

THE SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND IN HARINGEY

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STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

March 2006

This is the second year of Haringey's SSCF bringing together resources from the Home Office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, allowing local strategic partnerships, over time, to develop greater strategic leadership of local interventions. For 2006/7 Haringey will receive funding on all four elements of the SSCF. The four elements of the SSCF are crime reduction, the "cleaner, safer and greener" agenda, neighbourhood management and community empowerment.

Haringey is one of the most diverse communities in Britain, particularly with regard to ethnicity (with over 160 languages spoken) and prosperity – the borough as a whole is the 10th most deprived area in Britain, a ranking that masks huge differences between affluent areas in the west and deprived neighbourhoods in the east. This background makes community engagement a key issue for us, including for the areas of work supported by the SSCF.

An immense amount and variety of community engagement activity takes place all the time in Haringey. It varies from information provision about services, through consultation on specific proposals and service user satisfaction assessments, to more broadly focused agendas such as meetings about Safer Neighbourhoods teams, the holding of local area assemblies and the operation of the Haringey Strategic Partnership (the HSP). This all contributes in a complex way to residents' perceptions of the extent to which they can influence local decisions. In 2004 Haringey gained a Beacon status for its success in getting closer to communities.

The HSP was mindful of the extent of this activity when considering how to approach the development of the SSCF agreement for 2006/7. The HSP decided that as it had existing thematic partnerships for the Crime and Drugs Reduction and the Cleaner Safer Greener elements, these would be dealt with by the Safer Communities Executive Board and the Better Places Partnership respectively. However, there are no specific partnership structures for neighbourhood working and community so the HSP oversaw the development of these two elements. However, the roll out of neighbourhood working over the coming year will establish a more productive link between the HSP and neighbourhoods.

To lead and coordinate the overall approach to the SSCF the Council set up an SSCF steering group which included representatives from each of the four elements. This group met several times and organised three meetings with partners including

Haringey Community Empowerment Network (HarCEN) and Haringey's Council for Voluntary Service (HAVCO) who are the official representatives of the community and voluntary sector on the HSP.

In addition the way in which local people and Haringey's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) have been involved in the development of the content of the SSCF agreement and how they will contribute to its delivery varies according to the four different elements.

CRIME REDUCTION

Haringey's Safer Communities Executive Board (SCEB) has a long history of using the expertise and skills of voluntary sector organisations and communities themselves to develop more effective crime reduction work. This was the only element submitted in the SSCF last year.

The SCEB considered its proposals for the SSCF at its meeting on 12th December 2005 and agreed that the partnership's performance management group would take the lead in developing proposals. The meeting of SCEB on 14th March 2006 gave further consideration to the SSCF. Key priorities agreed at that meeting were:

- Tackling prolific and priority offenders;
- Improving data and analysis;
- Roll out of the Safer Neighbourhood Policing teams;
- Developing a communications strategy;
- Reviewing the CCTV strategy;
- Developing an Alcohol strategy;
- Focusing on prevention and early intervention.

To recap from last year's SSCF the basis for crime element is the statutory triennial crime and drugs audit and the resulting three year strategy for 2005-08 produced during 2004/5 for the SCEB by Haringey's Safer Communities Unit. As part of the development of the audit an extensive consultation process was undertaken with residents and community organisations. Results from these events shaped the final audit and helped in developing the strategic priorities for 2005-08. This specifically highlights the need to work at a ward and sub ward level, developing time limited problem solving involving residents, businesses, Councillors and statutory and voluntary agencies.

During the year safer neighbourhoods policing has been piloted and this has helped inform how best to engage communities in tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and drugs issues as well as data about reducing the fear of crime. The SCEB also has an annual rolling programme of engagement days targeting particular communities, The DAAT have identified stimulant users for key service development and have been working with BUBIC (Bringing Unity Back Into the Community) a user-group to provide targeted outreach for BME crack users.

The key voluntary sector organisations that sit on SCEB are Haringey Peace Alliance and Haringey Victim Support. The Peace Alliance draws on community, voluntary and faith organisations to support the peace forum and to promote events such as breakfast meetings, working in local schools, parent and young people workshops and community leadership in BME communities throughout the year, culminating in the Haringey Week of Peace at the end of the summer.

The Victim and Witness (WIV) worker ensures that Victim Support is heard at the Borough Criminal Justice Group, the Domestic Violence Forum, the Safer Schools project and a range of other committees and partnerships. This post supports the Government “No witness No Justice” programme, as well as “Confidence” within the Criminal Justice System (Home Office PSA 2 and 3).

CLEANER, SAFER, GREENER AGENDA

The Better Places Partnership (BPP) leads for the strategic partnership on the Cleaner, Safer, and Greener agenda. Although the Council is perhaps a more dominant partner for this agenda than for some others, voluntary and community sector engagement on the partnership continues to be developed.

The work programme has been developed over several months in discussion with all the partners on the Better Places Board, as well as with the other Partnership Boards who will together contribute to the Safer, Stronger, and Communities Fund Agreement for Haringey. The Safer, Cleaner, Greener element of the Agreement was signed off at the Partnership meeting in March 2006.

