


<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Board</p> <p>19th September 2023</p>	
<p>Report of: Sukhjit Sanghera, Public Health programme lead, London Borough of Tower Hamlets</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Report Title: North East London (NEL) Sexual and reproductive health strategy 2024 -2029: plan for development and implementation</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Sukhjit Sanghera, Public Health programme lead Liam Crosby, Associate Director of Public Health
Wards affected	All wards

Executive Summary

This is a short 'for information' item to inform the HWBB on the following:

- The importance of developing a NEL wide sexual and reproductive health strategy.
- The priority areas of the strategy
- Consultation plans, setting out how residents and borough wide partners are being engaged to support shaping the strategy and action plans.
- The process and timelines for developing & implementing the strategy and Tower Hamlets specific action plan.

Development of a NEL Sexual and Reproductive Health strategy, with Tower Hamlets Action Plan

1. Tower Hamlets faces some of the greatest sexual and reproductive health (SRH) challenges including high rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), low use of suitable contraception such as Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) and high use of emergency contraception.
2. Some of these challenges are similar in other North-East London (NEL) boroughs. Furthermore, sexual health services and patient journeys regularly cross borough Borders. For example, many TH residents work, study or visit elsewhere in London and access SRH services in other Boroughs.

3. To respond to shared challenges, we plan to agree a North East London (NEL) wide sexual and reproductive health strategy for 2024-2029. The strategy will include a NEL-wide vision to improve sexual and reproductive health and will set out the priority outcomes we wish to achieve across NEL.
4. The purpose of this strategy is to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes for residents by:
 - a. Ensuring that our residents have the ability and freedom to make safe informed choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health and can access services regardless of who they are and where they live.
 - b. Delivering high quality services across the whole of North East London (Barking, Havering, Redbridge, Waltham Forest, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Hackney).
5. The Strategy sets out intended Outcomes across in the following four priority areas. These priority areas have been developed in consultation of with key stakeholders including NEL professionals who work in sexual health services and local authority sexual health commissioners of services and engagement with residents.
 - Residents have healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships.
 - Residents have good reproductive health across the life course.
 - High quality and innovative STI testing and treatment.
 - Living Well with HIV and reducing rates of new HIV
6. Underpinning the strategy, we will develop a set of Action Plans, which set out how providers, commissioners and other partners across the sector will work together to achieve the strategy's outcomes. One of these Action Plans will be specific to Tower Hamlets, while another will cover actions planned at NEL-wide level.
7. Workshops will take place in October with stakeholders (service providers and commissioners across NEL) to develop NEL wide actions that will support a more integrated approach among commissioning and service provision of sexual and reproductive health services.
8. We are also developing a Tower Hamlets specific action plan against the priority areas in the strategy. Through workshops we have been consulting with the Tower Hamlets sexual and reproductive health partnership group (made up of sexual health providers including All East, Safe East, GPs, CVS, education, VAWG and youth service providers) and also engaging partners on an individual level.
9. Further consultation (through surveys) from October to December 2023 will take place with stakeholders and residents across NEL to ensuring the vision, priorities and actions plans respond to local views and need.

10. Timeframe for the NEL strategy development

Item	Deadline
Development of a draft NEL wide sexual and reproductive health strategy that sets out the vision, aims and priority areas	March 2023 to September 2023
Resident engagement across borough on strategy priorities	1st August to 15 th August 2023
Strategy consultation and action plan development with NEL wide stakeholders	October 2023
Development of borough specific year 1 actions plan	July to October 2023
Health and Wellbeing Board briefing & support	September 2023
Briefing for the lead member	September 2023
Formal resident & stakeholder consultations on strategy and action plans	October to December 2023
Briefing update on strategy and action plan for the lead member	January 2024
Final draft approval of strategy and action plan by NEL Directors of Public Health	December 2023/ January 2024
Health and Wellbeing Board Final draft strategy & action plan approval & sign off	December 2023/January 2024
Briefing for HAC DLT & MAB	December 2023 /January 2024
NEL Strategy Launch	April 2024

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- Note the proposed approach to development of a NEL SRH strategy, with Tower Hamlets Action Plan.
- Look forward to approving the draft strategy which will be shared in December 2023