

## **Appendix 1**

**The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the following response to Consultation:**

### **Better Health for all Londoners**

The City of London's Health and Wellbeing Board (City HWB) welcomes the ambition and scope of Better Health for all Londoners. We agree that the health inequalities which exist across the capital are unfair and avoidable and that this should be a priority for action. We support the focus on reducing the gap in healthy life expectancy while improving overall health.

We welcome The Mayor's recognition of his three levers for reducing inequalities, namely ensuring that all the Mayor's work contributes; championing work across the capital; and directing support from City Hall. We also recognise that the Mayor cannot address health inequalities on his own, and that City HWB members, individually and collectively, have a role to play.

City HWB agrees with the five draft aims of the Strategy, which echo the themes of the City of London's own Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the outcomes in our Corporate Plan related to contributing to a flourishing society. .

### **Healthy Children**

City HWB recognises that health inequalities may originate in childhood circumstances and we welcome the identification of healthy children as one of the Strategy's five aims.

London is behind the rest of the country in the take up of screening and childhood immunisations. We believe that the new Child Health Digital Hub has the potential to increase health inequalities, as not all communities will be able to access the internet or have the skills to use an online red book, and those from BME and deprived groups will be disproportionately excluded from this intervention. We would encourage the Mayor to take a greater role in encouraging and championing the take-up of screening and childhood immunisations and allaying scare stories where appropriate.

We would welcome the Mayor taking a London-wide lead on issues relating to child safeguarding – particularly around children crossing administrative boundaries and the information-sharing arrangements which should be strengthened for these cases.

The City of London welcomes proposals to improve family friendly policies. From our experience working with a wider variety of employers, we would note that family friendly and flexible working practices are more likely to be adopted in those employers with highly skilled workforces than those with lower skilled, lower paid workers. The Mayor needs to consider what he can do to prevent a widening inequality between these two groups of employees.

The ambition to develop a new health programme in London's early years settings aligned to the existing Healthy Schools London programme is welcome. Within the City, childcare tends to be provided through nurseries, nannies and au pairs – we would be interested in how the new programme will impact upon these last two groups.

We welcome the Mayor's proposal to improve the health and wellbeing offerings in schools, but we would also highlight that education attainment itself is linked to health inequalities. The City of London Corporation is committed to providing access to world-class education and learning opportunities, as well as providing opportunities for young people in the City of London, and neighbouring boroughs, to experience the world of work and increase their chances of getting a job.

## **Healthy Minds**

Improving outcomes for people with poor mental health is a strategic priority for the City of London's Health and Wellbeing Board, reflected in both our Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and our Mental Health Strategy. City HWB supports the inclusion of objectives around parity of esteem and tackling stigma in the London Health Inequalities Strategy.

The City of London has already made plans to use the Thrive LDN campaign to engage with City workers and local residents, and we are pleased that this has high level political leadership from the Mayor.

The City of London has been doing a huge amount of work with City businesses through its workplace health initiative "Business Healthy", to grow awareness amongst employers around mental health issues in the workforce. We applaud the Mayor's proposal to make London's workplaces mentally healthy. From our experience working with a wider variety of employers, we would note that exemplar working practices are more likely to be adopted in those employers with highly skilled workforces than those with lower skilled, lower paid workers. The Mayor needs to consider what he can do to prevent a widening inequality between these two groups of employees.

The City of London is working towards training all managers within the corporation in mental health awareness, and we welcome the move to mainstream mental health first aid training amongst other groups of staff within City Hall and beyond.

The City of London has been working to prevent suicides, using a multiagency approach, for several years now. As noted in the report, we have been working to reduce suicides in the Thames; however, we would like to highlight the work of the police in reducing suicides, which is not mentioned. Within the City, our recent Street Triage pilot has seen a decrease in section 256 detainments, and a corresponding increase in people in acute mental distress being able to find timely and appropriate help. This year, we also ran a more general suicide prevention campaign, Release the Pressure, which was based on a strong evidence base, and targeted at men. We welcome the Mayor's proposals to reduce suicide rates in London.

## Healthy Places

The City of London's HWB shares the Mayor's concerns about air quality. This is regularly found to be the top public health concern amongst City residents and workers during consultations. We would emphasise the Mayor's role in influencing TfL on this matter, particularly with regards to buses and taxis.

As noted in our response to the Draft Mayor's Transport Strategy, the City Corporation supports the application of the Healthy Streets Approach to create streets where people choose to walk, cycle and spend time. Attractive and safe street environments are essential to enabling Londoners to get the physical activity they need to stay healthy through day-to-day travel.

We would note that whilst there is a lot of emphasis on healthy residential buildings there does not appear to be any consideration of healthy office buildings, which would be useful in light of the recent emphasis on the Well-Buildings standard.

Noise pollution is mentioned, albeit briefly, at page 66 in Objective 2 and could usefully be included in Objective 3.3 concerning the 'tranquillity' potential of greener spaces. It is prudent to mention this parameter here so it is considered in future design elements as envisaged in Objective 3.2, especially as this parameter is an established factor in both physical and mental health and wellbeing. It would also align this strategy with Chapter 9 of the Mayor's London Environment Strategy which is also currently out for consultation.

We support the recognition in the Mayor's Draft Health Inequalities Strategy of the benefits that green spaces have on air quality and health and agree that access to green spaces leads to longer life, mental and physical good-health, and active reduction of health inequalities between wealthier and poorer people. The City of London manages over 200 green spaces within the Square Mile as well as significant green areas of London and beyond including Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest. These sites are managed to a high standard and have over 23 million visits per year. Our Open Spaces Learning Programme engages children young people and adults through tailored outreach and education projects which prioritise confidence and wellbeing impacts. We would welcome a joined-up approach to promoting access and understanding of the impact that these green spaces have on the health of Londoners.

