion strategy 2024 – 29.
- 1.2 A SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (in preparation) will replace this briefing, providing analysis and insight, drawing on wider research and comparative data, and with an in-depth focus on different SEND needs.
- 1.3 The recent Tower Hamlets SEND Sufficiency Review (November 2023) reviewed trends and pupil level data for EHCPs and specialist placements, alongside projections of future SEND needs to 2030. These projections are not included here.

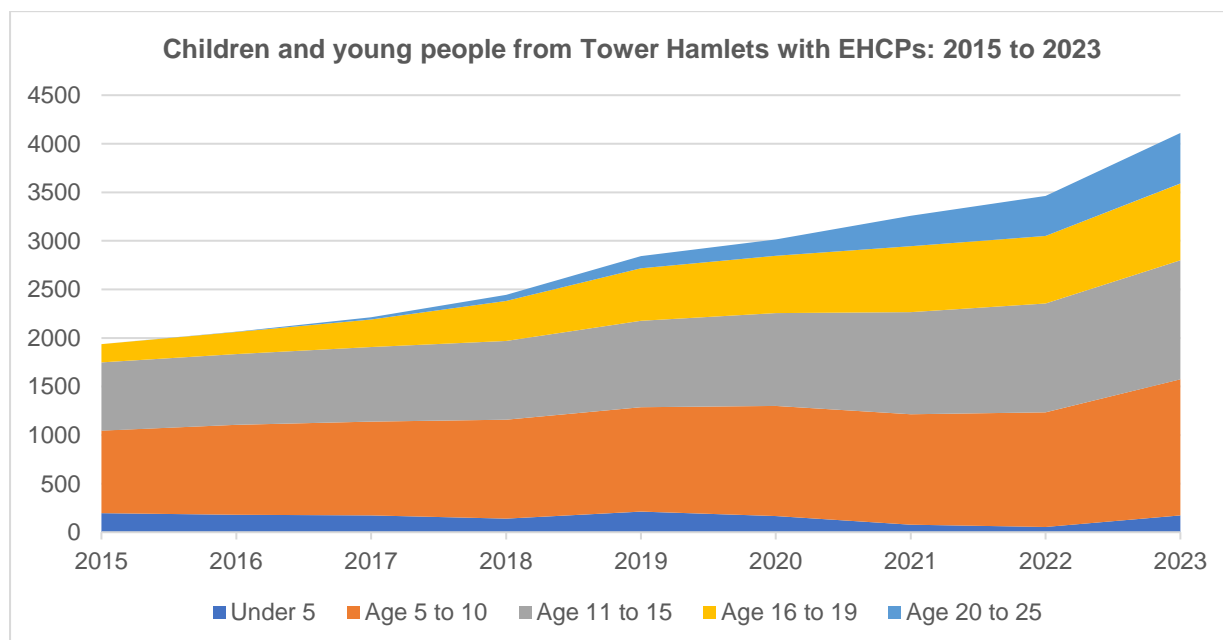
2. A note on data sources

2.1 The main data on SEND come from two sources:

- Information about pupils in schools in Tower Hamlets including pupils from other boroughs who are educated in Tower Hamlets. This information comes from the annual school census. It includes information about pupils with SEN support and EHC plans, but only includes school age children and young people.
- Information about those children and young people from Tower Hamlets with an Education, Health and Care Plan. It covers 0-24 year olds.

3. The number and proportion of children and young people with SEND

3.1 There has been a steady increase in children and young people from Tower Hamlets with EHCPs since 2015, across all age groups except the under 5's.



(source: Education, health and care plans, national statistics)

