

RAG status	Missed target requires action	On target but with minor issues	Completed action
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LBTH Response to Covid 19 Action Plan Updates		
Recommendation 1: COVID-19 Impacts Commission		
Establish a commission to collate and disseminate information (including specifically to Overview and Scrutiny and other members) on impacts of COVID-19 on residents and stakeholders, service users and services and develop an understanding on long term trends of COVID-19, including differing demand for office space and housing and health services.		
Recommendation 1 Update	Owner(s)	RAG
<p>Information on the impacts of COVID-19 and an understanding on long term trends was carried out and presented to Cabinet in 2020 (July 2020 report, item 6.1). It was then carried out for a second time and presented to Cabinet in 2021 (September 2021 report, item 6.1). Each report sets out future predicted challenges and opportunities in the next 12 months and in the longer-term. The 2021 report covers the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wider impact on physical health - Mental health - Social care and safeguarding - Economy, business and the voluntary and community sector - Deprivation and employment - Homelessness and rough sleeping - Domestic abuse viii. Crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) - Substance misuse - Education and learning - Transport, air quality and cities - Community cohesion and involvement - Local authority finances and services 	Denise Radley Corporate Director Health, Adults and Community & Deputy Chief Executive	Green

<p>The intention is to review the need for any further dedicated Covid-19 impact assessments in future: Services continue to respond to the ongoing pandemic at present which will inevitably change and shape the long-term impact.</p> <p>The Council also undertook a mid-pandemic survey in 2021 to explore residents' views about the council, services and the local area. The survey helped us understand how the pandemic has affected our communities and plan for the recovery together. The survey results can be found here</p>		
<p>Recommendation 2: Digital inclusion</p> <p>Produce a new digital inclusion strategy that looks at how the Council could actively help those who are digitally excluded to get online, building on the 2015-18 strategy.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 2 Update</p>	<p>Owner(s)</p>	<p>RAG</p>
<p>A new digital Inclusion strategy and action plan was agreed at Cabinet in November 2021. The strategy aims to ensure that all residents of Tower Hamlets have the tools and skills they need to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from a digital world. Pivotaly, a Digital Inclusion Ambassador will be recruited to help drive implementation of the action plan and co-ordinate activities across the partnership.</p>	<p>Sharon Godman Director of Strategy, Improvement and Transformation</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: VCS support</p> <p>That the Council and its partners directly support the Voluntary and Community Sector to transition in recovery and work together to develop a sustainable model for the sector.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 3 update</p>	<p>Owner(s)</p>	<p>RAG</p>
<p>The Council has supported the sector's recovery in a variety of ways, including through a wide variety of grant awards made to organisations through our Covid Community Fund. The fund enables organisations to repurpose and adapt as an organisation and in terms of their activities.</p> <p>We have also supported the sector through the Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund, a</p>	<p>Sharon Godman Director of Strategy, Improvement and Transformation</p>	<p>Green</p>

<p>significant proportion of the budget for which goes to the local VCS. Examples of this include grants for local advice organisations, to support volunteering and to fund a range of events to bring people together and build community cohesion.</p> <p>The Council also funds Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services to provide capacity building support to VCS organisations and through the delivery of the VCS Strategy we are working with the sector to support the recovery and sustainability of the sector.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 4: BAME communities</p> <p>That the borough's Test and Trace Programme utilise local networks; including GP practices, community and faith organisations to target these groups to increase uptake and understanding of the test and trace programme.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 4 Update</p>	<p>Owner(s)</p>	<p>RAG</p>
<p>The borough's Test and Trace offer is made up of two distinct parts.</p> <p>The 'Targeted Community Testing Programme' is specifically designed to increase take-up of asymptomatic testing amongst what the Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) describes as 'disproportionately impacted' and 'under-represented' groups. The delivery model for the service in Tower Hamlets has evolved significantly since being brought 'in-house' in July 2021 and now offers 4 mobile assisted testing units, one fixed assisted testing site (Canary Wharf), as well as an extensive network of 'community collect' sites to distribute home test kits.</p> <p>This model gives the service maximum flexibility to meet resident needs. Our units are deployed on the basis of local epidemiology, targeting areas of high prevalence including areas of high population density and high deprivation. In addition our testing service enables access to testing for specific at-risk cohorts, for example we regularly deploy to local asylum seeker bridging hotels. Since July 2021 the service has delivered 51,201 assisted tests to local residents. Over that same time period, our network of 'community collect' sites based in Idea Stores, community venues and street pop-ups have distributed over 254,335 home test kit packs (equating to almost 2 million individual home tests).</p>	<p>Denise Radley Corporate Director Health, Adults and Community and Deputy Chief Executive</p>	<p>Green</p>

