



LEWISHAM STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Community Action Plan



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Foreword

Welcome to the Lewisham Community Action Plan. This plan has been shaped by the hours of conversations, hundreds of questionnaires and dozens of focus groups carried out in the second half of 2023 as part of the Lewisham 2030 consultation. It also reflects the work of the Lewisham Strategic Partnership (LSP) over the last two years, and our learning about how we can best work together to improve the services we all provide for the people of Lewisham.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views, hopes and visions for the future of our borough.

Your feedback has helped us to develop some key projects that the LSP will focus on over the coming years to help us to become the place you told us you want Lewisham to be by 2030.

It is important to understand that these projects are not the only ways in which the organisations who make up the LSP will be working to improve life in our borough. Each organisation has its own plan and priorities. The actions set out here are things we can do together – in addition – to address some of the issues residents have told us matter to them. By working together we can achieve so much more, and this is an important step in changing how organisations across Lewisham work together in response to the key issues affecting local people.

Lewisham is a special place; as you told us in the Lewisham 2030 survey...it is diverse and rich with culture, full of green spaces and thriving, independent local businesses. You also told us you are proud of Lewisham and the things that make us unique, and this too is a key priority for the LSP.

As the newly elected Mayor of Lewisham, and Chair of the LSP, I am proud to share this action plan and look forward to keeping you updated about these exciting projects, and sharing how you can get involved.

Brenda Dacres

Mayor of Lewisham

Chair of the Lewisham Strategic Partnership



Meet the Lewisham Strategic Partnership

The Lewisham Strategic Partnership (LSP) is made up of representatives of key organisations across Lewisham.

It brings together organisations who want to improve services and outcomes for everyone who lives, works, studies, or spends time in Lewisham. Its ambitious priorities and actions are set by a smaller steering group.

LSP members who helped to shape this plan include:

- Lewisham Council
- South East London NHS (ICS)
- Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust
- South London and Maudsley NHS Trust
- Department for Work and Pensions / Jobcentre
- Lewisham College
- Trinity Laban
- Goldsmiths, University of London
- London Fire Brigade
- Metropolitan Police
- South East London Chamber of Commerce
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Phoenix Community Housing
- The Albany
- Horniman Museum
- Age UK Lewisham
- Lewisham Local
- Citizens Advice Bureau Lewisham
- Lewisham Interfaith Forum
- Lewisham Schools Forum



Lewisham 2030

Lewisham 2030 was launched in the summer of 2023 to understand from local people about our shared hopes and ambitions for the borough into the next decade.

We wanted to find out more about what residents think we could and should achieve for Lewisham, by sharing their thoughts about what a good future in Lewisham might look like, what needs to change to get us there and the part that individuals can play in making this happen.

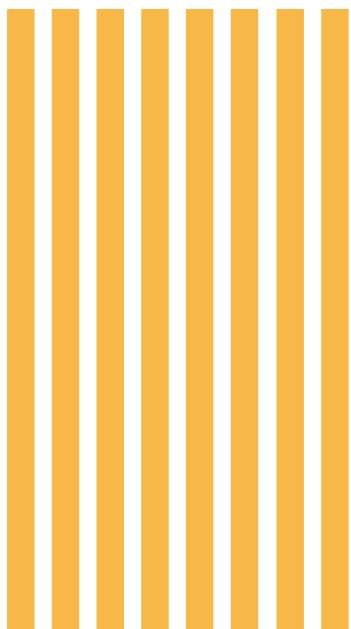
We invited everyone in the borough to complete a questionnaire or join in a conversation or focus group.



From June to October 2023

982 
people completed a questionnaire

223 
people took part in a face to face engagement session



We spoke to people all over the borough at...

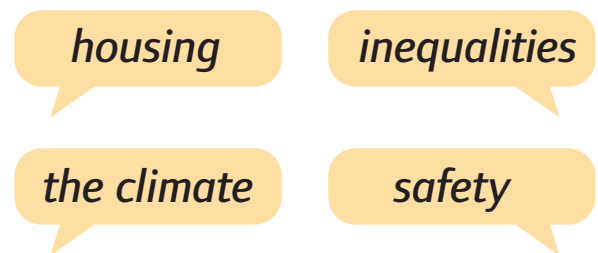
- Ward assemblies
- Places of worship
- Markets
- Libraries
- Parks
- Local events

We also ran special sessions with the Young Advisors and Young Mayor and the Older People Consultation Network.

