

Non-Executive Report of the: Health and Adult Scrutiny Sub-Committee 3 September 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Georgia Chimbani, Corporate Director for Health, and Adult Social Care	Classification: Unrestricted
Adult Social Care, Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection Preparation	

Originating Officer(s)	Emily Fieran-Reed, Improvement, Transformation and Assurance Lead, Adult Social Care
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

The presentation sets out details of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Local Authority Adult Social Care (ASC) inspections which will take place in all boroughs nationally from January 2024 to the end of December 2025. We have no information about when we will be notified of inspection in Tower Hamlets, and this could take place at any time. CQC have published an assessment framework for these inspections which consists of 4 themes:

- Theme 1: working with people
- Theme 2: providing support
- Theme 3: ensuring safety
- Theme 4: leadership

The presentation sets out the different aspects of the inspection and timeframes for those, including

- Our self-assessment
- Our information return
- Our case tracking
- The on-site visit

We note various stakeholders that CQC will contact and speak to and that they will interview our **Mayor, Lead Member, Scrutiny Chair**, Chief Executive and others. We note that we will provide more detailed briefings for key stakeholders once we are notified of inspection. The LGA has also produced some useful guidance for lead members¹ specifically which is a helpful resource.

The presentation addresses the preparation we have been doing for inspection under the different levels of priority and the status of this. As well as getting the self-

¹ [Care Quality Commission assessments for adult social care: Must know guide for lead members | Local Government Association](#)

assessment, information return documents and cases ready, we have developed mobilisation and communication and engagement plans and have already taken a variety of communications and engagement already delivered, particularly with staff. As part of our preparations, we also hope to update and develop some of our wider documentation.

The presentation recaps on the outcome of the London Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) peer review of Adult Social Care in Tower Hamlets that took place in January 2024. The peer review was very positive with many significant strengths identified and areas of focus which have been reflected in our self-assessment and improvement work.

The strengths and areas of focus that we have identified within our self-assessment for sharing with the Care Quality Commission are detailed against each of the four themes. This forms our narrative that we are sharing with staff, partners and stakeholders as part of the delivery of our communications and engagement plan. The areas of focus all have activity associated with them. We are keeping our self-assessment updated to reflect the changing picture of our biggest strengths and areas of focus.

And finally, the presentation outlines the ongoing arrangements for ensuring quality and continuous improvement in Adult Social Care. In addition to the work above which is dedicated to preparing for inspection, there is a wide range of work which can contribute to us achieving a positive inspection outcome. Ensuring the quality of adult social care in Tower Hamlets, and making improvements, is part of our ongoing work, for example, we have:

- An ASC Transformation Programme reporting to the ASC Transformation Board.
 - Quality Assurance Board which receives data and reports and holds managers to account for services.
 - Improvement plans, including the Safeguarding Improvement Plan and Practice Improvement Plan.
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Recommendations:

The Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Review the presentation on the topic in order to inform discussion for the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting.