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Tower Hamlets Plan

Annual Report

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Foreword from the Mayor John Biggs

It is one year since the Tower Hamlets Partnership adopted our ambitious five-year Plan for the borough. We agreed a clear commitment to work together on the key, strategic issues facing residents in Tower Hamlets, with a clear objective in mind: tackling inequality by building a strong, inclusive and fair borough.

Over the past year we've built on the Plan's objective by identifying specific issues where we can work together as a Partnership, against the Plan's four themes:

- **A better deal for children and young people**
- **Good jobs and employment**

- **Strong, resilient and safe communities**
- **Better health and wellbeing**

I am incredibly proud of the vibrancy of the Tower Hamlets community, who have a significant role to play in shaping our priorities. They have put their trust in us as the Leaders of some of the biggest employers and organisations in our borough and we are intent on delivering for them.

As part of the Partnership's activities over the last year, we've run large-scale events that have opened up our discussions to hundreds of residents. We've hosted Partnership Summits

covering knife crime, transport and business, which shared best practice and informed our collective approach to these issues. They also inspired practical interventions such as joint employment schemes, which are already helping to get local people into work placements.

One year on since we adopted the Plan, we are able to showcase our achievements as a Partnership and recognise the difference it has made to the lives of residents in Tower Hamlets. It's also an opportunity to take stock of the ongoing challenges we are facing and reemphasise our resolve to collectively raise our game to

tackle them head on, including working more closely with our private sector partners.

By working together we can ensure our community continues to go from strength to strength. This report illustrates the hard work which has taken place across the Partnership to realise this ambition.



John Biggs
Mayor of Tower Hamlets and
Chair of the Tower Hamlets
Partnership Executive Group



Introduction

The Tower Hamlets Plan Annual Report outlines the key priorities, activities, challenges and achievements against the Tower Hamlets Plan over the last year. It is important to mark a year since the Tower Hamlets Plan was adopted by recognising the work that has taken place in the borough and by continuing to share our partnership journey.

The report also introduces new outcome measures, which help us to monitor progress against the outcomes we identified in the Plan. The outcomes reflect our desire, as a partnership to focus on issues where we could work together to improve the lives of Tower Hamlets residents.

Across our partnerships, we have made significant improvements in the borough. Whether that is through Operation Continuum, a joint approach between the council and the police to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour and associated crime, to WorkStart, a shared initiative of WorkPath and Barts Health Trust to secure jobs

for women in the borough. These examples, as well as others detailed in the report, illustrate the genuine impact partnership working can have on the lives of Tower Hamlets residents.

Tower Hamlets is simply a unique place bursting with a rich mix of people, who have great pride and passion for the borough. We need to harness this to drive real change at a time when all partners face a complex set of challenges, most notably increasing demand and constrained resources. We know that public services alone cannot improve people's lives - we need to work with residents. Together we are committed to:

- **Telling our story, harnessing local pride, changing perception and building a movement for change**
- **Engaging, co-designing and producing the future with partners and residents**
- **Working together to reform public services to deliver better outcomes**

Tower Hamlets Partnership

The Tower Hamlets Partnership Board and Executive Group, chaired by Mayor John Biggs, represents the wider system of partners who exist in the borough. In January 2017 the Mayor reconvened the Partnership, recognising that without working together we were failing to maximise our impact in Tower Hamlets. Over the last two years the Partnership has strengthened its resolve in tackling - as a system - the key issues facing the borough, by identifying opportunities to work together to improve outcomes for residents.

At the most senior level, the Partnership Executive Group meets bimonthly to discuss some of the key shared priorities affecting the borough. The Partnership also hosts large-scale events with the community as a way of engaging with a wider group of partners and residents. Four thematic Partnership Boards sit underneath the Partnership Executive Group.

Tower Hamlets Plan

In July 2018 we launched the Tower Hamlets Plan - the culmination of intense efforts across the borough's partnership to build and agree a shared vision and set of priorities. Our objective for the plan was clear: to tackle inequality by building a strong, inclusive and fair borough. Underneath the plan's objective, we agreed four themes on which we would focus efforts and activities:

- **A better deal for children and young people**
- **Good jobs and employment**
- **Strong, resilient and safe communities**
- **Better health and wellbeing**

Each of the four Partnership Boards (as set out on page five) relates to a theme of the Tower Hamlets Plan. The Boards are the bodies primarily responsible for the progress against the corresponding theme.

