


Health and Wellbeing Board 24th March 2014	
Report of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets	Classification: Unrestricted
Oral Health of Children	

Lead Officer	Robert McCulloch-Graham
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Executive Key Decision?	No

Executive Summary

This briefing paper gives an overview of the oral health of children in Tower Hamlets. It provides a background and basis for the targets in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

In Tower Hamlets 45.9% of 5 year old children have experienced tooth decay compared to 32.9% for London and 27.9% for England. Compared to 2008 oral health has improved nationally but deteriorated in Tower Hamlets. The percentage of children accessing dental services has increased from a baseline of 46.9% in 2006 when the current dental contact was introduced to the current figure of 53.4%. This compares to 62.9% for London and 69.1% for England.

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Promote the Council's engagement with NHS England to increase the capacity within general dental practice including the resolution of issues delaying the opening of the new dental practice at the Harford Health Centre.
2. HWBB to note importance of oral health improvement programmes for children including the school fluoride varnish programme in addressing trends in dental decay
3. Explore the possibility of including figures from the dental school primary care service in monitoring the dental access indicator.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The improvement of oral health in children is outlined in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy under the Maternity and Early Years priority workstream.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 HWB has the option of not following the Paper's recommendations.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 A briefing paper giving an overview of the oral health of children in Tower Hamlets. It provides a background and basis for the targets as laid out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1. The Oral Health Improvement Programme for Children currently costs £150,000 and is funded from the Public Health Grant. 80% of this funding is for the Healthy Teeth in Schools Programme, a fluoride varnish programme to prevent tooth decay in children aged 3-6 years. Currently over 90% of nursery schools are participating in the programme.
- 4.2. Other public costs of dental service provision would generally be met via the CCG.

5. LEGALCOMMENTS

- 5.1. This report is pursuant to the Council's new duties under Regulation 17 of the NHS Bodies and Local Authorities (Partnership Arrangements, Care Trusts, Public Health and Local Healthwatch) Regulations 2012 to secure the provision of oral health promotion programmes and surveys
- 5.2. The recommendations arising from this briefing paper are also consistent with the general policy, reflected in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, of giving HWBs responsibility for joint health and wellbeing strategies and the joint strategic needs assessment, and fall within the functions of the HWB set out in its Terms of Reference.
- 5.3. The recommendation for the Council to engage with NHS England to increase the capacity within general dental practice Centre, falls within the HWB functions of encouraging integration and supporting partnerships under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006.
- 5.4. The second recommendation to note the importance of the oral health improvement programmes for children including the school fluoride varnish

programme falls within the function to identify needs and priorities across Tower Hamlets.

- 5.5. The final recommendation to explore the possibility of including figures from the dental school primary care service in monitoring the dental access indicator falls within the HWB function to have oversight of the quality and performance mechanisms operated by member organisations.
- 5.6. When planning for integration of health and social care functions, the Council and its committees must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality 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 don't. Some form of equality analysis will be required and officers will have to decide how extensive this should be.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1. [Report authors should identify any equalities or diversity implications and how the proposals contribute to the achievement of One Tower Hamlets. Please refer to the relevant section of the report writing guide when completing this paragraph.]

7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1 N/A

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. [Authors should identify how the proposals in the report mitigate any risk to the Council and/or any risks arising from the proposals themselves and the action taken to address these.]

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 N/A

10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 10.1 [Reports concerned with proposed expenditure, reviewing or changing service delivery or the use of resources must incorporate an Efficiency Statement. Please refer to the relevant section of the report writing guide.]

Appendices and Background Documents

Appendices

- NONE

Background Documents

- NONE