People described Lewisham as...



People told us that



were key challenges for the borough.

Lewisham Strategic Partnership 2024–2030

The action plan is a 'live document'. It will be reported on and reviewed annually. The objectives have been agreed by the LSP steering group, based

on feedback from the Lewisham 2030 work, their organisation's local priorities and their experiences of working together over the last two years.

Our Objectives

We will work together across Lewisham to:



1. Improve the health, wellbeing and housing of our residents



2. Reduce the impacts of climate change



3. Improve the financial resilience and opportunities for Lewisham residents



4. Celebrate our diverse communities, and proactively challenge inequalities based on race, disability, sexuality, gender or any other characteristic



5. Promote Lewisham as a place to live, work, study and invest in



6. Create a safer borough for everyone



1 • We will work together to improve health, wellbeing and housing of our residents

People told us that they value the sense of community in Lewisham and that they love the access to green spaces in our parks which support their wellbeing. We heard that access to healthcare services is a priority and that residents want to stay healthy, with 20% of all responses selecting this as one of their three priorities for the future. Together we understand that people's health and wellbeing starts in their homes and communities, and with housing highlighted as a priority for over 20% of respondents, this is an issue our residents care about too.

While the LSP will not be building new homes, we recognise that our homes are the base from which people build their lives, and look after their health and wellbeing. Our housing providers in the borough play a vital role in supporting their community's wellbeing. When homes are poor quality or become the cause of health issues we need to work together across services to improve things for our residents.

As a result, the strategic partnership will identify where we can improve the system across the borough through better use of data to proactively address health concerns and inequalities, and the intersection of housing and health, as well as working to reduce barriers to people getting the help they need, particularly where that help requires multiple partners to work together.

Your hopes for the future

Good health provision, including care services so that we can stay in our homes.

Remaining in good health, keeping mentally and physically active, safe, and in close contact with family and friends.

Older people have access to services and activities that prevent isolation and poor health, both physical and mental.

What needs to change

Better access to GP appointments, more preventative health measures, shorter waiting times for hospital appointments, more outdoor gyms, safer neighbourhoods.

Easier access to healthcare in the community including GPs, dentists, home care and mental health support.



2. We will reduce the impacts of climate change

Around one quarter of respondents told us that climate change was a top three priority for them. They highlighted issues including moving away from fossil fuels, reducing air pollution, increasing active travel, reducing plastic waste and protecting green spaces. People also told us how much they value Lewisham's green spaces and the environmental – as well as the wellbeing – benefits they bring.

Lewisham Council has an extensive Climate Action Plan – and all Partners across the LSP have ambitions related to the climate crisis. We will work together to achieve our objectives and increase the biodiversity of the borough.

Together we will work to reduce our collective carbon emissions, engage proactively with our communities around climate and sustainability, and work to create joined up blue and green infrastructure across the borough to improve biodiversity.

Your hopes for the future

I hope that national and local government will consistently develop and implement coordinated policies to address climate change.

I hope that in the future we will have staved off the worst impacts of climate change and that the net zero goals will have been met.

What needs to change?

A faster, urgent movement away from fossil fuels and their all their negative environmental impacts including plastic and other pollution.



3. We will improve the financial resilience and opportunities for Lewisham residents

Inequalities were mentioned by many people, and housing costs were repeatedly mentioned.

Younger residents were more likely to list job opportunities, money and learning new things as their priorities for the future – and there were significant differences in how important these things were to people in different parts of the borough, and according to people's background.

We will work together to make Lewisham a Living Wage Place, to increase local job opportunities and to address the root causes of poverty.

Your hopes for the future

I hope for excellent education opportunities for our son, continuous employment and a safe and secure home.

Good housing, education, jobs and health. Investment in youth clubs and other opportunities for young people. Equality for all.

What needs to change?

We need more job opportunities which give people a good standard of living

Lewisham needs good jobs...and fair opportunities



4. We will celebrate our diverse communities and challenge inequalities based on race, disability, sexuality, gender or any other characteristic

One of the things people told us they value most about living in Lewisham is its rich diversity. This included the range of shops and amenities serving different cultures, as well as the sense of community and belonging.