Our Community

Wider Partners and Shareholders

Tower Hamlets Partnership



We said it was important to improve perceptions of Tower Hamlets and promote positive experiences in the borough. We are developing a campaign which focuses on Tower Hamlets as a place and enables all partners and residents to promote the borough with one voice.

On Brexit, we have created a working group of partners to respond to the challenges it poses to Tower Hamlets. We will tackle the economic and social impacts of Brexit by focusing our efforts on shared issues, such as sector-specific employment shortages and community reassurance.

Over the last year we have developed a number of partnership summits, which have transformed the way we engage with residents on our biggest issues. The summits play an important role in ensuring the community and local partners have a voice in shaping the future of the borough.



Measuring our outcomes

Each theme of the Tower Hamlets Plan has three key outcomes, which state where we want to be as a borough in five years' time. Crucially, progress against these outcomes is influenced by all of the members of the Partnership. As well as setting out all of the work we've undertaken as a Partnership, we want to mark the Tower Hamlets Plan's first year by identifying ways of tracking development against our agreed outcomes. The measures we have agreed reflect the types of areas we want to address over the course of the Plan's lifetime. But this means they are purposefully long-term in nature and are influenced by a number of partner contributions.

We are clear that our ability to influence progress against the outcomes can only be achieved by working collaboratively in partnership. It is also influenced by external factors outside of our control, such as central government funding and the UK's

withdrawal from the European Union.

It is therefore imperative that we continue to strengthen our work, as a partnership, around the outcomes we have identified in the Tower Hamlets Plan.

Next Steps

The Partnership will face significant challenges over the next year.

The UK's departure from the European Union will require considerable efforts across the Tower Hamlets Partnership, ensuring we work together closely to deliver the borough's Brexit Commission recommendations.

However, the year ahead also presents a key opportunity to embed a strong, coherent narrative about Tower Hamlets as a place. It is integral to the success of the Partnership that everyone understands and shares a common narrative: Tower Hamlets offers the best of London in one borough.



Tower Hamlets Plan: Outcomes and Measures

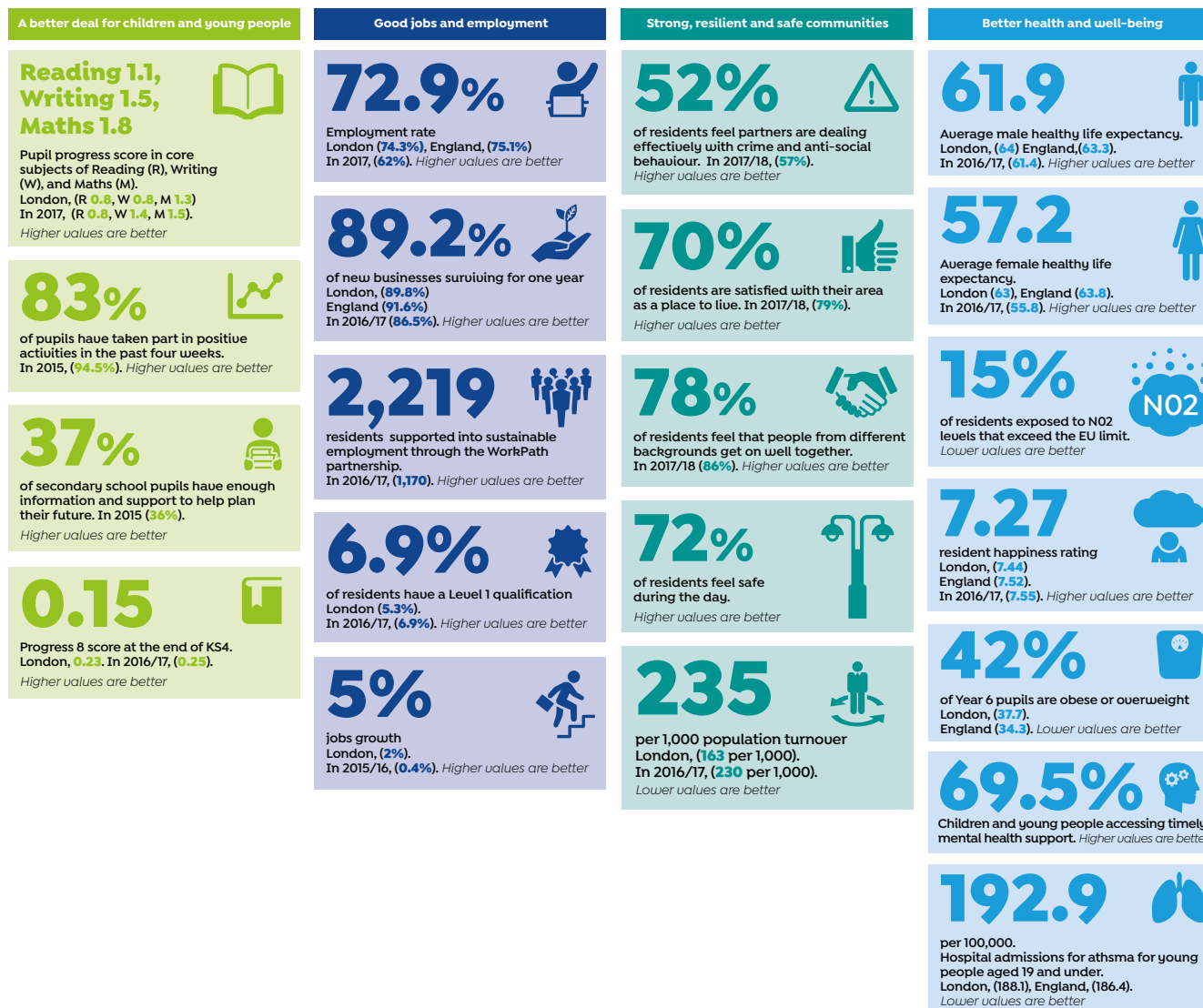
The outcomes and measures below allow the Partnership to track progress against the outcomes agreed in 2018