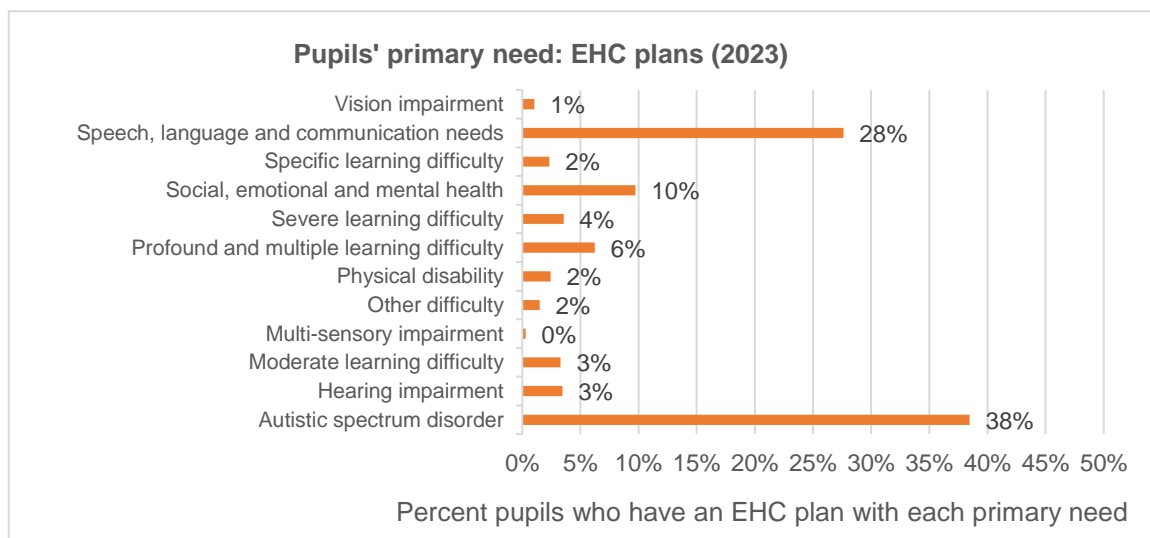
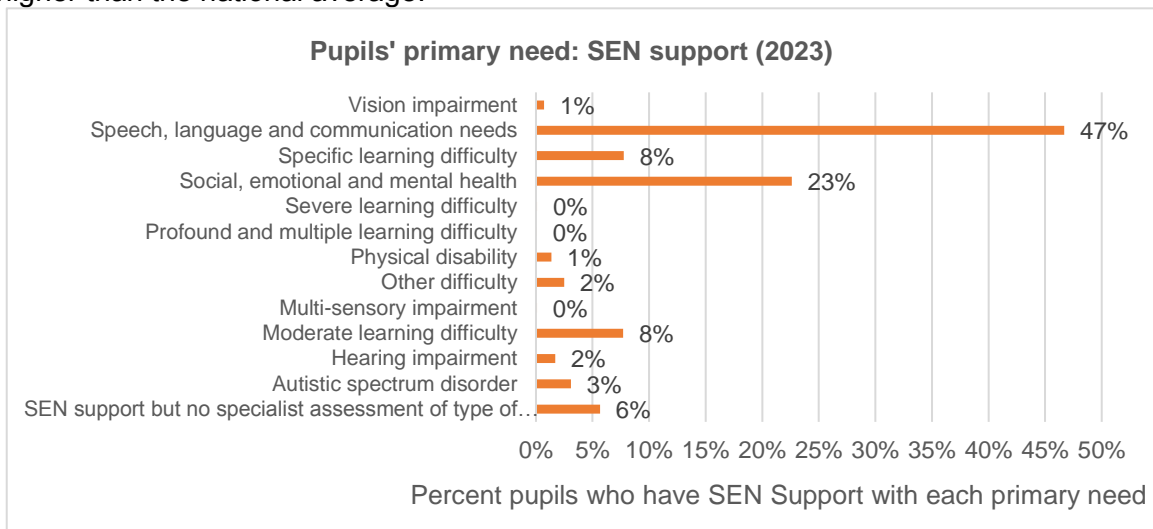
3.2 Tower Hamlets schools have a higher than average proportion of pupils with SEND. The percentage of pupils with an EHCP was the fifth highest in England in 2023.

2023	Tower Hamlets	London	England
Percent of all pupils with SEN Support	12.4%	12.1%	13%
Percent of all pupils with an EHCP	5.9%	4.5%	4.3%
Total: Percentage of Pupils with SEN	18.3%	16.6%	17.3%

(source: Special educational needs in England 2023, national statistics)

4. The needs of children and young people with SEND

The figures below show the ‘primary needs’ recorded for pupils in Tower Hamlets schools with SEN support and EHC Plans. In many cases, a child will have a range of needs which are not fully reflected in the classifications below. Out of pupils in Tower Hamlets schools who have SEN support, by far the most common needs are speech, language and communication needs, and social, emotional and mental health needs. Out of pupils with EHC plans, the most common needs are autistic spectrum disorder, and speech, language and communication needs. This reflects the national profile, although rates of autism are higher than the national average.



