

Common Purpose, Common Cause

Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2017-2022

This strategy is guided by a compelling vision and a clear purpose – to support a sustainable, confident and resourceful voluntary and community sector (VCS) that can work in collaboration with the public (and private) sector to create a safer and fairer Southwark.

The way public sector and the VCS work together in Southwark has changed significantly since the last strategy was produced in 2007, but it has to change further. We want a relationship where the public sector, in partnership with the VCS, enables and supports new approaches to deliver integrated, more efficient and community-led outcomes.

Council plan commitment: enhance the vital work of the voluntary and community sector

To achieve that we have focused on activities that enhance the work of the voluntary and community sector with an emphasis on improving quality and outcomes for residents that reduces and prevents future dependency on high cost, high demand services. We also focus on where we can make the most impact to sustain and build strong, cohesive communities where no one group or community is left behind.

Developed through a tri-partite arrangement, we have set out a direction of travel for all partners - Southwark Council, Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group, other significant partners and the voluntary and community sector – about how we can be more than the sum of our parts.

The strategy sets out four priorities, alongside one enabling priority that will help us achieve our goals. These priorities concern the areas of work which, over 200 participants at our listening events told us, would have the biggest impact and bring about change where it is needed the most. If we can achieve what we want to with these priorities, we will be much closer to our vision: one where there is a new settlement between all sectors, that amongst other things, will put organizational sustainability and an early action, outcomes focused approach at its core and make duplication, short-term fixes and inefficiency things of the past.

Changes we want to see by 2022

Better partnership working to improve outcomes for residents

We want to see changes in how we work together and embed the principles of co-production in everything we do in order to maximize social value.

We want to see more responsive and joined up ways of working using existing structures (such as the Local Care Networks) to harness and share the power and knowledge of local communities to help mitigate against the impact of reductions in local authority and NHS resources.

We want to encourage the VCS to work more in collaboration and to provide mutual support to help improve outcomes for residents.

We want to enable and foster greater engagement with the business sector leading to more placed based giving and crowd funding initiatives.

Improved commissioning and grant-giving to focus on outcomes and be more cooperative, and community-led.

We want to see fuller involvement of stakeholders in the commissioning cycle that is outcomes focused. To achieve this, we want to develop co-operative and citizen commissioning approaches with an emphasis on dealing with the root causes of problems not just symptoms.

Council plan commitments:

- Invest more in 'early support' for families
- An Age-Friendly Borough
- Reduce the numbers of people contracting HIV & other sexually transmitted infections
- Further reduce teenage conceptions
- Take new approaches to tackling obesity
- Reduce smoking in the borough
- Make sure young people are ready for work
- Make sure residents benefit from new jobs and apprenticeships
- Support 5,000 local people into jobs
- Create 2,000 apprenticeships

We want to change how we use contracts and grants with a balance between longer funding cycles and support for innovation to help develop different, more efficient and more impactful services for residents. We want to agree a set of core outcomes (Common Framework) for the benefit of the whole community of Southwark against which impact is measured and aligned against Council and CCG plans.

We want services to be built around the needs of the local community and a recognition of the value and impact of locally delivered services with a presumption that local provision is the default position. Using digital approaches we want to transform how we serve and enhance the lives of people in our community so they receive quality information and access to services.

Council plan commitment: become a leading digital borough, transforming how we serve and enhancing the lives of people in our community so no-one is left behind.

Better use of community assets as a route to revitalize neighbourhoods and create preventative places

We want to harness the value of the borough's outside spaces to improve wellbeing, engagement and community cohesion. We want to develop an approach to enabling asset transfer to take place in the right circumstances and establishing the limits of this.

We want to ensure that the Council and NHS's property portfolio is deployed effectively to take advantage of co-location opportunities. We want synergies through co-location between the VCS and the public sector to improve preventative services and outcomes for residents.

We want to embed co-production and co-design when considering place based strategies, to create improved outcomes for residents, through community-led approaches.

More resilient communities that are connected and more resourceful, where no one group or community is overlooked

We want to unlock the assets and social value that exist in communities so that resources, time and talents can support the development of more resourceful and connected communities.

We want to enable and support the development of community organisers. Acting as navigators and supporters for local communities (representing the diversity that exists in Southwark), their aim will be to help connect individuals, neighbourhoods and communities by creating equality of opportunities.

Council plan commitment: encourage VCS partners to sign up to the diversity standard

We want to enable individuals and groups to be agents of change, ready to shape the course of their own lives. We will achieve this by supporting volunteers and other forms of social action.

How this fits in with the overall strategic direction of the council and the Clinical Commissioning Group

The priorities set out in this strategy are aligned with a number of **the Fairer Future promises set out in the Council Plan** as follows:

Promise 2: Free swimming and gyms	We will make it easier to be healthier
Promise 5: Nurseries and childcare	We will help parents balance work and family life
Promise 6: A Greener Borough	We will support environmental initiatives
Promise 7: Safer Communities	We will make Southwark safer
Promise 8: Education, employment & training	We will support residents to develop their skills and confidence, including digital inclusion
Promise 10: Age Friendly Borough	We will help residents get the best out of Southwark whatever their age

They also support the following priorities of the **Clinical Commissioning Group 5 year Forward View** as follows:

- An increase in healthy life expectancy
- Reduction in health inequalities across communities
- More people engaged in their own healthcare and wellbeing

Which will be achieved through better, more co-ordinated care which focusses on

- Effective sharing of information
- Integrated multi-agency teams
- Proactive care planning and access to advice services and peer support for individuals.