


<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Board</p> <p>23rd September 2024</p>	
<p>Report of: Georgia Chimbani, Corporate Director, Health and Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Classification:</p> <p>Unrestricted</p>
<p>Report Title: Adult Social Care (ASC), Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Margaret Young, Director of Adult Social Care - Emily Fieran-Reed, Adult Social Care Improvement, Transformation & Assurance Lead - Joanna Bolton, Adult Social Care Improvement, Transformation Lead
Wards affected	All wards

Executive 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 that it is likely CQC will contact and speak to members of the Health and Wellbeing Board as part of the inspection. We will provide more detailed briefings for key stakeholders once we are notified of inspection.

The presentation addresses the preparation we have been doing for inspection. As well as getting the self-assessment, information return documents and cases ready, we have

developed mobilisation and communication and engagement plans, and a variety of communications and engagement have already delivered, particularly with council staff.

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 key messages about partnership working identified within our self-assessment for sharing with the Care Quality Commission are detailed against the relevant CQC themes. This forms our narrative that we are sharing with staff, elected members, partners and other stakeholders, as part of the delivery of our communications and engagement plan. We are keeping our self-assessment updated to reflect the changing picture of our biggest strengths and areas of focus.

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Cascade the key messages about ASC CQC inspection to relevant teams, partners and stakeholders
2. Reflect on the key messages about partnership from our self-assessment, what they mean to you and how you'd draw on them in any conversations with inspectors that you may have once we're notified

Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is grounded upon 6 principles that matter most to residents of Tower Hamlets. Detail how this report relates to these principles:

1. Resources to support health and wellbeing should go to those who most need it
The CQC Assessment framework assesses how local authorities meet their duties under Part 1 of the Care Act. It is a broad ranging inspection of adult social care and is likely to touch on all the principles within our Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
2. Feeling connected and included is a foundation of wellbeing and the importance of this should be built into services and programme
The CQC Assessment framework assesses how local authorities meet their duties under Part 1 of the Care Act. It is a broad ranging inspection of adult social care and is likely to touch on all the principles within our Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
3. Being treated equally, respectfully and without discrimination should be the norm when using services
The CQC Assessment framework assesses how local authorities meet their duties under Part 1 of the Care Act. It is a broad ranging inspection of adult

	social care and is likely to touch on all the principles within our Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
4.	Health and wellbeing information and advice should be clear, simple, and produced with those who will benefit from them
	The CQC Assessment framework assesses how local authorities meet their duties under Part 1 of the Care Act. It is a broad ranging inspection of adult social care and is likely to touch on all the principles within our Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
5.	People should feel that they have equal power in shaping and designing services and programme that impact on their health and wellbeing
	The CQC Assessment framework assesses how local authorities meet their duties under Part 1 of the Care Act. It is a broad ranging inspection of adult social care and is likely to touch on all the principles within our Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
6.	We should all be working together to make the best use of the assets we already have that support people's health and wellbeing.
	The CQC Assessment framework assesses how local authorities meet their duties under Part 1 of the Care Act. It is a broad ranging inspection of adult social care and is likely to touch on all the principles within our Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1.1. This report is provided to brief the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection of Adult Social Care.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1. None. This report is a briefing for information.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1. Please see executive summary above and PowerPoint slides attached for the detail of the report.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The CQC Inspection framework includes consideration of equalities matters.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Adult Social Care in Tower Hamlets operates within several statutory frameworks, notably the Care Act (2014). The Care Act outlines statutory requirements for service provision.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 Please note the comments below (6.2 - 6.4) are taken from those provided by the Chief Finance Officer for an update on the same topic which was provided to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Corporate Leadership Team on 3rd September 2024.

6.2 There are no financial implications arising from this report which provides a briefing on Adult Social Care Inspection preparation.

6.3 In preparation for the CQC Inspection, the identified areas of work may require further resourcing, and this is subject to a review of existing and future requirements to identify if this can be funded within current resources.

6.4 For the financial year 2023/24 a one-off grant was provided to the Local Authority, the CQC Review and Assessment Grant for Adult Social Care. The total national allocation of £4.1m was equally shared between all Local Authorities with responsibility for Adult Social Care Services, with an allocation of £26,730 per authority. The grant was a non-repeating grant to fund the time and resource needed for Local Authorities to familiarise themselves with, and effectively engage with, their first formal assessment. In Tower Hamlets, we utilised this funding for an interim Quality Assurance Practice Lead post. No grant funding has been announced for 2024/25 associated with the CQC assessment framework.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 Please note the comments below (7.2 - 7.3) are taken from those provided by legal services for an update on the same topic which was provided to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Corporate Leadership Team on 3rd September 2024.

7.2 Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 requires a local authority to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

7.3 Part 1 of the Care Act 2014 sets out the general duties of local authorities in relation to adult social care. The matters set out in this report comply with the above legislation

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Attached PowerPoint Slides HWBB CQC Prep update Sept 2024

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A