


Health and Wellbeing Board Tuesday 15 March 2016	
Report of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets	Classification: Unrestricted
Update on Dental Care Access for Children	

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Executive Key Decision?	No

Summary

This briefing paper gives an update on dental care access for children in Tower Hamlets.

The paper summarises the dental services available to children, and provides information on current access figures, trends and comparisons. The paper identifies national and local action to improve access to dental services and suggests further action that will be taken in 2016/17 to increase dental service uptake.

Recommendations:

The Health & Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

Note the following actions that are being taken to improve access to dental services to increase access by 5% in 16/17 (from 50.4%)

1. Council services for children and young people will have oral health and dental service uptake embedded at a strategic and operational level. The CYP team will ensure that performance reviews for commissioned services include a focus on oral health
2. Council PH team will work with NHS England, Health Education England and the Dental Institute of Queen Mary to identify training needs of dental teams to enable them to provide services for very young children in Tower Hamlets. A plan of action has been agreed
3. The Public Health team will work with the communications team to ensure that the local population are made aware of the new dental practice at Harford Street
4. The Council will support the implementation of the Paediatric Dentistry Commissioning Guide (when published)
5. The Council will collaborate with Queen Mary University to identify/ undertake research to identify strategies to increase access to dental services in multi-

cultural deprived communities

6. The Public Health team will continue to make the case to NHS England to identify additional resources for dental services for children
7. The impacts of these measures will be monitored on an ongoing basis and evaluated at the end of 16/17 by the Public Health team to assess effectiveness and value for money.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Improving access to dental services in children is outlined in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy under the Maternity and Early Years priority workstream.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 To not take action would result in Tower Hamlets children continuing to have lower access to dental services than elsewhere.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 A briefing paper giving an update on dental access for children in Tower Hamlets. It provides information on the latest access figures, trends and comparison. It summaries current action to improve dental access.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 The Council currently has a budget of £168k for Children's Dental Health services through the Public Health Grant. Any additional resources required in order to implement the recommendations contained within this report would need to be contained within the Public Health Grant.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 This report is pursuant to the Council's 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 are also consistent with the general policy, reflected in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, of giving HWBBs 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 and Queen Mary University falls within the HWBB functions of encouraging integration and supporting partnerships under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006.
- 5.4 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.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Poor dental outcomes and inequalities in dental access are key issues linked to deprivation. This paper is particularly focussed on addressing how to engage with ensure equitable access for the sections of the population with greatest oral health need.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The BV implications are minimal as there are no specific commissioning proposal or the council

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 No specific impacts

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The proposals mitigate the continued risk of poor dental health in children in Tower Hamlets and the reputational risk of failing to take action

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 No specific impacts

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Update on dental access for children for the HWBB.

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

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