

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny	Date: 1st April 2008	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Report of: Michael Keating, Acting Assistant Chief Executive		Title: Health Scrutiny Panel Review on Smoking & Tobacco Cessation		
Originating Officer(s): Shanara Matin, Scrutiny Policy Officer				

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report submits the report and recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Panel Review on Smoking and Tobacco Cessation for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 Endorse the draft report.
- 2.2 That the Acting Assistant Chief Executive be authorised to agree the final report before its submission to Cabinet, after consultation with the Chair of Health Scrutiny Panel.

Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) Section 100D
LOST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Background paper

Name and telephone of and address where open to inspection

Scrutiny Review File held in Scrutiny Policy Team

Shanara Matin
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3. Background

- 3.1 The Working Group was established in September 2007 to investigate the smoking and tobacco cessation programme.
- 3.2 The objectives of the review were to:
- a. To consider the composition and terms of reference of a tobacco control alliance.
 - b. To evaluate the effectiveness of current strategies of engagement with key community groups and organisations, including targeting of high risk and “hard to reach” groups for smoking and tobacco cessation, specifically Bangladeshi males.
 - c. To evaluate the extent of the availability of black market tobacco and the price and quality of products sold at street markets.
 - d. To evaluate available research on access to tobacco products by under 18s and the enforcement of breaches of trading standards relating to the selling of tobacco to under 18s.
 - e. To collate the available material for communicating the smoking cessation and tobacco control message, to examine evidence that the communications strategies work, and to identify possible gaps.
 - f. To investigate strategies to develop the capacity and skills of front line healthcare providers to support people in giving up smoking / oral tobacco.
 - g. To evaluate the time and resource implications for the enforcement of the workplace smoking ban on LBTH Trading Standards officers.
 - h. To consider the strategies in place for the regulation and cessation of chewing tobacco (including Paan) and whether these products carry the legal health notices to the required standard.
- 3.3 The working group met five times and considered various information including evidence from Tower Hamlets PCT, LBTH Tobacco Control Team and voluntary and community sector smoking cessation and prevention services. The Chair also undertook enforcement visits and mystery shopping exercises. .
- 3.4 The report with recommendations is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Once agreed, the working group's report and action plan will be submitted to Cabinet for a response to their recommendations.

4. Concurrent Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services)

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5. Comments of the Chief Financial Officer

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. Equal Opportunity Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct equal opportunity implications arising from this report.

7. Anti-Poverty Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct Anti-Poverty implications arising from this report.

8. Sustainable Action for a Greener Environment

8.1 There are no direct actions for a greener environment arising from the report.

9. Risk Management

9.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from the Working Group's report or recommendations.

Appendix 1 Report of Smoking & Tobacco Cessation Scrutiny Review Group