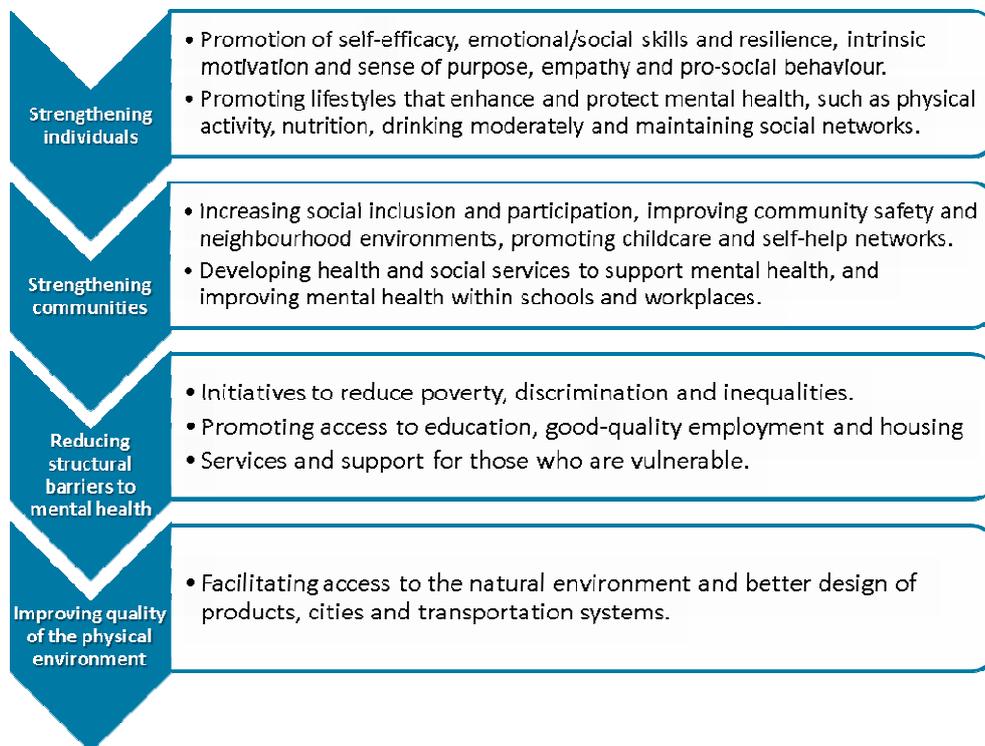


## Wellbeing summary: Environment and Leisure

The Environment and Leisure department provides a diverse range of services, from cleaning the borough's streets to reducing violence. We have over 1,200 direct employees and the majority of our services are frontline and have direct impact on the daily lives of 288,000 residents.

The department is responsible for maintaining and improving the physical environment of the borough including highways, trees, streets, parks and open spaces. It is also responsible for leisure, libraries, adult education, arts, heritage and culture. It is responsible for the operational delivery of a safe borough through an effective visible presence, tackling anti social behaviour and deterring crime. It is also provides the main regulatory arm of the Council with an integrated Environmental and Trading Standards Service

Because of the diverse range of services that we provide, the majority of our services have a positive impact on the actual and potential wellbeing of our residents, and all our services can be broadly categorised in the four key wellbeing areas:



## **Contributing to wellbeing workshops**

Staff events were held for all Environment and Leisure staff in June 2014, and were themed around the concept of wellbeing. Workshops were held with approximately 500 members of staff where they were asked:

*“How does your role contribute to the wellbeing of our residents?”*

The results were largely as expected: the department makes a significant contribution to wellbeing. Due to the diversity of the participants, the workshops were themed under four broad wellbeing areas:

- Active healthy minds
- Leisure and Health
- Cleaner greener environment
- Safety and empowerment

A summary of the staff feedback for the workshop is set out in the table below, but clearly shows how the work of the Environment and Leisure department supports resident's physical and mental wellbeing and also seeks to create an environment with enhanced wellbeing potential.

