Subject: Mental Health Services in London

Report to: Health Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 20 October 2015

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

1.1 The Committee is asked to formally agree its report Healthy minds, healthy Londoners: Improving access to mental health services for London’s young and Black, Asian and minority ethnic population

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Committee agrees its report Healthy minds, healthy Londoners: Improving access to mental health services for London’s young and Black, Asian and minority ethnic population as attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

3. Background

3.1 The Health Committee used its meetings on 3 September 2014 and 14 January 2015 to discuss with invited guests issues around mental health services in London, focusing on the experience of young Londoners and those from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. In addition, the Committee invited views from stakeholders and members of the public through a written call for evidence. The findings from the investigation formed the basis of a final report: Healthy minds, healthy Londoners. The report is attached at Appendix 1 for Members and officers only but is available on the GLA’s website here

3.2 The scoping for the investigation and terms of reference for this project were approved by the Committee at its meeting on 3 September 2014. The terms of reference are:

- To examine the challenges facing people in accessing mental health services in London; with a specific focus on young people and BAME individuals; and
- To explore and make recommendations on how the Mayor might support improved access to mental health services, particularly for young people and BAME in London.

1 http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/publications/healthy-minds-healthy-londoners
4. **Issues for Consideration**

4.1 The recommendations from the final report are proposed as follows:

**Recommendation 1**
The Department of Health should commission a national mental health survey of children and young people at the earliest opportunity to update the 2004 survey. The Department, in response to this report, should set out its timetable for such a survey, and explain how it will address the needs of policy makers and commissioners in London – specifically around young people and Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups.

**Recommendation 2**
London boroughs and Clinical Commissioning Groups, supported by NHS England London and the Department of Health, should develop a more integrated approach to providing mental health services and support that will enable a shift in focus to early intervention and prevention provision, whilst greater pan-London strategic leadership should seek to facilitate greater cooperation across complex existing structures.

**Recommendation 3**
London boroughs, working with Clinical Commissioning Groups, should consider giving greater priority to children and young people’s mental health in local Health and Well Being Strategies when they are next refreshed.

**Recommendation 4**
Local Transformation Plans for Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing – being drawn up by Clinical Commissioning Groups and others – must include ways to support the voluntary sector as a provider of mental health services for children and young people.

**Recommendation 5**
The NHS England Mental Health Task Force must examine ways to develop a sustainable model of community-based advocacy, as a means of improving access to mental health services and support for Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, in which the voluntary sector is an essential partner.

**Recommendation 6**
In response to this report, the London Health Board should set out an express commitment to a continued emphasis on mental health, in the confirmed areas of focus, to be agreed later this year.

**Recommendation 7**
In response to this report, the Mayor should set out what additional steps he (or a future Mayor) could take to promote good mental health in London, particularly with reference to London’s young people and Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups.
5. **Legal Implications**

5.1 The Mayor of London’s statutory responsibilities in relation to health matters, as set out in the Greater London Authority (GLA) Act 1999, are to develop a strategy which sets out “proposals and policies for promoting the reduction of health inequalities between persons living in Greater London”. The GLA Act 1999 defines health inequalities as inequalities between persons living in Greater London “in respect of life expectancy or general state of health which are wholly or partly a result of differences in respect of general health determinants” and also goes on to define “health determinants”. The Mayor of London has no statutory role in the commissioning of any health services or health service provision.

5.2 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in the report.

5.3 The terms of reference for this project were approved by the Committee at its meeting on 3 September 2014. Officers confirm that the report and its recommendations fall within the terms of reference.

6. **Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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**List of appendices to this report:**

Appendix 1: *Healthy minds, healthy Londoners: Improving access to mental health services for London’s young and Black, Asian and minority ethnic population*

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

List of Background Papers: None

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