Tower Hamlets Plan: 2016/17 – 2017/18 Data

In this report, we have set out what the latest available data (2016/17 – 2017/18) tells us about progress in the borough and what we have done, as a partnership, to respond to the challenges and build on the successes. The current data shows a mixed picture, with some areas of significant improvement and other areas with continuing challenges.

We will be able to provide more recent data as and when we receive it, which will be included in future annual reports.



A better deal for children and young people

Introduction

We said in the Tower Hamlets Plan that our ambition would be to ensure children and young people reach their full potential.

We know this is important because there are stark inequalities in education, health and employment outcomes across the borough. Children growing up in Tower Hamlets face more challenges than in other areas. Tower Hamlets has the highest level of child poverty in the country. There are a higher proportion of children who are estimated to have mental health disorders than the London average, which can make it harder to access and benefit from services – and impacts on child development. We believe that poor outcomes associated with child poverty are not inevitable and we have had some successes in tackling them.

For instance, although deprivation is one of the most significant factors affecting inequality of education outcomes, we have made important strides to overcome this barrier over

the past 20 years. Attainment levels in the borough have improved at all ages of compulsory education, with the largest strides made in the early years.

Although attainment at the start of formal education is still lower than the national averages, it improves rapidly and exceeds the national average by the end of primary school. Scores at GCSE have also been above the national average for each of the past four years. However, there are still pockets of inequality in attainment. For example, the attainment of White British boys on Free School Meals and Black Caribbean boys fall noticeably behind all other groups at GCSE.

We know that there are different experiences of childhood within the borough and there are significant inequalities between different areas and communities. That is why over the last year the Tower Hamlets Children and Families Partnership has sought evidence from young people and partners in the borough, which has informed the development

of a new five-year Children and Families Strategy, “Every Chance for Every Child”. The strategy provides the framework and priorities for the Children and Families Partnership; sets out the outcomes we hope to impact on; as well as the actions the Partnership will undertake to deliver the change that we want to see.

Current Priorities

The priorities of the strategy and therefore the Children and Families Partnership Board for the next five years are:

- 1. Aspiration to action – every child and young person has the chance to access information and develop skills they will need to prepare for their future.**
- 2. Healthy families – children and young people have every chance to lead healthy lives, have a sense of wellbeing and form healthy, fulfilling relationships.**
- 3. Safe and secure – all children and young people have a right to feel safe and secure.**

Current Activities

Below are some examples of where partners have come together at a strategic level to build a better deal for children and young people.

