


<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	
<b>Report of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Health and Wellbeing Board Sign-up to the Disabled Children's Charter</b>	

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<b>Executive Key Decision?</b>	No

### Executive Summary

The Children's Trust, Tadworth, and Every Disabled Child Matters, have produced a charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards to sign up to, setting out their commitments in relation to understanding and meeting the needs of children with disabilities.

This paper sets out the current position in terms of meeting the commitments, and next steps for signing up to the Charter. In particular, the paper considers progress in developing a JSNA for children with disabilities. This paper follows on from the 25<sup>th</sup> November report to the Children and Families Partnership Board, where it was agreed that Tower Hamlets meets the commitments set out in the Charter and recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board sign the Charter.

The paper explains how the Health and Wellbeing Board, through the Children and Families Partnership, meets the commitments set out in the charter. The draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, which is relevant for commitment 1, is attached as an appendix for discussion and feedback from the Board.

### Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Consider the position statement in relation to each of the commitments in the Charter and agree to the Tower Hamlets Partnership signing up to the Charter;
2. Note the JSNA attached as an appendix

## 1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

### 1.1 **Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Children's Trust, Tadworth, and Every Disabled Child Matters have produced a charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards to sign up to, setting out their commitments in relation to understanding and meeting the needs of children with disabilities. All Health and Wellbeing Boards have been asked to sign up to the Charter as evidence of their commitment to disabled children. The council and its partners meets these commitments, and recommends that the Health and Wellbeing Board agrees to signing up to the charter.

## 2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The alternative option is to not sign up to the charter. This option is not recommended.

## 3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The Children's Trust, Tadworth, and Every Disabled Child Matters, have produced a charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards to sign up to, setting out their commitments in relation to understanding and meeting the needs of children with disabilities.

- 3.2 The council and our partners meets these commitments, and recommends that the Health and Wellbeing Board agrees to signing up to the charter.

- 3.3 **Commitment 1: We have detailed and accurate information on the disabled children and young people living in our area, and provide public information on how we plan to meet their needs**

- 3.4 The JSNA for children with disabilities includes detailed and accurate information on disabled children and young people living in Tower Hamlets, and subject to approval processes for the JSNA, will be finalised and made available on the Council website. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Children and Families Plan are both public documents which provide strategic-level information on how we plan to meet the needs of children with disabilities and the JSNA supplements these documents with further evidence and detail around children with disabilities, with reference to specific information about how we plan to continue meeting their needs. Our Short Break Statement is also a public document, available as part of our Directory of Services for Disabled Children and Families, which sets out how we are delivering on our short break duty for children with disabilities and their families.

- 3.5 **Commitment 2: We engage directly with disabled children and young people and their participation is embedded in the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board**

- 3.6** Children with disabilities are currently engaged and consulted with at annual consultation fun days, commissioned by the Children with Disabilities Team. Children with disabilities are represented on the Youth Council, and disabled children are also consulted as part of the commissioning process for short breaks. The Children with Disabilities Strategic Group has a role in continuing to develop our approach to engagement with disabled children and young people.
- 3.7** **Commitment 3: We engage directly with parent carers of disabled children and young people and their participation is embedded in the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board**
- 3.8** Parents and carers of disabled children are engaged and consulted via PACSEN (Parent and Carers for Children with Special Educational Needs). For example, PACSEN invited parents to consultation events on transition to adult services; direct payments and short breaks during 2013. Parents are included on panels for evaluating tenders, and on interview panels for relevant positions within the Integrated Service for Disabled Children. The Children with Disabilities Strategic Group is considering how to further engage parents and carers of disabled children in strategic decision making processes.
- 3.9** **Commitment 4: We set clear strategic outcomes for our partners to meet in relation to disabled children, young people and their families, monitor progress towards achieving them and hold each other to account**
- 3.10** Our strategic outcomes for children with disabilities are set out in our Children and Families Plan: Our vision is for all children and young people to be safe and healthy, achieve their full potential, be active and responsible citizens, and emotionally and economically resilient for their future.
- 3.11** The Children and Families Plan contains detailed priorities for achieving this vision for all children and young people at each life stage, from maternity and early years through to transitioning into adulthood. It sets out indicators for positive outcomes for all children and young people; if we are meeting all those indicators for children and young people with disabilities, this can be considered evidence that we are making a difference. There are some outcome indicators which we can focus on which specifically tell us how we're doing in relation to children and young people with disabilities – these outcomes are either specific to them, or are in relation to an issue which the evidence tells us may be more prevalent amongst the children with disabilities population. These outcomes are considered in the JSNA.
- 3.12** To help achieve our vision for children with disabilities, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and Tower Hamlets NHS promote inclusion by ensuring services in universal settings can be accessed by children with disabilities and additional needs. Additional services will be targeted to the needs of those with more complex needs. Services will be timely, accessible, co-ordinated and responsive to the needs of children, young people and their carers. This approach is set out in the terms of reference for the Children with Disabilities Strategic Group.