<p>Our 'Local Contact Tracing' service is an in-house team that supports the national contact tracing service with contacting the positive cases and employs staff that speak English and Bengali, and the majority of TH residents are supported in their spoken language. Where other languages are requested, the case is referred to the national team for assistance. The team ensures sensitivities around culture, religion and dietary requirements are considered when assessing their needs and for relevant signposting to local services.</p>											
<p>Recommendation 5: Council finances</p> <p>(a). Audit all saleable assets with an assessment for sale against a long-term cost-benefit analysis (b). Assess impact on services of proposed job losses, particularly post furlough (in October) (c). Produce a report on approach to commercialisation for 2020-21, and 2021-22; particularly in Parks and Culture. The Commercialisation Board to explain overall approach to OSC in 2021/22 (d). Scrutiny leads to review in depth their areas of savings and income as part of quarterly budget monitoring</p>											
<p>Recommendation 5 Update</p>	<p>Owner(s)</p>	<p>RAG</p>									
<p>Response to (a). A review of assets - to identify assets for sale to maximise capital receipts has been completed (April 2021)</p>	<p>Vicky Clark Director of Integrated Growth and Development</p>	<p>Green</p>									
<p>Response to (b). Details of CTR and HB comparisons year on year</p> <hr/> <table border="1" data-bbox="181 1042 909 1361"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3" data-bbox="181 1042 909 1106">Council Tax Support</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="181 1106 405 1182">Year</th> <th data-bbox="405 1106 734 1182">Value of Awards</th> <th data-bbox="734 1106 909 1182">Number of Claims</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="181 1182 405 1361">2020/2021</td> <td data-bbox="405 1182 734 1361">£31,598,348</td> <td data-bbox="734 1182 909 1361">37,920</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Council Tax Support			Year	Value of Awards	Number of Claims	2020/2021	£31,598,348	37,920	<p>Kevin Bartle Interim Corporate Director Resources</p>	<p>Green</p>
Council Tax Support											
Year	Value of Awards	Number of Claims									
2020/2021	£31,598,348	37,920									

2021/2022	£32,706,612	36,980
<p>The number of claims has reduced by 940 so far this year. The value of claims remains higher because the amount of council tax to pay increases year on year.</p>		
Housing Benefit		
Year	Value of Awards	Number of Claims
2020/2021		
Non HRA	£36,248,764.00	
HRA	£29,894,839.00	
Private Sector	£147,291,375.00	
Total	£213,434,978.00	30,620
Current position		
Non HRA	£29,623,063.00	
HRA	£24,139,085.00	
Private Sector	£117,901,114.00	
Total	£171,663,262.00	25,210
Estimated end of year position		