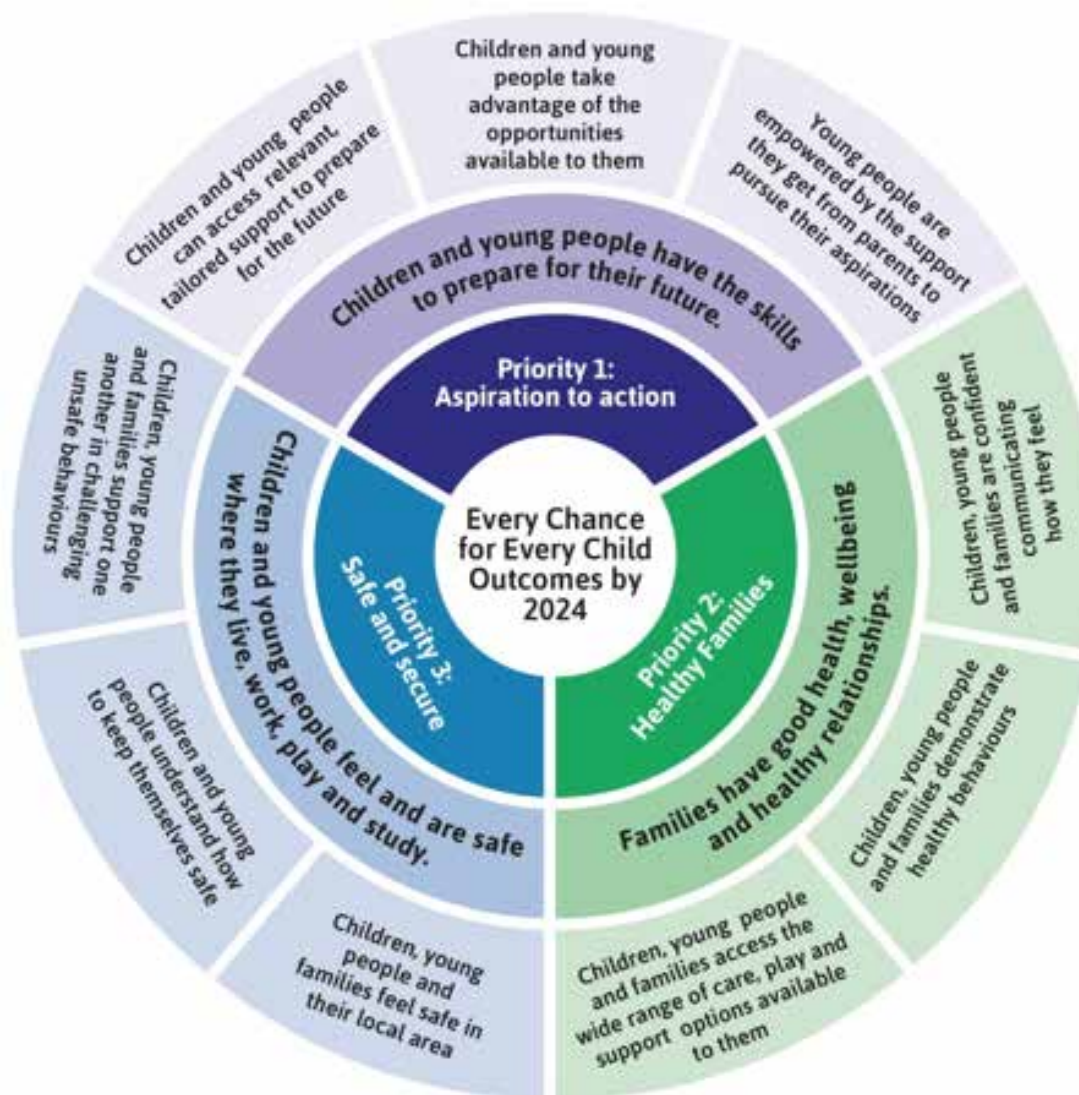
Children and Young People Summit

The Tower Hamlets Partnership Summit on Children and Young People took place in November 2018 at Spotlight Youth Centre. The Summit was well attended with over 100 delegates including interns from the East London Business Alliance (ELBA) and sixth form students from Langdon Park Secondary School. The Summit focussed on developing priorities for the new Children and Families Strategy. Discussions around ‘translating aspiration to action’ centred on work experience, soft skills in the curriculum and how to ensure there wasn’t a narrow focus locally on academic subjects. ‘Supporting healthy families’ looked at mental health, wellbeing and resilience from the early years all the way through the age range, with a

focus on the Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHE) curriculum. There was also consensus that education should be a key vehicle to enable young people to feel safe and secure in the borough, with greater interaction between police and residents from an early age.

Developing a 'Child-Friendly Borough'

To inform how the Children and Families Partnership can develop communications to amplify the reach and effectiveness of the new Strategy, the Chair of the board and some of its members visited counterparts at Leeds City Council. The visit helped to generate ideas for a local approach to communications informed by the success of the Child-Friendly Leeds campaign. Colleagues at Leeds have said that a key part of this work has involved harnessing the voices of young people.



