

# **Barking and Dagenham's Community Strategy 2013 - 2016**

**This document identifies the shared vision, priorities and outcomes for Barking and Dagenham**

# Our Borough: Barking and Dagenham

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham is located at the heart of the Thames Gateway, approximately 11 miles east of central London. It is a dynamic place with a vibrant community, significant investment opportunities and complex challenges. The borough offers a unique mix of urban living with good and improving transport links both into London and the Essex countryside.

There are two main centres - Barking and Dagenham - with investment opportunities through the substantial brownfield sites for development and growth. There has been recent investment in housing estate renewal, leisure facilities and the new technical skills academy. There are also impressive parks and open spaces across the borough's 14 square miles.

London's population continues to grow. Barking and Dagenham has seen a significant overall population increase of 13.4% to 185,911 (2011 Census). This is 22,000 more people since 2001, including a 50% increase in 0 - 4 year olds, placing a huge pressure on school places. In addition there has been the largest decrease in the 65+ age group in London.

The borough is also more ethnically diverse than it has ever been. Increasing diversity offers considerable opportunities, but the pace of change poses a number of real challenges for community cohesion.

## Housing

The growth in population has outstripped the increase in households causing a rise in the average number of occupants per household, meaning that Barking and Dagenham now has one of the highest occupancy rates in London. The impact of this is combined with increasing housing costs but our estate renewal programme aims to deliver new build homes and use innovative models to create mixed-tenure and affordable housing provision.

The borough has the highest percentage of lone parent households in England and Wales at 14.3%.

## Education and Employment

The 2011 Census shows that the number of residents aged 16-64 with a level 4 qualification and above has more than doubled in number from 11,600 to 28,700 but this is still below national averages. The number of full time students aged 18 and over has more than doubled



and educational attainment has continued to improve. Although 28% of 16 year olds and above were recorded as having no qualifications, there has been a 14% drop since 2001.

Like many other boroughs, unemployment is an issue and Barking and Dagenham has a higher level of long term unemployment at 42% when compared to London and England, both at 39%. Approximately 1 in 10 households with dependent children have no adults in employment. This is 50% higher than London.

### **Deprivation and Health**

Barking and Dagenham still experiences higher than average levels of deprivation ranking 7th most deprived in London and 22nd most deprived nationally and our residents are not as healthy as they should be. Compared to other parts of the country they do not live as long.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) in 2011 showed that there are high levels of lifestyle risk to health and wellbeing including smoking, obesity and physical inactivity. There are continued high death rates from various diseases, especially heart disease, cancer and chronic lung disease. Other single issues remain problems, for example dementia and the impact of income and fuel poverty on mental health.

### **Cohesion and Crime**

The 2011 Residents' Survey showed that 64% of respondents were satisfied with the area as a place to live but that only 52% felt that people from different backgrounds get on well together in the borough. There have been tensions but partners continue to work hard to promote community cohesion and neighbourliness to ensure the place is safe and peaceful.

Crime levels in the borough continue to reduce, with overall crime falling to 97.18 per 1,000 population in September 2012 compared to 104.53 in the same period the previous year.

Policing on our streets with Safer Transport, Safer Neighbourhoods and Town Centre Teams, as well as the new tenant funded Estates Policing Team in 2012, has also made significant contributions to the reduction in total offences especially around key volume crimes such as motor vehicle crime and the crimes associated with drunkenness and anti-social behaviour. Challenges remain though, for example, in tackling residential burglary.

The speed of change has been rapid across the borough and there are no signs of it slowing down. This will present many challenges and opportunities moving forward and will have a significant impact on future planning and policy for all partners. Barking and Dagenham is a dynamic place with a vibrant community and complex challenges.

# What is a Community Strategy?

The Community Strategy explains partners' ambitions for the borough of Barking and Dagenham. It does not try to solve everything; rather it clearly defines the issues that partners have agreed to prioritise. This does not mean that other work ceases, but it enables partners to deliver services consistently. Partner boards will promote the borough and its shared aims on a local and national level.

