

Title of Report	Hackney HWB strategy update
For Consideration By	Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting Date	9 th November
Classification	Open
<u>Ward(s) Affected</u>	All
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Is this report for:

- ~~Information~~
- Discussion
- Decision

Why is the report being brought to the board?

For update on the progress towards a finalised Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWBS).

To get approval from HWB members on the approach for Improving Mental Health and Increasing Financial Security.

To get a steer from HWB members on:

- How we incorporate increasing social connections as a way of working into HWB member organisations?
- Can we identify social connection champions in each HWB member organisation?
- How do we make sure social connection gets engagement from partners in delivering the actions in the action plan, and retains importance in the face of other pressures?
- Do we want to set detailed actions here for increasing social connections, or do we want to set ambitions and ask partners/relevant committees to come up with relevant action plans?
- What change can we implement with limited funding for this (especially key work with VCSE)?

Next steps

- Social connection leads from organisations to work together to finalise social connection action plan

- Population Health Hub to work with Poverty Reduction System Delivery Group to ensure that the explicit focus of the JHWBs focus of improving health and reducing health inequalities (and the themes identified from residents and stakeholders) are reflected in the Poverty reduction system action plan
- Population Health Hub to work with the mental health teams to ensure that the explicit focus of the JHWBs of improving health and reducing health inequalities (and the themes identified from residents and stakeholders) are reflected in local mental health strategy

Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council or other stakeholders?

None

1. **Background**

Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board have been developing the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy since November 2020. Every local Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has a duty to produce a Health and Wellbeing Strategy. A Health and Wellbeing Strategy outlines key health and wellbeing priority areas for HWB partners to take joint action on, in each local authority area.

Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board have agreed that the overall aim of this strategy is to reduce health inequalities, focusing on three priorities: improving mental health, increasing social connections, and supporting greater financial security. The Strategy was signed off at the 23 March Board meeting, and work started to develop the action plan in July 2023.

Improving mental health approach for the JHWBS: we recognise that there are already plans to develop a City and Hackney MH strategy (separate to the JHWBS), and while we don't want several different strategies in place, we do want to ensure that the explicit focus of the JHWBs focus of improving health and reducing health inequalities (and the themes identified from residents and stakeholders) are reflected in the City and Hackney mental health strategy. To do this, we are going to turn this insight into a set of questions that we can work with the MH Integration Committee and MH services to work out the extent to which current services (and wider interventions that impact on mental health) meet these priorities/needs, to enable us to identify where there are gaps and work to fill these gaps (using services and wider initiatives) and improve MH outcomes for our residents.

Increasing financial security approach for the JHWBS – building on the work of the LBH poverty reduction framework and action plan, a system wide action plan on managing the cost of living crisis/increasing financial security is being developed. Therefore, we are again working to make sure that the explicit focus of the JHWBs of improving health and reducing health inequalities (and the themes identified from residents and stakeholders) are reflected in this system wide action plan.

Increasing social connections draft action plan:

Key question for HWB: do we want to set actions here? Or do we want to set ambitions and ask partners/groups to develop actions (might encourage better engagement from partners)?

Relevant national policies

Emerging Together: The Tackling Loneliness Network Action Plan

Objectives of this national action plan:

- Reduce stigma by building the local conversation on loneliness, so that people feel able to talk about loneliness/social isolation and reach out for help
- Drive a lasting shift so that relationships and loneliness are considered in policy-making and delivery by organisations across society, supporting and amplifying the impact of organisations that are connecting people.
- Play our part in improving the evidence base on loneliness, making a compelling case for action, and ensuring everyone has the information they need to make informed decisions through challenging times.