**3.13 Commitment 5: We promote early intervention and support for smooth transitions between children and adult services for disabled children and young people**

**3.14** Early intervention is an overarching theme in our Children and Families Plan. For children with disabilities, a key way in which we deliver on this agenda is via our comprehensive short breaks programme, as well as through inclusive universal services, including for children during the early years from birth to age 5.

**3.15** Our approach to supporting transition into adult services is being developed through a Transitions Steering Group, chaired by the Service Head for Adult's Social Care. An action plan and a practitioner's guide on transition have been developed, for dissemination across relevant teams and under the oversight of the Transitions Strategy group during December 2013 and into 2014/15.

**3.16 Commitment 6: We work with key partners to strengthen integration between health, social care and education services, and with services provided by wider partners**

**3.17** The Integrated Service for Disabled Children and Families includes practitioners from across health, social care and education services. Senior managers from across these service areas meet bimonthly on the Children with Disabilities Strategic Group, which reports into the Children and Families Partnership Board. We also have integrated panels where decisions are made on how we will meet the needs of children with disabilities.

**3.18 Commitment 7: We provide cohesive governance and leadership across the disabled children and young people's agenda by linking effectively with key partners**

**3.19** The Children with Disabilities Strategic Group oversee the development of services for disabled children and their families in Tower Hamlets. The group oversees the integration of services across Council and health services (both directly provided and externally commissioned services) to meet the needs of disabled children and their families. The group takes responsibility for ensuring integrated local practice is aligned to national recommendations and research for best practice. The group is responsible for ensuring we deliver on our vision for children with disabilities, set out under commitment 4 above.

**3.20** This group reports into the Children and Families Partnership which is responsible for the overarching plan to meet our vision for all children and families, set out in our Children and Families Plan 2012-15.

**3.21** The Children and Families Partnership Board reports into the Health and Wellbeing Board, responsible for the delivery of our Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

#### **4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 4.1. This is not a financial report and there are no financial implications arising from the recommendations.

#### **5. LEGALCOMMENTS**

- 5.1. Section 193 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 ('the 2012 Act') inserts a new s116A into the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, which places a duty on the Health and Wellbeing Board to prepare a joint strategic health and wellbeing strategy in respect of the needs identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The duty to prepare this plan falls on local authorities and the Clinical Commissioning Group, but must be discharged by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 5.2. In preparing this strategy, the Board must have regard to whether these needs could better be met under s75 of the NHS Act 2006. Further, the Board must have regard to the Statutory Guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies published on 26 March 2013, and can only depart from this with good reason. The guidance states that the HWB must consider the demographics of the population and how the needs of people of different ages may vary.
- 5.3. This strategy must be prepared in accordance with the public sector equalities duty to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equalities Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

#### **6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1. The disabled children's charter specifically addresses disability and seeks to improve outcomes for disabled children. Within the JSNA wider equalities considerations are outlined.

#### **7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 7.1 N/A

#### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. There is a reputational risk to the Health and Wellbeing Board if it does not sign up the Disabled Children's Charter.

#### **9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 A disabled child's quality of life is determined not solely by their impairments (and subsequent health and social care needs), but the other barriers that often result in them being excluded from family and community activities such as poverty, negative attitudes and a disabling environment, for example,

unequal access to education, healthcare, leisure activities, transport and housing.

**10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

10.1 This report is not concerned with expenditure, and commitments outlined are being met using existing resources.

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**Appendices and Background Documents**

**Appendices**

Disabled Children's JSNA

**Background Documents**

NONE