Appendix 1

LBTH Response to COVID -19 Action Plan Updates

<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Non HRA</td> <td>£35,140,142.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HRA</td> <td>£27,923,263.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private Sector</td> <td>£137,034,791.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£200,098,196.00</td> <td>28706</td> </tr> </table> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>The Housing Benefit figures need to be taken in context. The current position is not a full year and the figures below that are estimates of the full year cost. It should also be noted that HB caseloads are falling as a result of the rollout of universal Credit and in 20/21 the rough sleepers initiative will have inflated the figures for that year.</p> </div>	Non HRA	£35,140,142.00		HRA	£27,923,263.00		Private Sector	£137,034,791.00		Total	£200,098,196.00	28706		
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Total	£200,098,196.00	28706												
<p>Response to (c).</p> <p>The council already undertakes significant commercial activity across a range of services. Estimated income is in the region of £60m per year. There is a commercialisation target of £2.5m in the MTFS which requires us to raise additional income over and above this.</p> <p>In Tower Hamlets our focus has been on lower risk, pragmatic opportunities to raise additional income. We have not pursued large scale commercial investment and have noted the high-profile failings in other councils that had pursued this strategy (e.g. Croydon.)</p> <p>The Commercialisation Board was established in late 2019 and identified 35 potential opportunities for commercial activity. Work to develop our commercial opportunities through the Commercialisation Board was paused with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020. In early 2021, we resumed work.</p> <p>To help us to move forwards at pace, we commissioned external help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run workshops with officers from across the council to help develop commercial awareness and skills working with East London Business 	<p>Ann Sutcliffe Corporate Director Place</p>	<p>Amber</p>												

<p>Alliance who provided support for free- January 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a rapid review of our 35 opportunities to give a view on viability and the potential level of income generation- May 2021. • Identify at least 2 of the most promising opportunities and work with our staff to draw up business cases, developing our capability to build further business cases in future- this was completed in August 2021. <p>Having completed this work, we are now progressing the following projects to generate income on a commercial basis. Total estimated revenue from these schemes is £650-675k a year. We have been conservative in our estimates bearing in mind the economic downturn following Brexit and the pandemic:</p> <p>Venues & Events</p> <p>The project on Venues and Events will establish a corporate resource to better market our venues, build on the TH Venues website and implement improved processes for customers to find a suitable venue, book and pay. The aim is to establish TH Venues as a brand, increase utilisation and generate additional revenue from hire fees.</p> <p>Progress is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have recruited a Business development and marketing manager - this is an internal secondment with marketing experience and good connections already across the council. • Continued work on the TH Venues website to enhance our online presence in order to generate more hires. • We have completed design work for the new booking and payments process and are now looking into the best IT solution to support this. <p>We expect to complete this project in the first quarter of 22-23 but with the quick wins/ new person in post, should start to see improvement before then.</p> <p>Mini golf</p> <p>We are developing a mini golf scheme in Victoria Park which will provide a new leisure facility for residents and generate income. The scheme is expected to open on 1 October.</p> <p>Advertising</p> <p>There are three pieces of work being progressed on this by our Communications</p>		
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<p>team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community information panels- contracts are finalised pending legal adding the council seal. This will give us space for advertising key council messages plus financial benefit from private advertising. Boundary signage- contract is currently in draft. This will renew our aging boundary signage and include sponsorship plates. Lamppost banners-we are awaiting structural approval via highways, also needs clearance re usage with CCTV cameras. The space can be hired by the council or for commercial advertising. <p>Next steps Over the next three months we expect to have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantially completed work on venues & events and advertising, beginning to see additional revenue. Develop further work on additional opportunities including commercial waste Run further development sessions for officers across the council to continue to build our capability for commercial projects. <p>The Corporate Leadership Team directly oversee this work with the Corporate Director for Place taking responsibility as corporate sponsor.</p>		
<p>Response to (d). OSC reviews the savings and income as part of the quarterly budget monitoring performance, this is an ongoing process and is built into OSC's work programme on an annual basis.</p>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Green
<p>Recommendation 6: The local economy That the Council works with partners to undertake scenario-planning to model the impact on the local economy and start to plan mitigation.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 6 Update</p>	<p>Owner(s)</p>	<p>RAG</p>
<p>The Council has facilitated regular scenario planning and investigated possible mitigation measures via the Tower Hamlets Growth & Economic Development Partnership (THEDP) which meets on a regular basis. Local partners that have taken part include Federation of Small Businesses, ELBA, Canary Wharf Group, Queen</p>	<p>Vicky Clark Director of Integrated Growth and Development</p>	<p>Green</p>

