

Team Hackney Partnership- overview

As policy reform and institutional change has continued apace and resources remain constrained, it has been important to revisit the structure, function and effectiveness of Team Hackney, our Local Strategic Partnership.

In January 2013 the partnership adopted a new way of working underpinned by a fresh set of principles, a new way of assessing progress and a more co-ordinated consideration of community insight. It builds on the very strong partnership ethos which has been established and maintained in recent years.

The purpose and principles for partnership working

To maintain and review our strategic vision for Hackney

- To build an understanding and routinely review the shared vision and strategy for Hackney (as articulated in the Sustainable Community Strategy)
- To establish shared positions and accountability for delivery of the vision and strategy
- To share updates on the way that different sectors and agencies are changing and how this might affect the shared vision, and impact on the work of other partners

To take a problem solving approach to tackling cross cutting issues and priorities

- To identify and agree to work together to address complex problems and persistent inequalities and the underlying issues which no single agency could solve on their own
- To enable a longer term and preventative approach, rather than trying to fix the problems as they arise
- To be responsive (but not reactive) to new issues as they arise (e.g. a new emerging need in a community or a change in public funding)
- To promote efficiency, maximise resources and attract additional external funding through a partnership approach
- To share expertise, intelligence, knowledge and learning

To promote and encourage a collaborative approach to policy and service delivery that takes account of partners' perspectives

- To enable a diversity of perspectives to help shape the vision, strategy and problem solving and to bring in new perspectives and constructive challenge
- To create a platform through which trust is built between different partners, despite differing agendas, perspectives and organisational cultures

The new partnership arrangements

There are three groupings at the core of Team Hackney are:

- **The Team Hackney Partnership**
- **The Team Hackney Leadership Board**
- **Statutory Partnership Boards** that currently exist under the Team Hackney Partnership

The **Team Hackney Partnership** include a membership from:

- Members of the Team Hackney Leadership Board
- Statutory partners from existing thematic partnership
- A pool of representatives from local providers
- A pool of representatives from the local community and service users (this would include communities of interest that have not been so well represented in the current partnership, e.g. faith groups)
- Community and public forums where there is a statutory duty to engage (e.g. Healthwatch)

The Team Hackney Partnership formally meets at an annual event. This event aims to review progress against the Sustainable Community Strategy-informed by a state of the borough report informed by analysing trends, performance and community insight. Partners are also be expected to contribute to workshops focusing on specific emerging issues.

The **Team Hackney Leadership Board** includes membership from:

- The Mayor and relevant Cabinet Members
- Senior leaders of the key statutory organisations in the borough and key relevant directors nominated by them (this includes the Clinical Commissioning Group once they are accredited). Appropriate representation from education sectors will also be engaged
- Chief Executive of the key voluntary sector umbrella organisation (HCVS)
- Representatives from the community and service users
- Relevant Cabinet Members
- Members of corporate businesses, local businesses and social enterprises

The Board meets every six months to:

- Consider progress against key priorities as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Identify the complex issues that require partnership action (for example in relation to welfare reform)
- Prioritise the partnership actions which are required in response to the issues identified (no more than two or three actions to be identified each time)
- Routinely review progress and decide when the action is complete

For each partnership action, there is a board member who acts as champion. The champion would be accountable for ensuring that the partnership action is taken forward, and they would be supported by officers who have a role in supporting the partnership (the Policy Team). The partnership action which is required is not prescribed. For example it could take the form of a time limited task and finish group, an event about a specific issue or it could be assigning a senior officer to work with others to trouble shoot a particular problem.

With regard to the **statutory duties** for partnership working which remain under Team Hackney:

- The Children's Trust Board sits under Health and Wellbeing arrangements as the Children's Health and Wellbeing group.
- The Community Safety Partnership has also been reviewed and continues

Other partnerships will also continue but will no longer form part of the formal Team Hackney Partnership arrangements:

- Housing – supported by the Housing Directorate of LBH
- Employment – supported by partners on the current Economic Development Partnership
- Communications Task group- will continue either as an email group or as a network with a rotating chair and support.
- A Welfare Reform Group has been reporting to Team Hackney, although it is not a sub group of the Team Hackney partnership. This group would also continue in order to support partnership action in response to welfare reform.