(source: Special educational needs in England 2023, national statistics)

5. The profile of children and young people with SEND

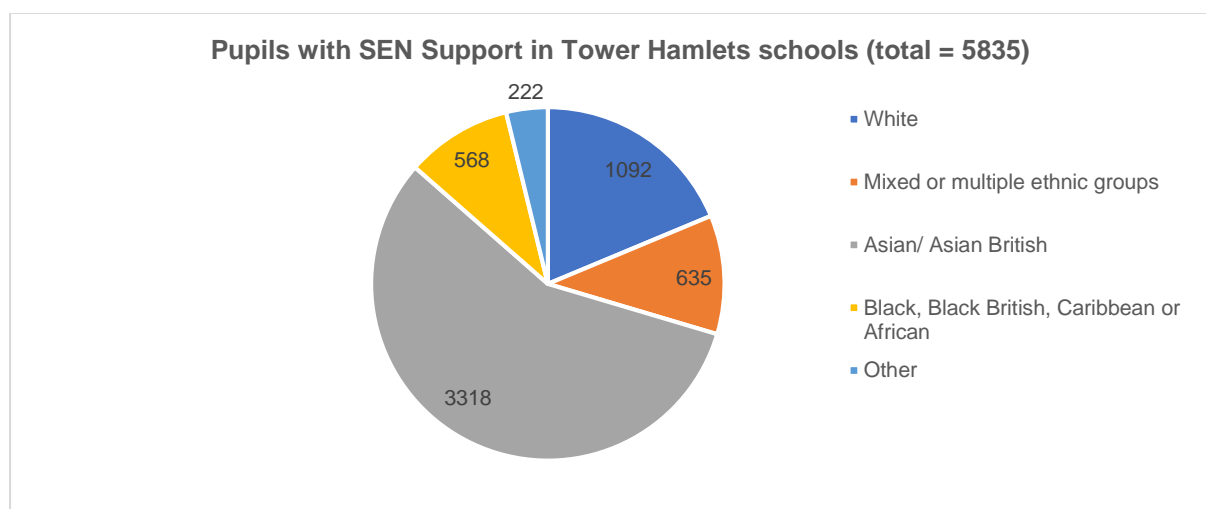
5.1 Boys are overrepresented amongst children and young people with SEND. Nearly 1 in 4 boys in Tower Hamlets schools had SEND in 2023, compared to around 1 in 8 girls.

Percentage of boys and girls in Tower Hamlets schools receiving support for SEND (2023)

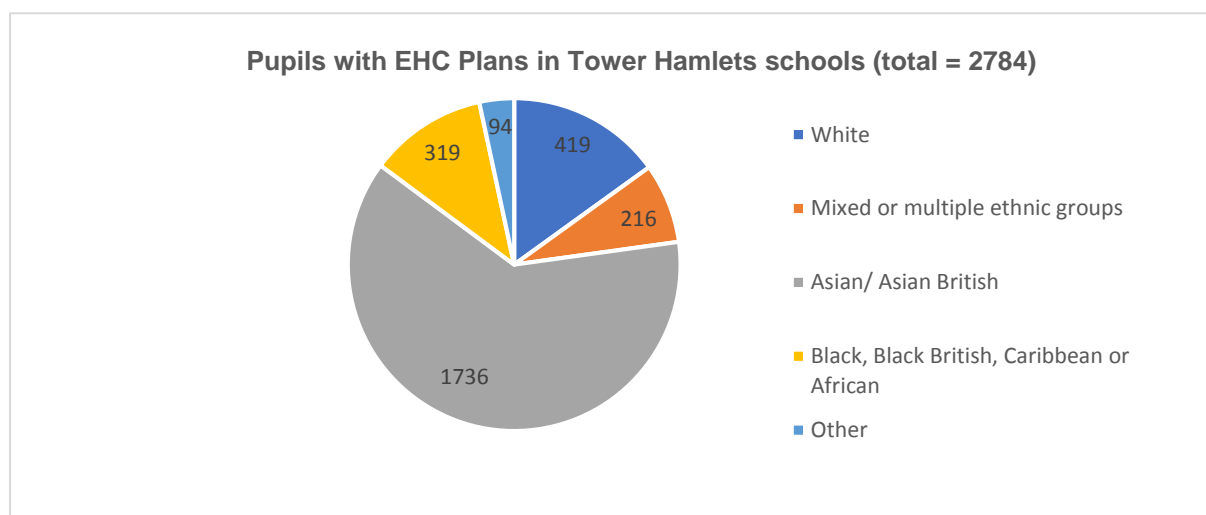
	All pupils in Tower Hamlets schools	Boys in Tower Hamlets schools	Girls in Tower Hamlets schools
SEN Support	12.6%	15.4%	9.8%
EHC Plans	6.0%	8.9%	3.1%
Total pupils with SEND	18.6%	24.3%	12.9%