<p>Mary’s University London, City College, BARTs NHS trust, Dept for Work & Pensions, London Met University and others.</p> <p>At various junctures during the pandemic, the THEDP has acted to support or develop new initiatives to help the local economy. Some examples of initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCF Freelancer Support Programme (financial support for freelance businesses) - PIVOT Project Extension (financial support for businesses to access new revenue sources) - Free Legal & Financial Advice surgeries from the universities - Additional information, advice and guidance for businesses on accessing central govt support - Information sharing and monitoring of data on Growth in Green Jobs, High St Footfall & Office Occupancy in key areas - Working with partners, including New City College, to help prepare young LBTH residents for placements under the Kickstart scheme. <p>As we continue to emerge from the economic effects of the pandemic, this partnership will continue to meet regularly and examine impacts/possible mitigations.</p> <p>In 2022, we plan to augment this partnership with an additional representative business board that can relay direct messages from TH businesses to the Council and/or relevant policy makers.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 7: Ensure market traders are provided with business</p> <p>Development support to increase their resilience and if future grants become available better support market traders to ensure their COVID-19 costs are covered in the same way as was offered to other businesses. Health and wellbeing</p>		
<p>Recommendation 7 Update</p>	<p>Owner(s)</p>	<p>RAG</p>
<p><i>Business support to market traders (January 2021 – January 2022)</i></p> <p>The projects below have directly targeted market traders and would-be traders to improve their resilience:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thriving High Streets 2 (THS2) – Existing Business/Market Trader Training & Support (01/01/21 – 31/05/22). 	<p>Vicky Clark Director of Integrated Growth and Development</p>	<p>Green</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Thriving High Streets 3 (THS3) – Existing Business/Market Trader Training & Support (01/06/21 – 31/03/22). 3. Thriving High Streets 3 – Food Hygiene Training (01/04/21 – 31/03/22 – a 3mth extension likely) To help any food business with 3* or below improve their Food Hygiene Rating. 4. Thriving High Streets 3 – Start Ups (01/04/21 – 31/03/22 – a 6-month extension likely). To train residents to set up their new business idea as a market trader. Includes Lady Lane Market. 5. Fresh Streets Vouchers (approx. Nov 21 – current). Queen Mary Uni Lead with Public Health/High Street/Market Services Support. Fresh fruit/veg voucher scheme for low income – specifically targeting Fruit/Veg Market Stalls. 6. Chrisp St Delivers (launched 24.01.22 – expected to deliver for 6 months). E-cargo bike delivery scheme. Free to use for Market Traders 7. Sneeze Screens (approx. 01.06.21 – 31.10.21). Specifically for Market traders. <p><i>Grant support for market traders</i></p> <p>Following the Discretionary Grant Schemes in June 2020 and January 2021, the Market Traders received an additional grant payment from the January 2021 fund, and in December 2021 received a further payment.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 8</p> <p>Support voluntary and community organisations to ensure vulnerable and isolated residents have adequate access to food, particularly for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a). Families – where children and young people are vulnerable to food poverty; (b). Older people – where poor health or mobility may hamper their ability to access food; and (c). Reinstate a food delivery service for the most vulnerable in our community. 		
<p>Recommendation 8 Update</p>	<p>Owner(s)</p>	<p>RAG</p>
<p>As well as donated food we have been able to use a considerable amount of government funding to provide additional food through the hub. We have delivered over 1800 tonnes of food to around 60 organisations. This is the equivalent of providing 45,000 weeks of food for a small family, but at around 1/3 of the cost of purchasing direct from a supermarket.</p>	<p>Vicky Clark Director of Integrated Growth and Development</p>	<p>Green</p>