Celebrating diversity and ensuring equity amongst all residents is a priority for the LSP. The Council has published its equalities priorities and its response to recommendations from the recent Disabled People's Commission report, which set ambitions for the whole borough. Many organisations within the LSP also have equalities at the heart of their corporate plans and strategies – so this is a key area for collaboration.

We know through the BLACHIR review, health outcomes are significantly lower for our Black residents but as we might expect, 'staying healthy' is no less of a priority for our Black communities than it is for our white communities with around 30% of both groups selecting this as a priority. To support outcomes for all residents we will promote cultural competency programmes within the healthcare service, police force and justice system.

We will encourage all partners to become disability confident employers and support and fund the establishment of a Deaf and disabled user-led organisation for Lewisham.

Your hopes for the future

A good future is one which everyone is equal and treated fairly.

A good future includes people from different cultures and races being valued, appreciated, safe, visible and respected.

What needs to change?

Lewisham continues to have a diverse community, which is enriched by the range of people who live here.

Our diversity of population needs to be reflected in policies, consultation and outcomes.



5. Promote Lewisham as a place to live, work and invest in

People told us they are proud of the borough. Lots of respondents said Lewisham is a great place to live, highlighting its cultural diversity and local businesses as things they particularly value.

Local transport was frequently mentioned, with lots of people regarding the Bakerloo Line extension as a priority, as well as investment in town centres. Some feedback called for better access to news and information about service and opportunities across the borough.

The LSP will encourage more local collaboration; exploring small business incubation in key growth areas to attract high skilled jobs into the borough.

We will work together to bid for external funding and lobby for investment into the borough. We will work together to improve communication and engagement with all our residents.

Your hopes for the future

In the future we will hopefully have lots of successful independent shops and restaurants on our lively high streets.

I'd like to see lots more opportunities to experience the local area's leisure and social facilities: cinema, theatre, restaurants, decent shops.

The borough has good links into central London but towns in Lewisham retain their individual character. There are nice green spaces, plenty going on and space for independent businesses.

What needs to change

I feel the diversity of the population isn't reflected in policies, consultation and outcomes.

More high quality shops and independent businesses in our town centres.



6. Work together for a safer Lewisham for everyone, regardless of their identity

Over a third of all respondents identified safety as a top three priority. This included road safety, anti-social behaviour and women's safety. This was raised by people of all ethnicities, ages and across all parts of the borough.

Safety is clearly a significant concern for local people and it is a priority for the LSP. As anchor institutions – including the Metropolitan Police – we play a key role in bringing together and supporting local communities.

Together we will support our residents to help shape community safety initiatives, deliver the Council's borough-wide serious violence strategy, and share data to reduce violence against women and girls. We will work together to improve community cohesion and build relationships between community leaders and key local organisations.

Your hopes for the future

I'd like to see neighbours living in harmony, safer streets with police able to reduce knife crime and gang behaviour.

What needs to change

I also want to see higher police presence to support the community in terms of anti-social behaviour, knife crime, gang related crime and theft.







Fewer cars on the road and better local public transport so women don't have to walk home in the dark.











Action plan



The below are initial actions which support the delivery of the long-term objectives. Task and finish groups will be established to further scope them, plan them in detail and lead on their delivery. The actions will be reported on annually and reviewed every two years.













Many actions support multiple objectives which can be seen in the final column.

Key:

-  1. Improve the health, wellbeing and housing of our residents
-  2. Reduce the impacts of climate change
-  3. Improve the financial resilience and opportunities for Lewisham residents
-  4. Celebrate our diverse communities, and proactively challenge inequalities based on race, disability, sexuality, gender or any other characteristic
-  5. Promote Lewisham as a place to live, work, study and invest in
-  6. Create a safer borough for everyone

 1. We will work together to improve health, wellbeing and housing of our residents	Secondary objectives
Adopt a ‘radical place leadership’ approach to develop a joint working principle across LSP partners to enable operational teams to work more closely together in a person-centred way, breaking down silos and perceived barriers to how different organisations can work together to meet people’s individual needs.	 
Support SLAM in submitting a partnership-based bid to NHS England to fund the creation of a community-based mental health centre/hub.	
Establish an ‘Office for Data Analytics’ across the borough to enable effective sharing and use of data in decision making.	    
Engage with and co-produce potential interventions to increase access to support and help with mental health for young Black men aged 16-25 to address the overrepresentation of young black men entering mental health services for the first time in crisis.	 