## Who has written the Community Strategy?

The work of the partners in Barking and Dagenham is co-ordinated and delivered through the four partner boards. Each of these boards has their own strategy that is developed in consultation with residents and partners in the borough.

| Board  | Strategy / Plan                               |
|--|---|
| Children's Trust (including the Local Safeguarding Children's Board) | Children and Young People's Plan 2011 - 2016  |
| Community Safety Partnership   | Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011 - 2014 |
| Health and Wellbeing Board   | Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012 - 2015     |
| Skills Jobs and Enterprise Board                                     | Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013 -2016     |

The **Council Housing Strategy 2012 - 2017** has also been used to ensure that the borough is able to meet the housing needs for its changing communities.

In addition a conference was held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in Dagenham. At this event over 80 partners, including residents, service providers, voluntary and community organisations attended to provide their views on the priorities of the borough.

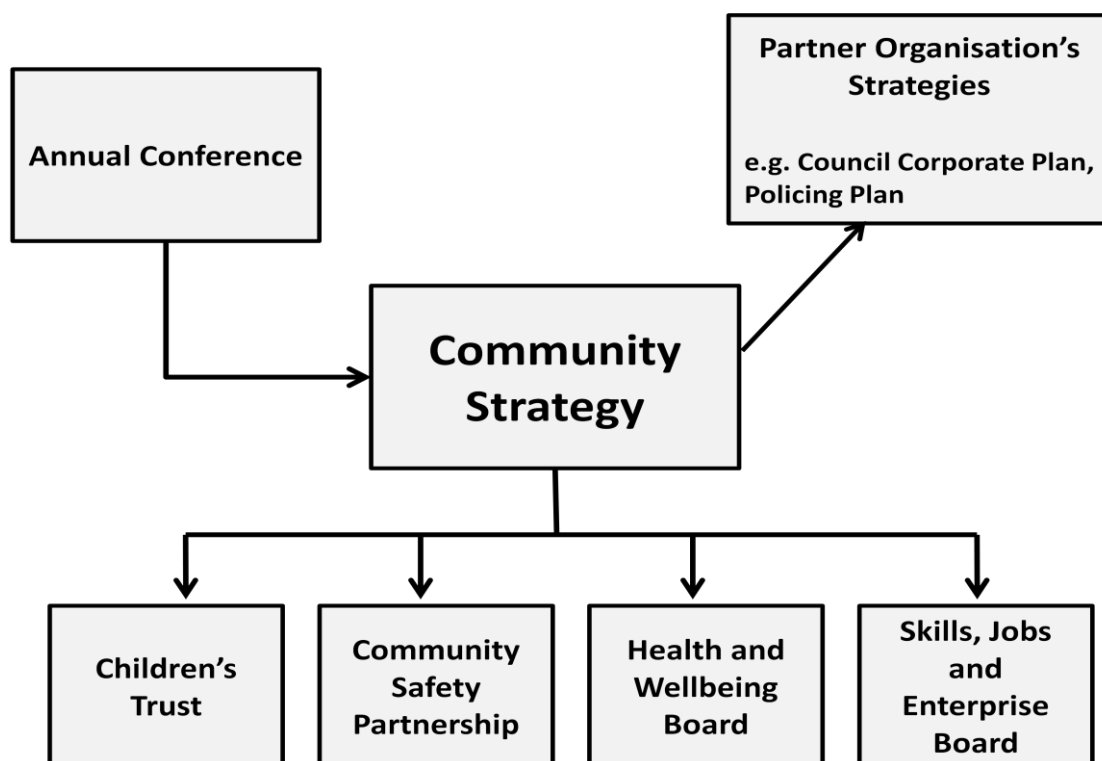
A range of issues were raised in workshops, these have been collated and fed in to the vision and priorities for the borough. In addition a number of **principles** behind the strategy were identified, including that Barking and Dagenham should have:

- **Individuals** who are healthy, safe and are supported in their aspirations
- **Family groups** that are above the poverty line with access to education, employment and appropriate housing
- **Local community pride** where there is co-design in local services for local people, there is respect for the environment and one another
- **A positive image of the borough** which attracts investment, widens opportunities for local communities and builds on existing legacies.