5.2 Pupils from an Asian and particularly Bangladeshi background make up a large majority of pupils in Tower Hamlets schools, and nearly 6 in 10 pupils with SEN Support or an EHCP are of an Asian background.

Ethnic background of pupils receiving SEN support in Tower Hamlets schools (2023)



Ethnic background of pupils with EHC Plans in Tower Hamlets schools (2023)



5.3 However, a pupil from an Asian background is less likely to be receiving SEN support or to have an EHC Plan than a pupil from a White background. Pupils from Black/Black African backgrounds are less likely to be receiving SEN support than pupils from White backgrounds.

Percentage of pupils from different ethnic backgrounds in Tower Hamlets schools receiving support for SEND (2023)

	All pupils	White	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/Black British/Caribbean or African	Other
SEN Support	12.6%	18.4%	17.5%	10.9%	13.2%	12.3%
EHC plans	6.0%	7.1%	6.0%	5.7%	7.4%	5.2%
No SEN	81.3%	74.6%	76.6%	83.4%	79.4%	82.5%

5.4 Pupils who receive means-tested free school meals because they are in lower income families are more likely than average to receive SEN Support or to have an Education, health and Care Plan.

Percentage of pupils in receipt and not in receipt of means-tested free school meals in Tower Hamlets schools receiving support for SEND (2023)

	All pupils	Pupils who are not eligible for means-tested free school meals	Pupils who are eligible for means-tested free school meals
SEN Support	12.6%	10.6%	15.8%
EHC plans	6.0%	4.8%	7.9%
No SEN	81.3%	84.6%	76.3%

6. Where children and young people with SEND are educated

The tables below show where pupils with EHCPs and SEN support are educated in Tower Hamlets schools. Tower Hamlets has comparatively higher numbers of pupils with EHC plans in mainstream settings than national and London averages.

Numbers and Percentages of Pupils with EHCPs within each setting (2023)

	Tower Hamlets		London		England	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Independent School	105	4.2	4,885	3.3	28,732	4.9
Non-Maintained Special School	N/A	N/A	252	100	3,995	98.2
State Funded AP school	19	14.2	490	22.8	3,368	25.5
State Funded Nursery	12	3.5	137	1.7	673	1.8
State Funded Primary	1,126	4.5	23,052	3.3	117,757	2.5
State Funded Secondary	861	4.4	15,842	2.7	87,219	2.4
State Funded Special	766	99.7	20,687	97.4	147,427	98.9
Total	2,889	5.9	65,345	4.5	389,171	4.3

Numbers and Percentages of Pupils with SEN Support within each setting (2023)

	Tower Hamlets		London		England	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Independent School	203	8.1	20,645	13.8	89,840	15.2
Non-Maintained Special School	N/A	N/A	0	0	57	1.4
State Funded AP school	82	61.2	1,251	58.2	7,518	57.0
State Funded Nursery	60	17.4	1,591	20.1	6,381	17.0
State Funded Primary	3,562	14.1	88,692	12.6	629,184	13.5
State Funded Secondary	2,129	10.8	64,364	11.1	448,967	12.4
State Funded Special	2	0.3	456	2.1	1,437	1.0
Total	6,038	12.4	176,999	12.1	1,183,384	13.0

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Equality Impact Analysis Template

Section 1: Introduction


Name of proposal
For the purpose of this document, 'proposal' refers to a policy, function, strategy or project
Draft Special Educational Needs, Disabilities and Inclusion Strategy 2024 – 29
Service area and Directorate responsible
SEND service, Children's Services Directorate
Name of completing officer
Frances Winter
Approved by (Corporate Director / Divisional Director/ Head of Service)
Tina Sode
Date of approval
20/02/2024

Where a proposal is being taken to a committee, please append the completed EIA(s) to the cover report.