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<p>There is currently funding to maintain the hub until the end of the financial year, and a growth bid has been put in to continue this project for a further year.</p> <p>In January a grant was agreed for Family Action to bring 3 existing food pantries under the council's umbrella, and to open an additional three in community locations including children's centres.</p> <p>Various food projects have been run over each school holiday, with more than 175,000 meals being provided between Easter 2020 and October half term 2021.</p> <p>Two pension credit take-up campaigns have been run, with gains to residents being realised of £380,000 per year.</p>		
<p>We worked flexibly with VCS organisations we give grants to, during covid to ensure that they could use our funding to adapt their activities to respond to need. In many cases, organisations adapted to provide food. We have also funded the Covid volunteer hub since the start of the pandemic, which has provided hundreds of food volunteers to local VCS organisations to enable them to serve residents.</p>	<p>Sharon Godman Director of Strategy, Improvement and Transformation</p>	
<p>Recommendation 9</p> <p>The Council should part fund and work with other funding providers to ensure this need continues to be met by our VCS.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 9 Update</p>	<p>Owner(s)</p>	<p>RAG</p>
<p>The Tower Hamlets Funders Forum is up and running and has identified funding priorities for the borough. There have been a number of significant partnership bids that have resulted in significant amounts of local VCS funding, including Cornerstone funding, English for Integration Funding and Our Ends funding. A joint funding protocol has been drafted by the Council, working with the VCS that will be used as a basis to promote the development of joint funding opportunities with the VCS throughout Council, business and partner systems.</p> <p>We also provide regular funding opportunities to the sector through our dedicated</p>	<p>Sharon Godman Director of Strategy, Improvement and Transformation</p>	<p>Green</p>

Council webpage and monthly VCS newsletter.		
<p>Recommendation 10</p> <p>Further analysis should take place on the causes of need to understand how much was pre-existing and exacerbated by the pandemic, versus how much is new need relating to job losses or social distancing impacting on informal caring networks</p>		
Recommendation 10 Update	Owner(s)	RAG
<p>Analysis on need, how much was pre-existing and exacerbated by the pandemic was carried out as part of the COVID-19 impact assessments presented to Cabinet in 2020 (July 2020 report, item 6.1) and in 2021 (September 2021 report, item 6.1). For example in relation to job losses, the impact assessments note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Covid unemployment levels in LBTH had fallen, but a significant proportion of the workforce remained in low paid, part time or insecure employment. • The impact on job losses until autumn 2021 was cushioned to an extent by the furlough scheme. However, as of May 2021, LBTH had the 5th highest largest absolute increase in Universal Credit claimants (152% increase March 2020 – May 2021). • Evidence suggests people aged 50 years or older and younger people aged 18 to 24 claimed out of work benefits at a higher rate. This is in-keeping with analysis that the wider impacts of COVID-19 risk exacerbating existing inequalities. 	Sharon Godman Director of Strategy, Improvement and Transformation	Green
<p>Recommendation 11: Shielding vulnerable residents</p> <p>Maintain and resource local pathways beyond September with Primary Care Networks for shielding in anticipation of subsequent waves.</p>		
Recommendation 11 Update	Owner(s)	RAG
Shielding ceased on 15 th September 2021 and has not been reintroduced during the Omicron wave. The focus of the support offer has also changed since the first two waves of Covid-19, with the introduction of cash payments to help people in need of financial support to self-isolate and referrals into existing services for those residents who require a specific form of assistance.	Denise Radley Corporate Director Health, Adults and Community and Deputy Chief Executive	Green

<p>The Council has continued to maintain a dedicated phonenumber - '3030' – which is able to support residents with enquiries about Covid-19 and plans are currently being explored to add clinical advice to the phonenumber from the PCNs in support of the vaccine programme.</p> <p>The removal of shielding has led to a significant fall in the volume of calls received by 3030 and a major shift in the reasons for contact. For example, when shielding was in place calls were mainly about food and medication access, and business support. The majority of the 7,288 calls handled between October 2021 and February 2022 relating to testing and vaccination enquiries.</p> <p>Over this time period (Oct-2021 to Feb 2022), the Council has also assisted 4,828 residents to access the self-isolation grant, totalling some £2,5 million, which has supported people to stay off work in the event of a Covid positive test.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 12: Local test and trace</p> <p>Report on the effectiveness/performance/reach of local test, trace, isolate programme as part of the ongoing response to the pandemic – with results reviewed before the winter flu season to reduce the severity of a second wave.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 12 Update:</p>	<p>Owner(s)</p>	<p>RAG</p>
<p>The 'in house' Local Contact Tracing Service' supports the national team with contacting the positive cases. The service employs 6 staff members and is open 7 days a week including evenings and weekends.</p> <p>Residents are contacted by telephone and email as soon as the service is alerted of their positive COVID test result to ensure they understand the self-isolation rules and the availability of different testing routes.</p> <p>The service also assess their practical support needs including financial, food, mental health, medications or any other practical or clinical support needs. Referral pathways are in place with other council services (including for £500 self-isolation payment), the GP practices, social prescribers, pharmacies and voluntary sector.</p> <p>Since July 2021, the service has completed contact tracing of over 7000 positive cases. The team has worked incredibly hard and showed immense resilience especially during the Omicron wave in December and January when the caseload</p>	<p>Denise Radley Corporate Director Health, Adults and Community and Deputy Chief Executive</p>	<p>Green</p>