## **Active healthy minds**

### **Headlines:**

- Encouraging and promoting libraries as community hubs
- Providing access to education, skills and lifelong learning
- Empowering and involving residents
- Delivering culture and arts programmes

### **What we do:**

- Provide adult learning service, developing core skills
- Provide libraries service
- Reading groups
- Baby and toddler groups
- Work with schools and provide holiday reading clubs, events and activities
- Broad arts programme, encouraging activity and community participation and new opportunities
- Use libraries as a community hub, building strong communities, signposting to opportunities and assistance
- Deliver cultural programmes, broaden involvement, help residents to get involved and learn
- Basic skills, learning, literacy and numeracy to help with employment
- Provide study spaces for residents and a wide range of resources

## **Leisure and health**

### **Headlines**

- Deliver the physical activity and sport strategy
- Work with partners and community groups to promote health and leisure
- Encourage participation across the whole borough
- Educate and increase access to healthy lifestyles

### **What we do**

- Manage and deliver the leisure centres
- Encourage sports participation
- Encourage and promote community led sports
- Work closely with excluded groups to access sports and activities
- Encourage healthy lifestyles by providing more opportunities to get out, get fit, get active
- Work with schools to educate and encourage healthy lifestyles and transport to schools
- Gyms and exercise in parks
- Work with health services to refer patients

## **Cleaner greener environment**

### **Headlines:**

- Creating, designing and managing beautiful green spaces
- Improving the design, usability and access to public space
- Keeping the borough, street and estates clean so residents can enjoy them
- Encouraging community participation and ownership

### **What we do:**

- Keep the borough clean so all residents can enjoy it
- Improve air quality to improve health
- Introduce excellent design to public spaces, making them places residents want to visit, use and meet friends
- Make the borough cycle friendly through better design and cycle training – this also encourages health activity
- Manage traffic properly and introduce better designed roads and pavements
- Making the most out of open spaces and design – making a positive difference to resident wellbeing and the community
- Creating beautiful and well maintained green spaces and parks for all to enjoy – this also encourage physical activity
- Deliver the cleaner, greener, safer projects on behalf of the community – this encourages community ownership and participation
- Encouraging and enabling residents to participate in their environment and parks
- Working with agencies to assist those sleeping rough
- Reducing fly tipping
- Ensuring members of the public and businesses dispose of their waste properly
- Effective pest control – this provides a cleaner and healthier place to live and offers reassurance to residents and members of the public

- Dealing with stray dogs and offering advice to owners (safety issues, cleanliness of the environment, reuniting dogs with owners)

## **Safety and empowerment**

### **Headlines:**

- Empowering and educating individuals and groups
- Providing enforcement, assistance and reassurance
- Working with offenders, the community and partners
- Reducing crime, the fear of crime, and encouraging personal empowerment and control

### **What we do:**

- Work with police and partners to identify hot spots within the borough and address local issues
- Work directly with offenders, empowering them to make better choices and not re-offend
- Work with gangs and gang members, empowering them to make life changing decisions by treating them as victims
- Protecting and securing the safety of residents
- Control and sale of alcohol, knives, tobacco and dangerous products
- Empowerment through education, particularly young people (young citizen of the year, young consumer of the year)
- Consumer protection
- Training for retailers
- Control of premises
- Wardens report issues and improve areas
- Wardens provide safety and a reassuring presence in the community
- Tackling low level ASB
- Working with communities to deal with local issues that directly impact daily lives
- Reassuring to the vulnerable and signposting to services they can access
- Working with private sector housing to improve standards
- Tackling ASB in all its forms, working with offenders and victims, empowering and finding long term solutions
- Creating a safer environment through effective enforcement of legislation, health and safety regulation
- Providing skills in relation to safety awareness – empowering people through their skills set i.e. language, literacy
- Providing a pop up police station in our libraries – educating library visitors on safety
- Effective CCTV to deter crime and offer reassurance
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