

Committee(s): Health and Wellbeing Board – For Information	Dated: 29/06/2023
Subject: Director of Public Health Annual Report (2023). <i>Healthy Sexually: working hand-in-hand to improve the sexual and reproductive health of young people in the City of London and Hackney</i>	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	NA
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	NA
Report of: Dr Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health for The City of London and London Borough of Hackney.	For Information
Report author: Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health; Chris Lovitt, Deputy Director of Public Health; Danny Turton, Public Health Registrar.	

City’s Corporate Plan

Contribute to a flourishing society

1. *People are safe and feel safe.*
2. *People enjoy good health and wellbeing.*
3. *People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.*
4. *Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.*

Support a thriving economy

5. *Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible.*
6. *We have the world’s best legal and regulatory framework and access to global markets.*
7. *We are a global hub for innovation in finance and professional services, commerce and culture.*
8. *We have access to the skills and talent we need.*

Shape outstanding environments

9. *We are digitally and physically well-connected and responsive.*
10. *We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration.*
11. *We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment.*
12. *Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained*

Summary

The Director of Public Health annual report is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board prior to publication and as part of launching the report. The Board is asked to take note of the recommendations made in the report and to make any observations or suggestions, as appropriate, relating to their implementation. Members of the Board are asked to continue their support of work in the field of sexual and reproductive health.

The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory responsibility to prepare an annual report on the health of the local population. This is an independent report,

with the DPH responsible for its content and structure. It is an opportunity to draw attention to an aspect of the local population's health and to consider areas where further action might be recommended.

Last year's DPH annual report (available [here](#)) was published in April 2022 and looked at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young people in the City of London and Hackney. This year's report, which is presented here to the Health and Wellbeing Board, focuses on young people's sexual and reproductive health (SRH).

Recommendations

Members of the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

- Note this year's DPH annual report and the recommendations it contains
- Consider what actions may be taken to contribute to implementation of the recommendations
- Recommend initiatives to enhance the SRH of young people living in the City of London and Hackney
- Suggest additional partners or stakeholders that should be sent the report directly or approached to collaborate on new initiatives

Main Report

Background

1. The DPH annual report provides an opportunity to assess an aspect of the local population's health and make recommendations as appropriate to address identified needs. This year's report looks at sexual and reproductive health (SRH) with a particular focus on young people under 30 and on testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). This is because young people access sexual health services relatively more frequently than other sections of the population and, when they do access services, they are more likely to have an STI. Furthermore, the City of London and Hackney have recorded significantly higher rates of newly diagnosed STIs than the London or England averages for the past ten years of available data.
2. The recommendations contained in the 2023 DPH annual report have been discussed at the City of London's Community and Children Services Directorate Leadership Team (CCS DLT) meeting on 1 March 2023.
3. The report was developed in liaison with stakeholders across the City of London and Hackney, and informed by desk research. Stakeholders were interviewed from local authorities as well as local and regional NHS partners and voluntary sector organisations. An early draft of the report was shared with stakeholders for their comment and feedback.

4. The report benefited from recent work by the City of London and Hackney Public Health team on an SRH Needs Assessment and the development of a five year SRH Strategy for 2023-2028.
5. The report makes five broad recommendations:
 - a. Community involvement is essential to providing high quality services: health providers and commissioners should reconfirm, and put into action, their commitment to collaborate with young people in the co-production of services.
 - b. Services must be easily accessible to young people: refine existing SRH services and explore new initiatives in collaboration with young people to make accessing services as easy as possible.
 - c. Young people must be aware of when and how to access support: improve young people's awareness of services and their willingness to access them.
 - d. Focus on enhancing collaboration and partnership working: continue to develop collaborative working practices across SRH and beyond to mitigate pressures on services and improve user experiences.
 - e. Continue to identify and address inequalities in SRH: ongoing research and audit, undertaken in collaboration with communities, is recommended to identify inequalities and communicate findings to all concerned partners. Such research should be coupled with a commitment to address inequalities that are identified.
6. The DPH annual report will be published online in July 2023 and shared directly with stakeholders.

Current Position & Key Data

7. In 2021, the City of London ranked third highest, and Hackney fifth highest, for new STI diagnoses (excluding chlamydia in the under 25s) out of the 152 local authorities across England.¹ The rate in Hackney was over double the London average and over four times the England average.² The rate in the City of London was even higher (2,033 per 100,00), although caution is needed because the absolute numbers in the City of London are comparatively low. It should also be borne in mind that, as well as having high rates of new STI diagnoses, both the City of London and Hackney have extremely high prevalence rates of HIV.³

¹ Data available from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) [here](#). The indicator excludes diagnoses of chlamydia in the under 25s because those numbers are so high it makes comparison between local authorities more difficult. However, even including all STIs, the rate in the City of London and Hackney in 2021 was still around four times higher than the England average, at 2,130 for the City of London and 1,998 for Hackney compared to the England average of 551 per 100,000.

² Hackney recorded 1,687 new STI diagnoses per 100,000 residents in 2021 (excluding chlamydia in the under 25s) compared to a rate of 935 across London and 394 per 100,000 for England as a whole (see OHID data [here](#)).

³ The City of London was, in 2021, the local authority with the third highest prevalence of HIV in England, while Hackney had the twelfth highest prevalence. This is most recent data available from OHID (see [here](#)).

8. Notwithstanding relatively high levels of STIs in the community, there has been a marked reduction in the number of STI tests being performed since the COVID pandemic. The overall number of STI tests across the sector fell by 57% from 2019/20 to 2021/22 (HSHS Sexual Health Equality Audit 2022). This takes into account both primary and secondary care as well as online services provided by [Sexual Health London](#). The DPH report aims, therefore, to encourage stakeholders to continue working together, and with the communities they serve, to bring STI testing back up to pre-pandemic levels and to continue working to enhance access to SRH services across the board.

Conclusion

9. The members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the DPH annual report and support, as appropriate, the recommendations made within it.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Update on recommendations made in last year's Director of Public Health Annual Report (2022)

Appendix 2. A model of Sexual and Reproductive Health services

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