



Havering

L O N D O N B O R O U G H

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD AGENDA

1.00 pm	Wednesday, 4 February 2026	Council Chamber - Town Hall
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Members: 19, Quorum: 6

BOARD MEMBERS:

Elected Members: Cllr Gillian Ford (Chairman), Cllr Oscar Ford, Cllr Natasha Summers and Cllr Paul McGeary

Officers of the Council: Andrew Blake-Herbert, Mark Ansell, Barbara Nicholls, Tara Geere, Patrick Odling-Smee and Neil Stubbings

NEL ICB: Narinderjit Kullar and Luke Burton

Other Organisations: Fiona Wheeler, Lynn Hollis, Vicki Kong, Anne-Marie Dean, Carol White, Paul Rose and Sarita Symon

For information about the meeting please contact:

Luke Phimister 01708 434619 01708 434619

luke.phimister@havering.gov.uk

Please would all Members and officers attending ensure they sit in their allocated seats as this will enable correct identification of participants on the meeting webcast.

Under the Committee Procedure Rules within the Council's Constitution the Chairman of the meeting may exercise the powers conferred upon the Mayor in relation to the conduct of full Council meetings. As such, should any member of the public interrupt proceedings, the Chairman will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chairman will order their removal from the meeting room and may adjourn the meeting while this takes place.

Excessive noise and talking should also be kept to a minimum whilst the meeting is in progress in order that the scheduled business may proceed as planned.

What is the Health and Wellbeing Board?

Havering's Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is a Committee of the Council on which both the Council and local NHS and other bodies are represented. The Board works towards ensuring people in Havering have services of the highest quality which promote their health and wellbeing and to narrow inequalities and improve outcomes for local residents. It will achieve this by coordinating the local NHS, social care, children's services and public health to develop greater integrated working to make the best use of resources collectively available.

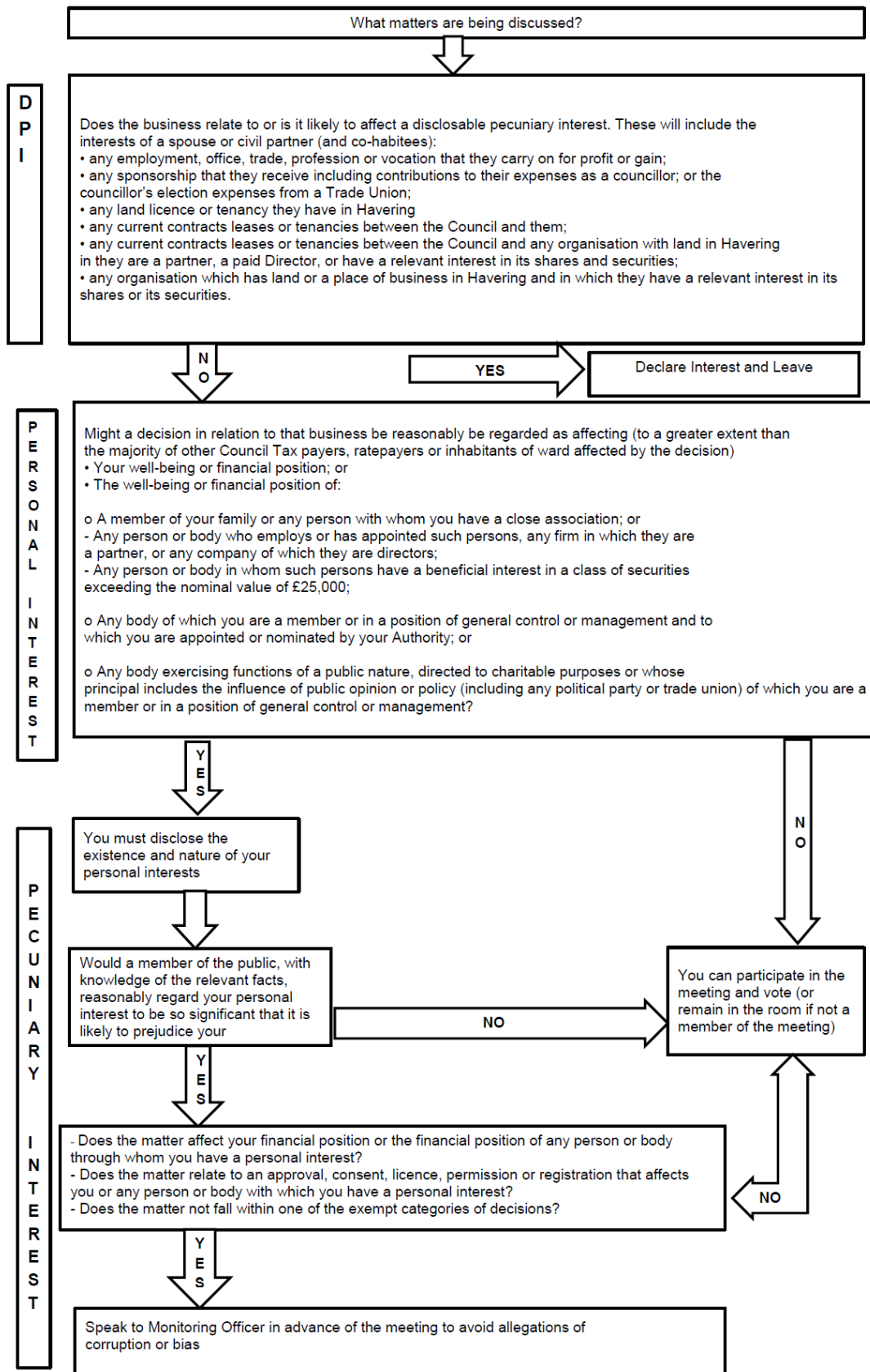
What does the Health and Wellbeing Board do?

As of April 2013, Havering's HWB is responsible for the following key functions:

- Championing the local vision for health improvement, prevention / early intervention, integration and system reform
- Tackling health inequalities
- Using the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and other evidence to determine priorities
- Developing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)
- Ensuring patients, service users and the public are engaged in improving health and wellbeing
- Monitoring the impact of its work on the local community by considering annual reports and performance

information

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



Principles of conduct in public office

In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, when acting in the capacity of a Member, they are committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles to achieve best value for the Borough's residents and to maintain public confidence in the Council.

SELFLESSNESS: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

INTEGRITY: Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

OBJECTIVITY: In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

OPENNESS: Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

HONESTY: Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

LEADERSHIP: Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

AGENDA ITEMS

1 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(If any) – receive

3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are invited to disclose any interest in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting.

Members may still disclose any interest in any item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

4 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee held on 30th July 2025 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

5 MATTERS ARISING

To consider any actions, if any, arising from the Board's previous minutes

6 HAVERING SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP 2024-25 (Pages 11 - 18)

Documents attached

7 BEST START IN LIFE PLAN (Pages 19 - 38)

Documents attached

8 SEXUAL HEALTH STRATEGY UPDATE (Pages 39 - 44)

Documents attached

9 ARTS STRATEGY 2026-29 (Pages 45 - 90)

Documents attached

10 SPORTS & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY 2026-29 (Pages 91 - 124)

Documents attached

11 COMBATING DRUGS PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25 (Pages 125 - 136)

Documents attached

Zena Smith
Head of Committee and Election Services

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD
Council Chamber - Town Hall
30 July 2025 (1.00 - 2.56pm)**

Present:

Elected Members: Cllr Gillian Ford (Chairman) and Cllr Natasha Summers

Officers of the Council: Andrew Blake-Herbert, Mark Ansell, Luke Squires and Samantha Westrop

NEL ICB: Kirsty Boettcher, Narinderjit Kullar, and Luke Burton

Other Organisations: Fiona Wheeler, Lynn Hollis, Vicki Kong (NHS Clinical Director), Anne-Marie Dean (Healthwatch Havering), Carol White, Paul Rose (Voluntary & Community Sector) and Sarita Symon

Present Online: Kurt Ramsden (NECS Pharmacist) and Anthony Wakhisi (Public Health Principal)

21 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Members of the action to be taken in an emergency.

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Paul McGeary, Councillor Oscar Ford, Barbara Nicholls, Tara Geere, Patrick Odling-Smee and Neil Stubbings. It was noted that Luke Burton, Luke Squires and Kirsty Boettcher would arrive later.

23 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interests.

24 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

25 PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Board were presented with the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) (NHS Pharmaceutical Regulations 2013).

This PNA examined the current provision of pharmacy services in Havering and evaluated potential gaps in service delivery.

It covered the following areas:

- An overview of the PNA process, including the identification of localities.
- An analysis of current and future health needs.
- A description of community pharmacies in Havering.
- An evaluation of existing service provision, accessibility, and any gaps.
- Insights into potential future roles for community pharmacies.
- An assessment of community pharmacy's contributions to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Key findings from stakeholder engagement and the statutory consultation.
- A summary of findings and the PNA statement.

The Assessment had the following Conclusions:

Current provision of necessary services:

- There is no current gap in the current provision of necessary services during normal working hours across Havering to meet the needs of the population.
- There is no current gap in the current provision of necessary services outside normal working hours across Havering to meet the needs of the population.
- No gaps have been identified in the need for pharmaceutical services in future circumstances across Havering.

Improvements and better access:

- There are no gaps in the provision of advanced services at present or in the future (lifetime of this PNA) that would secure improvements or better access in Havering.
- There are no gaps in the provision of enhanced services at present or in the future (lifetime of this PNA) that would secure improvements or better access in Havering.
- Based on current information no current gaps have been identified in respect of securing improvements or better access to locally commissioned services, either now or in specific future (lifetime of this PNA) circumstances across Havering to meet the needs of the population.
- Members noted that pharmacies serve broader roles than dispensing and called for greater national awareness.

The assessment requested that members note and participate in the online consultation (link given).

The Board was asked to confirm approval process for the final report as the next HWB meeting will be after statutory publication deadline (1st October 2025).

26 HEALTHY WEIGHT STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT

The purpose of this annual report is was to provide an overview of the progress made in the first year of implementing the Havering Healthy Weight Strategy (approved by Cabinet in May 2024).

The report served as a review document for the strategy's steering group, comprising key partners across the Council, NHS, CVS, and primary care, and was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for further scrutiny and guidance.

The Report was introduced by Mark Ansell and presented by Luke Squires.

The Board noted the achievements, challenges, and next steps from the annual report. The board confirmed their continued support and leadership for the strategy.

Members reinforced the shared responsibility across sectors to help embed healthy weight into broader work on health inequalities and prevention.

27 SUICIDE PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT

Members were warned that the content of this Annual Report may be emotionally challenging as it discussed suicidality and self-harm.

The report was introduced by Mark Ansell and presented by Samantha Westrop.

It was reported that there had been a significant national increase in the suicide rate in England and Wales, reaching the highest levels since 1999. This rise was observed across both males and females, all adult age groups and particularly among males aged 45–49 and females aged 50–54.

The report stated that in Havering, an average of 18 suicide deaths per year had been recorded over the past decade, with the age-standardised suicide rate remaining higher than the Outer London and Greater London averages (though no longer statistically significant).

The board agreed to keep the following priorities within the report:

1. Adopt and implement a local all-age suicide prevention strategy to ensure best use of local data, intelligence and partnership working
2. Continue reviewing each suspected suicide amongst Havering residents to gather relevant information to inform prevention efforts
3. Gain clarity on the outputs of reviews conducted by wider systems partners and scope possible access to reports with timeline review and

incorporation of finding and recommendations into our local prevention efforts.

4. Scope the possibility of obtaining additional data sources for suspected suicides beyond nRTSSS.
5. Work with GP Practices across the borough to include their expertise in the suspected suicide review panel process.
6. Implement the agreed action plan resulting from the Havering strategy.

The Board approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

28 **NHS 10 YEAR PLAN BRIEFING**

The briefing was introduced and presented by Luke Burton.

The briefing summarised the key elements of the NHS 10 year plan.

Members noted three major shifts and five enabling reforms.

Shifts:

1. From hospital to community
2. From analogue to digital
3. From treatment to prevention

Reforms:

1. A new operating model
2. Enhanced transparency of quality of care
3. Workforce transformation
4. Innovation and technology
5. Financial sustainability

The briefing stated a strong focus on prevention, and development of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams – adopting a population health approach to supporting local people at a neighbourhood level.

Members noted and discussed the details of this update, setting out the key elements of the NHS 10 Year Plan, and the implications for the London Borough of Havering, and Havering Team at Place.

Chairman



HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

**Subject Heading: HSP Annual Report
2024-25**

Board Lead:

Report Author and contact details:
Elisabeth Major, HSP Manager
elisabeth.major@havering.gov.uk

The subject matter of this report deals with the following themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

<input type="checkbox"/>	The wider determinants of health						
X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase employment of people with health problems or disabilities • Develop the Council and NHS Trusts as anchor institutions that consciously seek to maximise the health and wellbeing benefit to residents of everything they do. • Prevent homelessness and minimise the harm caused to those affected, particularly rough sleepers and consequent impacts on the health and social care system. 						
X	Lifestyles and behaviours						
<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prevention of obesity • Further reduce the prevalence of smoking across the borough and particularly in disadvantaged communities and by vulnerable groups • Strengthen early years providers, schools and colleges as health improving settings 						
<input type="checkbox"/>	The communities and places we live in						
X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realising the benefits of regeneration for the health of local residents and the health and social care services available to them • Targeted multidisciplinary working with people who, because of their life experiences, currently make frequent contact with a range of statutory services that are unable to fully resolve their underlying problem. 						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local health and social care services						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of integrated health, housing and social care services at locality level. 						
<input type="checkbox"/>	BHR Integrated Care Partnership Board Transformation Board						
X	<table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Older people and frailty and end of life</td> <td>Cancer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Long term conditions</td> <td>Primary Care</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Children and young people</td> <td>Accident and Emergency Delivery Board</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	• Older people and frailty and end of life	Cancer	• Long term conditions	Primary Care	• Children and young people	Accident and Emergency Delivery Board
• Older people and frailty and end of life	Cancer						
• Long term conditions	Primary Care						
• Children and young people	Accident and Emergency Delivery Board						



Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

- Mental health
- Planned Care

Transforming Care Programme Board

SUMMARY

The Annual Reports of the HSAB (Havering Safeguarding Adults' Board) and HSCP (Havering Safeguarding Children's Partnership) 2024-25 are presented here. The reports are the responsibility of the statutory partners; Brian Boxall Independent HSAB Chair; Barbara Nicholls, Strategic Director of People, Havering Council; Korkor Ceasar HSCP Chair, Deputy Director for Safeguarding Children, NEL ICB, Tara Geere, Director of Starting Well, Trevor Cook, Assistant Director Education, Havering Council, Det Super Charmaine Laurencin, EA BCU.

