

Item No. 4.	Classification: Open	Date: 21 January 2015	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. On 16 September 2014 the council assembly business panel met to agree the theme for 2014/15 meetings of council assembly. The panel agreed that the theme for 21 January 2015 should be 'healthy and active communities, including sport, leisure and volunteering'.

Community evidence on the theme

2. The deadline for community evidence was midnight, Thursday, 15 January 2015.
3. The following requests have been received by the deadline for consideration by this meeting (listed in the order received):
 - 1) Submission from Dulwich Helpline
 - 2) Submission from ex members of Westminster House Youth Club in Nunhead
 - 3) Submission from the Terrence Higgins Trust
 - 4) Submission from Community Action Southwark
 - 5) Submission on air quality, its sources and impacts in London with a focus on Southwark from Dr Ian Mudway and Andrew Grieve
 - 6) Mental Fight Club (Dragon Café)
 - 7) London City Athletics Club Committee
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.

Submissions

1. The Dulwich Helpline

Dulwich Helpline and Southwark Churches Care (DH&SCC) is a small, vibrant, local charity which provides friendly volunteer support to older people across Southwark. We have over 300 volunteers who support more than 530 older people, almost a quarter of whom are over 90 years old. We run 21 activity groups for older people in community settings across the borough, and support 145 one to one befriending relationships. We reduce isolation and loneliness and support older people to retain active, healthy lives for as long as possible. Last year, our volunteers contributed more than 16,000 hours of their time.

The Director of DH&SCC, an older person who uses our services and a volunteer will give evidence about the impact that volunteering has on people's health and wellbeing, about the role that volunteers play in creating and sustaining health and active communities, and how DH&SCC's services result in improved health and wellbeing among older people in Southwark.

We will be asking the council to recognise and endorse the role that volunteers play in sustaining healthy and active communities. We will request that the council makes a long-term commitment to work closely with DH&SCC and other members of the Consortium of Providers of Services to Older People (COPSINS) so that older people can maintain active and healthy lives, and the council's ambition for Southwark to be an age friendly borough can be realised.

2. Ex-members of Westminster House Youth Club in Nunhead

We are ex-members of Westminster House Youth Club in Nunhead. We have benefited massively from free sports activities offered at the club, including snowboarding, outdoor pursuits, football, badminton, trampolining, dance, hockey, athletics, surfing, etc. Not all young people are lucky enough to access such provision. We are all also Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award holders and we accessed the award via Westminster House. In addition to this, we have been able to take a variety of sports and sports related qualifications including junior table tennis umpire, sports leader level 1, cricket leader, first aid, fire safety, conflict management, safeguarding, self defence levels 1 and 2, non contact boxing levels 1 and 2, trampoline proficiency awards, etc. This has helped us all enormously in terms of accessing further education and employment.

Any steps that the council is able to take to open up free sports activities to other young people will be extremely beneficial for young people, and for the wider community. It will motivate young people, improve their health and enhance their future prospects. We wholeheartedly support any moves towards the goal of free or affordable access to council sports facilities for all. We would like the opportunity to discuss this on 21 January 2015.

3. The Terrence Higgins Trust

We wish to address the council assembly directly because Southwark has the second largest prevalence of HIV in the community for local authorities in England (12.63 residents per 1,000 population), as well as high rates of other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). We believe it would be very useful for council assembly to hear about what can be done by the council, health and wellbeing board, and in medical, educational, youth and community settings in the borough to improve the sexual health of the Southwark population, bring down late and undiagnosed HIV, and tackle HIV stigma to allow the HIV positive population to participate fully in a healthy and active Southwark community.

4. Community Action Southwark

Southwark has a vibrant and dynamic voluntary and community sector (VCS), and Southwark Council places a strong emphasis on the Southwark volunteering strategy which is due to be re-launched on 20 January 2015. However, external pressures such as the economic downturn and changing work patterns have caused significant changes for the VCS over recent years which must not be ignored. We believe it is to the benefit of the council assembly to be made

aware of the challenges facing the VCS in the current climate and the great things a properly supported VCS can achieve.

5. Submission on air quality, its sources and impacts in London with a focus on Southwark from Dr Ian Mudway and Andrew Grieve

We would like to make a submission to the assembly on the topic of air quality in Southwark which is estimated to be implicated in the early death of 7.9% of the borough's population annually.

Air quality has risen up the public and political agenda over the last few years and we would like to present the latest evidence on the sources, impacts and mitigation activities across London and the borough.

Dr Ian Mudway is a lecturer in respiratory toxicology at Kings College London and Andrew Grieve is an air quality measurement scientist at Kings College London.

6. Mental Fight Club (Dragon Café)

In terms of building healthy and active communities, Southwark's very own Mental Fight Club (MFC) has made something very special and creative happen in the heart of our borough – The Dragon Café. The Dragon Café is the UK's first 'mental health café' and creative space for all. It is a weekly pop-up, open every Monday including bank holidays. It is based in the crypt of St George the Martyr Church opposite Borough tube and is delivered by a resilient community of seven paid staff and over 50 volunteers, all of whom are themselves vulnerable people who have experienced mental ill-health.

Evaluations so far, show that The Dragon Café has a powerful positive effect on people's mental well-being and sense of social connection. Early indications are that it helps to overcome social isolation and reduce dependency on mental health services. We believe that this new model of creative and social support can be re-created in other settings and locations and because of the potential financial value of these skills and expertise, MFC and The Dragon Café have a very real opportunity to become financially sustainable in the longer-term. In the meantime, at our 100th Dragon Café on Monday 9 February 2015, MFC will be launching the DRAGONCAFE100 fundraising and awareness campaign to raise £100,000 to keep The Dragon Café open weekly throughout 2015/16 while MFC secures longer-term funding.

7. London City Athletics Club Committee

We would like to discuss:

- An overview and background of London City Athletics Club (LCAC) - Southwark's only affiliated athletics club, which was launched just a year ago
- The opportunities LCAC provides for participation in sport in Southwark
- The positive impact LCAC has had on increasing physical activity in Southwark
- How LCAC would like to be involved in maximising the value of the new athletics track in Southwark Park.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Lesley John, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Report Author	Andrew Weir, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	19 January 2015	
Key decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
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