Case Study

Supporting families to tackle youth crime

The borough's Exploitation Team is a multi-agency team that brings together the Metropolitan police and the council's Children's Service with a dedicated focus on addressing exploitation and supporting children who are at most risk. The team provides support, guidance and challenge to social workers with our most high risk and vulnerable young people.

The purpose of the team is to:

- Prevent exploitation by developing an understanding of trends and patterns and directing pooled resources accordingly
- Identify individuals who are at risk of, or subject to, exploitation (both sexual and criminal)

- Protect children and young people who are being exploited
- Disrupt exploitation
- Pursue and prosecute people involved in exploiting children, young people or vulnerable adults

The model involves the co-location of police and council services, which enables more efficient information sharing and the ability to undertake intelligence-led disruption activity. As a result of this joint working approach, the police and council have been able to improve their safeguarding functions and protect more children quickly and effectively.

Developing our 14-25 Partnership

The 14 to 25 Partnership Group brings together representatives from schools, colleges, universities and other education providers as well as partners from the training and careers sectors. A key focus for the group in 2019 has been the development of the Learning and Achievement Strategy for 14 to 25 year olds. As well as discussions during partnership meetings a strategy steering group was set up and provided detailed input to the priorities, actions and proposed outcomes. The partnership also collectively reviews the latest data in relation to provision in the borough, educational attainment results, policy developments and other news to agree the future direction on these issues.

We will be holding the first annual 14 to 25 Partnership Conference on 30th October 2019. The event will include the launch of the 14 to 25 Strategy and will be an opportunity for a wider group of partners to meet, allowing for broader discussion with those who support young people in many different ways as they prepare for the future.

Case Study

Health assessments for children and young people in care

All children who become looked after by the council must have a health assessment within 20 working days of their entry into care. These are a vital part of understanding a child's needs and ensuring that these are met in the timely and effective way.

In order for these assessments to take place within timescales, both the local council and Barts Health need to ensure all necessary information is provided in a timely way. At the time of the 2017 Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services performance was very poor; at times no children who came into care were receiving their health assessment within the expected timescale. To improve this over the past year, a significant focus was placed on addressing

challenges in the local council and Barts Health NHS Trust. A new Standard Operating Procedure was jointly developed to clarify and embed a shared process. The Procedure outlined clearly both the timescales and responsibilities that all parties must adhere to. The partners also committed to working much more closely together, which ensured that any difficulties were identified early and resolved.

Since February 2019, performance has significantly improved, with over 95% of children who come into care having their health assessments within required timescales. This means that professionals have a better understanding of children's health needs as early as possible once they come into care.

Good jobs and employment

Introduction

Currently, Tower Hamlets is a borough of sharp contrasts. While many people working in Canary Wharf earn over £100k per annum, it is estimated that around four in ten households in the borough are living below the poverty line.

Residents identify a lack of jobs as one of their top three areas of concern. This is in the context of low skills, poor qualifications, and inequality. Inequality can act as a significant barrier in the search for employment and progression with much lower rates for certain groups, including those from ethnic minority communities, including newly arrived migrants and refugees; people with disabilities or health issues; and women.

The on-going challenges of austerity and welfare reforms coupled with the uncertainty around the possible economic impact of UK's withdrawal from the European Union have required us to find innovative solutions and seize opportunities to ensure

residents get the best deal possible.

The council together with the Growth and Economic Development Partnership Board and other networks work closely to achieve a more inclusive Tower Hamlets by creating pathways that will allow residents to succeed in their job aspiration.

Current Priorities

The Growth and Economic Development Partnership works to deliver the following priority outcomes:

- **Creating opportunity by supporting aspiration and tackling poverty. The aim is to get:**
 - **more residents in good quality, well-paid jobs**
 - **young people realising their potential**
 - **securing real jobs for local residents from new development**
- **Harnessing economic growth by:**
 - **actively attracting and**

securing inward investment, particularly in skilled industries

- **maximising social value and coordinating business engagement**
- **promoting the historic entrepreneurial energy of our communities**

Current Activities

Below are some examples of where partners have come together at a strategic level to enable good jobs and employment in the borough.

Appreciative Inquiry – good jobs and employment

In March the Partnership Executive Group explored an Appreciative Inquiry into jobs and skills.

