

Item No. 3.1	Classification: Open	Date: 20 March 2024	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Community Evidence on the Themed Debate	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Introduction

1. The council assembly business panel agreed that the theme for council assembly in March 2024 should be “Southwark 2030: a proud history and a vibrant future: harnessing all of the strengths of our borough to deliver opportunity for all.”

Community evidence on the theme

2. The deadline for community evidence was 11.59pm, 14 March 2024.
3. The following requests have been received by the deadline for consideration by this meeting and they are listed in the order received below.
4. Which community evidence shall be considered and the length of each submission will be established by way of a programme motion at the start of council assembly. Community evidence shall be conducted under the existing rules for public participation.
5. If the community evidence is not dealt with by council assembly, the matter shall be referred without debate to the relevant cabinet member who shall, after consideration, respond with an open reply to the sender.

Submissions

1. Nicola Howard, Family Hub

The community evidence requests states:

“I will be joined by Elena Salazar, Family Services Manager at 1st Place, Adufe Ajeniya (Ola) a parent and volunteer at 1st Place, Nicole Hooper, Deputy Project Manager, Bede House Starfish Project.

We wish to highlight our work in the community with children and families. As the first Family Hub in the borough, growing from 18 years’ experience as a Sure Start Programme and Children and Family Centre, we would like to emphasise the importance of community partnerships in providing the best help, opportunities and outcomes for the children and families we support.

This currently ranges from specialist support for survivors of domestic abuse, to help for families with food insecurity and adult learning, in addition to Family Early Help, health and early childhood learning. Strong partnerships bring together the expertise of established organisations as well as those of the community and voluntary sector, and mean we are able to provide more and better services for families, maximising resources while avoiding service duplication in a time of limited funds. We are lucky to be in a borough with a dynamic and thriving VCS, who have demonstrated particularly in recent years its ability to respond to challenges quickly and effectively through partnership working.

Please can you let us know what time we should arrive at Tooley St. We are aware that we may not be called to speak even if we attend.”

2. Ade Odunlade, Miata Noah, Haajera Adil; South London Listens

The community evidence requests states:

“They will talk about a transformative new partnership between the NHS, Local Authorities and communities that has developed in Southwark, through South London Listens (SLL). South London and the Maudsley is a lead partner on the South London Listens programme, a collaboration of the three south London mental health trusts, nine local authorities and over 150 community organisations, built on the listening to over 10,000 people since 2020. Working with strategic partner Citizens UK, the programme is spearheading a new way of working – using the power of community organising to tackle the biggest barriers to good mental health and wellbeing across south London.

SLL is shifting everything on its head. It is seeing people in neighbourhoods not as simply service users or problems to deal with but seeing them as key to the solutions; it's not communities merely being consulted but having power; it's not seeing particular groups as hard to reach, but thinking about how our services/institutions are hard for communities to reach.

Building on priorities identified through listening to Southwark residents, a range of co-developed initiatives have been created. This includes the launch of the Be Well programme, working to build the capability and capacity of community organisations to build relationships, support the mental health and wellbeing of local people, and enable them to take action on structural inequalities and injustices that impact mental health. South London Listens has also worked directly with community leaders to co-develop and launch a ‘virtual waiting room’ for all young people and their parents on the CAMHS waiting list in Southwark, as well as a Community Embedded Worker programme, where NHS practitioners have been based in community organisations to build trust and provide services for refugee, migrant and diaspora communities.

At an Assembly in November, NHS and Local Authority leaders in Southwark and across south London recommitted to supporting the South London Listens programme and working in partnership to deliver on community priorities. This included a groundbreaking commitment to working over the next 12 months on the impact of housing on health and wellbeing.”

3. Nicole Gordon, Better Bankside

The community evidence requests states:

“Borough and business working together to energise climate action

In order to achieve any meaningful impact in response to the climate crisis, collective action is fundamental. Better Bankside, working in partnership with Team London Bridge, Blue Bermondsey, the Elephant and Castle Business Forum, and Southwark Council, has developed a model that is proving to be successful at achieving business decarbonisation amongst SMEs in the borough, specifically those that are Black, Asian or minority ethnic owned or led. This presents a significant opportunity to build on the momentum and knowledge gain to create a legacy that extends beyond the lifetime of the project and delivers on shared goals around the climate agenda.”

4. Nicola Noble, Surrey Square Primary School

The community evidence requests states:

“I wish to share our work to 'rethink school' and provide an education which enables children to thrive - both personally and academically. Work with families and the community is central to this. The Old Kent Road Family Zone (OKRFZ), facilitated by Surrey Square Primary, tackles deep, complex, social issues in the community differently. Unlike traditional top-down community initiatives, it empowers local people, centering their voices and expertise at the heart of decision-making through a model that puts the power into their hands. Set up in 2021, the OKRFZ model is based on believing the answers to issues are within the community, if we create the conditions for the local people to address them. The positive impact is being seen on individuals within the community.”

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Constitution	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk 020 7525 7228

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	15 March 2024	
Key decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer title	Comments sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		15 March 2024