

**Team Hackney Partnership Event 2014  
Summary of discussions and workshops**

**1. Participants' responses to the Community conversations on growth, change and cohesion in Hackney**

In the first part of the partnership event, participants were invited to talk with others round their table about the community conversations on growth, change and cohesion. Specifically they were asked to share views on what struck them from the material in the film and the booklet and what, if anything, they thought it might mean for partnership working.

All the community materials are available here:  
<http://www.hcvs.org.uk/index.php?category=14&sec=67&page=295>

**Summary of common themes picked up by event participants after viewing the video:**

**Table 1 – High level summary of participants' response to the question: What strikes you?**

| <b>Common themes</b>                             | <b>Issues flagged &amp; points noted</b>   |
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| Housing and development:                         | Recognition of the demand for affordable housing and of concerns about the affordability of new build; some calls for more provision for 'local people' and for a better training or employment offer for people so they can better afford housing.<br><br>Counter challenge: Questions about land availability here; comments that some residents have old ideas about areas like Hoxton and Woodberry Down, they haven't noticed changes |
| Employment, skills and business                  | Interest in more investment in training to help people take advantage of new opportunities; questions on how to get more work experience; how to get more businesses willing to employ local people; how to draw on the skills of the new businesses e.g. get people to be school governors or to sponsor community events   |
| Polarisation, inequality & sense of displacement | Recognition of the gap between rich and poor, recognition of how the newer money coming in can impact emotionally on residents with lower incomes, feelings about being pushed out by the rising costs of living.  |
| Cohesion, sense of community & social isolation  | Some comments on the vibrancy and sense of community, on how people like the place; concerns people have about community ties and the extent to which the new comers will care about or contribute to the community; living side by side is different from having an understanding of other cultures; also noticed the sense of isolation for some groups e.g. older people, or attitudes to LGBT residents.                               |
| Fear of change and sense of a                    | Recognition that the physical appearance of the built environment and the people here had changed; some fear change and want more stability; sense of fast pace of change in the last 4-5 years; related   |

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| lack of control                     | sense of a lack of ownership or ability to control their situation re housing and finances<br><br>Counter challenge: how realistic is the call for more stability?   |
| Dialogue and involvement            | Call for more involvement in decisions about regeneration, more capacity building and involvement in consultation including of Young People; interest in clearer conversations about growth and change here and finding ways to let people know more about the influence we have over this |
| Contradictions                      | Comments on contradictions in how people talk about changes; e.g. welcome some of the recent investment but feel uncertain about our future here, we feel safer but have less long term security, we want more homes but no high rises.  |
| Pressures on services and amenities | Cuts to budgets in services and yet residents have expectations for more from services, police budget cuts but more pressures from the Night Time Economy, Community call for more space and facilities they can afford, calls for empty shops to be handed to the community.              |
| Challenges to the material          | 'Its a negative perspective'<br><br>'Lots of talk but borough needs to force people to work'   |
| Suggestions in response             | - Revenue funding for community activity, not just facilities<br>e.g. RP use leaseholder charges to create jobs for local people or activities for Children and Young People<br>- Learn from borough's like Camden<br>- More volunteering opportunities<br>- Stop benefit sanctions        |

**Table 2: High level summary of participants' response to the question: What if anything does this mean for partnership work?**

| <b>Common themes</b>                                    | <b>Issues flagged &amp; points noted</b>  |
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| <i>Housing &amp; new development</i>                    | More entry level housing and low and mid range offers in the market<br>RP's keen to build in Hackney  |
| <i>Community engagement</i>                             | Earlier engagement of residents in designing regeneration schemes   |
| <i>Better collaboration to support people into work</i> | More linking of children's centres and Ways into Work; do more to assist people with multiple barriers to work; better co-ordination and sharing of opportunities in the new economy between agencies |
| <i>Gaps in</i>  | More support for parents to learn so they can help their kids   |

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| <i>support for Children and families</i>                        | Hackney 100 great, but more for kids of a younger age   |
| <i>Community amenities &amp; targeting activities</i>           | More community hubs where you promote opportunities; match RPs with spaces to activities e.g. Peabody will have a new space; take services to where families are; better include older people                   |
| <i>Approach to community engagement, dialogue and relations</i> | Need for continual conversation about changes, talk to groups about the benefits for them of change and about universal services offer, involve people and change their views, build better community relations |
| <i>Events and activities</i>                                    | More regular events and activities to bring people together   |
| <i>Promote and enable more volunteering</i>                     | Encourage more affluent individuals to volunteer time;<br>Encourage corporate investment in community activity e.g. build in volunteering as part of S106 agreements  |
| <i>Partnership Networks</i>                                     | Map how VCS and Public sector can work together in hubs<br>Database of local orgs and what they do  |
| <i>Miscellaneous</i>  | Fight for change in national laws<br><br>More transparency between the probation service and the community<br>Long term x-cutting action plan on social cleansing   |