Over 50 people took part in a local survey in Summer 2024 to determine our forthcoming priorities for safeguarding children and adults, which are Transitional Safeguarding, including for those with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Neglect and Self-Neglect, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Child Sexual Abuse, and Child Sexual Exploitation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The HWBB is requested to accept the Havering Safeguarding Partnership (HSP) Annual Report 2024-25 and support the safeguarding priorities for children and adults 2024-27.

REPORT DETAIL

- This year we have seen a small rise in Child Protection Planning around Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), and a 50% rise in referrals for health assessments to the Sunrise (CSA) Hub. This is partially as a result of our focus on CSA, November 2024 multi-agency audit about Harmful Sexual Behaviour and our targeted training, involving the Sunrise Hub and other partners. And there has been a decrease in Child Protection Planning for Neglect- as a result of our focused work, Neglect training and refreshed strategy, which means we are identifying and addressing Neglect at an earlier point, and then intervening.
- Following concerted work by Adults' Social Care, including data cleansing, providing referral guidance, and training 60 delegates in autumn 2024, the conversion of multi-agency safeguarding adults' concerns to enquiries has improved by 14% this year, with better referrals being made by agencies, which frees the MASH to focus on those who have the greatest need.
- The SAB has been raising awareness of the PIPOT (People in Positions of Trust) Guidance and as a result, we have seen a rise this year in LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) investigations (where there are concerns for staff members or volunteers who work with adults or children). Referrals in regards to staff from the Health Sector has increased by 78% this year and make up 9% of referrals to LADO, with 25 referrals. We have seen a rise in escalations to the Partnership this year for both children and adults, which shows good professional challenge.

- As a result of an audit and review of the DVMARAC in October 2023, (risk assessment meetings for serious concerns of Domestic Abuse) GPs, Early Years' settings, colleges and schools are now more engaged with the DVMARAC, meaning that they will know about any patients or students facing situations of Domestic Abuse, and can help with offering extra support and signposting, as required. We have seen rises in DVMARAC referrals for older people and teenagers, plus a rise in GP referrals, following support to practices from the Iris Project.
- The Sexual Health JSNA and local action plan were published by Public Health this year, with survey information from 78 Havering residents; the Healthy Weight Strategy was launched at a multi-agency event in Summer 2024, it was informed by two summits, attended by over 30 people. And following a local review of services, Summer 2025 saw the launch of new arrangements for Transitions of Young People to Adulthood.
- Learning from our findings in response to our audits and reviews has highlighted a need for greater acknowledgement of protected characteristics and cultural competency within our work which has led to the priority of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for our Business Plan 2024-27. We note the particular vulnerability of people from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, adults who have a Learning Disability and Autism, and families from Black and minoritised ethnic backgrounds. We plan to offer more guidance to practitioners in the new financial year, including a piece of Independent Scrutiny.
- During the year, the HSAB completed one themed SAR (Safeguarding Adults' Review-Care Home and Hospital Discharge). The SAB has been working on 3 other SARs, around organizational abuse, rough sleeping, exploitation and suicide prevention. The HSCP published the "Henry CSPR- Child Safeguarding Practice Review" early in 2025, and has been working on others around Neglect, Suicide Prevention and Child Sexual Abuse. You can read more about the reviews in the report below. There has been a rise in referrals of serious incidents involving children and adults this year.
- Very sadly, there have been 15 child deaths this year, which have been or will continue to be reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). Particular priorities are safer sleep, suicide prevention and conditions caused by parents who are closely related. There have been 22 deaths this year which have led or will lead to LeDeR reviews (Learning from Lives and Deaths - People with Learning Disability and Autism). For these children and adults we send our sincere condolences to their families and friends.
- We receive regular learning from LeDeR reviews (Learning from Lives & Deaths- People with a Learning Disability and Autism), which identify good practice and learning within the Partnership. The CDOP Reviews have led, for example to focused work on safe sleeping for babies in the borough, and themed Panels this year around knife crime and self-harm.

•We held an extra-ordinary meeting to discuss multi-agency safeguarding training with our partners in October 2024. One of our joint priorities this year was to see stronger engagement and representation from the Voluntary Sector in Safeguarding. We have supported some specialized training for volunteers on two occasions at the new St George's Hub.

•In anticipation of learning from a fatal fire, we have been focusing on fire prevention for the most vulnerable and the Fire Brigade visited Avelon Road Day Centre for adults with Learning Disability during the year, to explain about keeping safe from fire.

•One key issue we have identified through our local learning and scrutiny of data is the need to prioritise the prevention and identification of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). We were sponsored by the NSPCC to hold a Talk Pants campaign this year and all schools, libraries, Children's Centres, Early Years' settings, and GP surgeries have received resources. The campaign was launched in October 2024, and we plan to continue this legacy. The Pantosaurus adult costume has attended many schools, and community events, and we have held regular briefings, training practitioners. We held a Christmas colouring competition for children through our schools and libraries, and over 100 children took part. We have subsequently seen a rise in LADO referrals during the year, including from young children reporting unsafe touching, during the year, which we see as a result of the Talk Pants campaign.

•We continue to see that most schools are engaged with the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) Forum, particularly our secondary schools. There has been a rise this year in schools completing their Section 175 annual self-evaluations, which has highlighted that their most significant concerns remain Domestic Abuse and Neglect. During the forthcoming year, we are redoubling our efforts to work with Independent Schools more closely.

•We saw 1,116 delegates attend our multi-agency safeguarding training this year, plus 120 delegates attend our Conference on Transitional Safeguarding in November 2024, an increase of approx. 10%, and a decrease in non-cancellations. As delegates said, after attending our Safeguarding Week training on Gangs and Youth Violence by Junior Smart in November 2024,

"I am now more confident in how to support young people"; "I can take a lot of things I've learned into my daily work"; "How important being authentic is".
"Identifying pupils and risk and how to best support them." "The trainer Junior was brilliant. Very engaging and knowledgeable". "Better understanding of County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation".
"To plan the support provided to families who have had members involved with gangs and youth violence".
"I've learned more about the reasons why these vulnerable children get caught up in gangs and violent crime".

- One of both our adults' and children joint Partnership priorities is Mental Health. During this year, Public Health published the borough's Suicide Prevention Strategy with a number of briefings to the Partnership, forming lived experience, stakeholder and strategic groups.

- In terms of driving forward multi-agency learning, this year we have published a good practice 7 minute briefing following a SAR referral, Mr Avon, about pressure ulcers; information about Window Safety, following learning from a Havering CSPP; Private Fostering awareness posters; a PIPOT animated film; and publicized national learning from the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, the Safeguarding Adults' Networks, and other partnerships and research.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- This year has seen significant changes in many agencies and challenges in recruitment and retention of staff in East London. NEL ICB, BHRUT and NELFT are facing funding challenges this year, and recruitment to safeguarding leadership posts is not easy. The Council, like many other statutory bodies, has faced significant financial pressures and last year received a Capitalisation Order through DLUH (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (now the MCLG-Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government)).

- We continue to work towards developing effective datasets for both Partnerships, particularly in engaging NELFT (North East London NHS Foundation Trust) and the Met Police for data submissions. The Combatting Drugs Partnership scrutiny has led to improved data around hospital admissions for people with substance use concerns.

- The Partnership has seen some growth in safeguarding enquiries for adults from a Black and Minority Ethnic Background. We have seen higher numbers of serious incidents in particular for males with Learning Disabilities and Autism, and children from Black, Traveller, and Asian ethnicities, compared to the White British population. This year we have provided more training on equalities and discrimination.

- Our improved understanding and production of data, has shown that White people are over-represented in many aspects of multi-agency data. This year we have seen more people aged over 60 being referred for the DVMARAC, those from protected characteristics, and those aged 16 and 17 years. We wish to raise awareness this coming year regarding the vulnerability of adults to Domestic Abuse from family carer; and the management of support to people with multiple needs.

- In comparison to our statistical neighbours and London averages, we see growing numbers of children subject child protection support or going into local authority care. We do not yet see the people who are projected to have dementia being diagnosed or supported in Havering, nor are all carers receiving support, whether children or adults. This gives us renewed impetus and drive to bring about improvements.

•In terms of risks on our Partnership Risk Registers, we have seen improvements in the PELC (Partnership of East London Cooperatives Ltd) Service, which has meant retirement from our Registers; we have seen improvements in the provision of timely Initial Health Assessments for Children in Care; and the work of the CSA Hub; added to the Register this year has been the quality of Met Police safeguarding data and the Connect and Operation Encompass process; the sufficiency of the NELFT School Nursing and Special School Nursing contracts, held respectively by Havering Public Health and NEL ICB; and the quality and provision of NELFT (North East London NHS Foundation Trust) safeguarding data.

•The Partnership is well engaged with Starting Well's Ofsted Improvement Boards and has seen improvements in Child Protection Planning and the care of children in Local Authority Care. As we await the formal Inspection feedback from the CQC for Adults' Social Care in August 2025, we have seen improvements in effective referrals to the Adults' MASH. We continue to see improvements in the timeliness of Initial Child Protection Conferences and regular quorate Core Group Meetings taking place. Learning in our reviews highlight areas of improvement in our understanding of Neglect and CSA for children; self-neglect and hoarding for adults, and those who have mental health and substance use problems.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

HSAB: [Annual Reports - Havering Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

HSCP: [Annual Reports - Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

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HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Subject Heading:	Best Start in Life Plan
Board Lead:	
Report Author and contact details:	Trevor Cook trevor.cook@havering.gov.uk

The subject matter of this report deals with the following themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The wider determinants of health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase employment of people with health problems or disabilities • Develop the Council and NHS Trusts as anchor institutions that consciously seek to maximise the health and wellbeing benefit to residents of everything they do. • Prevent homelessness and minimise the harm caused to those affected, particularly rough sleepers and consequent impacts on the health and social care system.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lifestyles and behaviours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prevention of obesity • Further reduce the prevalence of smoking across the borough and particularly in disadvantaged communities and by vulnerable groups • Strengthen early years providers, schools and colleges as health improving settings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The communities and places we live in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realising the benefits of regeneration for the health of local residents and the health and social care services available to them • Targeted multidisciplinary working with people who, because of their life experiences, currently make frequent contact with a range of statutory services that are unable to fully resolve their underlying problem.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local health and social care services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of integrated health, housing and social care services at locality level.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BHR Integrated Care Partnership Board Transformation Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people and frailty and end of life • Long term conditions • Children and young people • Mental health • Planned Care <div> Cancer Primary Care Accident and Emergency Delivery Board Transforming Care Programme Board </div>

SUMMARY

Havering's ambition is to ensure every child has the best start in life, with families able to access integrated support early, high-quality early education, and excellent practice from birth through Reception.

The Department for Education (DfE) has published their strategy for giving every child the best start in life, and underlines the government's commitment to improving outcomes for children in their earliest years. The strategy highlights the critical importance of the first 1,001 days - from conception to age two - in shaping lifelong health, wellbeing, and educational attainment.

It sets out a vision for integrated, accessible, and high-quality early years services, with a strong focus on:

- Family Hubs: Creating welcoming, multi-agency spaces where families can access health, education, Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), and parenting support.
- Early Identification and Intervention: Ensuring that children and families receive timely support, particularly those at risk of disadvantage.
- Workforce Development: Building a skilled, confident workforce across early years, health, and social care.
- Reducing Inequalities: Targeting support to close gaps in outcomes for disadvantaged children, those with SEND, and children from minority backgrounds.
- Evidence-Based Practice: Embedding proven models and continuous improvement in service delivery.

By the end of March 2026, every Local Authority must publish a Best Start in Life local plan which sets out its approach to improving early child development and health outcomes locally, including achieving and measuring progress towards its Good Level of Development 2028 target and beyond. Plans should be ambitious, reflecting the needs of children and families locally, and in the spirit of mission-led government.

Best Start local plans should demonstrate how local areas will build capacity by creating strong networks of partner organisations working towards a common goal, harnessing innovation and building sustainability.

Plans should build on the great work happening across local areas and should;

- Set a bold vision for improving child development and health outcomes with local delivery partners across all sectors.
- Identify the local needs of babies, children and families, and set out plans to address gaps in provision.
- Describe how delivery will be carried out in partnership, tracked and tailored to continually drive progress.

- Scale innovative practice.

Once published, the DfE expect that plans will be a live document which local authorities will keep iterating and reviewing as delivery progresses and new data becomes available to achieve the 2028 target, as well as longer-term improvements to early child development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board should note the content of the presentation, and make recommendations regarding the priority areas and actions, including opportunities for multi-agency working. The draft plan will be consulted upon more widely with a range of stakeholders, including education and early years settings, voluntary sector, police, and health partners.

REPORT DETAIL

See attached presentation.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Implications;

1. System-wide integration and governance

Delivering BSIL requires deep integration across Education, Early Help, Public Health, SEND, NHS partners and community providers. The Family Hubs model and the new national requirements (e.g., evidence-based HLE/parenting programmes) mean greater shared accountability, aligned KPIs, and cross-departmental working, as emphasised in the Family Hub Community of Practice updates. This will require significant cultural and operational shifts for teams that have traditionally worked in silos.