# How does the Community Strategy deliver?

The way the Community Strategy drives action within the borough is set out below:



## Who monitors the Community Strategy?

It is important that the Community Strategy is monitored to ensure that it is delivered effectively and partners are accountable for the work delivered. There are two monitoring processes in place, through the partner board and through the conference.

The partner board will scrutinise the detail of the actions for their board, considering specific performance targets highlighted within their strategies or plans. These targets will be monitored both in terms of progress locally and in comparison to trends nationally or with neighbouring boroughs. The partner boards are responsible for taking action or amending how services are delivered for their area in partnership to ensure the targets are met.

The conference will be held on an annual basis to monitor the overall progress of partnership working. Workshops will be planned to review whether the priorities identified are still relevant, especially in the fast changing climate, and to ensure that the work of the individual boards are still meeting the strategic priority needs.

# Barking and Dagenham's Vision

Encourage growth and unlock the potential of Barking and Dagenham and its residents

## Priorities

To achieve the vision for Barking and Dagenham there are five priorities that underpin its delivery.

### Ensure every child is valued so that they can succeed

- Ensure children and young people are safe, healthy and well educated
- Improve support and fully integrate services for vulnerable children, young people and families
- Challenge child poverty and narrow the gap in attainment and aspiration



### Reduce crime and the fear of crime

- Tackle crime priorities set via engagement and the annual strategic assessment
- Build community cohesion
- Increase confidence in the community safety services provided

### Improve health and wellbeing through all stages of life

- Improving care and support for local people including acute services
- Protecting and safeguarding local people from ill health and disease
- Preventing future disease and ill health



### Create thriving communities by maintaining and investing in new and high quality homes

- Invest in Council housing to meet need
- Widen the housing choice
- Invest in new and innovative ways to deliver affordable housing

### Maximise growth opportunities and increase the household income of borough residents

- Attract Investment
- Build business
- Create a higher skilled workforce



# Who are the partners in Barking and Dagenham?

There are a range of partners from all over the borough that are involved in shaping and influencing the work that we undertake. These groups are engaged through a variety of different mechanisms, including community events, an annual conference, the website, membership of partner boards and resident groups.

The Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Partnership Board are both statutory. The legislation states that some partners e.g. the Police in the Community Safety Partnership, have a clear role and responsibility to actively attend the meetings and ensure that the agreed priorities are delivered.

In the case of the other boards (Children's Trust and Skills, Jobs and Enterprise Board) there is not a legal requirement to be part of the board, however partners show strong commitment to the agreed priorities.

We recognise that there are a range of partners who actively contribute to the work of the partner boards however the principle organisations for each board are:

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|---|---|
| <b>Children's Trust</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education Partners e.g. schools</li><li>• Health Partners</li><li>• London Borough of Barking and Dagenham</li><li>• Metropolitan Police Service</li><li>• Voluntary and Community Sector</li></ul>                               |
| <b>Community Safety Partnership</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• London Fire Service</li><li>• London Borough of Barking and Dagenham</li><li>• Metropolitan Police Service</li><li>• Probation Services</li><li>• Voluntary and Community Sector</li></ul>  |
| <b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health Partners</li><li>• Local Involvement Network (Healthwatch)</li><li>• London Borough of Barking and Dagenham</li><li>• Metropolitan Police Service</li><li>• Voluntary and Community Sector</li></ul>                       |
| <b>Skills Jobs and Enterprise Board</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Barking and Dagenham College</li><li>• Chamber of Commerce</li><li>• Job Centre Plus</li><li>• London Borough of Barking and Dagenham</li><li>• Private Sector Representatives</li><li>• Voluntary and Community Sector</li></ul> |

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