

<b>Cabinet</b>  15 December 2021	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Denise Radley: Corporate Director, Health, Adults and Community	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Learning Disability Health Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee Challenge Session: Update and Action Plan</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Councillor Rachel Blake, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Megan Clavier: Commissioning Manager Andria Gosling: Commissioning Manger
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	27 September 2021
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities;  2. A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in;  3. A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working to respond to the changing needs of our borough

## Executive Summary

Tower Hamlets Council and its health partners are responsible for commissioning and delivering appropriate care, support, and assistance to people with learning disabilities that live in the borough. The council is committed to enabling people with learning disabilities and learning difficulties to maintain their independence at home and in the community, with services ranging from giving advice and information through to long-term residential care.

A Health Scrutiny challenge session took place on the 10th March 2020 reviewing “How health and social care is supporting adults with a learning disability to live independent lives in Tower Hamlets”. The aim of this scrutiny session was to examine how services in Tower Hamlets are supporting adults with learning disability to live independent lives and prevent people going into hospital, needing long-term support and high intensity social care intervention. The focus was on understanding

how we might further improve outcomes and experience in three main areas of the Learning Disability Strategy: Health, Accommodation and Employment.

The challenge session report was compiled providing documentation of the sessions and included recommendations to be acted upon; however, sign-off of the report was delayed due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK.

Due to the profound impact the pandemic has had on people with a learning disability, the committee were interested in revisiting these three areas – physical health management, employment and accommodation for adults with a learning disability. An updated report that included an impact assessment of the pandemic for the learning disability population was discussed at the Health & Adults Scrutiny subcommittee meeting held on 8 February 2021. The sub-committee considered several new recommendations. This report includes an update and action plan based on all recommendations from both the March 2020 and Feb 2021 Health & Adults Scrutiny subcommittee meetings.

For the most part recommendations within the report reflect priorities already identified within the Tower Hamlets Learning Disability Strategy 2017-2020. Work to take these forward has continued throughout the pandemic with progress made in these areas reflected within the action plan attached.

### **Recommendations:**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Consider the report of the Adults Learning Disability Health Scrutiny Challenge Session Report and agree the action plan in response to the report recommendations.

## **1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 This is an update and action plan following the Feb 2021 and March 2020 Health & Adults Scrutiny Challenge Sessions, including consideration around the impact the pandemic has had on the learning disability population.
- 1.2 This report seeks the endorsement of Cabinet for the challenge session recommendations. The Council's constitution requires the Executive to respond to recommendations from scrutiny and this report fulfils that requirement.

## **2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Not Applicable

### **3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 In March 2020 it was reported Tower Hamlets has around 1359 people (0.4% of the population) registered to have a learning disability with their GP. Public Health England estimates that 7,413 people (2.17% of the population) have a learning disability (based on national projections) of which 4,848 people are aged 18 and over. This group of people will experience poorer life outcomes than the general population, including for physical health, mental health, employment, and life expectancy.
- 3.2 In the context of increasing demands on services and complex health needs the sub-committee agreed 'to examine how services in Tower Hamlets are supporting adults with Learning Disabilities (LD) to live independent lives and prevent people going into hospital, needing long-term support and high intensity social care intervention'.
- 3.3 A presentation by joint commissioners of local health and social care was used to develop Key Lines of Enquiry to explore with committee participants at the challenge session in March 2020.
- 3.4 The challenge session set out to provide the Sub-Committee with a clear understanding of the extent to which better outcomes were being delivered for adults with a learning disability in the following three areas, which are priorities in the current Learning Disability Strategy:
1. Physical health management of adults with LD;
  2. Adults with LD are supported into paid employment;
  3. Adults with LD are supported to live locally;
- 3.5 The challenge session report was compiled providing documentation of the sessions and including recommendations to be actioned upon, however sign-off of the report was delayed due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK.
- 3.6 An updated report that included an impact assessment of the pandemic for the learning disability population was discussed at the Health & Adults Scrutiny subcommittee meeting held on 8 February 2021. Nineteen recommendations were made, including several new recommendations. The report with recommendations is attached at Appendix 1.

<b>Recommendations</b>	
R1	Joint working between SEND, Children's and health services should aim to address the under representation of 14 -17-year olds on the learning disability primary care registers. This will ensure more effective coverage of primary care health checks for this group.
R2	Effective transition planning is addressed through the new LD strategy and joined up with the Children and Families Strategy and CAMHS Transformation Plan. Identify and diagnose people with LD earlier and work with health provision to ensure that LD needs are being met effectively.