2. Increased demand for workforce capacity & capability

Workforce development is central to BSIL delivery. Expansion of Family Hubs, evidence-based interventions and enhanced QA activities increases pressure on staffing, training and recruitment. National guidance emphasises readiness checks and evidence-based delivery expectations from April 2026. Workforce shortages in Early Years, SEND, and health visiting could delay delivery or reduce quality.

3. Financial pressures and sustainability

Although some activities draw on external grants (e.g. existing Family Hubs/HLE funding) many BSIL elements require new or sustained investment. The Council's Finance Oversight & Assurance Board repeatedly highlights oversight of cost pressures, slippage, and savings delivery risks. If funding streams are time-limited,



discontinuous or insufficient, the borough risks “cliff-edge” effects and inability to sustain services.

4. Increased statutory scrutiny

BSIL aligns with DfE statutory expectations around GLD improvement, HLE delivery, and timely SEND/EHCP actions. Readiness checks will identify gaps, risks and compliance issues. Failure to meet these expectations could expose the Council to compliance, assurance and regulatory risks.

5. Data and digital integration requirements

Delivery requires integrated dashboards for sufficiency, targeted outreach, and performance monitoring. Significant demands on data engineering, IG compliance (reinforced by DPIA activity across programmes), and cross-system interoperability.

Key Risks;

1. Financial Risk

Uncertainty around future government funding for Family Hubs/HLE programmes beyond current allocations. Rising operational costs (estate, workforce, SEND demand). Risk of under-delivery of savings or cost avoidance in related strategies (e.g. SEND, early help).

2. Workforce Capacity & Skills Risk

Shortages of qualified Early Years staff, QTs for Reception improvement, and specialist SEND roles (noted across BSIL actions). Increased training burden for evidence-based interventions (Talk Boost, NELI, HLE parenting).

3. Delivery & Implementation Risk

Complex multi-agency coordination increases risk of duplication, gaps and variable practice—highlighted in governance reflections from Family Hub networks. Risk of delays locating/establishing Family Hub sites.

4. Data, Information Governance & Compliance Risk

DPIAs show ongoing IG challenges and need for clear data flows, lawful basis and consent handling.

5. Equality & Inclusion Risk

Cabinet briefing stresses need to fully assess equalities and health impacts early to avoid discriminatory access or disproportionate negative impacts on protected groups. Risk that outreach does not sufficiently engage global majority communities, EAL families, or hidden SEND groups.

6. Stakeholder & Community Engagement Risk

Requires strong, ongoing co-production with parents, providers, health colleagues and communities. Risk of overlapping initiatives (FFPP, SEND, EYQA), leading to confusion and disengagement among providers and partners.

7. Performance & Outcome Risk

GLD improvement targets are ambitious (75.8% by 2028). Risk that interventions are not implemented with consistency or fidelity. Risk of insufficient monitoring or lack of capacity to respond to performance intelligence.

Opportunities;

Despite these implications and risks, the plan has strong alignment to national policy, increasing chances of external funding and support. There is the potential for improved system coherence across Family Hubs, Early Help, SEND and Public Health. There is the potential for increased use of data dashboards to support proactive intervention, as well as strengthened place-based working and community trust.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Giving every child the best start in life - GOV.UK](#)

[Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies – Preparing for implementation April 2026](#)

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Best Start in Life

Havering three year strategy

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Havering's ambition is to ensure **every child has the best start in life**, with families able to access **integrated support early, high-quality early education**, and **excellent practice** from birth through Reception.

This three-year action plan sets out how Havering will deliver the Department for Education's (DfE) **Best Start in Life** (BSiL) strategy locally, drawing on national policy, local priorities, and the lived experiences of children and families.

The plan is rooted in a robust understanding of **local needs**, as evidenced by the **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** (JSNA), and is shaped by the borough's vision for all **children and young people to thrive, achieve, and live safe, healthy lives**.

The DfE's Best Start in Life strategy is a cornerstone of the government's commitment to **improving outcomes for children in their earliest years**. The strategy highlights the critical importance of the **first 1,001 days** - from conception to age two - in shaping **lifelong health, wellbeing, and educational attainment**. It sets out a vision for integrated, accessible, and high-quality early years services, with a strong focus on:

- **Family Hubs:** Creating welcoming, multi-agency spaces where families can access health, education, Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), and parenting support.
- **Early Identification and Intervention:** Ensuring that children and families receive timely support, particularly those at risk of disadvantage.
- **Workforce Development:** Building a skilled, confident workforce across early years, health, and social care.
- **Reducing Inequalities:** Targeting support to close gaps in outcomes for disadvantaged children, those with SEND, and children from minority backgrounds.
- **Evidence-Based Practice:** Embedding proven models and continuous improvement in service delivery.

The BSIL strategy aligns with wider national priorities, including the Healthy Child Programme, SEND reforms, and the government's focus on school readiness, early language, and narrowing the attainment gap.

Happy, Healthy Lives is a comprehensive strategy designed to support the well-being and development of children and young people in Havering. This plan outlines our **shared vision, priorities, and actions** to ensure that every child and young person in our community has the opportunity to lead a happy, healthy life. This plan aims to deliver on the aspirations set out in our Council's Corporate vision: **The Havering you want to be part of.**

The BSIL Plan sits within Havering's wider Integrated Starting Well Plan which is structured around our **WISH** for children and young people in Havering:

- **Well** – Improving health outcomes, strengthening Healthy Child Programme delivery, tackling obesity and mental health challenges.
- **Inspired** - Raising aspiration, promoting school readiness, extending childcare, strengthening careers advice, and supporting educational recovery.
- **Safe** – Strengthening safeguarding, improving early identification, tackling exploitation, and responding to Ofsted ILACS findings (2024).
- **Heard** – Embedding youth participation through SHOUT, Youth Council, Mind of My Own and co-production.
- **Treated Fairly** – Reducing inequalities, addressing disproportionality, and improving support for SEND and care-experienced children.

The BSIL Plan reflects the shared priorities across education, early help, public health, children's social care and health partners, including:

- The renewed **Early Help Strategy** focusing on 1001 days, SEND, mental health, and adolescent safeguarding.
- The **SEND & AP Strategy 2024–2029** commitments to inclusion, preparing for adulthood, and delivering earlier interventions.
- The **Healthy Weight Strategy 2024–2029** and **Tobacco Harm Reduction Strategy**.
- The Education Place Planning Strategy and improved attendance approaches under **Working Together to Improve School Attendance (2024)**.

Havering is a borough of contrasts and rapid change. According to the JSNA and recent data profiles:

- **Population Growth and Diversity:** Havering has experienced the **highest net increase in children among all London boroughs** from 2016 to 2020. As of 2023, there are approximately 61,295 children and young people (0–17), making up 23% of the borough's population. The borough is **increasingly diverse**, with 27% of pupils speaking a first language other than English.
- **Deprivation and Inequality:** While Havering is ranked 173 out of 317 local authorities for deprivation (average range), there are **significant pockets of need**. Around 7,000 children (one in six) are estimated to be living in **poverty**. In 2025, 32.2% of homeless households had dependent children.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND):** The number of children with **Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)** has risen sharply, with 2,583 children holding an EHCP as of January 2024. Speech, language, and communication needs are the most common primary need.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** At the 2–2.5 year health review, **85.6% of children were at or above the expected level in all five areas of development**, exceeding the national average. However, 22% of children aged 4–5 and 40% of those aged 10–11 are **overweight or obese**, and 27.5% of five-year-olds experience **dental decay**.
- **Safeguarding and Vulnerability:** As of March 2023, there were 530 children with a Child in Need plan, 295 subject to a child protection plan, and 280 children in care. The borough has a **strong early help offer** but faces ongoing challenges in safeguarding and supporting vulnerable families.

Havering's early years and educational outcomes are strong but not without challenge:

- **Good Level of Development (GLD):** In 2024/25, 68.5% of children achieved a GLD at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, slightly above the national average. However, to meet the DfE's target of 75.8% by 2028, an additional 242 children each year must achieve GLD.
- **Disadvantaged Children:** 55.7% of children eligible for free school meals achieved GLD in 2024/25, above the national FSM average, but the gap remains a key focus for targeted intervention.
- **School Quality:** 94% of schools in Havering are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted (2024), and the borough's attainment at Key Stages 2 and 4 remains above national averages.

The JSNA provides a comprehensive analysis of the factors shaping children's outcomes in Havering:

- **Life Course Approach:** The JSNA covers maternal and newborn health, early years, school age, SEND, and transitions to adulthood, highlighting the importance of early intervention and integrated support.
- **Social Determinants:** Housing, poverty, parental employment, and access to services are identified as key drivers of health and educational inequalities.
- **Community Assets:** Havering benefits from a network of family hubs, children's centres, libraries, and strong partnerships across health, education, and the voluntary sector.
- **Voice of Children and Families:** The JSNA and local engagement activities (e.g., SHOUT survey, Youth Wellbeing Census) emphasise the importance of listening to children and families, co-producing solutions, and addressing issues such as mental health, safety, and inclusion.

The BSiL Plan is underpinned by Havering's strategic vision: **“All children and young people thrive and achieve through accessing high-quality education provision, and are supported to live safe and healthy lives.”**

The BSiL Plan is a product of partnership - across the Council, NHS, schools, early years providers, and the community - and is informed by national policy, local data, and the voices of those it seeks to serve.

- 1. Better Support for Families** — Embed Family Hubs, targeted outreach, integrated SEND support, and a strong Home Learning Environment (HLE).
- 2. More Accessible Early Education & Childcare** — Ensure sufficient, flexible, high-quality places, transparent charging, and targeted uptake for disadvantaged and SEND children.
- 3. Improving Quality in Early Years Including Reception** — Systematic QA, evidence-based interventions and programmes (language, maths, physical development), workforce development, and Reception improvement.

Launch, expand and embed Family Hubs

- Multi agency spaces integrating health, education, SEND and parenting; phased delivery with annual engagement evaluation.

Targeted outreach to under represented families (SEND, global majority, English as an Additional Language, young parents)

- Data led campaigns and community presence to increase engagement from priority groups.

Clear escalation and complaints routes for statutory compliance

- Define/legal check processes; implement and monitor resolution within statutory timescales.

Structured Home Learning Environment home visits & resources (linked to 3 Year QA Delivery Plan)

- Dedicated post and programme to strengthen home routines, language rich activity, and self regulation, tracking GLD impact for targeted cohorts.

Integrated SEND support within family services

- Regular multi agency assessment and tailored interventions; timelier EHCPs and improved satisfaction.

Parental voice and co production embedded in all services

- Framework and feedback loops to evidence parent/carers input across plans and reviews.

Delivery of oral health & nutrition programmes

- Toothbrushing/weaning workshops with Public Health to reduce dental decay and improve healthy habits.

Map sufficiency and create flexible, high quality places

- Ward level planning; collaborate with wraparound/holiday providers and community partners to expand options.

Transparent charging & provider compliance

- Update agreements and support providers to meet DfE guidance; annual audits.

Targeted uptake for disadvantaged/SEND (e.g., two year entitlement, pupil premium)

- Data driven outreach (Department of Work and Pensions lists, multi channel comms) to increase participation and narrow gaps.

Integrated data dashboards for sufficiency monitoring

- Quarterly ward level reporting; dashboards to identify hotspots and trigger action plans.

Deliver regular QA visits focused on disadvantage, Pupil Premium, and effective Early Years Foundation Stage Profile use

- Systematic coverage and coaching to improve practice and outcomes for target groups.

Implement evidence based programmes (Talk Boost/Nuffield Early Language Intervention/Maths Champions)

- Expand language/maths interventions; track fidelity and child progress.

Workforce development on Ofsted framework & inclusion; Private Voluntary Institution (PVI) self evaluation tool

- Training on inspection expectations and working with vulnerable families; introduce aligned audit tool for PVIs.

Reception improvement partnerships & resources

- Pair schools, share effective practice, and use the Reception Improvement Offer; annual GLD tracking towards 75.8% by 2028.

Recruitment & retention incentives for Early Years teachers/professionals

- Local incentives and training pathways with partners to attract/retain staff; annual workforce reporting.

Strengthen oversight and QA systems aligned to inspection cycles

- Increased consistency, early support for new settings, and improved inspection outcomes.

For each of the three priority areas, we will ask the following questions;

1. Do you agree that this priority and specific actions reflect your experience of local needs and delivery realities? (Yes/no)
2. Where could your organisation contribute to the specific actions?
(Free text)
3. What priorities and actions are missing, if any? (Free text)

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At the end of the consultation, we will include the following question;

1. Any further comments? (Free text)



HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Subject Heading:	Sexual Health Update
Board Lead:	
Report Author and contact details:	Emily Grundy Emily.Grundy@Havering.gov.uk

The subject matter of this report deals with the following themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

<input type="checkbox"/>	The wider determinants of health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase employment of people with health problems or disabilities • Develop the Council and NHS Trusts as anchor institutions that consciously seek to maximise the health and wellbeing benefit to residents of everything they do. • Prevent homelessness and minimise the harm caused to those affected, particularly rough sleepers and consequent impacts on the health and social care system.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lifestyles and behaviours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prevention of obesity • Further reduce the prevalence of smoking across the borough and particularly in disadvantaged communities and by vulnerable groups • Strengthen early years providers, schools and colleges as health improving settings
<input type="checkbox"/>	The communities and places we live in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realising the benefits of regeneration for the health of local residents and the health and social care services available to them • Targeted multidisciplinary working with people who, because of their life experiences, currently make frequent contact with a range of statutory services that are unable to fully resolve their underlying problem.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local health and social care services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of integrated health, housing and social care services at locality level.
<input type="checkbox"/>	BHR Integrated Care Partnership Board Transformation Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people and frailty and end of life • Long term conditions • Children and young people • Mental health • Planned Care <div> Cancer Primary Care Accident and Emergency Delivery Board Transforming Care Programme Board </div>

SUMMARY
<p>This report provides an update on progress made against actions outlined in the North East London (NEL) Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Strategy and the complementary local action plan for Havering.</p>
RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the contents of the report. 2. Endorse the plans for the coming year. 3. Support the Public Health team to work effectively with partners across the system.
REPORT DETAIL
<p>The report includes information about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updates on the national strategic context (e.g. HIV Action Plan). 2. Overview of NEL SRH Strategy delivery including progress. 3. Achievements in Havering and North East London over the last year. 5. Priorities and actions for the next 12 months including alignment with national and regional strategies.
IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS
<p>The successful delivery of actions relies on effective multi-agency partnership across the system and strategic leadership. Competing priorities, variable capacity, stigma around sexual and reproductive health and lack of alignment with NEL and national strategies could affect potential impact.</p>
BACKGROUND PAPERS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HIV Action Plan for England, 2025-2030 HIV Action Plan for England, 2025 to 2030 - GOV.UK 2. North East London Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy - North East London Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 3 - full strategy.pdf 3. Teenage pregnancy prevention: Strengthening local leadership - Teenage pregnancy prevention: Strengthening local leadership Local Government Association

Yearly Annual Report to Health and Wellbeing Board Template

What has changed nationally/ locally in the past 12 months?

