

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 26 JUNE 2008

**ROOM M72, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Stephanie Eaton (Chair)

Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

Co-opted Members Present:

Mr John Lee – East London & City Mental Health Trust Patient
and Public Involvement Forum (Vice-Chair)
Dr Amjad Rahi – Barts and The London Patient Public Involvement
Forum (Chair)

Officers Present:

Deborah Cohen – (Service Head, Disability and Health Services,
Adults Health and Wellbeing)
Afazul Hoque – (Acting Scrutiny Policy Manager, Scrutiny and
Equalities, Chief Executive's)
Michael Keating – (Acting Assistant Chief Executive)
Shanara Matin – (Scrutiny Policy Officer)
Louise Fleming – (Democratic Services)

**1. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2008/2009 (5
MINS)**

The Panel RESOLVED that Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman be elected Vice-Chair
of the Health Scrutiny Panel for the 2008/09 municipal year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique and
Susan Ritchie, who had been due to make a presentation on item 6.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

4.1 MATTERS ARISING

Commissioning Intentions and Operating Plan – The Chair reported that underperforming PCTs would not be penalised in terms of funding.

Drug Treatment Figures were circulated to Members present.

The Chair advised that Barts and the London had commented on the Health Scrutiny Protocol and raised questions relating to the way in which the Trust would liaise with the Panel in respect of changes to service.

The Chair also advised that the Panel would provide comments in future to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Health Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference (5 Mins)

The Panel noted its Terms of Reference, membership and schedule of dates for the municipal year 2008/09. The Terms of Reference would be reviewed over the course of the year to ensure that it was appropriate and included all relevant health representatives.

6. HEALTH SCRUTINY INDUCTION (60 MINS)

Michael Keating, Acting Assistant Chief Executive, gave a detailed presentation on the role of the Health Scrutiny Panel in relation to Scrutiny and Equalities within the Council. He outlined the mission statement and highlighted the theme of “One Tower Hamlets”, which was the overarching focus of the Council’s new Community Plan. The main aim of the Panel would be to build on the previous health scrutiny carried out and to create and strengthen community leadership. It was noted that the feedback from the CPA Inspectors in relation to the Council’s scrutiny function had been positive.

Shanara Matin, Scrutiny Policy Officer, gave an induction presentation for new Members outlining the main reasons for scrutinising health and the future aims. She also briefed Members on the current powers of the health scrutiny function and the key areas of work.

It was noted that Susan Ritchie, Interim Head of Participation and Engagement, would make a presentation to the next meeting of the Panel on the role of LINKs. It was also noted that 6 tenders had been received to become the host organisation of the Tower Hamlets LINK.

Deborah Cohen, Service Head Disability and Health, gave a presentation, highlighting the importance of the integration of health and social care organisations. It was noted that Barts and the London would be likely to apply for Foundation status. The Panel was advised that five actions were in place for improving partnership between the NHS and Adult Health. It was intended for the PCT to become the lead commissioner on Mental Health, with all other areas falling to the Council. Commissioners would be required to apply for licences to operate, with effect from Spring 2009. There would also be a review of all PCTs in London in order to strengthen commissioning capacity. Ms Cohen circulated articles relating to health care reform and the role of Councillors from the Democratic Health Network (DHN).

Members asked a number of questions relating to adult protection and the integration of the children and families policy, which it was felt needed to be examined. It was also felt that more detail was needed on mental health workers and delivery of service. Ms Cohen advised that a representative of Children's Services would be invited to a future meeting and further information on the "Think Family" initiative would be reported to the Panel. Members expressed concern over the PCT review and its potential effect on funding and differing targets. It was considered to be important for the Panel to be involved in the discussions. It was also stressed that the PCT understand the needs of the communities.

7. HEALTH SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09 (30 MINS) - TO FOLLOW

The Panel considered a draft work programme for the 2008/09 municipal year. Members raised a number of areas to be reviewed. It was considered that work carried out needed to be relevant to the community.

The Panel RESOLVED that the 2008/09 work programme be agreed, with the addition of the following areas:

- i) Joint working with the NHS in respect of end of life care, with particular focus on the cultural differences;
- ii) Organ Donation;
- iii) The use of Khat in the Somali communities, to be included as part of the Tobacco Review Update; and
- iv) the postponement of the review on Heart Disease until 2009/10.

8. HEALTH SCRUTINY PROTOCOL (15 MINS) - TO FOLLOW

The Committee received the draft Health Scrutiny Protocol. It was requested that comments be passed to the Chair or officers by no later than 10th July, in order that a revised draft be reported to the Panel on 22nd July 2008.

9. TOBACCO CESSATION REVIEW (5 MINS)

The Chair advised that the Tobacco Cessation Review would be reported to Cabinet at the end of July. Labelling on Chewing Tobacco and general enforcement would be reviewed.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

Members raised concerns over the type of cooking oil used in fast food outlets in the Borough and agreed that proprietors needed to inform customers of ingredients being used. The Chair advised that health care professionals would be able to become more involved and given more influence in commenting on planning applications for fast food establishments.

Members requested that e-mail updates on health scrutiny issues be provided in-between meetings.

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Health Scrutiny Panel