Relevant local work

- LBH strategic plan
- City and Hackney place based partnership integrated delivery plan
- VCH's Community Befriending Programme
- VCH's Together Better programme
- <https://www.wickaward.co.uk/research/wisewick>
- Connect Hackney programme
- *Not local to Hackney but Camden programme on social connections in older people:* <http://www.ageingbetterincamden.org.uk>

Themes and suggested actions from peer research and stakeholder workshops:

Proposed objectives for Hackney JHWBS on increasing social connections

1. Build a local culture of valuing connection and friendship, so that people are aware of the value of social connection and people feel able to talk about loneliness/social isolation and reach out for help
2. Drive a lasting shift so that relationships and social connections are considered in policy-making and delivery by organisations across society, supporting and amplifying the impact of organisations that are connecting people
 - Create environments (places and digital environments) locally that support making social connections
3. Recognise the resource needed by VCS organisations to deliver relevant programmes and consider funding those accordingly
4. Establish ways of measuring impactful social connections – to allow us to identify those who need more or are at high risk of lack of social connections, as well as monitor the impact of our interventions
5. Improve the evidence base on social connections, making a compelling case for action, and ensuring everyone has the information they need to make informed decisions through challenging times.

6. Put in place systems to Identify loneliness in our residents, and put in place interventions to engage people in these initiatives.
 - Reduce stigma by building the local conversation on loneliness, so that people feel able to talk about loneliness/social isolation and reach out for help

Target groups for improving social connections

- Middle-aged and elderly residents, living alone, with long-term health conditions or who are disabled (ONS research; Wick Award)
- Children and young people, and their families
- Younger renters with little trust and sense of belonging to their area (ONS research)
- Recently bereaved people
- People diagnosed with a serious mental illness
- Residents who don't engage with health services
- Residents living in the private rental sector and in social housing
- Black and Global Majority residents
- The traveller community
- Migrants & refugees, and non-English speakers
- LGBTQIA+ community
- Men (across the above groups)
- Carers

Theme	Action	Outcomes (and for which target group)	Who might be SRO for this theme/outcome? Who involved in delivery	Would this need extra funding? How could existing funding be reworked to enable this?
Raising awareness in communities and professionals of the value of social connections	<p>Develop training sessions (to use as a 'Train the trainer' model). Connect Hackney have training package (risk factors and protective factors, communities at risk, understanding how structural inequalities impact isolation & work to reduce these using systems change, how to have a conversation about loneliness, signposting to services, outreach, tips for individuals and community groups on increasing social connections)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify priority staff groups to be trained (frontline LBH and NHS workers; children's centre workers; home carers), community navigators) - How do we support organisations/services to understand our residents and opportunities for connection in the borough? - How do we support organisations/services to identify changes they can make to improve social connectedness? <p>Develop a wellbeing session for LBH/NHS staff on the importance of social connections in their own lives</p>	<p>Increased awareness of professionals of the value of social connections</p> <p>Increased confidence of professionals in signposting residents to services</p> <p>Greater use of community navigation services</p> <p>More residents signposted to local services</p>	<p>Connect Hackney</p> <p>LBH</p> <p>NHS</p>	
	<p>Include increasing social connections as elements of local Making Every Contact Count (MECC) programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who should be priority for next round of MECC training? For example, housing officers? 	<p>Staff feel confident and competent to have discussions about social connections</p>	<p>Public Health and MECC training provider</p>	
	<p>Develop and embed pathways from organisations to community navigation services – to allow them to access activities to increase social connections:</p>		<p>Neighbourhoods team – community navigation</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social care (adults and children) - mental health services - CAMHS - CYP and family services - LD services <p>Pathways should take into account the difficulties and barriers faced by people to access activities and the support needed to get there: consider volunteer support.</p>	<p>Less stigma around lack of social connections</p> <p>Increased awareness in communities of need for social connections</p>		
	<p>Establish online forum for community organisations to advertise events, activities etc – to allow residents to know what is going on in their area</p> <p>Ensure community navigation services know about forum</p> <p>Communicate the function of this forum to organisations as well as residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faith institutions - Food banks - Housing residents associations - Community champions <p>Support for those who speak English as a second language</p>		<p>LBH communications team</p>	
	<p>Development of a social connections hub (to develop connections/foster relationships/consider funding opportunities etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop systems to monitoring social connections (see below) - Support on ensuring this action plan is delivered - Sharing of learning from different organisations on their experience of increasing social connections: space for reflective practice - Learning from VCS organisation how to help them support social connections in their wider work 		<p>Population Health Hub</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collation of evidence and ‘what works’ on increasing social connections, including information on different cultural ways of connecting and consideration of drivers of isolation including marginalisation 			
Monitoring levels of social connection	Development of system and expectations for measurement of social connection and loneliness	Having baseline measures of social connectedness	Population health hub	
	Investigate potential data sources and creation of model for predicting crisis and need for support with social connection (IT enabler group)	Social connection measured across system routinely	Public Health intelligence team	
	Screening tool for loneliness and/or social isolation and training developed to use the tool		IT enabler	
	Establish expectations for use of this across partners			
Increasing social connections for residents	Establishing more opportunities for people to use spaces to connect – maximise use of LBH estates (e.g. community halls, children’s centres, youth centres etc). Build understanding of barriers to use and ensure clear process for using these for community activities.	Improvement in social connectedness	LBH	
	Ensure social connections considered in planning and regeneration projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play streets - Green spaces - Libraries 	Residents connected to services	City and Hackney estates enabler group	
	Develop set of principles for use of health spaces to maximise social connections and wellbeing e.g. waiting rooms. Also, include learning from the Together Better programme delivered at GP surgeries how activities can be delivered by patients to patients, that enable trusted relationships to build.		LBH planning team	
	Work with businesses to improve social interaction e.g. what can restaurant and cafe owners do to facilitate greater social interaction, also role of employers		LBH regeneration team	
	Development of volunteering opportunities for residents to support residents to build social connections		Public health	
			Connect Hackney and NHS	
		Business development network lead		
		VCH		