The City welcomes the Mayor's support of the London Healthy Workplace Charter. The City of London's Commercial Environmental Health team has been involved with the charter since the London pilot, and we actively support its delivery through acting as Workplace Health Lead for businesses in the Square Mile, supporting them to successfully gain verification against the standard. We would highlight that we understand the national Charter standards and delivery approach is under review and this may impact local delivery.

We additionally offer a wider service through acting as a critical friend with regard to workplace wellbeing policies – trying to draw together disparate wellbeing workstreams within one organisation into a more cohesive and effective strategy with

formal ownership by senior management. Recognition and support of such approaches would assist us in maintaining delivery of such a service.

The Health and Safety Executive's current strategy 'Help Great Britain Work Well' includes health priorities and the City suggests that the Mayor review their [Health Priority Plan: work-related stress](#) for opportunities for collaboration and synergy between London employers and the national approach which could be catalysed through his office

Better Health for all Londoners recognises the importance of healthy, well paid and secure jobs as a means of tackling health inequalities. City HWB welcomes the Mayor's aspiration for London to become a 'Living Wage City'. The City of London Corporation is a London Living Wage employer and has been awarded the London Healthy Workplace Charter at 'achievement' level.

City HWB welcomes the Mayor's recognition of the negative impact of poverty on health. However we would suggest that a wider focus, addressing financial exclusion and the poverty premium, rather than just fuel poverty.

The City welcomes the Mayor's proposal to address homelessness and rough sleeping. We would welcome the Mayor facilitating closer working across London's internal boundaries to help address this issue, as rough sleepers often access services across a wide radius, and administrative barriers can result in service gaps and fragmentation.

## **Healthy Communities**

City HWB welcomes the identification of the importance of participation in community life and of opportunities to participate in sports, culture and decision-making as routes to health improvement, including through volunteering. The City of London Corporation encourages volunteering by engaging City residents; users of our cultural, heritage and open space assets; and City of London staff in volunteering activity. A new strategy which is being delivered in 2018 will clarify our purpose and approach to ensure the impacts of volunteering, particularly in relation to social inclusion, community empowerment and health and wellbeing are recognised. We would welcome the opportunity to share experiences and insight with Team London and other voluntary providers the support and recognise the value of volunteering in London.

We are especially pleased to see culture recognised, as the City of London has recently established Culture Mile: a major destination for the culture of today in the heart of London's financial district.

We welcome the Mayor's commitment to improve transport accessibility, as our local residents tell us that this can be a major barrier when it comes to accessing health and leisure services.

We feel that the proposal under 4.3 "*The Mayor will work together with local health and care organisations, service users and local communities to design a programme*

*that supports local neighbourhoods to act on the issues that matter most to them”* lacks clarity about what will actually be done.

City and Hackney CCG established a social prescribing service in the City of London in February 2015. This service makes an important contribution to reducing health inequalities, through a strong focus on prevention and self-management. It helps to address the underlying determinants of poor health by providing a holistic service to residents who are socially isolated, experiencing low level mental health problems or a long term health condition. It does this by facilitating earlier identification of wider wellbeing needs, provision of support to meet those needs and signposting to a broad range of relevant community-based activities, practical help and advice. We welcome the Mayor’s proposal to champion such projects across London.

We agree with the Mayor’s view that HIV in London should be a priority area for high level political and systems leadership. The current service provision is fragmented, and we welcome the possibility of using the Fast Track Cities as a potential mechanism for taking a whole system approach. The Mayor’s support and promotion of the London HIV Prevention Programme Do It London is also welcomed.

The City HWB support the Mayor’s ambition to make Londoners feel safe and secure. The City of London works hard to promote community safety and prepare for potential threats.

## **Healthy Habits**

We welcome the Mayor’s recognition that the night time economy is part of what makes our City great, but that alcohol misuse is a significant cause of harm. This is a subtle message to convey, and we will watch as the Mayor’s proposals develop with interest. The City of London is currently writing an alcohol strategy that looks at how alcohol misuse can be addressed in a multiagency way across the Square Mile. We are currently working with licensed venues, employers and third sector organisations to help build a healthier relationship with alcohol.

The City of London commissions open access services for City workers and residents to quit smoking, as well as offering free health checks and exercise on referral classes to low paid workers.

Smoking is one of the most preventable causes of health inequalities. The numbers quitting through ‘traditional’ smoking cessation services are falling locally, as elsewhere. A new approach to smoking cessation and tobacco control is needed which reflects the changing patterns of tobacco use. The City of London was one of the first areas in the UK to recognise that e-cigarettes can be used as a quitting aide, and we are currently considering how we can use vaping to reduce harm amongst the vulnerable groups most affected by health inequalities, including those who are rough sleepers.

Within the City of London, rough sleepers are our most vulnerable group. They experience problems with mental health, alcohol, drugs, smoking, blood borne viruses and TB. We would welcome efforts that would promote effective practice

and maximise the use of available resources to help those who really suffer the worst health inequalities

We would also highlight the importance of tackling substance misuse and novel psychoactive substances as part of this section. The City of London is involved in drug monitoring within its locale, but we would welcome political support from the Mayor to explore the potential of doing this London-wide to accurately measure emerging drugs and the scale of the problem.