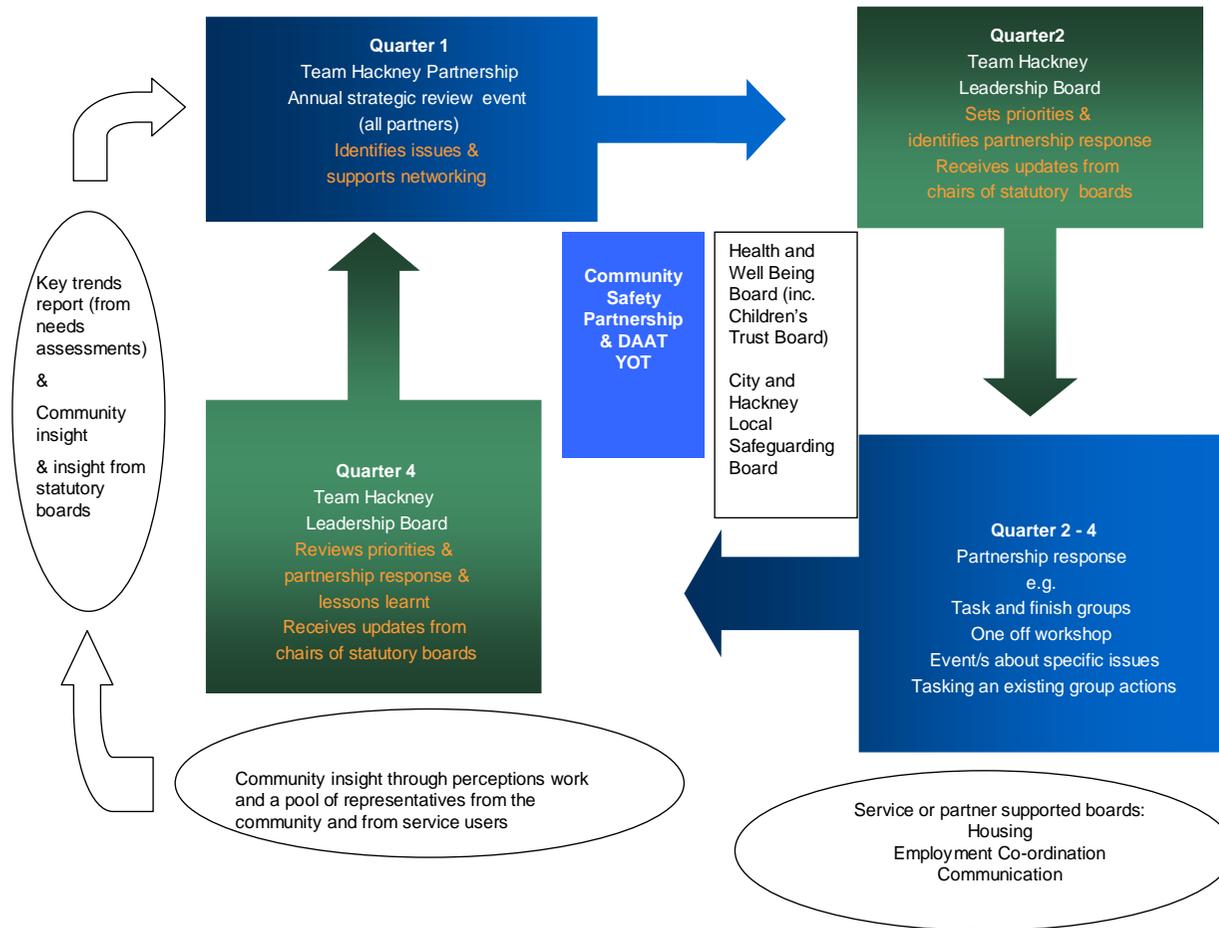


Fig. 1. Final structure – Team Hackney

Community engagement and insight

This builds on the established contribution made by the Community Empowerment Network to Team Hackney. A quarterly *Community Insight Group* considers community insight gathered from a diverse range of sources and networks- both formal and informal, ongoing and short life. In turn this group