 2. We will reduce the impacts of climate change	Secondary objectives
Develop a shared approach to reporting corporate carbon emissions across the LSP Partners.	
Promote joint working and engagement on climate across LSP Partners and with other active local organisations.	
Using UN Biosphere principles, adopt a shared approach to green and blue infrastructure across the borough which educates residents on the value of biodiversity and implements actions to increase biodiversity.	

 3. We will improve the financial resilience and opportunities for Lewisham residents	Secondary objectives
<p>Apply to the Living Wage Foundation for Lewisham to become a Living Wage Place. In developing the Living Wage Place action plan, consideration will be taken by employers to find ways of supporting staff experiencing financial stress.</p>	 
<p>Develop a cross-LSP project to tackle employment inequalities for residents most disadvantaged in the labour market. Initially the project will focus on residents who consider their disability/learning disability to be a barrier to employment.</p>	
<p>Develop an integrated strategy/framework to reduce poverty and the risk of poverty in the borough through prevention and intervention initiatives working across internal services, strategic partners and with the wider Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).</p>	 
<p>Develop a programme of place-based/community delivered anti-poverty initiatives.</p>	 
<p>Develop communications and information-sharing of financial resilience initiatives across the network to ensure LSP members and the local Voluntary and Community Sector have timely, informed and up-to-date knowledge of support available.</p>	 
<p>Develop an employer engagement approach across the LSP which increases interaction between employers and education providers, increasing real opportunities for work for learners.</p>	 

 4. We will celebrate our diverse communities and challenge inequalities based on race, disability, sexuality, gender or any other characteristic	Secondary objectives
<p>Work across relevant partners to develop tools and resources as needed to support Black African and Black Caribbean families through transitions between primary, secondary and further education. (Recommendation from BLACHIR review).</p>	
<p>Collaborate and engage across the partnership to support the development of a cultural competency framework for the borough (Recommendation from BLACHIR review).</p>	
<p>Appoint a Senior Disability and Co-Production Officer based within Lewisham Council to work across the Lewisham Strategic Partnership, leading on coproduction and building capacity within these partnerships for genuine co-production. (Note: this is also a recommendation of the Disabled People’s Commission , commissioned by Lewisham Council).</p>	 
<p>Instigate the formation, support and initial resourcing of a Deaf and Disabled People’s User-Led Organisation for Lewisham. (Note: this is also a recommendation of the Disabled People’s Commission, commissioned by Lewisham Council).</p>	
<p>Carry out scoping (once Senior Disability and Co-Production Officer is in post) of further strategic recommendations from the Disabled People’s Commission, including an Independent Living Strategy.</p>	
<p>Collaborate on Black History Month activity to support and enhance partners’ events and create a consistent thread through all activity across the borough.</p>	

 5. Promote Lewisham as a place to live, work and invest in	Secondary objectives
Establish an LSP Communications Network to ensure continued collaboration across the borough.	
Explore programmes to support businesses incubation (e.g. digital and tech) in London's growth sectors, attracting more high-skilled businesses to the borough	
Identify opportunities to jointly lobby or apply for investment and funding opportunities from external sources.	
To support and further develop the Council's existing Bakerloo Line extension and upgrade campaign.	
Develop a programme of LSP events, bringing partners together and providing regular opportunities for collaboration and networking at all levels of the partnership.	

 6. Work together for a safer Lewisham for everyone, regardless of their identity	Secondary objectives
Bring together partners to develop proposals for improving safety and public confidence in safety in and around Catford town centre.	
Improve communication to and with residents around community safety initiatives in the borough.	
Support the rollout of the safer streets reporting tool, promoting use across the borough and collaboration with partners to address issues highlighted.	
Work together to improve community cohesion and build relationships with community leaders.	
Identify opportunities to support the reduction in violence against women and girls through data sharing, combined initiatives and consistent communications and engagement.	



If you would like to find out more about the Lewisham Strategic Partnership or any of the actions being undertaken please contact rachel.pierce@lewisham.gov.uk

