

Meeting: Haringey Strategic Partnership

Date: 27 April 2009

Report Title: Haringey's Community Engagement Framework

Report of: Helena Pugh, Head of Corporate Policy, Haringey Council

Purpose

To update the HSP on the development of Haringey's Community Engagement Framework (CEF)

To recommend that the HSP agrees the Community Engagement Framework in principle – see Appendix A

To inform HSP members that the CEF may be subject to changes following the end of the public consultation period

Summary

On 3 December 2008 the Performance Management Group (PMG) agreed that the HSP would develop a framework to co-ordinate and strengthen community engagement work, and that a multi-agency group would be formed to take forward this work. On 20 January 2009 the PMG agreed that a draft of the CEF would be taken to the HSP on 26 February 2009 for agreement to public consultation. The HSP received a progress update and agreed the draft CEF for public consultation on 26 February 2009.

The Framework's purpose – to provide a good practice partnership approach to engagement – links with many HSP strategies and initiatives and will provide an approach for partners to use in implementing them. For example: Children and Young People's Strategic Plan, Well-being Strategic Framework, Greenest Borough Strategy, Homelessness Strategy, COMPACT, Community Link Forum (CLF), Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), Youth Council, Local Area Assemblies, pilot participatory budgets.

The Framework promotes joint working between partners in undertaking engagement. As such, it promotes an approach which has the potential to provide value for money for partner organisations.

Legal/Financial Implications

Legal

The use of the CEF as recommended should assist the Council in complying

with its new statutory duty to involve.

Financial

At the current time there are not likely to be any additional costs that can not be met from existing council budgets. When the delivery plan is completed there will be greater clarity over any financial or people resource required.

Recommendations

That the HSP:

- Agrees the Community Engagement Framework in principle.
- Notes that the final version of the Framework may reflect suggestions made by members of the public during the consultation period (which ends after this report has been written).
- Agrees that final changes are approved by the Council's Cabinet member for Community Cohesion and Involvement.

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Background

Policy context

Community engagement is a central theme within the current legislative and policy framework and underpins many of the planned improvements in public services. It is a tool for improving public services and a key process for achieving wider policy goals and aspirations such as the renewal of our most deprived areas, improving trust in public institutions, enhancing community cohesion, encouraging active citizenship and improving democratic participation. The Framework will help the HSP to meet these challenges, as well as helping to deliver on the following:

- two of the outcomes of Haringey's Community Strategy – **People at the heart of change** and **Be people and customer focused**
- various **Local Area Agreement** indicators
- the new 'duty to involve', in place from April 2009, and other national legislative drivers
- the level and quality of public engagement (and empowerment) which will be tested as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment process

Further details are available in the Framework document.

Multi-agency project group

A multi-agency project group to develop the CEF was established in December 2008. Representation and involvement from partner agencies has been strong and includes:

- College of North East London (CONEL)
- Family Mosaic Housing Association
- Haringey Association of Community and Voluntary Organisations (HAVCO)
- Haringey Council
- Homes for Haringey
- London Fire Brigade
- Metropolitan Police
- NHS Haringey

Development and consultation process

Phase 1:

- Community consultation took place between 19 January 2009 and 13 February 2009.
- 700 voluntary and community groups in the borough were sent a letter from the HSP Chair explaining the purpose of the CEF and the development process. The groups received a questionnaire regarding engagement processes, asking for practical suggestions on how HSP partners can engage with different communities in the borough.
- These documents were also available online, and the questionnaire could be completed online on the Haringey Council website. The link to this web page was circulated to community groups by HSP partner organisations.
- The CEF was discussed and feedback given at meetings of the HSP, individual partner organisations and the Community Link Forum.
- 100 community responses were received. These responses have been used to inform the CEF, and will also be used to inform the future development of the CEF Delivery Plan. A 'you said, we did' table demonstrating how the responses have informed the development of the draft CEF is available at www.haringey.gov.uk/framework .

Headline results:

Communities would like to let the HSP know about their needs and interest through:

- Public meetings on specific issues
- Postal surveys

Communities would like the HSP to provide feedback through:

- Features in Haringey People
- Feedback letters

Communities would like councillors and community representatives to gather their views through:

- Meetings on specific issues
- Email

Phase 2:

- Community consultation is taking place between 5 March and 21 April 2009.
- The consultation date was extended to 21 April in order to include a meeting of Haringey's Community Link Forum. The consultation document was sent out to over 700 community and voluntary groups and is available on the Haringey Council website.
- The questionnaire accompanying the document asked for specific comments on the vision, definition and principles of the CEF. The April edition of Haringey People carried an article about the CEF.
- The CEF has also been discussed at all HSP theme boards, and the Community Link Forum network.

Phase 3:

- The CEF Delivery Plan will be produced.
- Ongoing development work involving residents and giving the opportunity for public feedback will inform the delivery of the CEF and its review.

Next steps

Following the second consultation phase, the following will take place:

- The final CEF document will be made available on partner websites.
- The multi-agency group will continue to meet for a time-limited period in order to plan phase 3.
- A Plain English version of the CEF will be produced to make it more user-friendly and accessible to members of the public.
- The Performance Management Group of the HSP will be responsible for monitoring the development of the Delivery Plan and its outcomes, and for reviewing progress against the CEF. The PMG will receive quarterly updates and an initial review of the CEF will take place one year after it is adopted after the HSP.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Draft Community Engagement Framework