

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE TOWER HAMLETS HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

HELD AT 5.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2019

MP701 - TOWN HALL MULBERRY PLACE

Members Present:

Councillor Amina Ali (Chair)	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Danny Hassell (Member)	Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People
Councillor Sirajul Islam (Member)	Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Denise Jones (Member)	Mayoral Advisor - Older People's Champion
Dr Somen Banerjee (Member)	Director of Public Health
Selina Douglas (Member)	Managing Director NHS Newham, Waltham Forest, Tower Hamlets CCG
Debbie Jones (Member)	Corporate Director, Children and Culture
Denise Radley (Member)	Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community

Co-opted Members Present:

Alison Robert	Partnership Manager, Tower Hamlets CVS
Chris Banks	Chief Executive, Tower Hamlets GP Care Group CIC
Dr Ian Basnett	Public Health Director, Barts Health NHS Trust
Dr Paul Gilluley	Substitute for Dr Navina Evans - ELFT
Jackie Fearon	Tower Hamlets Housing Forum
Randal Smith	Chair of Healthwatch Tower Hamlets
Jackie Sullivan	Managing Director of Royal London Site, Barts Health
Vivian Akinremi	Deputy Young Mayor Lead for Health & Wellbeing

Apologies:

Amy Gibbs	Chair of the Tower Hamlets Together Board
Councillor Candida Ronald (Member)	Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector
Dr Navina Evans	Chief Executive East London NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Sam Everington	Chair of the Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group

Others Present:

Dianne Barham	Director of Healthwatch Tower Hamlets
Tahmina Begum	Parent speaker
Mike Smith	PE Teacher Stepney Green School

Officers in Attendance:

Phil Carr	Policy and Strategy Manager Health Adults and Community
Chris Lovitt	Associate Director Public Health Committee Officer
Rushena Miah	Head of Physical Activity and Sports
Lisa Pottinger	Youth Participation Officer
Khadra Said	Associate Director of Public Health
Katy Scammell	Associate Director of Public Health
Katy Cole	

1. STANDING ITEMS OF BUSINESS

2. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dr Sam Everington, Councillor Candida Ronald, and Amy Gibbs. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Danny Hassell.

2.1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Actions Log

It was noted that there was a spelling error on page one of the minutes, Dr Paul Gilluley's name was misspelled as 'Guilley'. The minutes were approved subject to the above amendment.

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2019.

3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.

4. FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan was noted. There were requests to include additional items to the 17 September 2019 agenda. These included:

- SEND inspection update.
- NHS Long Term Plan
- Better Care Fund

The Chair agreed to the additional items.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the Forward Plan.

5. HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE 2019/20

RESOLVED:

1. To note the Board's Terms of Reference.

6. HEALTHWATCH: EXPLORING PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW HWB STRATEGY.

The Board took part in an interactive activity called 'what would you do' led by Dianne Barham (Director of Healthwatch Tower Hamlets). This was the same exercise Healthwatch had delivered at locality events where they engaged 346 residents to find out what helped or hindered their health and wellbeing. The activity aimed to find out whether the views of the Board aligned with those of residents. The Board were asked three questions. These were:

- What are the things that help or get in the way of leading a healthy life?
- What do residents want from their local health centres?
- To what extent are the 'I statements' true for you?

The Chair said the Healthwatch report provided great insight into what mattered to residents around their health and wellbeing and would be used to inform the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Before the session closed Randal Smith (Chair of Healthwatch Tower Hamlets) updated the Board of upcoming Healthwatch projects. One of these included the Young Influencers Programme which aimed to get the views of five hundred young people on how healthcare should be designed for young people.

Another Healthwatch priority was transport. Research was being conducted to understand how difficult or easy it was to travel to health services. The findings would inform the Transport Strategy.

The Chair thanked Randal Smith and Dianne Barham for their contributions.

ACTION:

1. For Dianne Barham to share the write up from the exercise with the Board.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the Healthwatch report to help inform the Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF A PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT STRATEGY

The Chair agreed with the Board to take the items 'A Physical Activity and Sports Strategy' and 'Addressing Childhood Obesity' together.

Katy Scammell (Associate Director of Public Health) and Lisa Pottinger (Head of Physical Activity and Sports Strategy) introduced the items. The Board then heard comments from a Teacher, Parent and the Deputy Young Mayor for Health and Wellbeing regarding barriers to better health.

Presenters emphasised that physical activity was important in the modern sedentary world, in the context of decreasing levels of physical activity.

Katy Scammell, Associate Director of Public Health, summarised her work on childhood obesity.

She said childhood obesity was a key area in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and for the first time rates of childhood obesity for reception aged children had decreased to match London wide levels. The Year 6 group, however, was still experiencing high rates of childhood obesity. She said Public Health had commissioned some community insight work to find the local perspective on what was working well and what was working less well. The result was the production of the logic models presented in the report.

