

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

REPORT OF THE CABINET

7 DECEMBER 2011

To receive the report of the Cabinet at its meeting held on Wednesday **7 December 2011**.

Mayor and Councillors in attendance at the meeting: -

Cabinet:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration)
Councillor Shahed Ali	(Cabinet Member for Environment)
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	(Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills)
Councillor Rabina Khan	(Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Oliur Rahman	(Cabinet Member for Children's Services)

Other Councillors:

Councillor Kabir Ahmed	(Executive Advisor to the Mayor and Cabinet)
Councillor Ann Jackson	(Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Motin Uz Zaman	(Deputy Leader of the Labour Group)

1. Substance Misuse Strategy (CAB 054/112)

The report (attached as Appendix A to this council report) informed the Mayor and Cabinet that: -

- On 8 December 2010 the government launched its new drug strategy, 'Reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery: supporting people to live a drug-free life'.
- Tower Hamlets is an area of high deprivation with low income households, both of which are associated with a greater level of harm resulting from substance misuse.
- Average rates of alcohol consumption across Tower Hamlets are relatively low due to a large proportion of the population who do not drink, estimated to be 33%. However 43% of people who do drink have harmful or hazardous drinking patterns. Levels of all recorded alcohol related crime, alcohol related violent crime and alcohol related sexual offences are significantly worse than the national average. In addition, the borough sees high rates of male alcohol specific and alcohol attributed hospital admissions.

- It is estimated there are around 3795 Opiate and Crack Users in Tower Hamlets and 52% of residents who responded to the Annual Residents Survey (2010/11) said that drug misuse or dealing was a very or fairly big problem. During the period April to July 2011, Tower Hamlets saw the highest number of class A offences in London.
- Tower Hamlets have made considerable progress in reducing the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets and NHS East London and the City, alongside treatment providers, the Metropolitan Police and London Probation have worked hard together to ensure that we support healthy lifestyle choices, provide high quality treatment and tackle drug / alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour.
- The Partnership is keen to build upon progress to date and further improve the approach to tackling the harms associated with drug and alcohol misuse in the borough. The substance misuse strategy has been drafted by partners to outline the partnership approach for 2012-2015.

The Mayor

- Welcomed the Strategy, commenting that it was important that residents of the borough considered that the Council was making a positive difference to their lives. Significant resources had been invested in addressing substance misuse and he looked forward to seeing the anticipated outcomes of that. He was well aware of the potential for substance misuse to destroy the lives of young people. He concluded by strongly recommending that full Council to adopt the Strategy.
- **Agreed** the recommendations as set out in the report before the Cabinet for consideration, with minor amendments.

Decision

That the contents of the report (CAB 054/112) be noted,

That the Substance Misuse Strategy appended to the report (CAB 054/112) be endorsed; and

That Council be recommended to adopt the Substance Misuse Strategy as set out in the report (CAB 054/112).

Council is therefore recommended to: -

Approve Substance Misuse Strategy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 054/112) **(Attached at Appendix A to this Council report)**.

**Lutfur Rahman
Mayor**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 100D (AS AMENDED)
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

**Brief description
of "background paper"
number of holder**

**Tick if copy
supplied**

**If not supplied,
name and telephone**

Draft Cabinet minutes
07/12/11

Angus Taylor
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