<p>increased significantly.</p> <p>As noted at Recommendation 4, the 'in-house' asymptomatic testing (described as the 'Targeted Community Testing Programme' by DHSC) has delivered over 51,000 assisted tests to residents and distributed over 250,000 home test kits comprising almost 2 million individual tests.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 13: Rough sleepers</p> <p>(a). Develop a sustainable approach that delivers the same results keeping rough sleepers off the street. Requesting and lobbying government for funding, including through London Councils.</p> <p>(b). Review the quality of its short-term accommodation, especially in instances where families with children have been placed in accommodation with shared facilities and amenities</p> <p>(c). The Council and its partners should map the increase in referrals and where they came from as well as the paths individuals subsequently took</p> <p>(d). Develop a sustainable approach to support those with No Recourse for Public Funds and lobby government to ensure this group is not left at risk.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 13 Update</p>	<p>Owner(s)</p>	<p>RAG</p>
<p>(a) The council participated in the No First Night Out Project which aimed to reduce rough sleeping in the borough. Accepted cases under this project were assisted with housing. The project came to an end in March 2021 when the funding ceased. New rough sleeping presentations are being assisted via London Council's Capital Letters Programme.</p> <p>The Housing Options Service has also produced its Rough Sleeping Delivery Plan 2021/22 which has brought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of the 'Emergency Accommodation and Specialist Support Winter Plan' • A co-produced 'Rough Sleeping Initiative Fund 2022-25' bid with the DLUHC • Further development of health initiatives with colleagues in Integrated Commissioning and Public Health • The exploration of new long term accommodation options for rough sleepers 	<p>Karen Swift Director of Housing</p>	<p>Amber</p>

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<p>We are delivering a number of initiatives to continue our fight to reduce rough sleeping and homelessness amongst our residents. We have commissioned a new complex needs service for street homeless providing 31 new accommodation units.</p>		
<p>(b) We have launched our Homelessness Transformation Programme to increase the number of households the council is assisting to prevent and relieve homelessness and to minimise the use of expensive temporary accommodation. We are investing in new staff and tools to work with households at an early stage, before they reach crisis point, to help them retain their existing home or find a new one, including accommodation in the private rented sector. We have commissioned a new specialist employment service for the homeless, called BEAM, to assist benefit capped households in temporary accommodation into sustainable employment. We have recruited more staff in our housing options service including an additional temporary accommodation rent officer who is specialising in supporting residents to maximise their income on benefits and reduce rent arrears.</p>	<p>Karen Swift Director of Housing</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>(c) The majority of rough sleepers are referred to the council via our commissioned rough sleeping outreach team (TH SORT). Workers record last settled base and housing histories for all rough sleepers to identify where clients are coming from and why they choose to rough sleep in Tower Hamlets. All referrals are recorded on the pan-London GLA funded database called CHAIN. Once referred to the council for accommodation, clients' moves are recorded on a Housing Options database (CDP). Monthly reports are produced from CHAIN that indicate trends and increase/reduction of rough sleepers. Reports can be requested from CDP when required.</p>	<p>Karen Swift Director of Housing</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>(d) This is a challenging recommendation as by definition this cohort has limited or no access to public funds.</p> <p>We are currently accommodating rough sleepers with limited or no recourse to public funds via the DLUHC's RSI-4, Winter Pressures fund, and Protect and Vaccinate fund. Public Health are also providing some top up funding to ensure that all NRPF rough sleepers have access to safe accommodation during periods of severe weather. All of these funding streams conclude on 31 March 2022.</p>	<p>Karen Swift Director of Housing</p>	<p>Amber</p>