(Outline any significant changes in national/ local context in the past 12 months, for example, changes in legislation)

National

Nationally, the publication of the *HIV Action Plan for England 2025-2030* – sets a clear ambition to end new HIV transmissions in England by 2030. Supported by £170 million funding, the plan sets out 5 strategic priorities to drive action: *Prevent, Test, Treat, Thrive, Collaborate*. This provides a refreshed framework for cross-system action to tackle HIV that local areas are expected to align with.

Across sexual and reproductive health more broadly, there continues to be a strategic emphasis on prevention and equity. The expansion of the NHS pharmacy contract which makes emergency contraception available over a larger number of pharmacies, alongside the rollout of the Gonorrhoea vaccine and the approval of injectable PrEP signal further focus on prevention and increased accessibility.

Following a reduction in under-18 conceptions since the publication of the National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, recent data shows a small national increase. In response, the LGA has published refreshed guidance - *Teenage pregnancy prevention: strengthening local leadership* – which puts emphasis on strong local leadership, whole-system partnership working and local prevention approaches.

Local

Locally, the publication of the *North East London Joint Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy (2024-2029)* provides a strategic framework for improving sexual and reproductive health outcomes at a regional level. It sets out a vision of ‘*Empowered residents leading healthy and fulfilling lives...*’ under the following strategic priorities:

- i. Health and fulfilling sexual relationships
- ii. Good reproductive health across the life course
- iii. High quality and innovative STI testing and treatment
- iv. HIV: towards zero and living well with HIV

The strategy is now in its delivery phase with the SRH Strategy Partnership Board providing leadership and borough-level Health and Wellbeing Boards and the NEL ICB Health and Care Partnership Board providing governance. Annual Action plans co-produced with local authorities, NHS partners, voluntary sector organisations, and residents set out clear deliverables, timelines, and leads for implementation. There are two levels of action plans - Subregional NEL Action Plan, covering priorities and actions that require coordination across Northeast London and, Local Action Plans – developed by individual boroughs to address local needs and feed into the subregional plan.

What has been achieved in the past 12 months?

(Outline achievements in the past 12 months making reference to the plans shared with HWB the previous year, if any)

North East London

At regional North East London level, the year 1 action plan (2024-2026) is progressing well with most actions either completed or actively underway. Key achievements over the past 12 months include:

- Progression with recommissioning of specialist SRH services which supports sustainability and alignment with strategic priorities.
- Strengthened HIV prevention and PrEP uptake initiatives. NEL secured a share of £1m investment from the Elton John AIDS Foundation to carry out a PrEP pilot in North East London. Early data indicates high uptake and increased use among non-White British residents and residents living in IMD 1-3 residents suggesting improved reach and equity.

Havering

At local level, the establishment of the Havering Sexual and Reproductive Health Partnership Working Group has provided a forum to deliver the local action plan in alignment with the NEL strategy. Over the past 12 months, members of the group have identified and started to progress priority actions relating to:

Access and equity

- Recommissioning of integrated and online sexual health services

Community provision

- Review of community provision to improve access and inform future service design
- Exploration of targeted outreach / youth focused models

Young people

- Strengthened support for young people through improved C-card network, and
- improved school resources

Workforce and training

- Developing workforce capacity through training for frontline staff on SRH awareness, signposting, and stigma reduction, and
- Stronger links between SRH services and CGL - substance misuse providers

Information and engagement

- Improved promotion of SRH information via LWH and BHRUT
- Partnership work to reduce teenage pregnancy and repeat abortions

These actions will be reviewed and updated at the next Havering Partnership Working Group meeting in February 2026.

Performance against KPIs

(Provide performance against agreed KPIs with explanatory commentary)

The NEL SRH Strategy identifies a large number of key indicators or measures of success, which could evidence the impact of the strategy. While many of the indicators do form part of contract monitoring arrangements with NEL SRH services, there is not yet a formalised framework in place for capturing and reporting on these KPIs across the partnership, in a way that relates actions back to desired strategy outputs/outcomes. This will be raised with

NEL partners to explore whether this could form part of the action plan review process, prior to partnership engagement to inform priorities for year 2. This in turn could inform a number of local KPIs, focusing on those which best align with priority actions that are identified.

Are there currently any limitations?

(Highlight any obstacles limiting progress particularly if partners on the HWB may be in a position to help)

System capacity

Delivery of the NEL SRH Strategy and the local action plan requires effective cross-system working involving local authorities, NHS partners and VCSOs. Competing priorities and varying capacity may affect the pace of implementation of some actions.

Stigma

Political and societal sensitivities and stigma around sexual health, HIV and contraception may limit engagement with services and affect the potential impact of prevention activities.

How the HWB can help

Active promotion of multi-agency ownership of local and regional SRH actions and support to reduce stigma in Havering would help to mitigate these limitations.

What are the agreed plans for the coming year?

(Describe plans for the forthcoming year in terms of top 5 actions, giving a lead for each)

Over the coming year, activity will focus on delivering the priorities in the NEL SRH Strategy and the Havering Local Action Plan including responses to strategic refreshes of the NEL strategy and local requirements in relation to the HIV action plan.

1. Conclude recommissioning of sexual health service ensuring alignment with the NEL SRH strategy and local population need. *Lead - LBH / EG*
2. Make a decision regarding the option of accessing digital contraception and DPrEP provision via the London e-service contract, in line with outcomes from the EJAF PrEP pilot. *Lead - LBH / EG*
3. Refresh NEL SRH Strategy action plan for year 2 and update the Havering Local SRH Action Plan accordingly, ensuring alignment with emerging priorities. *Lead - NEL Partnership / EG*
4. Deliver Havering Local SRH Action Plan focussing on:
 - A) Expansion of community provision
 - B) Youth-focused provision
 - C) Workforce development - Training of frontline staff
 - D) Partnership work around teenage pregnancy prevention*Lead – Havering SRH Partnership Working Group*

5. Strengthen regional and local SRH governance arrangements.
 - i) Use the refreshed NEL SRH Action Plan to support the delivery of the local HIV action plan (required by HIV Action Plan for England).
 - ii) Review NEL Partnership Strategy group arrangements to support effective co-ordination of multi-agency HIV activity including actions for Directors of Public Health arising from the HIV action plan. *Lead - NEL Partnership / Mark Ansell / EG*

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Subject Heading:	Arts Strategy 2026–2029 (DRAFT)
Board Lead:	Mark Ansell - Director of Public Health, Insights, Policy & Strategy
Report Author and contact details:	Manny Manoharran – Head of Culture, Leisure, Heritage and Libraries Manny.Manoharan@havering.gov.uk

The subject matter of this report deals with the following themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

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SUMMARY

The Havering Arts Strategy 2026–2029 provides a strategic framework for using arts and culture to improve health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities and strengthen community resilience across the borough. Evidence shows that participation in arts and culture can improve mental wellbeing, reduce loneliness and social isolation, and support physical health and learning outcomes.

The strategy aligns closely with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy by supporting prevention, promoting mental wellbeing across the life course, and addressing wider determinants of health such as social connection, place and inclusion. It builds on existing partnerships across health, social care, education, the voluntary sector and cultural organisations to deliver inclusive, accessible and place-based creative activity.

The strategy supports a preventative, community-based approach, including creative health and social prescribing, contributing to improved population health and reduced pressure on statutory services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support the role of arts and culture in prevention, mental wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.
- Encourage partnership working across health, the Council, voluntary and community sectors to deliver shared outcomes.

REPORT DETAIL

The Havering Arts Strategy 2026–2029 sets out a coordinated approach to increasing participation in arts and culture, particularly among residents least likely to engage, including older people, disabled residents, people experiencing poor mental health and communities facing disadvantage.

The strategy supports early intervention and prevention by embedding arts activity within community settings such as libraries, schools, health and care settings, parks and town centres. Arts and culture contribute directly to Health and Wellbeing priorities by improving mental wellbeing, reducing loneliness, supporting healthy ageing, enhancing outcomes for children and young people, and strengthening community cohesion.

Delivery will be achieved through partnership working, building on existing creative health networks and evidence-based practice.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Health and Wellbeing Implications:

Positive impact through prevention, improved mental wellbeing and reduced social isolation.

Equality Implications:

Strong focus on inclusion and accessibility; risk of unequal participation mitigated through targeted outreach and partnership delivery.

Financial Implications:

Primarily delivered through existing resources and external funding; long-term sustainability dependent on continued partnership and funding availability.

Delivery Risks:

Risks include capacity and coordination across partners, mitigated through clear governance and alignment with Council and NHS priorities.

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Arts Strategy 2026-2029



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- 5 • Our Objectives & Aims

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Forward

AWAITING TEXT





About the Arts Strategy

This Strategy is to provide focus and added value to the efforts of everyone involved in the planning and provision of arts activity in Havering. Promote creativity, foster cultural awareness, and enhance community cohesion through diverse and inclusive arts programs.

Our vision for arts development in the London Borough of Havering is:

“To transform lives through participation in, and enjoyment of, the arts”

In the context of this strategy, the scope of ‘the arts’ is understood to encompass:

performing arts, music, dance, theatre, creative industries, visual arts, festivals, public art, literary arts, poetry, reading, writing and the spoken word, digital art, combined arts, media.



Objectives and Aims

The Objectives and Aims of the Arts Strategy are based on those of the Culture Strategy:

Objectives

1: Health and Wellbeing

Support a high standard of mental, physical and emotional health for all by increasing the number of people taking part in art.

2: Learning and Development

Support learning opportunities for all, by providing access to a broad arts offer, enabling people to take part in new activities and ensuring development pathways are in place.

3: Towns and Communities

Enriching our towns and communities, through investment and engagement in the arts, and by using art to deliver a high quality, safe, pleasant and visually interesting landscape and townscape for our residents.

Aims

1: Transforming Awareness

'Residents of Havering, and increased numbers living outside of the borough, are now more aware of Havering's existing and enhanced arts offer and the positive impact culture can play within people's lives'.

2: Creating Connectivity

'Havering is a strong networked and increasingly resilient borough of cultural players, where cultural partners work together to develop and deliver arts strategy, create projects in partnership, cross promote each other's work and fundraise for new initiatives.'

3: Engaging the Least Engaged

'That the range of people engaged in arts activity in Havering is increased and that the least engaged are actively prioritised.'

4: Rebalancing the Sector

'There is a broad range of arts activity across the borough and where there is a lack of key provision this is addressed.'

5: Placing Culture within Cohesion

The Arts is seen and being used as a way of ensuring that there is a sense of belonging for all of the communities of our borough and that there are enhanced relationships between people from different backgrounds.





Who is the Strategy for?

Everyone engages in the arts, and the arts play a role in everybody's life. Art based activities can educate us, as well as inspire. We want to challenge the idea that the arts may only be for certain people by ensuring accessibility to individuals and our community.

We aim to target key areas, working with residents who feel they are less engaged and ensure we can work towards reducing barriers communities may feel hinder their arts experience.

We learn through the arts – and develop our learning skills – as audience just as much as participant. Even as pure entertainment, the arts offer us an opportunity to locate ourselves in our social and cultural environment. Exposure to art of the highest quality as part of our educative process, be it formal or informal, has long been established as a core necessity of our learning journey.





This strategy supports the corporate objectives of Cleaner, Safer, Prouder, and Together. The four key themes of that vision are:

Communities

Helping young and old people fulfil their potential through high achieving schools and by supporting them to live safe, healthy and independent lives.

Places

Making sure that our neighbourhoods are a great place to live by investing in them and keeping them clean, green and safe with access to quality parks and leisure facilities.

Opportunities

Helping people get on in life by creating jobs and skills opportunities and building genuinely affordable homes.

Connections

Making it easier for people to get around and online by investing in road, transport links, faster internet and free Wi-Fi in town centres.





The fundamental and instrumental value of the arts

Fundamental value

The act of engaging in the arts, whether as audience or participant, stimulates our senses, emotions and intellect.

“Recognition of the part that creativity and culture can play in supporting local economies and talent, health and wellbeing, and children and young people, has flourished over recent years, strengthening our partnerships with local and national government, opening up new avenues for all who work in museums, libraries and arts organisations, and improving the lives of people everywhere.”

Sir Nicholas Serota Chair, Arts Council England

Engagement in the arts is life-affirming, it improves our ability to communicate, interact, work and play alongside friends, neighbours and family. It changes





our perception of the world around us, offering us new ideas and pathways of personal, social and educational development. The arts offer us aspiration, confidence, achievement, self-esteem and pride in both ourselves and our community.