The BPP has discussed the SSCF cleaner, safer, greener agenda twice, at its meetings in October 2005 and in January 2006. There was also a special meeting of partnership on 8th March 2006 to discuss the SSCF and NRF together to which the voluntary and community were invited. The following key issues were identified at this latter meeting:

- Recycling, particularly on housing estates;
- Reducing traffic congestion, slowing traffic and encouraging walking and cycling and accessible transport for older people and those with disabilities;
- Tackling climate change through sustainable building, procurement and planting;
- Improving local parks and open green spaces through community involvement to increase use and promote healthy lifestyles.

There is continuing engagement with and through the BPP by key local groups such as the Friends of Parks Forum, the local Agenda 21 community group and Haringey Federation of Resident’s Associations. This is now being taken forward through the community engagement forum of the BPP.

NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT

Building on the proposals in the Haringey Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, the Council’s Neighbourhood Management Service has developed as a key service of

the Council and the structures and processes it has established are utilised not only by Council services but also other partners on the HSP, particularly the Police and the PCT. Particularly, important have been the Area Assemblies that are held quarterly for seven areas across the Borough, (see community engagement below). Also important are the neighbourhood partnerships for the New Deal for Communities (NDC) in Seven Sisters and Single Regeneration Budget neighbourhood partnerships in Northumberland Park, West Green and Finsbury Park. Other neighbourhood partnership structures have been established in Harringay/Green Lanes, White Hart Lane and Noel Park. Area Assemblies are at the heart of local community engagement in the borough. During 2005/6 there will have been 28 area assembly meetings covering a whole range of local issues.

Worklessness has long been a major concern in Haringey. As part of this ongoing process, in 2004/5 the Haringey Employment Partnership reviewed its employment strategy. This included an event at Alexandra Palace to which key partners were invited. From this an action plan was developed. Implementation of the action plan was reviewed at a further Alexandra Palace partnership event in 2005/6. In addition, tackling worklessness is a key issue that has arisen from the partnership review of exit strategies for Haringey's two neighbourhood SRB schemes, JUNP (Northumberland Park) and West Green. Issues identified through these processes have been:

- the reduction in funding available as Job Centre Plus faces cut backs and the EU enlargement focuses European funding on eastern Europe.
- the realisation that the scale of the problem faced by the borough far exceeds the scale of projects identified in the past to tackle the problem.
- that of Haringey's 56,000 workless, 17,500 are young people aged 16-24, and 11,600 are on incapacity benefit. In most cases they are already involved with public services but their worklessness is not being tackled.

The general consensus of the partnerships strategic assessment has been to focus on these two groups of the workless and to on projects that reach out to them through the engagements they already have with local public services such as Housing, the Children's Service, and Social Services etc.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Council for Voluntary Service (HAVCO) & the Haringey Compact

Haringey partners have played a major role in the development of the Haringey's Council for Voluntary Service (HAVCO). Established in April 2003 HAVCO was the outcome of an 18 month project, carried out by an independent consultant and managed by representatives from voluntary and community organisations, to establish a robust and effective VCS umbrella body in Haringey. The Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust (HTPCT) and the Council in particular have continued to provide strong ongoing funding and support for HAVCO which is represented on the main board of the HSP.

The relationship between statutory organisations the voluntary sector is an important driver of community engagement. This relationship is being strengthened by the development of *Haringey Compact: better working together*, which will set the values, principles and commitments for working across sectors and which has been developed by a diverse steering group and led jointly by the Council and the Haringey Association for Voluntary and Community Organisations – HAVCO. Working with these organisations to increase capacity to engage with community safety is a recognised need that the Compact's development will facilitate. Launch of the Haringey Compact is planned for the early summer of 2006.

Community Empowerment Network (HarCEN)

Haringey's Community Empowerment Network (HarCEN) was formally launched in January 2004. Its primary purpose is to enable community views to be heard and influence public agencies decision making, particularly by participating at the level of the local strategic partnership and in neighbourhood partnerships. Up to March 2006 the CEN was funded directly from GOL, through the single community programme for which the Scarman Trust acted locally as accountable body. However, this will change with the ending of the single community programme. From April 2006 the community engagement element of the SSCF will provide the vehicle for distributing the government's core funding for community empowerment in Haringey and the Council will be the accountable body. The Community Engagement element of the SSCF will be the starting place in defining HarCEN's role in supporting the development of partnership working in Haringey.

Currently HarCEN is represented on the main board of the HSP and is represented on/ is working with the Enterprise, Well Being and CYPSP theme boards. Formal representation in the Safer Communities and Better Places Partnerships is being developed. HarCEN also ensures the operation of around fifteen thematic groups and interest forums which support and hold accountable its representatives to local partnerships. Finally the CEN also engages in a range of outreach and capacity building activities particularly targeted to the borough's most disadvantaged communities.

Haringey is unusual in having a community empowerment network established separately from the Council of Voluntary Service. To ensure the two organisations complement each other a framework was agreed between them in 2004/5 which clarified their respective roles. Nevertheless, this dual structure remains under ongoing review by the strategic partnership as to its appropriateness and practicality.

Both HAVCO and HarCEN have been involved in the SSCF Steering Group which has overseen the preparation of the draft SSCF Agreement on behalf of the HSP.