Conclusion – To be completed at the end of the Equality Impact Analysis process

This summary will provide an update on the findings of the EIA and what the outcome is. *For example, based on the findings of the EIA, the proposal was rejected as the negative impact on a particular group was disproportionate and the appropriate actions cannot be undertaken to mitigate risk. Or, based on the EIA, the proposal was amended, and alternative steps taken.*

The focus of this is to analyse the impacts of the proposal on residents, service users and the wider community that are likely to be affected by the proposal. If the proposed change also has an impact on staff, the committee covering report should provide an overview of the likely equality impact for staff, residents and service users and the range of mitigating measures proposed.

Conclusion	Current decision rating (see Appendix A)
<p>Initial assessment is that successful implementation of the strategy will have a positive impact – helping to reduce inequalities (particularly those based on disability) and improve cohesion and inclusion.</p> <p>This EqIA will be updated prior to the review of the draft SEND and Inclusion Strategy by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 16 April, based on the completed SEND JSNA.</p> <p>It will be further updated to include outcomes of consultation/engagement before the strategy is finalised in late summer 2024.</p>	

The Equality Act 2010 places a ‘General Duty’ on all public bodies to have ‘due regard’ to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between those with ‘protected characteristics’ and those without them
- Foster good relations between those with ‘protected characteristics’ and those without them

This Equality Impact Analysis provides evidence for meeting the Council’s commitment to equality and the responsibilities outlined above. For more information about the Council’s commitment to equality, please visit the council’s [website](#).

Section 2: General information about the proposal

Describe the proposal including the relevance of proposal to the general equality duties and protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010

The SEND and Inclusion Strategy is a partnership strategy for 2024 – 29, led by the SEND Improvement Board.

The strategy sets out the partnership plans to improve support for children and young people with SEND and their families, and how it will work to improve inclusion for children and young people with SEND in activities and opportunities in the borough and support them to thrive.

There are three areas where the strategy has the potential to advance equality:

1. Advancing equality of opportunity for disabled children and young people

As a significant proportion of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities will meet the definition of disabled under the Equality Act, the objectives of the strategy are relevant to the general equality duties. The strategy aims to advance equality of opportunity for children and young people with SEND and foster good relations between them and their peers.

2. Identifying and reducing inequalities in the identification of children and young people with different SEND needs.

Boys are generally more likely than girls to be identified as having SEND, and the ethnic background of children with different SEND needs can differ from that of the child population of Tower Hamlets as a whole. The strategy and accompanying Joint Strategic Needs Assessment offer an opportunity to understand whether children with some protected characteristics are less likely to have their needs identified.

3. Identifying any barriers to effective support and positive outcomes for children and young people with SEND

The strategy offers an opportunity to understand how effective SEND support is in improving outcomes for children with different backgrounds and to address barriers to effective support.

Section 3: Evidence (consideration of data and information)

What evidence do we have which may help us think about the impacts or likely impacts on residents, service users and wider community?

The evidence will be included within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (2024) which brings together local and national data on different needs and includes a specific focus on inequalities and the impact of poverty and deprivation on children and young people with SEND.

DRAFT

Section 4: Assessing the impacts on different groups and service delivery

Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Protected				
Age (All age groups)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The strategy applies to children and young people aged 0 – 25 years, reflecting the Children and Families Act 2014.
Disability (Physical, learning difficulties, mental health and medical conditions)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	By improving the timeliness and effectiveness of support for children and young people with SEND, and supporting inclusion in local communities and activities, the strategy will support equality for young disabled residents.
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Potential impacts to be identified.</p> <p>Boys are much more likely to be identified as having SEND than girls. The full JSNA will identify where this may be the result of under-identification of girls' needs', allowing</p>

				the strategy to identify areas where more attention is needed to identifying girl's needs.
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Insufficient information to draw conclusions. However, strong focus on building the voice and wishes of children and young person into all plans and support.
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discrimination based on marriage and civil partnership status not relevant to this strategy.
Religion or philosophical belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Information not available.
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This section will be developed based on the information on the JSNA. For example, White British pupils are overrepresented in EHCP cohort. The JSNA will examine data on different needs and ethnic background to understand over/under-representation and support effective interventions.
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Insufficient information to draw conclusions. However, strong focus on building the voice and wishes of children and young person into all plans and support.

Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discrimination based on pregnancy and maternity not relevant to this strategy.
People with Care Experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data to follow. Strategy includes commitments to strengthen joint working between social care and SEND services, which will enhance support for children and young people who we look after or are care experienced.
Other				
Socio-economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data to follow. JSNA will examine links between poverty/deprivation and SEND.
Parents/Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy includes focus on information and support for parents/carers.
People with different Gender Identities e.g. Gender fluid, Non-Binary etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insufficient information to draw conclusions. However, strong focus on building the voice and wishes of children and young person into all plans and support.
Any other groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Section 5: Impact analysis and action plan

Recommendation	Key activity	Progress milestones including target dates for either completion or progress	Officer responsible	Update on progress
To follow				





Section 6: Monitoring

What monitoring processes have been put in place to check the delivery of the above action plan and impact on equality groups?


To follow consultation.

Appendix A

EIA decision rating

Decision	Action	Risk
<p>As a result of performing the EIA, it is evident that a disproportionately negative impact (direct, indirect, unintentional or otherwise) exists to one or more of the nine groups of people who share a Protected Characteristic under the Equality Act and appropriate mitigations cannot be put in place to mitigate against negative impact. It is recommended that this proposal be suspended until further work is undertaken.</p>	<p>Suspend – Further Work Required</p>	<p>Red</p> 
<p>As a result of performing the EIA, it is evident that there is a risk that a disproportionately negative impact (direct, indirect, unintentional or otherwise) exists to one or more of the nine groups of people who share a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. However, there is a genuine determining reason that could legitimise or justify the use of this policy.</p>	<p>Further (specialist) advice should be taken</p>	<p>Red Amber</p> 
<p>As a result of performing the EIA, it is evident that there is a risk that a disproportionately negatively impact (as described above) exists to one or more of the nine groups of people who share a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. However, this risk may be removed or reduced by implementing the actions detailed within the <i>Impact analysis and action plan</i> section of this document.</p>	<p>Proceed pending agreement of mitigating action</p>	<p>Amber</p> 
<p>As a result of performing this analysis, the policy or activity does not appear to have any adverse effects on people who share <i>Protected Characteristics</i> and no further actions are recommended at this stage.</p>	<p>Proceed</p>	<p>Green</p> 

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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Board</p> <p>16 April 2024</p>	
<p>Report of: Natalia Clifford, AD for Public Health</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Report Title: Just Say Hello video - part of wider public health campaign to tackle loneliness and social isolation in the borough</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Agnes Gautier
Wards affected	All wards

Executive Summary

Just Say Hello campaign

The ‘Just Say Hello’ Video is part of a broader campaign **to tackle loneliness and isolation in Tower Hamlets**. This is a mayoral priority as set out in the Tower Hamlets Council Strategic Plan 2022-26. Since the pandemic, an increased number of our residents are suffering from loneliness and isolation. Some residents are particularly affected, including 16-24 years old, disabled residents, new migrants and older residents.

Tower Hamlets Council is leading the TH Connection Coalition, a network of Council staff, and over 100 VCS and NHS organisations who want to tackle loneliness. As part of our strategy, co-produced with the network, partners had identified the need for a borough wide communication campaign targeting residents. The ‘Just Say Hello’ campaign was rolled out in December 2023 and concluded in March 2024. It was timed with the opening of the warm hubs, which were provided with ‘Just Say hello’ banners and conversations starter kits in 6 locations across Tower Hamlets.