Most people would consider engaging in the arts to involve going to the theatre or visiting an art gallery, but we actually engage in the arts, in its widest sense, on a much more frequent basis. We want to challenge the idea that arts are only for certain people. You may engage in arts, for example;

- By watching a soap opera we are engaging in the art forms of drama, storytelling, creative writing, and photography, lighting and sound.
- By reading a magazine we are benefiting from the arts of photography, creative writing through journalism and the range of design skills required to produce a newspaper or magazine.
- By walking through our town centres we are interacting the arts of design and architecture, by definition prevalent throughout the built environment, and within our parks and open spaces.





The value of the Arts strategy, arts activity and arts facilities to Havering residents

In addition to the fundamental value, engagement in the arts also has the power to produce significant benefits. The arts are increasingly recognised for the vital role they play in educational, social and health environments, for example the arts can:

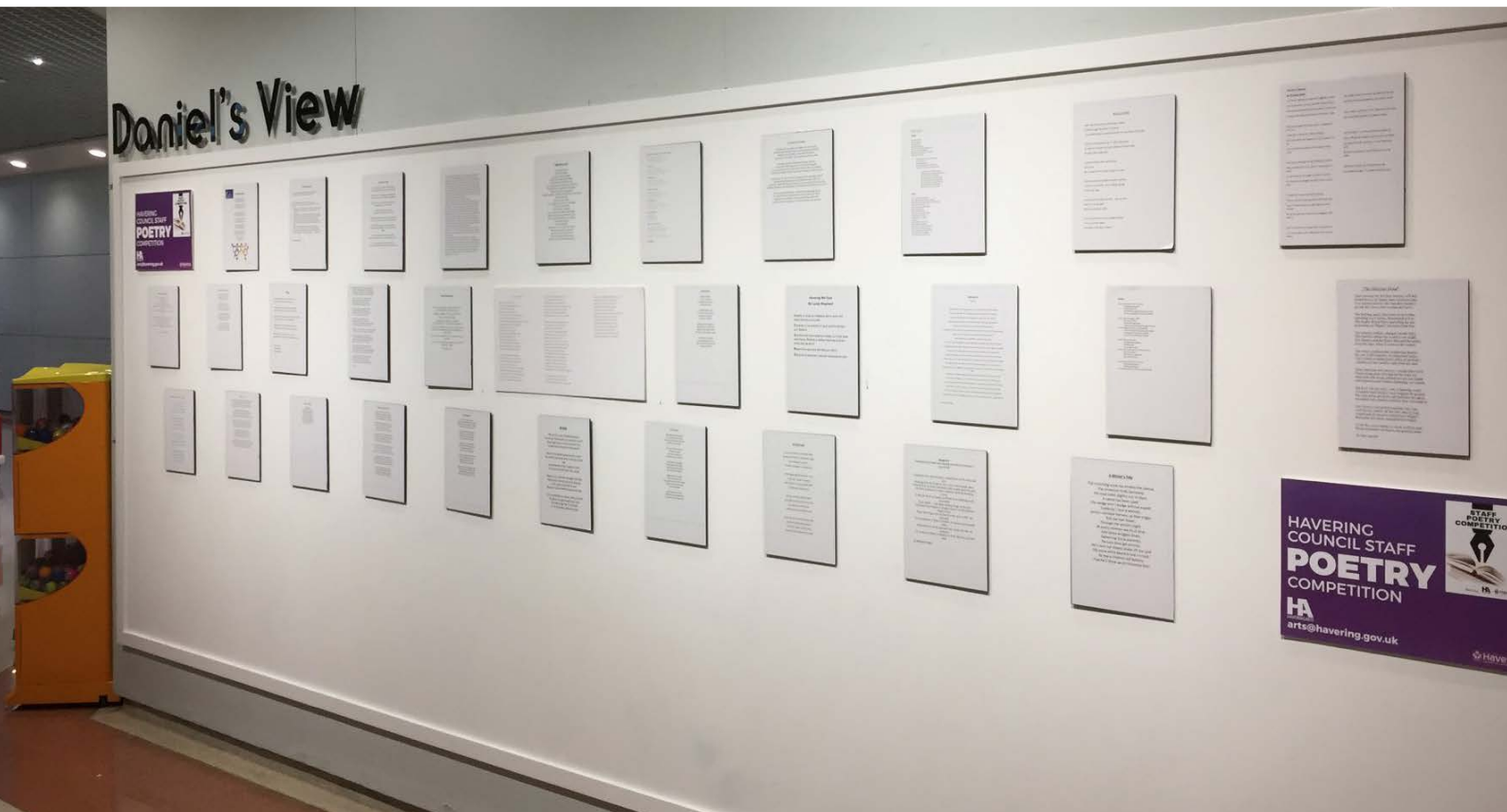
- **Cultural Enrichment:** Arts programs provide opportunities for cultural expression and appreciation, helping to preserve and celebrate diverse cultural heritages.
- **Social Cohesion:** Engaging in arts activities fosters a sense of community, bringing people together and promoting understanding across different backgrounds and generations. Encourage individuals to express themselves creatively, bringing a sense of satisfaction, improving confidence, contributing to their health and well-being and a more balanced life.
- **Economic Growth:** Investment in the arts can stimulate local economies through tourism, job creation, and support for creative industries. Continued investment in events and arts facilities, making it a more attractive place to live and work, and attracting visitors into the area. This could also benefit cultural tourism sectors and creative industries. Keep local businesses at the cutting edge by encouraging creativity and developing a strong cultural and creative industry sector.





- **Educational Benefits:** Arts education enhances critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills, benefiting students both academically and personally. Play a key role in knowledge and academic achievements, which can enhance individual's employment prospects.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Participation in arts activities can improve mental health, reduce stress, and provide therapeutic benefits.
- **Environmental Awareness:** Arts can be a powerful tool to raise awareness about environmental issues and inspire action towards sustainability. Create stronger, cohesive local communities by bringing people together, sharing interests, stories and experiences, and giving people a greater sense of community and place.
- **Community Identity:** Arts initiatives can help build a strong sense of local identity and pride by reflecting the unique characteristics and history of the community. Support community safety initiatives by reducing crime through encouraging delivery of purposeful activity to assist in strengthening community networks.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** Arts encourage innovation and creativity, which can spill over into other sectors, driving new ideas and approaches.





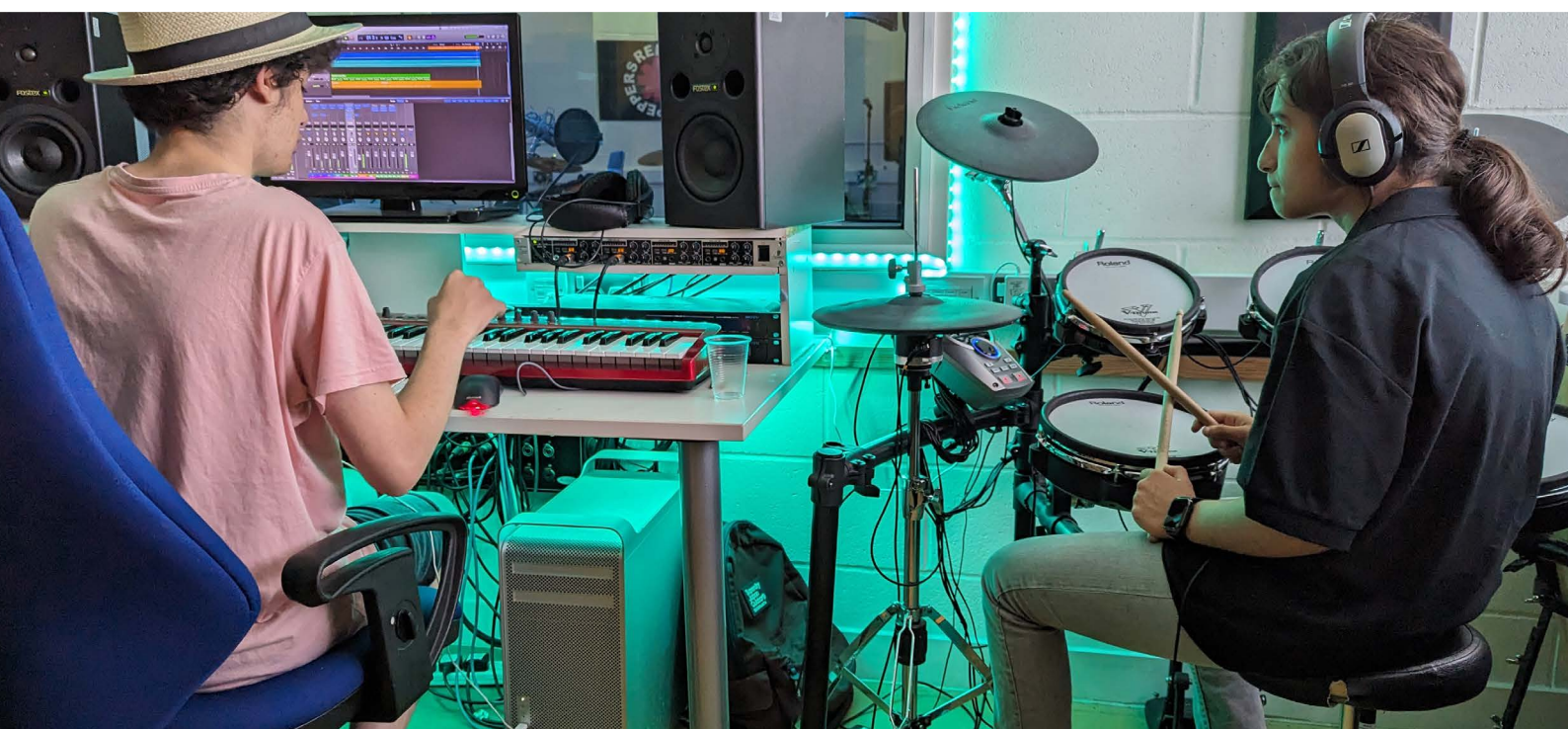
“By 2030, we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences”

Arts Council England- Our Vision 2020-2030

The arts are highly valued by residents, both in terms of participation in and observation of the activities, and also in terms of the instrumental benefits that the arts bring to the local area and community.

Cultural Enrichment: Arts centres provide a platform for cultural expression, showcasing a diverse range of artistic talents and traditions. They help preserve and promote cultural heritage, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of different cultures within the community.





Education and Lifelong Learning: Arts centres offer educational programs and workshops for people of all ages, encouraging lifelong learning and personal development. These programs help develop critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills, benefiting individuals both personally and professionally.

Community Building: By hosting events and activities, arts centres bring people together, creating a sense of community and belonging. They serve as a social hub where individuals can connect, collaborate, and build relationships, strengthening the social fabric of the area.

Economic Impact: Arts centres contribute to the local economy by attracting visitors, generating revenue, and creating jobs. They support local artists and businesses, driving economic growth and revitalization in their communities.

Health and Wellbeing: Engaging in arts activities has been shown to improve mental health, reduce stress, and enhance overall wellbeing. Arts centres provide a space for creative expression and therapeutic activities, promoting emotional and psychological health.

Innovation and Creativity: Arts centres foster innovation by providing a space for experimentation and collaboration. They encourage artists to push boundaries and explore new ideas, driving creativity and inspiring progress in various fields.

Accessibility and Inclusion: Arts centres work to make art accessible to all, regardless of age, background, or ability. They offer inclusive programs and facilities that cater to diverse audiences, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to engage with and enjoy the arts.





Environmental Awareness: Many arts centres incorporate sustainability into their practices, using eco-friendly materials and promoting environmental awareness through their programs. They play a role in educating the community about environmental issues and inspiring positive action.

The Active People Data 2015-2017 suggests that:

- 52.2% of adults (16+) in England attended an event, performance or festival involving creative, artistic, dance, theatrical or music activity in the twelve months prior to interview.
- 46.5% had attended a museum or gallery, 35.0% had visited a public library and 34.7% had spent time doing a creative, artistic, theatrical or music activity or a craft.
- 26.6% had attended an event, performance or festival three or more times in the preceding twelve months, while 23.7% had done so at public libraries and 20.9% at museums or galleries.

Physical activity amongst adults and children in Havering:

Data on physical activity levels amongst children at Local Authority level is not available. In Havering in 2015, **55.4%** of adults self-reported that they achieve the recommended levels of physical activity (150 minutes per week according to the Chief Medical Officer's guidance). This data has been collected since 2012 and there are currently not enough data points to calculate reliable trend information. In terms of comparison to regional and national averages in 2015, it is similar to London (**57.8%**) and England (**57.0%**).





Culture

Total engagement (physical or digital) across the cultural sectors was higher in 2023/24 compared to the previous year (2022/23), with the exception of the heritage sector which has remained the same. Total engagement in the arts (91%) was the highest, whilst library engagement was the lowest (30%).

- Overall, physical engagement was higher across all cultural sectors than digital engagement.
- Museums and galleries saw the largest increase in engagement compared to the other cultural sectors, with an increase of 10 percentage points in total engagement from the previous year.

Information taken from Participation Survey 2023-2024.



Contribution of the Arts to Corporate Objectives and Initiatives

Places	<p>The arts make our environment more appealing, and sharpen our perception and experience of it by making us more curious and allowing us to better engage with our environment.</p> <p>The arts also contribute to community safety, particularly through our work with young people. For example, enabling young people to work well in groups and express themselves creatively, using the arts to provide education on alcohol, using music production to allow examination of issues through lyric writing and conversation. The arts also contribute to important protective factors such as literacy and numeracy, and simple diversionary activities for people at risk of offending, or dropping out of education.</p> <p>School Initiative: Goal: Embed arts education within the school curriculum to inspire creativity and critical thinking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Integration: Include arts subjects in the core curriculum. • Extracurricular Activities: Provide after-school art clubs and programs. • Artist Residencies: Partner with local artists to provide hands-on learning experiences.
Opportunities	<p>The arts provide opportunities for self-expression, relaxation, creativity and enjoyment, and have a powerful and positive impact on our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. The arts provide particularly important opportunities to engage and improve the lives of more isolated, disadvantaged, disabled or hard to reach individuals, because of the diverse range, and accessible nature, of arts activities. The arts also creates a voice for these groups to connect, communicate and advocate for themselves.</p> <p>The arts are a rich conduit to formal and informal learning in all aspects of our lives. As well as providing opportunities to develop art-based skills, engaging in the arts also enhances our sense of imagination, enquiry and problem-solving skills, and enables us to better understand ourselves and communicate with others. The arts also provide opportunities to learn about other world cultures, is suited to all ages, interests and abilities, and can be used as a method of engaging otherwise hard to reach groups in informal learning activity.</p> <p>Economic Impact Initiative: Goal: Utilize the arts to stimulate economic growth and create employment opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Industry Support: Invest in local artists and creative businesses to foster a thriving arts sector. • Tourism: Promote arts events and public art installations to attract tourists and boost local spending. • Job Creation: Develop arts programs that create job opportunities in various sectors, including education, event management, and healthcare. • Business Collaboration: Encourage partnerships between arts organizations and local businesses to drive economic development.