<p>We are working with DLUHC to co-produce a 3-year RSI bid that incorporates a limited number of fully funded supported bedspaces at Luke House and specialist employment support through Providence Row Charity's Dellow Centre for those with limited or no recourse. We have agreed to support London Councils to submit a Northeast London sub-regional bid to DLUHC for an immigration legal service. For this cohort, we also fund until 31 March 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TH SORT to assess and refer clients to the GLA funded Routes Home Project and to carry out voluntary supported reconnections. • A day service to provide food, showers, advice and health interventions. <p>The council lobbies government through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our participation in the pan-London LA Rough Sleeping Leads meeting hosted by the GLA and the GLA/London Council's Life off the Street pan-London Task Force. Representatives from the DLUHC attend both of these meetings. • Written responses to consultations • Co-production of RSI bids. 		
<p>Recommendation 14: Domestic violence support</p> <p>Proactively communicate using a range of channels and community languages the support available for victims of domestic violence and ensure resource is planned to meet potential increase in demand.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 14 Update</p>	<p>Owner(s)</p>	<p>RAG</p>
<p>To cater for increased domestic abuse (DA), doubled support available to victims of domestic abuse through additional funding secured via Mayors Covid Fund. Includes 3 DA caseworkers specialising in mental health and Somali communities. Continuation funding secured for Housing DA caseworkers, single women with complex needs as well as specialist DA GP advocates. Sylheti speaking Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) available too. Regular communications, contract monitoring with service providers, consultation and engagement with VAWG Steering Group partners to monitor any further support needs. Key DA literature in circulation in Somali and Bengali, interpretation and translation policy in place.</p>	<p>Denise Radley Corporate Director Health, Adults and Community and Deputy Chief Executive</p>	<p>Green</p>

<p>Solace IDVA support was advertised through paper Bengali media and online Somali media. 'The Good Guys Guide' was circulated amongst partners to move the focus of women keeping themselves safe, to men taking action to help women feel safer. Contact was made with community organisations to promote and encourage participation of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. Organisations contacted included targeted specialist support groups such as London Muslim Centre, East London Out Project, Inter-faith Forum, Ocean Community Somali Association and many other protected characteristic groups. The online VAWG Directory has been updated, is fully accessible and published on the LBTH Council website. The VAWG Directory has extensive contact details for both victims and perpetrators.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 15: Care Homes</p> <p>That the Health Scrutiny Committee undertake a review of learning of the response to the pandemic by engaging care homes, residents' families and other stakeholders to identify long term recommendations for improvement.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 15 Update</p>	<p>Owner(s)</p>	<p>RAG</p>
<p>LBTH has led the support efforts to the five older people's care homes commissioned in the borough during this challenging time. Health and Adults scrutiny sub-committee (08.02.2021), considered a report on older people's care homes specifically looking at the support residents of care homes and its staff received during the pandemic.</p> <p>The committee looked into the multi-disciplinary team and public health input that went in to care homes during the pandemic to support 215 residents in these settings, of which 141 were from Tower Hamlets (as of 11 Jan 2021). The committee was particularly interested to ensure the right levels of prevention and management of outbreaks are in place to properly protect the residents of care homes and its staff.</p> <p>The committee heard from staff/management of a care home to better understand the care homes perspective e.g. of what went well, what are the challenges, what is the focus over the coming months etc. The committee also heard from families of residents of care home(s) to better understand the lived experiences of residents of care homes and their families.</p> <p>The committee recommended that commissioners and partners continue to engage with care homes, residents' families and other stakeholders to identify long term</p>	<p>Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub Committee</p>	<p>Green</p>