## 2. Overview and write up of Workshop Sessions

### Overview of the six sessions

| <b>Workshop title</b>  | <b>Focus of discussions</b>  |
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| <b>Workshop 1</b><br>Employment support  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exploration of further potential for co-location of services and different agencies with Ways into Work as part of the community hubs</li> <li>▪ Exploration of ways to promote the Hackney 100 and work related opportunities for young people – questions about the benefits and the quality of some apprenticeships in e.g. the service sector</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Workshop 2</b><br>Working with parents so they can get the best for their children in the early years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion on current approach in children’s centres - work with parents early on, to help them understand the importance of home learning, attachment and personal development</li> </ul> <p>Issues raised include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Negative perceptions about the support on offer – lack of trust, associations with the Council and safeguarding, negative perceptions about ‘parenting classes’ – can we find better ways to market these?</li> <li>▪ Issues about not knowing what’s on offer – better mapping, questions about referrals process etc</li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Housing is a common problem for many families</li> <li>▪ Spread the word more about what the centres offer to other practitioners, partners to make better links and build better relationships up</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Workshop 3</b><br/>working together to promote financial inclusion</p>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion on current issues including long waiting lists for debt advice, lack of space for sessions, complex nature of issues people have and the need to deal with multiple aspects at the same time, mental health issues, difficulties instilling confidence in people to make changes etc</li> </ul> <p>What else could we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Better knowledge of who does what and how we can work together,</li> <li>▪ Moneysmart could work with Registered Providers on estates, more on money management in schools,</li> <li>▪ Closer working between DWP, JCP and local partners e.g. Shared practice group.</li> <li>▪ More debt advice in other settings e.g. pop up sessions in community settings (note the CAB Children's centre sessions have gone well)</li> <li>▪ Crack down on pay day lenders</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Workshop 4</b><br/>Promoting cohesion and inclusion in community and public spaces</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explored some current or recent attempts to put on affordable activities in community and public spaces e.g. cheap exercise classes in estate halls, play streets, town centre programming e.g. the Dalston Square Hackney Circle Pilot with older people.</li> </ul> <p>Issues raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Takes time and effort to communicate / market opportunities – e.g. people had not heard of ward forums</li> <li>▪ Some RPs have space where activities could run but not programmes, some groups have people who want things to do and would like to hear more about activities on offer</li> <li>▪ Lack of a sense of ownership over small local spaces by the community – takes time and some resource to address this e.g. community clear up days</li> <li>▪ Concerns about access in some parks – older &amp; disabled people also worried about cyclists</li> <li>▪ Hard to bring different groups of people together without some kind of common focus or threat – e.g. close a park and people will rally</li> <li>▪ Interest in getting more newcomers to share their skills in, e.g. fundraising and organising.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Workshop 5</b><br/>Housing and Health Partnerships</p>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exploration of how housing partners contribute to public health agenda more broadly through their engagement and regeneration activities</li> <li>▪ <i>Issues flagged:</i> MH support for residents on estates, isolation of older LGBT residents, older people interested in multigenerational housing, poverty, more secure cycle parking needed, more play streets would</li> </ul>  |

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|   | <p>be good, tension re space for young people to play.</p> <p>Positive examples of collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Family Mosaic for over 50s project – deal with isolation, fuel poverty etc 18 month pilot</li> <li>▪ YP training older people to play computer games</li> <li>▪ Domestic Violence Prevention orders work with police</li> <li>▪ Social prescribing of new boilers – Gentoo</li> </ul> <p>Explore potential for housing officers to share public health info with residents</p>   |
| <p><b>Workshop 6</b><br/>Learning from Community work on stop and search and looking at how this can help us to develop work in other areas</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion of recent work between the police and the community over Stop and Search and how it has brought about greater mutual understanding</li> <li>▪ Interest in <i>applying similar approaches to work on</i> Domestic Violence, Girls in gangs, Young male victims of Domestic Violence, Parent Child Domestic Violence, Danger of labelling boys very early on, more work with survivors</li> <li>▪ Interest in more work on positive relationships – e.g. work in schools, public health</li> <li>▪ Issue with fear of disclosure - consider using theatrical techniques to create safe spaces for people to talk</li> <li>▪ Look at joint approaches to work - find resources for this</li> <li>▪ potential for a positive relationships event</li> </ul> |