Communities	<p>Havering's towns and communities are steeped in the arts, both in a physical sense through the design and architecture of our town centres, and through the opportunities provided to participate and engage in the arts. Art makes places more exciting, improves residents' perceptions of their local area, bind us together, and supports the development of a stronger, more cohesive society. Art resides in multiple settings throughout our towns and communities; within our libraries, parks, museums, theatres, community and church halls, our high streets and our homes. The arts attract footfall and spend within our town centres and ensure we develop an economy that makes things as well as consumes them.</p> <p>Project example: Community Arts Programme</p> <p>Goal: Create inclusive community art projects that reflect local culture and history.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops: Offer regular art workshops in various disciplines (painting, sculpture, dance, music). • Events: Host annual community art festivals showcasing local talent. • Public Art: Develop public art installations and murals with community input.
Connections	<p>To work in support of the Cultural Strategy, A Good Life. Havering is strongly networked and increasingly resilient borough of cultural players, where cultural partners work together to develop and deliver cultural strategy, create projects in partnership, cross promote each other's work and fundraise for new initiatives.</p>

Other Key Initiatives

Creative Health Initiative:

Goal: Use the arts to improve physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

- Art Therapy: Offer art therapy sessions to support mental health.
- Healthcare Partnerships: Collaborate with hospitals and healthcare providers to integrate arts programs into patient care.
- Community Wellbeing Projects: Develop projects that promote relaxation, mindfulness, and emotional expression through art.

Climate Action Initiative:

Goal: Leverage the arts to engage the community in environmental awareness and climate action.

- Eco-Art Projects: Create art installations using recycled materials to promote sustainability.
- Awareness Campaigns: Use public art to highlight the impact of climate change and encourage eco-friendly practices.
- Workshops and Talks: Host events focused on the intersection of art and environmentalism, featuring eco-conscious artists and activists.



- **Green Practices:** Implement eco-friendly practices in all arts programs, such as using sustainable materials and reducing waste.

Broader Initiatives:

Goal: Create an interconnected arts ecosystem that supports lifelong learning and cultural exchange.

- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with galleries, theatres, and other cultural institutions to offer joint programs.
- **Grants and Funding:** Secure funding from local government and private sponsors to support arts initiatives.
- **Marketing:** Use social media and local media to promote programs and events.

Innovation and Digital Arts:

Goal: Embrace technology and innovation to enhance artistic expression and engagement.

- **Digital Platforms:** Develop online platforms for virtual art exhibitions, workshops, and events.
- **Tech Integration:** Use augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) to create immersive art experiences.
- **Innovation Hubs:** Create spaces where artists can experiment with new technologies and collaborate with tech experts.

Cultural Diversity:

Goal: Celebrate and promote diversity through inclusive arts programs.

- **Multicultural Events:** Host festivals and events that showcase the artistic traditions of various cultures.
- **Diverse Representation:** Ensure arts programs reflect the diversity of the community.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Facilitate cultural exchange programs to broaden artistic perspectives.

Artist Support:

Goal: Provide support and resources for local artists to thrive.

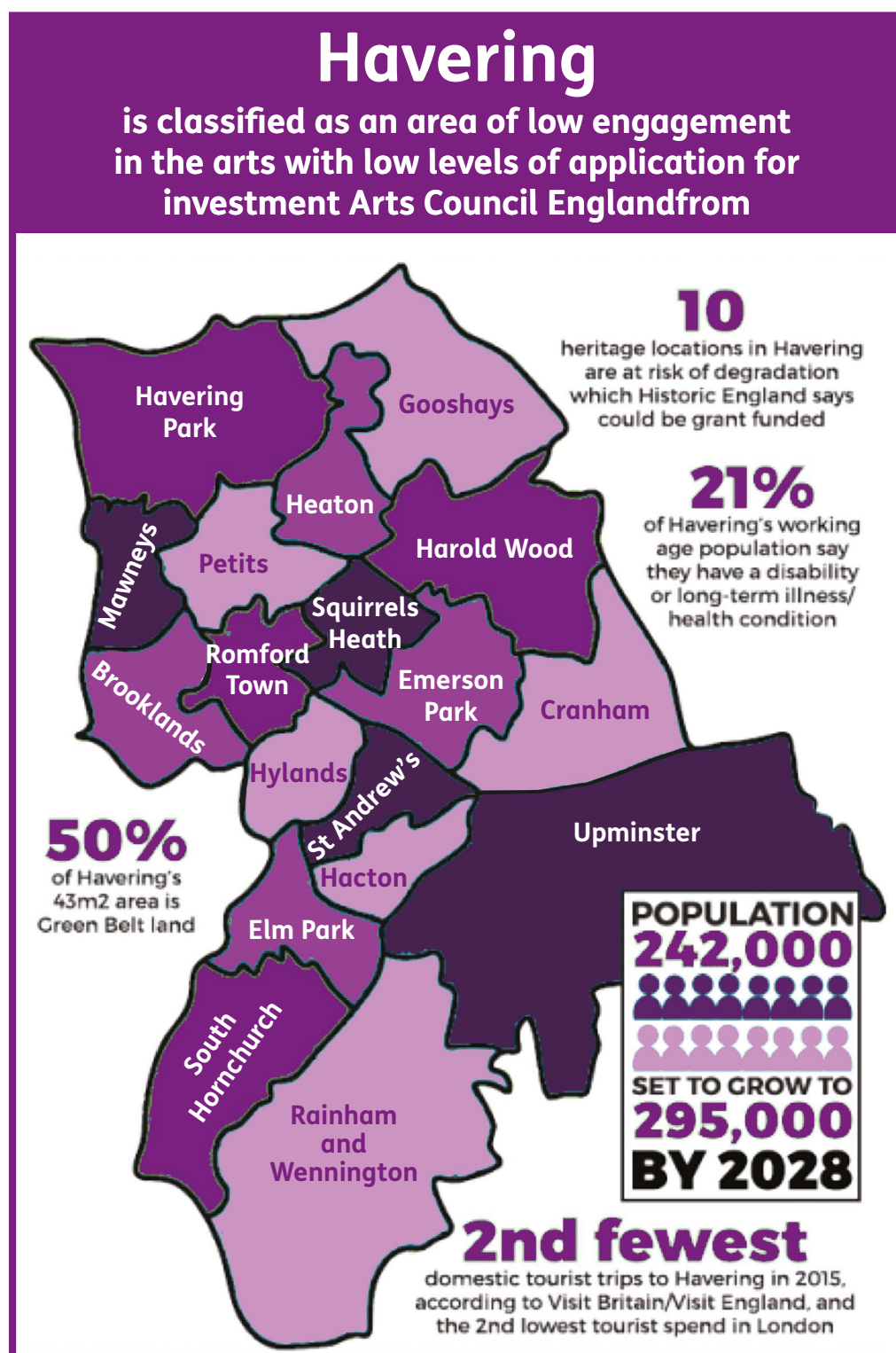
- **Grants and Scholarships:** Offer financial support to emerging and established artists.
- **Residencies and Studios:** Provide affordable studio spaces and artist residency programs.
- **Professional Development:** Offer workshops and resources for artists to develop their skills and careers.



Responding to a changing community

Local Context

Havering has a range of existing arts activity. The arts have become more innovative and wide-ranging and its offer has become of much higher quality; the borough's facilities physically vastly improved, more professionally-run and safer to use than ever before. New partnerships with other local authority services and external bodies, voluntary and community groups have been developed and sustained. The arts have become better-attuned to efficient delivery and service user needs, and our own services, and our service and voluntary sector partners, think and act much more strategically.



Havering's Culture Strategy clearly summarises the demographic changes facing the borough over the next few years, to which the Arts Service, as do all council services and partners, need to respond.



The GLA produce estimates of population change by ethnicity. The white population is projected to decrease from 84% (in 2017) to 78% (in 2032) of the population. It is projected that the Black African population will increase from 4.1% in 2017 to 5.3% of the Havering population in 2032. The ethnic characteristics of Havering is gradually changing due to its growing cultural diversity.

- Havering is the second largest borough in Greater London with a population of around 262,100 (as of the 2021 census), set to grow by 295,000 by 2028.
- Havering is one of the least diverse boroughs, although between 2001-2011 Havering had the highest increase of ethnic minority population, doubling to 17% by 2011.
- Havering's ethnic minority population is projected to steadily increase to approximately 21% in 2041.
- Approximately 18% of working age people living in havering disclosed they has a disability or long term illness.
- Age Distribution: Havering has the oldest population in London, with a median age of around 40 years.
- Population Growth: The population increased by 10.5% from 2011 to 2021.
- Children (0-17 years): Around 58,550 children, which is a 15.2% increase from 2011.

We can also identify that Havering continues to have an age profile which is older than London as a whole. It is projected that the largest growth in population to 2033 will occur in children (0-17 years) and older age groups (65+) Life expectancy at age 65 years in Havering is a further 19 years for males and 21.7 years for females.

With the risk of growing divisions between young and old, the arts and culture in general are in an almost uniquely strong position not only to improve the quality of life for both groups but to create social ties that bind young and old together. There is a strong case for the arts service and its partners to work more proactively to create intergenerational working, and to respond more strongly to a significantly growing section of the community with mobility issues or who are homebound.

The establishment of the Disability Forum has already resulted in the Arts Service working in partnership with the voluntary sector to provide holiday scheme activities for disabled young people. These kinds of community partnerships will continue to play a pivotal role in the delivery of this kind of targeted work, and it is vital that activity content is as user-led as possible. Integrated working is also important, with disabled and non-disabled people working together and breaking down misunderstandings and social barriers along the way.





How the Arts contribute to our Towns and Communities

The arts make a significant contribution to our Towns and Communities, in environmental, social and economic terms.

‘Analysis of the national survey reveals that people who viewed a sense of community as being important to them were most likely to agree that attending arts and culture events helped them feel part of their community. 68% per cent of those who say that a sense of community is very important to them agree that attending arts and culture events helped them feel part of their community, compared to 30% of those who see a sense of community as very unimportant’ (The Value of Arts and Culture in Place-shaping, 2019, Wavehill Ltd).

The effect of the arts in educating and inspiring us, developing our emotional and intellectual literacy, keeping us active and healthy and providing cohesion for our community, all of these things translate in to our own economic activity too, extending the arts’ contribution way beyond the mere purchase of tickets and refreshments.





Our borough's arts facilities, activities, events and festivals, as well as our museum, parks and libraries, are all engines for the local economy. National studies have long shown that cultural facilities and activities are important factors in where we choose to live, educate our children, where we go shopping and where we choose to set up our businesses.

Art begins to define our townscapes not just physically, but in the way that our community functions both intellectually and emotionally. As our demography changes then so does our artistic landscape, offering us experience and insight into a huge and diverse range of new cultures which help make all members of our community understand each other better.

Building, developing, preserving and stewarding our environment is a process that greatly benefits from the guidance of artists, but in a much richer and complex way than the provision of public art or the integration of artists into urban design projects. People who make, create and perform have historically displayed an unusually vibrant relationship with their natural habitat, and their work, by relating the human experience to both the built and natural environment, and by exploring new views on relationships and situations, help the rest of us enjoy living in closer proximity to other people. Art makes the environment exciting.



How an Arts Strategy Can Enhance Havering's Heritage

An arts strategy can be a dynamic force in the delivery and expansion of heritage initiatives, breathing new life into historical narratives and making them more accessible, engaging, and relevant to contemporary audiences. By integrating creative practices into heritage work, organizations can deepen public connection to place, memory, and identity.

• Creative Interpretation of Historic Sites

Artists can reimagine heritage spaces through installations, performances, or digital storytelling, offering fresh perspectives that resonate with diverse audiences.

• Community Co-Creation Projects

Engaging local residents in artistic activities—such as oral history murals, participatory theatre, or craft workshops—can uncover untold stories and foster a sense of ownership.

• Heritage Festivals and Cultural Trails

Arts-led programming within heritage festivals or walking trails can animate historical narratives, blending education with entertainment to attract wider participation.

• Residencies and Artist Commissions

Hosting artists-in-residence at heritage sites encourages long-term creative engagement and can result in new works that interpret and celebrate local history.

• Digital Arts and Immersive Media

Using augmented reality, projection mapping, or interactive soundscapes can modernize heritage experiences and appeal to younger audiences.

Culture and the creative industries contribute £52bn to London's economy every year and account for one in six jobs in the capital. Culture for all Londoners details how the Mayor will keep the city at the top of its creative game and ensure there are cultural opportunities in every corner of the capital.

Culture Strategy for London



What facilities and services are provided?