The campaign had many aspects, built on feedback from the Connection Coalition network:

- A cohesive look and feel and accessible design developed in partnership with Well One;
- A media toolkit on TH Together website and THCVS website, to be used by members of the coalition, with posters, Facebook and Twitter banners that could be branded by different organisations;
- 10 ‘Just Say Hello’ events taking place across the borough, organised through Poplar Harca, with over 300 residents from different demographic categories (Dec 23-March24);

- A launch event held on 30th November, attended by 80 organisations, mostly VCS partners, with the distribution of over 100 'Just Say Hello' starter kits (tea, coffee, 'Just Say Hello' banner, conversation starters);
- A directory of local organisations providing social connection activities (walking groups etc);
- A social media campaign orchestrated by the TH communication team, and echoed by THCVS.

The aim of the campaign was to encourage residents to have conversations with each other and referred people onto warm hubs and other community activities running this winter.

About the video

The video was filmed in November 2023 at Bow Idea Store, during a health fair involving TH public health, early years and the Bow health network. Local residents were filmed. Many residents take part in weekly social activities at the Bow Idea Store (50+ club, story time for under 5s). About 10 residents were filmed on this occasion.

The video was:

- shared on TH social media and TH Council You Tube channel
- shared with residents who took part in it with the help of Bow health network
- shown during a broader Bow health network meeting
- was shown at the Connection event (67 participants)
- will be shown at the Idea stores (on site screens)

It will be used when the campaign is rolled out again next autumn.

Measuring impact (Just Say Hello campaign)

During the launch event, over 40 VCS organisations all over TH signed up to the campaign and committed to deliver various actions to fight loneliness and social isolation.

Some organisations have adopted the 'Just Say Hello' campaign for the long-term, for example Mind TH now has a weekly Just Say Hello drop in coffee morning.

A 100 copies of 'Just Say Hello' directory was distributed to adult social workers who will use it for referrals. A further 100 copies was distributed to our homeless service who will also use it in their signposting work.

The 'Just Say Hello' page was the 10th most popular page on the TH connect website.

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

Note the campaign and share with colleagues. Provide advice on how to further promote the campaign in preparation for next year re-launch (October 24))

Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is grounded upon 6 principles that matter most to residents of Tower Hamlets. Detail how this report relates to these principles:

<p>1. Resources to support health and wellbeing should go to those who most need it</p>
<p>The campaign is targeting residents suffering from loneliness and isolation. Loneliness and isolation can have long-term adverse effects on health and mental wellbeing. The campaign was delivered through our VCS partners working with different strands of residents affected by loneliness, such as the elderly, disabled, migrants, LGBTQ+.</p>
<p>2. Feeling connected and included is a foundation of wellbeing and the importance of this should be built into services and programme</p>
<p>The whole campaign is based on how to help residents connect, by inviting them to talk to each other, also by connecting them to community activities taking part around them.</p>
<p>3. Being treated equally, respectfully and without discrimination should be the norm when using services</p>
<p>The campaign highlights what is available locally for all our residents especially suffering from loneliness and social isolation, such as new migrants, elderly residents, disabled residents, LGBTQ+ residents etc.</p>
<p>4. Health and wellbeing information and advice should be clear, simple, and produced with those who will benefit from them</p>
<p>The campaign idea was the product of a coproduction workshop with members of the Connection Coalition network. The communication campaign outputs were co-designed with Well One.</p>
<p>5. People should feel that they have equal power in shaping and designing services and programme that impact on their health and wellbeing</p>

Members have very much shaped this campaign, it was a clear ask from Connection Coalition members which includes VCS and NHS stakeholders,

6. We should all be working together to make the best use of the assets we already have that support people's health and wellbeing.

The following partners were key to the Just Say Hello campaign:
TH Council public health team- loneliness senior policy officer
THCVS
Connection Coalition TH
Tower Hamlets Together
Well One

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1.1. The campaign was co-produced by members of the Connection Coalition.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1. No alternative options were considered as it was considered feasible within the yearly objectives of the Connection Coalition campaign, and also helped support the Mayoral priority of tackling loneliness.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1. n/a

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1. N/a

OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

4.2. N/a

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

5.1. n/a

6. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

6.1. n/a

Appendices

Link to download video <https://we.tl/t-Dq8xiOE2eE> (download expire 15th April)

You tube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqVIY0Gdyro> (permanent)

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

Agnes Gautier Senior Policy Officer Connection Coalition

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