Partners discussed the local employment context and issues, with the purpose of paving the way for improvement. Partners identified improvements to the local offer and take up of apprenticeships as one of the most

important issues, as well as more targeted support for Small and Medium Sized businesses.

Coordinated Approach to Apprenticeships

It was agreed that the Partnership Executive Group should take a more coordinated approach to the apprenticeship offer and that the lessons learnt from the Business Summit of 24 June 2019 should inform the Growth and Economic Development work plan for the next 12 months. The Coordinated Apprenticeship offer is currently being drawn up and will be developed throughout the year.

Business Summit – June 2019

The Partnership held a Business Summit on 24 June 2019 at Canary Wharf Group's Level 39 venue. The event hosted a variety of key note speakers, panel debate and roundtable discussions. This was the first in a series of initiatives aimed at furthering existing relationships and developing new relationships to create an

environment where best practice and ideas can be shared between the council, its partners and the business community.

Attendees heard from Ben Johnson, senior adviser to the Mayor of London, on how best we can work together to create a digital economy that can face the challenges and seize the opportunities of the changing business environment.

Other areas of discussion included the provision of commercial space, how people and products move around the borough, skills and training, the environment and digital innovation.

Through the roundtable discussions during the event and post-event evaluations, Tower Hamlets businesses and partners provided a range of useful feedback. For example, local businesses were not receiving enough information and communication from the council and partners. This, along with other feedback, will inform the Growth and Economic Development

Partnership's work plan. The work plan is currently being drafted and will be presented to the Growth and Economic Development Board later this year.



Case Study

WorkStart – getting women into health care jobs

The WorkStart programme is led jointly by Barts Health NHS Trust and WorkPath to help secure jobs for unemployed women in the borough.

The programme offers women six month placements in the health care sector, filling a mixture of business administration and healthcare assistant roles and is paid the London Living Wage.

As part of the offer, participants spend the majority of the week in placement and one day per week at WorkPath,

where they learn relevant skills, such as IT and presentation skills. Participants gain relevant qualifications in parallel to their work placements, ensuring they are better equipped for the workplace.



Strong, resilient and safe communities

Introduction

In the Tower Hamlets Plan we highlighted the importance of fostering a strong sense of community in the borough. We valued our vibrancy, strength and diversity, where the vast majority of residents feel Tower Hamlets is a place where people of different backgrounds get along well together. We know that improving integration and cohesion in our communities is vital to tackle community-wide issues in Tower Hamlets, and this is even more relevant as we face significant challenges around perceptions of safety.

We know that safety concerns are key issues for residents. Safety was identified as the top concern in this year's annual residents' survey. This is reinforced by the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime Public Attitudes Survey, which identifies perceptions of safety and drug dealing are much worse than the London average. The interlinked issues of violence, anti-social behaviour, drugs and

alcohol are significant challenges for all partners in the borough. The issue is compounded by its disproportionate impact on certain groups, which leads to a stark inequality of outcomes in the borough.

Therefore, it's vital we work together to tackle the underlying issues causing crime and safety fears in Tower Hamlets.

Current Priorities

Safety

Safety applies to a wide range of issues. The four priority areas that partners focus on in Tower Hamlets are articulated in our Community Safety Partnership Plan. These are:

- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), including Drugs and Alcohol**
- **Violence**
- **Hate Crime, Community Cohesion and Extremism**
- **Reducing Re-offending**

Cohesion

The council and partners are delivering services in the community which:

- **Develop strong positive relationships between people of different backgrounds and the same**
- **Help create a common vision and instil a sense of belonging in the community**
- **Celebrate and appreciate the diversity of people's backgrounds and promote understanding**
- **Advance equality of opportunity for different groups in the borough**

Current Activities

Below are some examples of where partners have come together at a strategic level to build stronger, more resilient, safe communities.

Tackling Substance Misuse

Over the last three years the Partnership has taken a multi-faceted approach to tackling drug and alcohol misuse in the borough. The three strand approach focuses on prevention, treatment and enforcement and regulation. Under each strand, the programme has coordinated a number of partner-led activities in the borough to reduce drug and alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour, intervene early before substance misuse issues can develop and deliver evidence based treatment.

Some examples include:

Prevention: Specialist substance misuse midwife services to pre and post-natal women. Basic drug and alcohol awareness training programme delivered to staff in Youth, Early Help and Adult Services, as well as front-line workers supporting rough sleepers in the borough.

Treatment: Huge improvements have been made in the pace

and delivery of drug and alcohol treatment services, ensuring residents receive the right level of support at the right time.