recommendations for improvement		
<p>Recommendation 16: Recovery for children</p> <p>The recovery programme for children in Tower Hamlets should include the input of specialist teachers. Emphasise not just on ‘catch up’ but on the social-emotional needs of young people, especially vulnerable children and those with SEND to ensure a successful transition back to school. Schools should be engaged to identify curriculum and attainment gaps are and what additional tuition and after school clubs could be conducted to address this.</p>		
Recommendation 16 Update	Owner(s)	RAG
<p>Since schools have returned to full time in-person teaching they have worked tirelessly to address the impacts of lost learning. This has included a strong focus on emotional and social wellbeing alongside addressing the academic needs of children. The impact of the cancellation of exams was keenly felt and school staff worked incredibly hard with all of their students to understand processes and support them on the next stage of their journey, whether than was in education or employment. Schools have continued to function in very challenging circumstances with frequently changing regulations and illness impacting on staff and student attendance. There has been a particular focus on children with additional needs including SEND. Additional support was provided for all of these children including prioritising them to receive laptops through our “Every Child Online” campaign and a dedicated multi-agency “bronze group” to ensure that their needs were being addressed. The Tower Hamlets Education Partnership (THEP) has led on support for schools which included a strong focus on recovery. Working with individual schools and headteachers to address both the overall context and any specific issues that they may have.</p> <p>The council continues to provide significant support to schools including through the Public Health Team who remained in regular contact with headteachers to support them to manage changing government guidance as well as individual issues and challenges that arose. Additional funding was available from government and schools were supported to access this. It was notable that much of this funding was very specific and targeted which made the application process onerous and did not always enable schools to direct funding where it was most needed.</p>	James Thomas Corporate Director for Children & Culture	Amber

<p>Recommendation 17: Free School Meals</p> <p>That Children's and Education Sub-committee review the rollout of the National Voucher Scheme in TH as an effective replacement for the Council's Universal Free School Meals programme</p>		
Recommendation 17 Update	Owner(s)	RAG
<p>Agreed - scrutiny should review the national programme's implementation in TH -The national voucher scheme came to an end in September 2020. Despite some significant initial difficulties with the system, this scheme worked well to ensure that children who were entitled to free school meals received vouchers to enable their families to purchase additional food. Some schools decided not to use the voucher scheme choosing either to provide food directly to their most vulnerable families.</p> <p><i>The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee looked at the issue of access to food for vulnerable children and families during their October meeting. The national programme had significant issues, but many schools were able to overcome these to make use of scheme. Since the summer, more local solutions have been put in place to support families. Schools are best placed to know which of their families are most at risk and have worked closely with other professionals within the council and voluntary sector to support families who do not have access.</i></p>	Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-committee	Green
<p>Recommendation 18: Mental health support</p> <p>Young people are more likely to be affected by COVID-19 with anxiety and depression, with factors such as security, housing security and living quality related to the increase.</p> <p>(a). Ensure effective signposting to services such as housing and benefits as quickly as possible. (b). Establish a mental health partnership put in place to co-ordinate remedial plans across relevant sectors like education and housing.</p>		
Recommendation 18 Update	Owner(s)	RAG
(a) Children and young people have returned to education, the DfE provided further funding (Wellbeing for Education Return Grant) to support the return to education, funding all schools staff to attend training with emotional wellbeing and mental health at the focus of the resources, supporting young people back to school	James Thomas Corporate Director for Children & Culture	Amber

Appendix 1

LBTH Response to COVID -19 Action Plan Updates

<p>following lockdowns. The training provided all staff in education with access to the appropriate signposting materials.</p> <p>Longer term, adapting to ‘new normal’ and not dealing with the COVID pandemic at crisis points of lockdown etc, Children’s Integrated Commissioning, providers and Comms departments are meeting to arrange further effective signposting, and build on the work already ongoing with www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/recharge which underwent significant comms late 2021.</p>		
<p>(a) Longer term, following the immediate Covid response, the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Subgroup, reporting into the Children and Families Executive Board is to be re-established, jointly chaired by CCG and ELFT (CAMHS Provider), ToR being refreshed currently but attendees to include all relevant stakeholders including LA education and housing colleagues to build on the integrated nature of the response to Covid. There has been further investment into CYP Crisis and Eating Disorder Mental Health Services, as well as Healios and Kooth who specialise in digital access to services.</p>	<p>James Thomas Corporate Director for Children & Culture</p>	<p>Amber</p>