The London Borough of Havering Arts development team	<p>Arts development team work throughout the borough targeting specific and disadvantaged sections of the community, e.g. Looked-After Children; young offenders and those at risk of offending; disabled children and young people; older people; disabled older people and ethnic minorities. A wide range of arts and cultural events and programmes throughout the borough, both as direct provision or in partnership with other council service areas, voluntary/community sector, arts organisations and schools, including Langton's Summer Concert, Havering Show, Fairkytes Live, Mercury Mall, MyPlace community centre, schools art competitions, older people's art competitions, Libraries, Waste and Recycling team, NELFT, Family Information Group, and LBH Housing team. Other services include: Havering Councils Hostels, Havering Council Music School, Havering Council Fostering Team, Havering Council Art Therapists, Havering Adult College, Havering Council Sports Team, Avelon Road Day Centre (Need to check if this comes under Havering Council or wider), Havering Council Events Team, Havering Town Hall facilities management.</p>
Fairkytes Arts Centre	<p>Fairkytes Arts Centre, Billet Lane, Hornchurch, offering a year-round programme of participatory arts opportunities and activities for all ages and abilities, through both direct provision and activities offered by its short-term and long-term tutors and tenants, and community/voluntary group room hires.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairkytes offers summer and Easter holiday schemes and half term activities for children and young people and targeted provision for SEND children and adults. • 2018 saw the opening of Fry's Gallery, utilising the former Citizens advice bureau offices. The redevelopment of this space created a good sized community gallery space, along with Kitchen and workshop area. The popularity of the spaces increases year by year by both local and national artists, as well as voluntary and community organisations with The London Borough of Havering. • Fairkytes Arts Centre plays a key role as a centre for cultural industry, with nine artists and craftspeople in permanent studio residence, alongside its retail shop offering a selling space for local artists and craftspeople. <p>Arts centres hold great value in society. They are a place for cultural enrichment, education and lifelong learning, community belonging, aid economic growth, health and wellbeing, a place for innovation and creativity with a focus of accessibility and inclusion.</p>



Havering Library services	<p>Havering Libraries are community living rooms and the cultural hubs of the borough. We pride ourselves on being innovative and our issues and visits are growing as more and more people are learning about everything that the modern library has to offer. The Arts Strategy will aid development of arts and culture activities, by delivering programmes such as arts exhibitions, workshops and classes, storytelling and performance, digital arts, community arts projects, art therapy and cultural events.</p>
Havering Theatre Trust, Queen's Theatre Hornchurch	<p>Havering Theatre Trust, Queen's Theatre Hornchurch is a vibrant regional theatre with a rich heritage, working in Outer East London, Essex and beyond. As the cultural hub of the region, over 200,000 people enjoy the programme each year, including the best in home grown theatre, visiting live entertainment and inspiring Learning and Participation projects. Behind the scenes, sets and costumes are lovingly created on-site by a highly skilled carpentry workshop, scenic artists, prop makers and wardrobe team. Audiences are guaranteed a warm welcome from a winner of UK Theatre's Most Welcoming Theatre 2016, 2017 & 2018 and London Theatre of the Year 2020 (The Stage Awards), the first Outer London theatre to receive this prestigious award. https://www.queens-theatre.co.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A year-round programme of visiting artists, performers and shows covering all forms of music, dance, spoken word and touring productions. • Youth theatre and youth dance companies • An extensive theatre-in-education programme touring to schools and colleges throughout the borough (and neighbouring boroughs) • A foyer programme of youth music, community events, exhibitions, children's theatre, jazz and comedy clubs • A vital facility for hire/use by the voluntary arts sector, schools and community events • Securing Arts Council England National Portfolio Status in order to maintain the Queen's Theatre at the heart of Havering's regional cultural offer for the next three years
Havering Music School	<p>Havering Music School has existed in its present form since 1993. The school has grown considerably, steadily building ensemble activities, amalgamating all the small Saturday Music Centres into one and creating partnerships with many of the country's top orchestras and ensembles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMS teach more than 2,350 primary, secondary and college students every week. Lessons on most orchestral instruments, plus voice, drum kit, keyboard and piano, which are taught to pupils of all abilities, from beginner to advanced. • A further 1,500 children in 23 primary schools take part in weekly class ensemble tuition • Peripatetic music tuition for individuals and a number of ensembles • Havering Music School is involved in a number of partnerships with local and national organisations. • Is the lead organisation for the Havering Music Education Hub we work closely with a range of partner organisations, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Opera House and London Chamber Orchestra, to give students the chance to perform at major London venues and work alongside some of the country's finest professional musicians



Havering Arts Council	<p>Havering Arts Council was formed in 1965 to help develop the practise and appreciation of the Arts throughout the London Borough of Havering. Havering Arts Council is divided into three main tiers of organisation. Every member group, and individual member, is represented through, and entitled to participate in, one of the relevant hubs. The five activity hubs are Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts and Diverse (other). They meet to discuss and advise the Executive on matters falling within their particular field of interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAC support the cultural life of the borough and help local creatives and arts groups to grow and develop. • Organise festivals and exhibitions, offer networking opportunities and grants to our member societies to support their activities. • Work in collaboration with the borough's Arts Development team, the department of Culture and Leisure Services and The Queens Theatre, Hornchurch
Brookside Theatre	<p>Brookside Theatre is an award-winning 194-seat theatre in the London Borough of Havering and the first and only professional arts venue in Romford. Based within the historic Romford War Memorial buildings, it was established in 2012 and now plays host to a varied programme of events; full scale musicals, plays, live music, stand-up comedy, tribute acts and celebrity guests. The aim of the theatre has been to raise funds for the continued renovation and subsequent upkeep of these historic buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is entirely self-sufficient, self-funded and voluntarily run and serves to entertain, enrich, inspire and educate the community and provide a first-class theatrical experience that is both accessible and affordable. • Creative opportunities are provided for members of the community of all ages to learn and experience all aspects of theatre production and with the introduction of two in-house societies, members of the community are actively encouraged to participate in in-house events. • The theatre offers the opportunity of showcasing local talent and provides arts educational programmes that promote life-long learning to the borough's diverse community.
MyPlace	<p>MyPlace is a youth and community centre in Harold Hill which serves the community by providing a welcoming space for residents to visit for educational, health, cultural and social activities. Built as part of the Harold Hill Ambitions Project, in partnership with Havering Council and the Big Lottery Fund, MyPlace officially opened its doors to the public in June 2012. The facility operates with many partners, including counselling, health, information, advice and guidance for young people and the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building boasts an impressive performance hall, audio recording studio, games room, cafe, art room, workshop, health rooms and computer suite. • The London Borough of Havering's Youth Service is based in the building. • The Youth Service delivers a packed programme of activities for young people to enjoy, including youth clubs, sports, Duke of Edinburgh awards, youth action, and music and arts projects.



The Appleby Gallery	<p>The Appleby Gallery (formerly Brentwood Road Gallery) is a visual arts centre on Frances Bardsley School's campus, hosting national touring exhibitions, established and emerging artists and developing arts education, outreach and related programming.</p> <p>The gallery aims to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the understanding and appreciation of art by all members of the community • Make art and the creative process available to those who might not otherwise have access through community outreach • Promote opportunities for artists' growth and development • Dedicate to the cultural enrichment of Havering and the surrounding areas by sponsor activities to promote the understanding and appreciation of art by all members of the community. • Commit to supporting our local creative and artistic community by offering a program of exhibitions, events and workshops that enable them to develop their practice.
Daniel's View, The Mercury Mall Gallery	<p>The Mercury Shopping centre officially opened 'Daniel's View Gallery' an art gallery space on level three of the centre. The gallery has been open since November 2018 in conjunction with 'The Big Draw' after The Mercury won the 'Community, Libraries and Participatory Award'.</p>
Creative People and Places (Havering Changing)	<p>Creative People and Places is about local people choosing, creating and taking part in the arts and culture on offer to them. CPP has awarded £17.5 million over the next four years (2019-2023) to 13 places identified as having some of the lowest engagement with arts and culture in the country.</p> <p>Havering Changing is a new project which will support local people, living and working, in Harold Hill, Orchard Village, Rainham and Romford to choose, create and take part in their own their programme of inspiring arts and culture. In August 2019, Havering Changing was thrilled to be one of only twelve new places in the country successful in its application to join Arts Council England's Creative People and Places programme, for a four year period starting in November 2019. Havering Changing will trial radical new ideas that engage local people in arts and culture in a variety of new ways. Havering Changing is a consortium of eight organisations, led by Queen's Theatre Hornchurch, working with Clarion Futures (the charitable foundation of Clarion Housing Group), Havering Colleges, Havering Interfaith Forum, Havering Volunteer Centre, Havering Youth Services and MyPlace, Rainham Association for Village Events (R.A.V.E.), and The Mercury Shopping Centre. The organisations that have come together to lead Havering Changing all passionately believe putting local communities at the heart of cultural decision making will enable residents to tell new and different stories about Havering; it will help people to feel at home in the world and in Havering; it will create moments of delight and inspiration; and that it will lead to a more connected, ambitious and confident community that believes they have just as much right to amazing cultural experiences as everyone else.</p> <p>https://www.haveringchanging.org/about</p>



Havering College of Further and Higher education	<p>Havering College of Further and Higher Education is a college founded in 1947 in the London Borough of Havering that provides part-time and full-time education to students aged 14+</p> <p>At Havering College, we aim to deliver high quality education and training that responds to the needs of employers and individuals. We are constantly working to deliver courses that are developed in conjunction with employers to ensure that learners have the opportunity to develop the relevant skills required for the industry.</p> <p>Our diverse curriculum of over 360 courses, ranging from entry level to postgraduate degrees means we can provide all the pathways needed to progress onto a higher course or straight into employment. With us, learners have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential whilst studying in a safe and inspirational learning environment.</p>
The Arts Society Havering	<p>The Arts Society (formerly NADFAS) is a leading arts charity. It was founded in 1968 to promote and advance aesthetic education, to cultivate the appreciation and study of the decorative and fine arts and to support the conservation of our national artistic heritage.</p> <p>Over forty years ago Havering DFAS was formed following Susan Sloan's presence at a very interesting lecture arranged by NADFAS at the Courtauld Institute. This experience set Sue investigating and working extremely hard to gather a committee of like-minded ladies with suitable expertise to start a local society. Her aim was to follow Patrica Fay in forming a Society initially for young mothers to attend stimulating lectures about Decorative and Fine Arts once a month, while the children were at school. The group started in Romford in 1973 where we meet once again. 2013 marked our 40th anniversary.</p>
FUSE (Local Cultural Educational Partnership)	<p>The steering group has representatives from ten organisations, including the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch, the local authority, youth services, and primary, secondary and college establishments.</p> <p>London is one of the greatest creative hubs in the world, however Havering is recorded as the fourth least culturally engaged London borough and third least able to access hyper-local publically funded culture. The partnership is working together to respond to this.</p> <p>In April, the partnership delivered its first conference, 'The Children Have Spoken', sharing valuable learning from a series of youth consultation workshops to help understand the level of access to arts and culture across the borough, highlighting interests, needs and barriers to participating. We worked with 8 organisations, delivered 14 workshops and spoke to 252 young people.</p> <p>The partnership is currently developing a three year programme of activity in response to the research, which will build on the early success of projects in the pilot year, including a new Cultural Commissioning initiative to empower and facilitate young people to design and produce their own creative and cultural events.</p>



<p>Creative Health Havering</p>	<p>Creative Health Havering is a network of local grassroots community organisations, third sector services and medical professionals exploring opportunities around social prescribing and the benefit of arts activity for health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Havering is a rapidly changing community and experiences many of the health and social inequalities of an outer-London borough. Creative Health Havering is coming together to help tackle these inequalities through moving away from an exclusively medical model of care towards a more community-based, person-centred approach, which brings together the expertise and experience from all parts of the cultural community and health care system. (Information sourced from www.queens-theatre.co.uk)</p>
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St George's Health and Wellbeing Hub

St. George's health and Wellbeing Hub in Hornchurch provides a range of health and care services under one roof. St George's Creative Health Strategy was devised and written by Dr Rebecca Gordon-Nesbitt, in close dialogue with health leaders, stakeholders at St George's and representatives of the wider health, local authority, cultural and creative communities of Havering as well as national organisations working to advance creative health. Development of the strategy was funded by Arts Council, with additional support from McLaren Construction Group, Northmores and Capsticks, and administered by London Arts and Health.

The creation of this strategy marks the next step in an ambitious, place-based approach to integrating the arts into health and care at St George's. The strategy launch will feature reflections from key project partners and stakeholders, offering valuable insights into the development of the strategy and its future implementation.





Creative Health activity can help users of such services by:

Stress Reduction: Engaging in arts activities can significantly reduce stress levels, promoting relaxation and a sense of calm.

Improved Mood: Creating or experiencing art can enhance mood, providing an emotional outlet and boosting overall happiness.

Emotional Expression: Arts provide a safe and constructive way to express and process complex emotions, which can be particularly beneficial for those dealing with trauma or grief.

Cognitive Function: Participation in the arts stimulates brain function, enhancing cognitive abilities such as memory, attention, and problem-solving skills.

Social Connection: Arts activities can build social connections, reducing feelings of isolation and fostering a sense of belonging within the community.

Self-Esteem: Successfully completing an art project can boost self esteem and confidence, especially in children and vulnerable individuals.

Therapeutic Value: Art therapy is widely recognized for its effectiveness in treating mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, and PTSD.

Resilience: Engaging with the arts helps build resilience by providing individuals with coping mechanisms and a sense of purpose.



Artsmark Schools in Havering

Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings, accredited by Arts Council England. They support settings to develop and celebrate their commitment to arts and cultural education.

Artsmark provides a clear and flexible framework for teachers and schools leaders to embed creativity across the whole curriculum and address school improvement priorities.

Receive professional support, advice and resources to strengthen your arts provision.

You'll be supported throughout your Artsmark journey by our regional network of Bridge organisations, providing training, advice, practical teaching resources and introductions to other settings and leading cultural organisations in your area.

Artsmark clearly demonstrates how you support personal development and provides evidence to Ofsted on how you meet its spiritual, moral, social, cultural requirements.