Enforcement and Regulation:

Concerted efforts to reduce the scale of illegal alcohol sales in the borough, using the council's legal, licensing and financial penalties has helped reduce under-age alcohol sales and identify any counterfeit alcohol.

The borough's Substance Misuse Strategy provides the framework through which all of the activity is coordinated. A new five year strategy is currently being developed and will bring a refreshed and renewed focus to tackling alcohol and drug misuse in Tower Hamlets.

Operation Continuum

Operation Continuum was established in response to reports from residents that business-as-usual law enforcement activity was not having the desired impact on drug dealing and associated



criminality. Partners across the Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership were convened to facilitate the development of an enhanced package of collaborative action to tackle the crime, disorder and violence linked to the street based drug markets in the borough. The Operation has resulted in a significant number of arrests and seizures of drugs and money. It has also focussed on addressing the root causes of the issues, referring some of the individuals to drug rehabilitation services.

Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum

The Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum is an independent group which is supported by the council

and other partners and is led by a steering group, selected by its broader membership of the forum. The Forum meets bi-monthly, discussing local issues such as faith-based hate crime and hosts various faith and non-faith leaders and representatives at the meetings.

In celebration of Inter Faith Week 2018, the Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum hosted an event, which was aimed at highlighting how damaging delusions about other faiths can be and to promote understanding.

The event was attended by people of different faiths and no faith, including Baha'I, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Pagan and multi faith. The event introduced intercultural dialogue and emphasised its importance and held workshops exploring questions such as:

- **How could intercultural dialogue help make Tower Hamlets a better place to live and work?**

- **What can Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum do to support intercultural dialogue in Tower Hamlets?**

In addition the Forum has:

- **Held bi-monthly forum meetings where people from different faiths and non-faith attended to discuss issues affecting the local community, including loneliness, faith hate crime, extremism and radicalisation, migrants and social integration**
- **Undertaken a mapping of faith institutions and organisations in the borough to facilitate service providers to engage with them in delivering services**
- **Hosted a separate public event on mental health and the role of the faith community in meeting some of its challenges**

Case Study

No Place for Hate Champions

The No Place for Hate Forum and the Violence Against Women and Girls Steering Group are multi-agency partnership sub groups of the Community Safety Partnership which coordinate multiple projects against three priorities:

- a) Ensuring support and protection for victims
- b) Holding perpetrators to account
- c) Working with communities to challenge discrimination

The No Place for Hate Campaign is a borough-wide partnership campaign from which local community members and professionals are trained to become Champions. The project aims to encourage the participation of residents in the No Place for Hate Forum and to increase the awareness and

reporting of Hate Crime. As part of the campaign, Champions undertake three activities over the year to cascade information across their organisation or communities. Such activities include facilitating community events, workshops, and supporting the National Hate Crime Awareness Week.

It has been critical to the success of the campaign that individuals and partner organisations are encouraged to pledge to tackle hate in the borough. So far the campaign has secured 3,500 personal pledges and 158 organisation pledges, which include the Metropolitan Police Service, registered housing providers, the NHS, Victim Support Service, local schools and youth centres.

The campaign also contributed to the Tower Hamlets Hate Crime Team's successful bid for a

national award at this year's Local Government Chronicle Awards.



Better health and wellbeing

Introduction

Better health and wellbeing has a significant role to play in reducing inequality in Tower Hamlets. Inequality of outcome is most literally reflected in the borough's life expectancy. Although this has improved, healthy life expectancy is one of the lowest in the country and it varies significantly across the borough.

We know that by working together we can have a positive influence on a number of aspects of people's lives, such as education, income, housing and the physical environment, all of which contribute to their wider health and wellbeing.

The Health and Wellbeing Partnership brings together partners to shape and improve the health and wellbeing of people who live, work and study in Tower Hamlets. The Partnership looks at health and wellbeing in its broadest sense, encompassing issues ranging from loneliness and social isolation to air pollution.

One of the key aims of the partnership is to develop an integrated health and care system, where health and social care organisations join up. This is being driven forward by a group of health and care commissioners and providers, collectively known as **Tower Hamlets Together**. The aim of this work is to have a more coordinated approach to providing services, reducing duplication and improving the overall experience of health and wellbeing of Tower Hamlets residents.