R3	Joint commissioners for Learning Disability services and Safeguarding Adults Teams must ensure that Safeguarding Adult Review's (SARs) recommendations are actioned and monitored and facilitate how learning of SARs is applied and embedded into service/action plans.
R4	<p>Raising awareness of LD and Mental Capacity Assessments amongst health practitioners and staff is a positive initiative, but it needs to be better coordinated. A training programme implemented in all health settings would improve LD patient experience.</p> <p>The LD work programme has a lack of trained reviewers (related to LeDeR) with majority based in the Community Learning Disability Service. There is a need for more trained reviewers' and funding for this would need to be further discussed.</p>
R5	To pursue providers such as Barts Health to offer a pool of reviewers to support the LeDeR programme.
R6	Utilise online platforms and develop (electronic) health passports for people with learning disabilities in Tower Hamlets and build into standard practice as part of Annual Health Check, initial assessments and annual reviews completed by CLDS.
R7	Ensure those with complex health needs have a (electronic) hospital health passport in place.
R8	Healthwatch and LD commissioners/LD services should work together more closely to obtain views of LD service users and enhance the repository of information which can help service improvement and monitoring. There is extensive evidence to suggest that by providing 'learning disability friendly environments', it can help services implement reasonable adjustments and improve outcomes for people with LD. There is a commitment from adult social care to increase community provision, but the committee was not clear if there is partner commitment to increase 'LD friendly environments' particularly as some inpatient services are being decommissioned in favour of more community provision.
R9	Given the variability of annual health check completion rates across network areas, more targeted support should be offered to networks where rates are low.
R10	Tower Hamlets Council should lead by example and create more paid job opportunities for people with LD and set aspirational targets.
R11	To ensure charter to get commitment from member organisations to employ more adults with a learning disability incorporates concept of supporting each other to develop a truly inclusive culture in their respective organisations.
R12	To ensure the supported employment programme set ambitious recruitment targets that are based on national benchmarking figures and LD population growth.
R13	To ensure the supported employment programme is mindful of job retention and incorporates career development as part of suitable offer to people with an LD. Employers should support persons with LD to better understand the rights in the workplace i.e. help join trade

	unions.
R14	The HWBB, Partnership Executive Group and health organisations should create more job opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.
R15	The Tower Hamlets Accommodation Plan for people with LD should set ambitious targets for the development of local accommodation opportunities for people with a learning disability. This should address the historic lack of options across all types of provision with in the borough.
R16	To secure funding and resources to support development of new supported accommodation schemes.
R17	The last LD JSNA Factsheet was updated in 2016. In light of Covid-19 and the impact it has had on LD services it is recommended that the factsheet is updated.
R18	Any future adults' learning disability strategic/action plans should have a key set of performance measures to be published and reported to the sub-committee every six months.
R19	To work with Housing Providers and Housing Options and consider ways to increase supported accommodation capacity through capital programme /HRA funding. The committee asked that the capital programme or HRA funding be considered for additional provision of housing and noted that the cohort were often a stable source of housing revenue.

3.7 An Action Plan with updates is attached at Appendix 2.

#### **4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 People with learning disability face a number of inequalities across the system from health to employment. Individuals experience a higher-than-average prevalence of a range of health conditions and have a much lower life expectancy than the general population. These inequalities are the result of the interaction of several factors including increased rates of exposure to common 'social determinants' of poorer health (e.g., poverty, social exclusion), experience of overt discrimination and barriers in accessing services.

4.2 Proposals will aim to improve the health and social care provisions for people with a learning disability with particular focus on improving the population's health, access to employment and increasing the range of accommodation options in Tower Hamlets.

#### **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 No other statutory implications have been identified.

## **6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

6.1 The costs arising from the implementation of the Adult Learning Disability Strategy, supporting action plan, and market position statement will need to be contained within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the CCG's financial plan budgets.

6.2 The Health, Adults and Community Directorate (HA&C) budgets for Learning Disability Services for 2021-22 is £29.577m, including all placement costs, representing 30% of the total Adult Social Care budget of £97.891m for 2021-22. At period 6 2021-22, there is a pressure of £1.8m on the Learning Disability budgets due to increasing costs of packages of care, and in addition to this, the increasing pressures from packages transitioning from Children's Services.

6.3 The progression of further work streams aligned to the action plan will endeavour to identify cost avoidance measures that can be introduced to mitigate the financial pressure on Learning Disability services.

## **7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 Part 1 of the Care Act 2014 sets out wide duties on local authorities to meet the needs of adults with care and support needs. This includes adults with learning disabilities.

7.2 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the public sector equality duty. In particular, this section requires a public authority to advance equality of opportunity between person who share a relevant protected characteristic, in this case disability, and those who do not share it. Section 149(4) permits steps to meet the needs of people with disabilities where their needs are different from those of people without disabilities.

7.3 The matters set out in this report comply with the above legislation.

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- Living Well in Tower Hamlets - The Adult Learning Disability Strategy 2017-2020.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 Learning Disability Health Scrutiny Challenge Session Report', 08 February 2021
- Appendix 2 Action Plan - LD Challenge session report
- Appendix 3 Learning Disability Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee Challenge Session: Update and Action Plan slides

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

- None

### **Officer contact details for documents:**

N/A