			Homerton CCG	
	Include as standard the option of being referred to the community navigation service for all people with learning disabilities at their annual health check up			
Planning and commissioning services for connection	<p>All relevant commissioned programmes (NHS, LBH, CoL and others), including community grants, should have increased social connections as an outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider inclusion of e.g. home visits - Support for those who speak English as a second language 		Homerton Primary Care ELFT Healthwatch LBH	
	<p>Make social connections an explicit outcome for VCS services (enable services to use learning from Connect Hackney on how to maximise opportunities for social connections (creating shared memories, offering time at start and end of programmes to build connections etc).</p> <p>Encourage the facilitation of residents working together on common outcomes, to meet common issues (as this has been shown to enable the building of stronger relationships).</p>		LBH and NHS contract leads	
	<p>Develop system of funding from NHS and LBH for the VCS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support more holistic focus integral to organisations: preventative approach to wellbeing and social connections - Investing in the sector to achieve long term objectives around social connection - Include capacity building support from the loneliness/social isolation hub for funded/commissioned providers - Partner with VCS on bids related to increasing social connections to third sector funders, including those which aim to address barriers to social connection faced by those that need support to attend activities - Recognise the demand for befriending programmes for residents of all ages, as a way to enable people to build the confidence to engage and fund accordingly. 			

	Pilot offering additional time at the start and end of NHS services, such as physical activity programme, for residents to build connections		Homerton NHS	
	Understand barriers between the VCS and previous social prescribing service and see to overcome them in the delivery of the new community navigation service			
	<p>Ensure that social connections are considered within relevant local strategic plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Emotional Health and Wellbeing Partnership action plan - Mental health strategy including how to integrate with plans to increase personal health budgets for those with SMI - Personalised care programme 			

1.1. Policy Context:

Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities this report relates to?

- Improving mental health
- Increasing social connection and
- Supporting greater financial security
- All of the above

Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Ways of Working this report relates to?

- Strengthening our communities
- Creating, supporting and working with volunteer and peer roles
- Collaborations and partnerships: including at a neighbourhood level
- Making the best of community resources
- All of the above

1.2. Equality Impact Assessment

Sole purpose of projects and full consideration to impact on equalities will be given.

1.3. Consultation

Has public, service user, patient feedback/consultation informed the recommendations of this report?

- Yes
- No

Have the relevant members/ organisations and officers been consulted on the recommendations in this report

- Yes
- No

1.4. Risk Assessment

To be confirmed - will be assessed as we progress planning

1.5. Sustainability

To be confirmed - will be assessed as we progress planning

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