

Title of Report	Progress report: Implementation of HWB Strategy 2022-26 priority on improving mental health
For Consideration By	Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting Date	25 June 2026
Classification	Public
<u>Ward(s) Affected</u>	All
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Is this report for:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Information to note	<input type="checkbox"/>	For actions to be allocated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Discussion & input	<input type="checkbox"/>	For escalation (if issue is outwith Remit of HWB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decision		

Why is the report being brought to the board?

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress for the mental health priority of the Hackney Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and invite input and collaboration on development of plans.

Provide a succinct summary of the issue here:

Population health and system needs regarding the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and adults in Hackney have been identified, with recommendations for future action.

The next steps are to develop a joint action plan alongside stakeholders and residents for improving mental health in Hackney.

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

No

1. **Background**

- 1.1. Improving mental health is one of three current priorities of the Hackney Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 - 2026. The ambitions for this priority include mental health improvement, mental illness prevention and treatment and rehabilitation.

2. **Current position**

Children and Young People:

- 2.1. In 2025, the Children and Young People's Mental Health Needs Assessment for children aged 5-18 was published. The findings and recommendations were presented to the Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2026.
- 2.2. There is an established Emotional Health and Wellbeing Partnership group as well as a CAMHS Alliance. Multi-stakeholder workshops were conducted in March 2026 to review the needs assessment recommendations and develop a refreshed CYP City and Hackney Emotional Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and Strategy, to be launched in January 2027.
- 2.3. There is also a work programme and delivery group focused on perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships as part of the Best Start in Life Family Hubs programme. An integrated pathway and strategy for these areas have been developed.

Adults:

- 2.4. The Adult Mental Health Needs Assessment in was also published 2025 and presented to the Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2026. Public Health will coordinate the development of a joint action plan based on the recommendations from the needs assessment alongside an updated policy and evidence review to incorporate a greater focus on mental health prevention and promotion.
- 2.5. The Mental Health Integration Committee (MHIC) has been the primary multi-stakeholder governance mechanism for mental health integration in Hackney and the City since 2022. However, recent reductions to the ICB's resources have reduced the capacity for coordination of the MHIC and there is a need to review the group's scope to align with recent shifts in the system.
- 2.6. Currently, there are significant ongoing changes across the system for mental health.
 - 2.6.1. The national Neighbourhood Health Framework references mental health as a priority long-term condition (including severe

mental illnesses), a core component of integrated neighbourhood working, and part of holistic care alongside physical health and social care. Neighbourhood working presents an opportunity to improve mental health outcomes and reduce inequities by strengthening local relationships, knowledge and access to support.

- 2.6.2. East London NHS Foundation Trust is leading on the Community Mental Health Transformation refresh in partnership with London Borough of Hackney Adult Social Care and voluntary and community sector organisations. This programme of work includes establishing a single point of access for referrals as well as improving clarity of roles, pathways and referral criteria.
- 2.6.3. Funding for the Psychological Therapies Wellbeing Alliance has been renewed for only one further year, indicating a need for future planning regarding this intervention which includes Talking Therapies for Anxiety and Depression delivered by both Homerton and culturally specific voluntary sector organisations.
- 2.6.4. Public Health are reviewing the Wellbeing Network service, with the contract due to end in June 2027, and will be developing plans for a future approach to mental health prevention and promotion and addressing mental health inequities alongside residents and partners throughout 2026/2027.
- 2.6.5. Adult Social Care have recognised the importance of mental health prevention and are exploring current patterns and approaches for reducing demand and improving pathways.
- 2.6.6. To address co-occurring mental health and substance use needs, there is a subgroup of the Combatting Drugs Partnership with an action plan as well as a new integrated service commissioned by Public Health.

