June 2019

King’s Park Moving Together - An Active Community - Hackney

Local Delivery Pilot – Organisation Responsible
London Borough of Hackney:
Lola Akindoyin, Head of Programme, Hackney Council:
lola.akindoyin@hackney.gov.uk

Brief background about the place
King’s Park ward, in the south east of Hackney, has been chosen as our pilot area and we are focusing, although not exclusively, on two social housing areas – Clapton Park and Kingsmead.

Clapton Park and Kingsmead have been selected because the issues in the area that we want to address through our pilot, are shared across the borough. This will very much be a ‘Hackney’ pilot, with a long-term aspiration that it is owned and shared borough wide. This more focused, locality-based approach will allow us to intensively develop an asset-based community led model that can, in future, be used elsewhere in Hackney and beyond.

Our approach to delivering the pilot is underpinned by a commitment to understanding the lived experiences of people in the community. We will use this insight to co-design ‘solutions’ to some of the inherent barriers to physical activity in our place. We will do this by working collaboratively with others and empowering all residents to be healthy, active citizens, whatever their background and circumstances.

Fundamentally, we are seeking to use physical activity to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities for people living in the pilot area.

King’s Park is an area rich in assets that could be used for physical activity of all kinds, with a good network of community spaces including several green spaces. There is also a small, but strong and active local network of community groups interested in working with us to deliver the outcomes for the pilot.

What is the Hackney Pilot trying to achieve?
On the surface, Hackney is a healthy, active borough. Come here on a weekend and you’ll see our parks and canal towpaths, crowded with runners and cyclists. Our residents have access to a wide range of open spaces and sports facilities, but many of those runners, cyclists and swimmers are young, white, employed, and affluent.
Amongst Hackney’s long-standing and less affluent communities, there is a very different picture. Mental health ill health, smoking related illnesses, and obesity are highly prevalent in the borough. In too many cases, living on a low income/being less affluent in Hackney also means to be unhealthy and to have a more limited life expectancy.

The pilot gives us an exciting opportunity to work with residents, partners, elected members and colleagues to achieve improved health outcomes for residents in our borough.

**Progress in the Pilot (January 2019 – June 2019)**

**What has been happening in the Hackney Local Delivery Pilot?**

A lot and no two days have been the same!

As more and more people hear about the pilot, we are seeing an increasing interest from the community and opportunities to work collaboratively with different parts of the ‘system’.

- Like many of the pilots, we are still getting to know our community and develop relationships, which does take time. We have been working across the community, talking to local people and engaging with community organisations, schools, faith groups, housing providers, GP’s etc.
- We have appointed The Young Foundation as our evaluation partner.
- We have also appointed an insight partner, Hall Aitken.
- We have refreshed our governance structure which is as follows:

  - Hackney Council Management and Cabinet Structures
    (delegated authority as outlined in the council’s constitution to the Group Director for Neighbourhoods and Housing and Senior Responsible Owner for the pilot)

  - Hackney Local Delivery Pilot Oversight Board
    Chair - Group Director for Neighbourhoods and Housing and Senior Responsible Owner for the pilot

  - King’s Park Moving Together Community Partnership
    Collaborative group of council officers, partner organisations and residents with responsibility for informing the direction of the pilot and making recommendations to the oversight board.
• The Oversight Board meets quarterly and brings together senior strategic leads and partners. We are also working towards residents joining the board.

• Our Community Partnership is in place and meets monthly. We held two induction sessions led by an independent facilitator, who helped the group to decide the principles that would underpin our work together.

• We have established an Evaluation, Insight and Co-design Group, which is bringing together our insight and evaluation partners, as well as colleagues with a particular interest in evaluation, co-design and quantitative/qualitative research. This group meets bi-monthly and is chaired by the Consultant in Public Health for the City and Hackney.

• We have co-produced our revised Theory of Change, following a number of stakeholder interviews and 3 workshops with residents and partners.

• We are working with a local tenant management organisation (TMO) to bring an empty space back into life, as a community base for King’s Park Moving Together and a local food pantry, which will be managed by the TMO. This partnership allows us to support residents with two health and wellbeing related areas (access to low-cost/nutritious food to support a healthy weight and increased physical activity). The approach will also help to tackle the issue of food poverty which we know some of our residents’ experience.

• Our evaluation and insight partners have recruited six community researchers to work in the community, gathering insight. Three of the researchers are also being trained to conduct the baseline survey with local people.

• We’ve been hosting physical activity tasters in the community, aimed at providing a very relaxed, social, introductory level activity, which has been a great way to meet and talk to residents.

• We attended the London and Birmingham Community of Learning workshops.

• We have presented updates on the pilot at internal management meetings, which has been really useful in allowing us to clarify the narrative about the pilot and the links to system change.
Recent thoughts and learning

- Sustainability is a concern for both residents and local stakeholders. There is a sense of fatigue and cynicism about short-term projects that invariably end when the funding does. This has presented some challenges in relation to engagement. However, as a pilot, we are taking this seriously from the outset and exploring options for how this work could be delivered over a longer timeframe.
- Residents value their parks and green spaces but aren’t necessarily using them. These are some of the amazing assets in the area and are free to use. We need to unpick this further through our insight work.
- Traditional forms of communication haven’t been particularly effective - word of mouth has been key.
- Language and literacy is a barrier for people and compounds their isolation or access to information.
- Children and young people are relatively well served in the area, but adults feel that there is little for them. Residents have expressed an interest in family activities.
- Better use of community venues for social interactions and physical activity ranked highly in responses. There are a number of halls and community spaces that need activating and could play a role in supporting residents to be more active.
- Food poverty is an issue for people in our place.
- There are potential tensions that will need to be negotiated, with the community wanting different things or where there are historic ways of doing things which we may need to challenge. This sign is on one of the estates in our place (and may be for good reason), but we need to work with the housing provider to understand why.

- Asset and network mapping is highlighting the importance of trusted places that may be different to the ones that we might expect.

What’s coming up

- Over the next few months, we will be:
  - agreeing our outcomes framework and conducting the baseline survey.
  - opening our ‘hub space’ with the tenant management organisation, as a place where the community can get involved in the co-design of the programme.
• working with our community researchers, we will be gathering deeper insight from identified target groups who we have yet to really engage with and gathering further insight on some of our emerging themes.
• continuing to co-design our approach with the community and partners.
• developing our Pathfinder investment priorities.
• continue our engagement with a wide range of colleagues to explore and progress opportunities to work together on strategic and system issues. This involves looking at emerging policy and partnerships. These include work on:
  o the inclusive economy
  o the development of a new area regeneration plan
  o implementation of the voluntary and community sector strategy
  o working with the borough-wide partnership on healthy weight management
  o the development of the Hackney Marsh neighbourhood. The neighbourhoods’ model is an approach to delivering joined up services to address the wider determinants of health and access to support services. Hackney will have eight neighbours and ‘our place’ is located within the first neighbourhood to be rolled out.

• exploring discussions on legacy and sustainability with Sport England and partners.
• working with our Heritage Services team to tell the story of a ‘place’.
• sharing our learning!

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