

Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

17th July 2023

Health inequalities and medical barriers faced by trans and non binary community

Item No

4

PURPOSE OF ITEM

A context setting discussion to explore the health inequalities and specific medical barriers facing transgender and gender diverse residents in accessing primary and secondary health care.

OUTLINE

The barriers faced by trans and non-binary residents can include being asked (or fear of being asked) intrusive questions and being judged, and this relates to both 'front of house' and clinical encounters. Another key barrier is the lack of services having sufficient knowledge of or experience in providing the specific care needed for the trans community and the implications of delayed access to care for these patients.

It follows from motion agreed at Full Council on 1 March '23 which read:

"This Council believes in equity of opportunity and that human rights are the bedrock of our society. Trans women are women. Trans men are men. Non-binary people are non-binary. We believe in the dignity of all people, and their right to respect and equity of opportunity. We value the strength that comes with difference and the positive contribution diversity brings to our community. Our aspiration is for Hackney to be a safe, welcoming, and inclusive borough for everyone, no matter their gender identity or gender expression".

Approach:

- 3 elements: Contributions from Gendered Intelligence, from NHS and then Q&A with Members
- Focus on practical barriers and prejudice faced by trans and non binary people in accessing health services including delays in seeking care and how these can be overcome.
- In order to make it manageable, mental health, social care and CYP related issues are out of scope for this particular discussion however Members may be minded to pursue these in follow up sessions.

The participants will be:

Organisation	Role	Name
Gendered Intelligence	Head of Public Engagement	Cara English

Homerton Healthcare	Clinical Leads in Sexual Health and HIV, and Medical Examiners <i>(focus on wider secondary care for trans community not sexual health)</i>	Dr Katherine Coyne and Dr Sarah Creighton
	Chief Medical Officer Chief Nurse and Director of Governance	Dr Deblina Dasgupta Breeda McManus
NHS NEL	Chief Medical Officer	Dr Paul Giluley
GP Confederation	Practice Development Nurse Also ANP, IG Lead at Lower Clapton Group Practice	Heggy Wyatt

Key questions to be explored at the Session will include:

- How to develop current health services, beyond just sexual health services, to make them more inclusive?
- What specific improvements have been implemented already, if any, and what are the plans?
- What is the current NHS guidance? What problems does that create and what needs changing?
- How to empower GPs to make prescribing decisions themselves rather than automatically pass to secondary services (e.g. trans person requests hormone treatment, GP automatically refers to GIDS services, which has long and complex backlogs)
- How to make frontline staff (e.g. receptionists) more inclusive and sensitive to the the needs of trans and non binary patients
- How to raise awareness among primary and secondary care staff e.g. on basic actions such as changing one's name at the GP surgery

Attached please find:

- a) Summary note from Gendered Intelligence. More details to follow.
- b) Note from Homerton Healthcare on the key points they wish to raise and links to other key resources.
- c) For background reading an update from April on Hackney Council's *LGBTQIA+ Strategic Framework*
- d) For background reading a *Gender Diversity FAQ* from Hackney Council
- e) Other useful background reading includes this link to NHSE's response (June 2022) to London Assembly Health Committee report on [Improving-access-healthcare-trans-and-gender-diverse-londoners](#) (Feb 22)

ACTION

The Commission is requested to note the reports and discussion and make any recommendations as necessary or agree further areas of work.