The logic models were outcome based. They aimed for every child to be a healthy weight and for children to be engaged in healthy physical activity.

Three actions were identified to support the work:

1. The first action considered what could be done at the environmental level. There were suggestions to improve the public realm and promote cycling.
2. The second action considered making settings healthier at children's centres and schools. This included healthier school meals.
3. The third action was to find out whether services met people's needs, whether they were joined up, if they were the right services and whether people knew about them.

The first phase of the Physical Activity Strategy consultation identified four key priorities. These included:

1. Driving health change and engaging with people in sport.
2. Shaping places and communities – making leisure centres more accessible, creating outdoor gyms and other healthy spaces.
3. Physical activity as a community engagement tool in order to improve health and reduce anti-social behaviour.

4. Developing young interest in sport activity to improve rates of childhood obesity.

Barriers to better health

Vivian Akinremi Deputy Young Mayor for Health and Wellbeing identified the following barriers to better health. She said:

- young people did not feel safe when using the parks and public spaces.
- there was a disparity in resources for sports activity between schools, this affected young people because they lacked the opportunity to compete.
- There was a lack of affordable healthy food in Tower Hamlets. Healthier food was expensive in comparison to fried chicken. There was also a link between unhealthy food and mental health such as comfort eating.
- There was a need for a counsellor in every school.

Martin Smith, PE Teacher Stepney Green Secondary School, was of the view that children were leaving secondary school less healthy than at the start. He identified the following as barriers to better health:

- Students were experiencing high academic pressure due to GCSE exams.
- The high number of fast food shops in the borough.
- Students had begun to opt to bring in unhealthy packed lunches rather than have a healthier school provided meal.
- Entry prices to leisure facilities in the borough were too expensive for the average school budget.

The Board heard the views of Tahmina Begum a local parent. She said:

- The sheer number of chicken shops had normalised consumption.
- Children were addicted to fast food and many of them saved their school lunch money to buy chicken after school.
- Some children missed lunch because of long lunch queues.
- Children sold unhealthy snacks at school during breaks.
- Parents were confused with the amount of health advice available.
- Some parents faced the challenge of having children who were 'fussy eaters' and found it difficult to say no to their children.
- Parents did not believe public spaces were safe.
- After school clubs had become overly competitive which alienated children who did not want to engage in competitive sports.
- School facilities should be opened to children during the school holidays because parents considered them to be safer than outside.

- The council should offer locks for bikes and more space to safely store bikes.
- Chicken boxes should include the calorific content. People might reduce consumption if they knew how many calories were in a serving. The school could help educate children and parents regarding this.
- Academic pressure for Year 10 and Year 11 students impacted their wellbeing.
- Games consoles discourage children from going outside to play.

Lisa Pottinger promoted the Tower Hamlets Summer Activity Programme. The Chair advised the programme should be promoted via BAME media to ensure more residents were made aware of the activities. Members were asked to obtain copies of the booklet from Lisa Pottinger.

The Board broke into groups to discuss the priorities for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

Comments from the Strategy group included:

1. The causes of poverty and deprivation needed to be addressed as well as the high levels of exam stress.
2. There was a suggestion to refresh the Olympic legacy to make better use of shared facilities.
3. It was noted that exercise initiatives to reduce obesity and reduce calorie intake were essential; though it was important to allow children to find an activity they enjoy, so they could leave school healthier.
4. There was a suggestion to appeal to those who own private leisure facilities to negotiate use by school groups.
5. There was a suggestion to provide children with step counters to motivate them.
6. There was a perception that leisure provision was far too expensive and membership schemes were overly complex in the borough. Lisa Pottinger explained that residents could get a 'Pay and Play' membership that cost approximately £5 a year and that there were women only swimming sessions for £1.50, in addition to other discounts. The issue was around communicating these incentives.
7. The Corporate Director for Children Services said that the Board would have an opportunity to comment on the leisure management contract re-procurement for 2022 in 2020/21.

Comments from the Childhood obesity group included:

- That the language around obesity should be reframed as it was associated with shame and stigma. There was a suggestion to organise a campaign around perceptions so people were comfortable to talk about how they felt about their weight, similar to the de-stigmatisation of mental health campaign.
- It was important for young people to learn cooking skills. This was something that could be co-produced with young people.
- A suggestion to link parks with family activity programmes to promote safety.
- More should be done to address holiday hunger and promote healthier food at school. Commissioning choices could play a role in this.
- There was a discussion around adolescent girls and reticence in engaging in physical sports activity.

Officers said they would take forward the work. Both strategies were due to come back to the Board for sign off.

The Chair thanked the speakers who shared their experiences.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the progress made on the Physical Activity and Sports Strategy.
2. To note the development of the Childhood Obesity Plan.

8. ADDRESSING CHILDHOOD OBESITY

This item was discussed above.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17 September 2019, 5pm.

The meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Amina Ali
Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board