formulates recommendations to the Partnership. It also horizon scans for changes to local peoples circumstance and where necessary commission research in the community through local voluntary and community sector networks and or through the style of community dialogue organised by Hackney CVS following the August 2011 disorder.

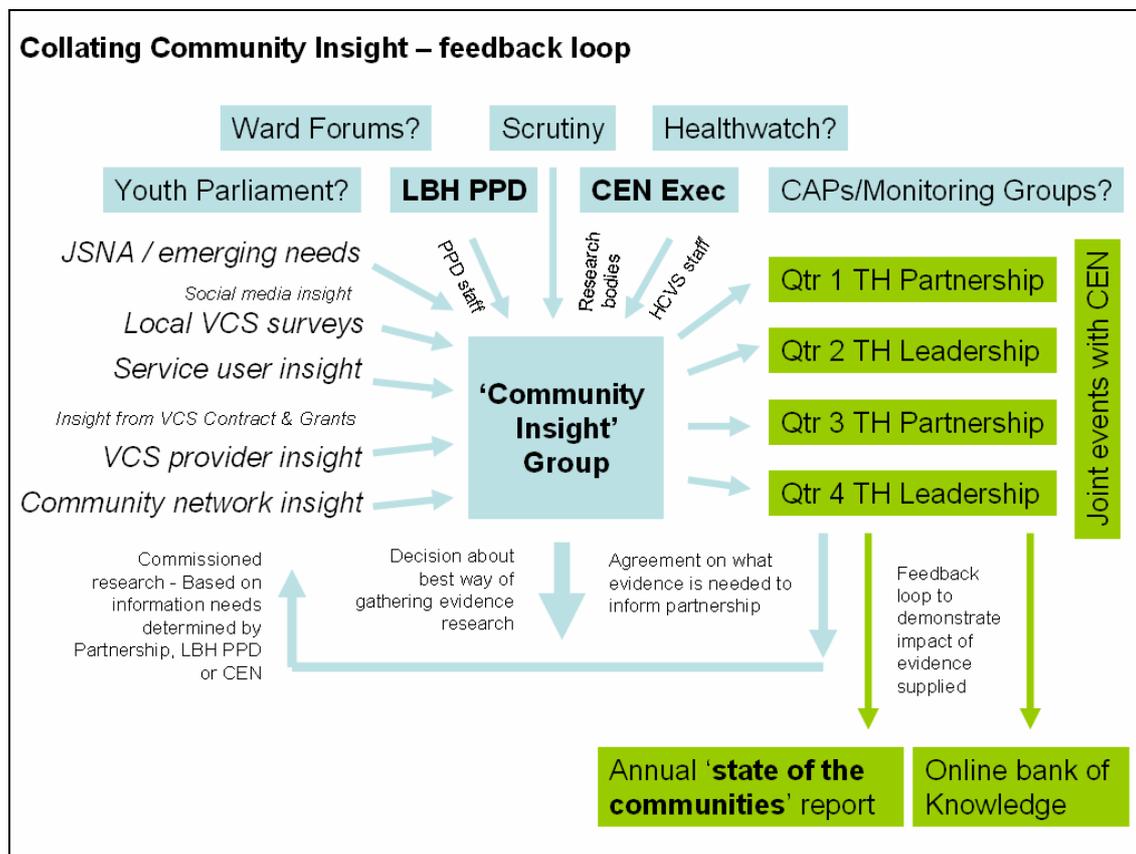


Fig 2: Community engagement and insight