Current Priorities

The priorities of the borough's Health and Wellbeing Partnership are articulated in the 2017-20 Health and Wellbeing Strategy. All of these priorities require a response from partners, rather than individual organisations. They are:

- 1. Communities Driving Change – changes led by and involving communities**
- 2. Creating a Healthier Place – changes to our physical environment**

- 3. Employment and Health – changes helping people with poor working conditions or who are unemployed**
- 4. Children's Weight and Nutrition – changes helping children to have a healthy weight, encouraging healthy eating and promoting physical activity**
- 5. Developing an Integrated System – changes which will join up services so they are easier to understand and access**

Tower Hamlets Together – the vehicle through which we will achieve the fifth priority – has an outcomes framework that describes our ambition to improve the health and wellbeing of the population. This is available to view [here](#). The framework complements the Tower Hamlets Plan, with both documents articulating our commitment to addressing the wider determinants of good health and wellbeing.

Current Activities

Below are some examples of the activities being carried out across the borough in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities.

Communities Driving Change

Communities Driving Change adopts a community-led approach, in which residents are empowered to take control over their immediate environment. The programme has helped reshape the way we address health and wellbeing problems, throwing it back to the community to identify the issues and develop new ways to improve health and wellbeing locally.

Creating a healthier place – liveable streets

The council, in conjunction with partners, has led a Liveable Streets programme, which aims to improve the look and feel of public spaces across the borough. The ambition of the programme is



to make it easier, safer and more convenient to get around by foot, bicycle and public transport.

Children's Weight and Nutrition

A partnership approach has been taken to identify solutions to and accelerate progress on childhood obesity, using residents' insight on the local influences in the borough. The council and its partners will use this information to develop a borough action plan, which will bring together all of the relevant partners and encourage a joined up approach to tackle the issue.

Partnership Taskforce: Social Isolation and Loneliness

Over the last year partners across health, social care, the community and voluntary sector, schools and colleges have come together to form a partnership taskforce, focussing on social isolation and identifying shared actions to tackle the issue. The taskforce has developed a clear and specific action plan, which explores how

the partnership can implement the plan together and through each of the constituent organisations.

Developing an integrated system

Tower Hamlets Together has continued to strengthen joint working between health and care services. To drive forward the work at a strategic level, we have created a joint integrated commissioning team with a Joint Director; we have appointed an independent Chair; and we have developed a system-wide vision, aims and principles, and a set of priorities for the next three years. We have agreed what areas of joint work to focus on for different population groups. At a service level, partners have made joint working a reality in a range of ways that include:

- **Helping people to benefit from activities in the community that promote their health and wellbeing by rolling out social prescribing. This is a way of enabling GPs, nurses and other to refer people to**

local, non-clinical services

- **Supporting older patients to leave hospital quicker through an Admission Avoidance and Discharge to Assess Service**
- **Offering more evening and weekend appointments in primary care**
- **Reducing the likelihood of people needing to tell their story multiple times by health and care teams working closely together and covering the same "patch"**
- **Reducing A&E attendances for people living in care homes through a robust support service**
- **Further plans are in place to improve integrated care co-ordination and services to support people in the community, particularly after discharge from hospital**

Case Study

Mile End Children's Centre

The Mile End Children's Centre project was set up to develop models of integrated working, with clear goals:

- Enhance parent and children's knowledge of oral health
- Promote health and wellbeing, including healthy food, healthy minds, healthy weight and healthy families
- Increase parental knowledge about healthy nutrition and infant feeding
- Increase active sessions to decrease levels of obesity, through knowledge and fun activity sessions

The project was delivered in partnership with health visitors, midwives, children's centre staff, Citizens Advice

and the voluntary and community sector. A number of interventions have been delivered in the centre, which have all contributed to improved oral health among children.

The experience of partnership-working at Mile End Children's Centre shows that where partners work collectively, share data and information on the ground, there is a more significant impact in the borough, with better and more sustainable outcomes for residents.



Supporting Adults with Learning Disabilities

In 2017-18 the proportion of adults with a learning disability who had an annual check-up with their GP was 74%. This year, the figure has increased again to 82%. It's good news because people with a learning disability often have much poorer health, and yearly GP check-ups are a way of picking up problems before they get serious. The number of people with a learning disability who agreed a Health Action Plan – setting out how to improve their health – also increased from 38% at March 2017 to 96% in March 2019.

The number of people with a learning disability who need support from social care who are in employment has also increased from 5.3% in 2017 to 8.5% two years later, and the partnership is committed to increasing this figure further.

If you would like to find out more or have any questions about the Tower Hamlets Plan please contact us in the following ways:

towerhamletspartnership@towerhamlets.gov.uk

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/tower-hamlets-partnership>