3. Key data and information

- 3.1. Hackney has a higher prevalence of several key risk factors for poor mental health when compared to London and England averages. These include higher rates of residents living in low-income households and those with experience of social care, violence, and/or racism and other forms of discrimination. This underscores that addressing mental health is a matter of social justice, and is rooted in the wider determinants of health such as poverty and housing, requiring a holistic approach that tackles both clinical and socioeconomic determinants.
- 3.2. There are also protective factors present across Hackney, including access to green spaces, leisure opportunities, as well as social and cultural opportunities. This furthers the need to consider planning for improved mental health and wellbeing in the borough to be the role of sectors beyond health and care, including the role of residents and community leaders in shaping opportunities.
- 3.3. The Children and Young People's Mental Health Needs Assessment

published in 2025 demonstrated an increasing and unequal burden of mental health needs among children and young people in Hackney.

- 3.3.1. Rates of diagnosed common mental health conditions in primary care are highest among older children, females, and those from White and Mixed ethnic backgrounds while severe mental illnesses are more commonly diagnosed among males and those from Black ethnic backgrounds. In education, social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs are most commonly identified in secondary school-aged males children from Black and Mixed ethnic backgrounds.
 - 3.3.2. There is a diverse array of mental health services available to children and young people in the City of London and Hackney, across the THRIVE Framework. These services include the mental health support teams programme in state schools (called WAMHS locally) as well as the CAMHS Alliance with its single point of access for early intervention and specialist support. Female children are more often overrepresented than male children across most services, including eating disorder services. White children tend to be overrepresented in the early intervention and prevention focused services while Asian children are often underrepresented.
 - 3.3.3. Five key themes emerged for recommendations to improve mental health and wellbeing among children and young people in City and Hackney: reducing inequalities, improving communication and information-sharing, developing more flexible and needs-based approaches, strengthening the role of schools and improving data quality.
- 3.4. The Adult Mental Health Needs Assessment published in 2025 provided an updated picture of local needs and access to services among adult residents in both Hackney as well as the City of London.
- 3.4.1. The rate of diagnosed common mental health conditions among adults aged 18 or older has increased over the past 10 years and tends to be higher in Hackney than the rest of London. These conditions had higher rates of diagnosis among female adults and were most common among Mixed Black and White ethnic groups. The rate of diagnosed severe mental illnesses like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder has remained stable in recent years at around 1.5% of the adult population, significantly higher than the rate for London and England.
 - 3.4.2. Over 9,000 Hackney residents access a range of support for improving mental health provided by statutory and voluntary sector support services annually. Levels of access to support are lower among men, people aged 45 and older, and residents living in the most deprived areas of Hackney. Some challenges reported by residents and professionals include difficulties in navigating the mental health system, and insufficient provision

and capacity of existing services.

- 3.4.3. Partnership working, governance and accountability continue to be a challenge for addressing adult mental health needs. The recommendations from the needs assessment centred around improving navigation and access to services; addressing inequalities and improving inclusion; improving data quality and interoperability; and strengthening governance and accountability.

4. **Conclusions**

- 4.1. There are numerous opportunities for shaping the mental health system in Hackney to become more equitable, preventative and integrated across the life course.
- 4.2. Ownership by the Health and Wellbeing Board can enable improved collaboration and accountability going forward.

5. **Recommendations**

The Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- Establish a new commitment to mental health as a strategic priority, with a clearer scope and strengthened focus on action plan delivery.
- Agree a revised governance structure for mental health and wellbeing, with consideration of the whole life course and stakeholders beyond mental health services.

6. **Policy Context**

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Improving mental health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing social connection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting greater financial security
<input type="checkbox"/>	All of the above

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthening our communities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creating, supporting and working with volunteer and peer roles
<input type="checkbox"/>	Collaborations and partnerships: including at a neighbourhood level

<input type="checkbox"/>	Making the best of community resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All of the above

7. **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

Has an EIA been conducted for this work?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No

8. **Consultation**

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

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Appendices	Previous update paper 2024 CYP MH Needs Assessment Adult Mental Health Needs Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Picture • Local Services • Local Challenges and Recommendations • Neighbourhood Health Framework