Havering's current Artsmark schools include:

1. Ardleigh Green Junior School (Silver)
2. Branfil Primary School
3. Drapers' Pyrgo Priory Primary School
4. Engayne Primary School (Gold)
5. Gidea Park Primary School (Silver)
6. Harold Court Primary School (Silver)
7. Parklands Junior School
8. Rainham Village Primary School and Nursery (Silver)
9. Scargill Infant School
10. St. Peter's Catholic School
11. The Brittons Academy (Silver)
12. The Frances Bardsley Academy
13. Whybridge Junior School (Silver)

www.artsmark.org.uk



Culture strategy- A Good Life

The new Culture strategy for Havering is a framework that will inform future directions for culture and cultural activities in Havering.

Havering's Cultural Strategy has been developed by the public, private and voluntary sector in Havering, and represents the planned strategic work of a broad range of organisations and groups.

It is a consortium strategy designed to act as a three year catalyst for nurturing and growing the cultural life of a rapidly changing place.

It is designed to be used by anyone developing, making and building cultural activity in Havering.

It supports a shared vision across a networked borough.

Extract from London Borough of Havering; Culture strategy A Good Life.

The arts strategy aims to directly support and enhance the culture strategy in several key ways. This will include enhancing cultural identity, community engagement, economic development, increasing accessibility, education and lifelong learning, health and wellbeing and environmental awareness.

The strategy will work to bring the culture strategy to life by providing tangible programs, initiatives, and benefits that enrich community life and promote cultural vibrancy.

Arts, Culture and Havering Communication Strategies

The Culture Strategy is built on co-design and participation, involving over 50 organisations and 1,000 residents. This aligns with the communications strategy's goal of making residents feel informed, engaged, and involved in the borough's vision. Public art, festivals, and creative projects become tools for dialogue and storytelling, helping the Council communicate its priorities in accessible and emotionally resonant ways.

Promoting Havering's Identity

The communications strategy includes a goal to put "Havering on the map". The arts and cultural strategy directly supports this by:

- Celebrating local heritage through initiatives like Havering: Unearthed.
- Hosting landmark events in Romford Market.
- Creating immersive archives and public art installations.

These efforts help shape a distinctive and positive narrative about Havering, which the communications team can amplify across media channels.



Supporting Inclusive Messaging

Havering's population is rapidly changing, with increasing diversity and a younger demographic. The art strategy addresses this by:

- Empowering underrepresented voices (e.g. Deaf, disabled, neurodivergent artists).
- Creating community venues for shared programming.
- Promoting cultural equity and wellbeing.

This inclusivity strengthens the Council's messaging around belonging, fairness, and opportunity, key themes in its communications strategy.

Enhancing Internal and External Communications

The cultural strategy has:

- Raised the profile of culture within the Council.
- Embedded culture in the Corporate Plan.
- Created new strategic partnerships with national bodies like Arts Council England and Historic England.

These developments improve internal communications by aligning departments around shared goals, and external communications by providing compelling content and success stories to share with residents, media, and investors.

Driving Place-Based Marketing

The communications strategy includes marketing and events as key pillars. The art strategy fuels this by:

- Launching 30 cultural projects.
- Creating a new artist studio and digital platform.
- Hosting public talks and creative health initiatives.

These activities generate positive press, social media content, and community buzz, which the communications team can leverage to promote Havering as a vibrant place to live, work, and invest.

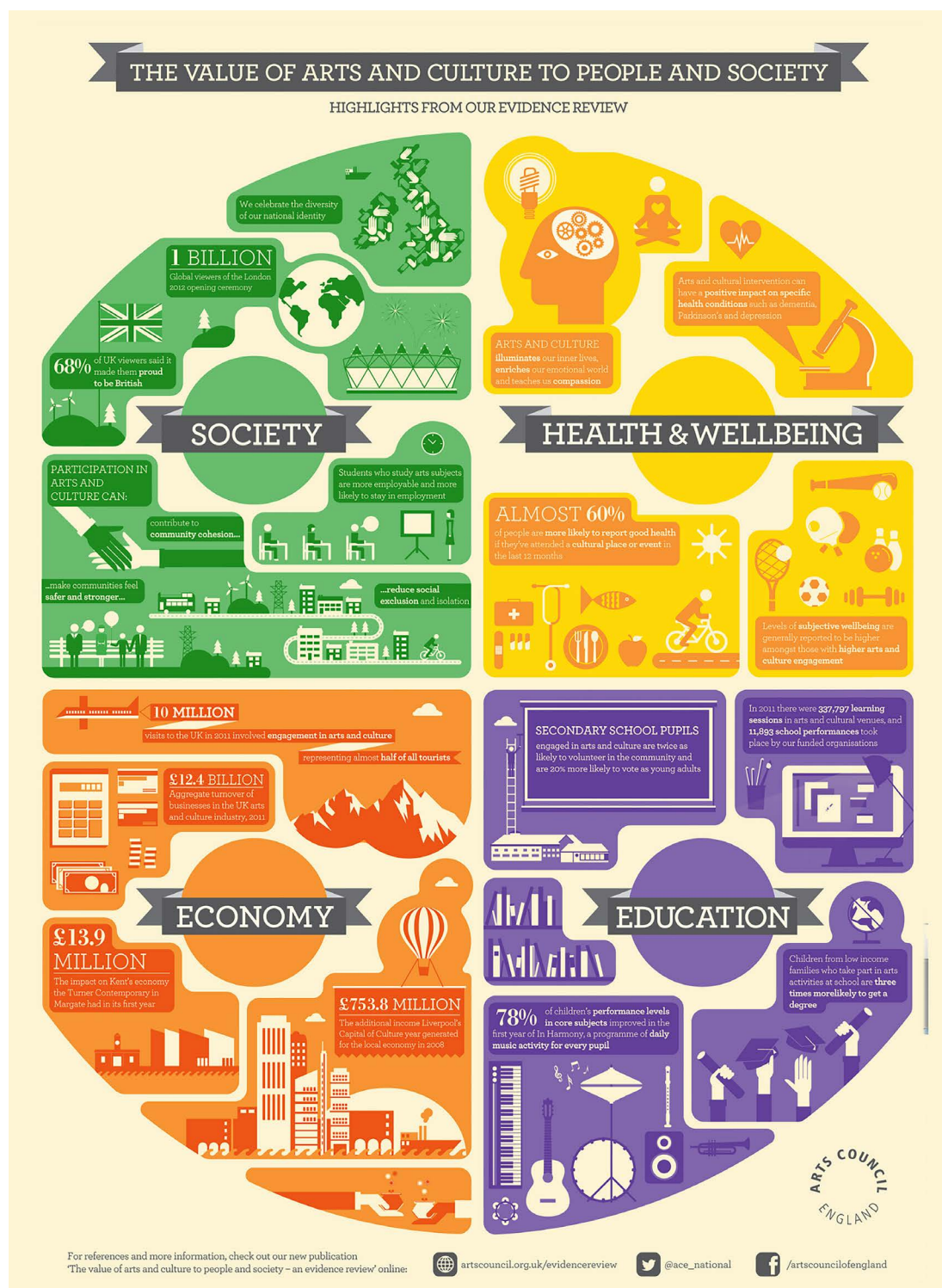
'The value of arts and culture to people and society outlines the existing evidence on the impact of arts and culture on our economy, health and wellbeing, society and education.'



How the Arts contribute to Health & Wellbeing

The arts are essential to our physical and mental health and wellbeing. There is a significant and fast growing body of research on the positive health benefits from engaging in the arts, which illustrates the full contribution the arts can make to our Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities. For example, research has found that:

- **'Singing** can significantly improve quality of life for people with dementia'.
- **Hospital patients** who experienced visual arts and live music during their stay had significantly less need for pain relief, had lower levels of anxiety and depression, and were released from hospital earlier than those in the control group.
- **'Rheumatoid arthritis sufferers** who listen to 20 minutes of music daily report a significant reduction in their perception of pain'.



The arts are increasingly recognised for the vital role they play in educational, social and health environments, for example the arts can:

- Encourage individuals to express themselves creatively, bringing a sense of satisfaction, improving confidence, contributing to their health and well-being and a more balanced life.
- Play a key role in knowledge and academic achievements, which can enhance individual's employment prospects.
- Create stronger, cohesive local communities by bringing people together, sharing interests, stories and experiences, and giving people a greater sense of community and place.
- Support community safety initiatives by reducing crime through encouraging delivery of purposeful activity to assist in strengthening community networks.
- Continued investment in events and arts facilities, making it a more attractive place to live and work, and attracting visitors into the area. This could also benefit cultural tourism sectors and creative industries.
- Keep local businesses at the cutting edge by encouraging creativity and developing a strong cultural and creative industry sector.
- Make our public spaces and buildings livelier and visually attractive.

‘The national survey findings reveal that two-thirds of respondents agreed that arts and culture has positive benefits for their personal wellbeing and just over half (55 per cent) stated that they would like to see more opportunities in their area. A similar proportion (49 per cent) also agreed that going to arts and culture events helped them to feel part of their community.’

The value of Arts and Culture in place Shaping, 2019, Wavehill LTD.

1. LBH Arts Department work with local residential housing schemes, day centres, learning-disabled adults and Alzheimer sufferers demonstrates the benefits of continuing engagement in arts activities, which provide positive activities or even respite for carers and families, and even contribute to extend independent living.

“There’s a lot of talent around and venues like this gives people the chance to show it. Very good work. I’m proud of my Dad’s work here and it’s all in good company.”

NHS Memory Service Exhibition Fry’s Gallery, Fairkytes Arts Centre.





How the Arts contribute to Learning and Personal Development

To engage in the arts means to engage in learning, producing important development outcomes for individuals.

The arts are a rich conduit to formal and informal learning in all aspects of our lives – not just restricted to learning art skills.

The arts make us curious about the world around us, stimulating enquiry, enabling us to communicate and honing our problem-solving skills. From the foundation of observation, those who partake in making art are also engaged in analysis. We learn as individuals, but we also learn collectively – from a group of watercolour hobbyists to a professional symphony orchestra – and our ability to communicate, listen, trust, recycle and contribute to this communal experience grows ever more expansive. The artist offers us alternative narratives, new ideas and ways of thinking, challenging us to decode them individually and collectively, and even if the end result is to reject that narrative, we have still informed ourselves.





We learn through the arts and develop our learning skills – as audience just as much as participant. The arts offer us an opportunity to locate ourselves in our social and cultural environment. Exposure to art of the highest quality as part of our educative process, be it formal or informal, has long been established as a core necessity of our learning journey. The value of this experience to schools in both delivering and enriching the national curriculum, whether it is through visiting professional performances or hosting professional artist's in-school, is beyond doubt.

The arts assist in learning and development of important characteristics children will need as adults.

10 Reasons Why Arts in Education Is so Important for Kids, By Laura Martin

Improved Academic Performance

Creativity

Motor Skills

Confidence

Visual Learning

Decision Making

Perserverance

Focus

Collaboration

Accountability

Para Arts Exhibition response

“Inspirational work. Very thoughtful and innovative pieces. I can only imagine how motivated the artists feel when they see their work displayed. Well done to the teaching for encouraging such lovely work too.”



Strategic national, regional and local documents relevant to the delivery of the arts in Havering

There are a large number of policies, strategies and priorities which are relevant to the Arts sector and the development of this strategy. The most significant influencers are listed below.

National Context

Arts Council England 2020 Strategy- Let's Create

Arts Council England's Strategy for 2020-30 is built around three Outcomes and four Investment Principles. They are designed to work together to achieve our vision of a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences.

The outcomes

- Creative people
- Cultural Communities
- A Creative & Cultural Country

Investment principles

- Ambition & Quality
- Dynamism
- Inclusivity & relevance
- Environmental Responsibility

The Outcomes and Investment Principles are fundamentally linked.

We believe people are better able to develop their creative potential if they have easy access – off and online – to outstanding libraries, museums and arts organisations.

Such provision must be locally accessible but part of a national cultural ecology: one that is ambitious, inclusive and relevant, dynamic and environmentally responsible.

And that national ecology must in turn be strengthened by talented artists from all communities, who have been given equal opportunities to develop their individual creative potential.

Taken together, the Outcomes and Investment Principles will guide us towards the creative and cultural nation we want England to become by 2030.



New National Plan for Music Education 2024-The Power of Music Lives

The National Plan for Music Education 2024, titled “The Power of Music to Change Lives,” outlines the government’s vision for music education in England. Here are some key points:

Vision and Goals

- **Inclusivity:** Ensure that all children and young people have access to music education, regardless of their background or location.
- **Opportunities:** Provide opportunities for children to learn to sing, play instruments, and create music together.
- **Progression:** Enable students to progress their musical interests and talents, including the possibility of pursuing music professionally.
- **Brain Development:** Highlight the role of music in brain development, aiding in language, motor skills, and emotional intelligence.

Funding and Investment

- **Investment:** The plan includes a £75 million investment to boost culture and creativity outside London between 2022 and 2025.
- **Partnerships:** Emphasizes partnerships with schools, music hubs, the music and creative sector, and other stakeholders to achieve its goals.

Implementation

- **Music Hubs:** Strengthen and expand the network of music hubs to provide high-quality music education in schools and communities.
- **Teacher Training:** Enhance training and support for music teachers to ensure they are well-equipped to deliver effective music education.
- **Community Engagement:** Encourage community involvement in music education through local events, workshops, and performances.

Impact

- **Cultural Enrichment:** Promote cultural enrichment and appreciation through diverse musical experiences.
- **Economic Growth:** Support the creative industries and contribute to the local economy by nurturing musical talent.

Health and Wellbeing:

Use music education to improve mental health and wellbeing among children and young people.

Information sourced from www.gov.uk and assets.publishing.service.gov.uk



Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport: Culture is Digital 2019

The report is based on findings from a survey of how people engage with arts and culture online, and attitudes towards using online technology to engage with the arts.

The internet is a marketing and audience development tool, for example as a core platform for booking tickets, but also a medium for distributing content and delivering immersive, participative and fundamentally new arts experiences. Arts organisations that are skilled in digital marketing – and particularly in areas such as search engine optimization and the use of social media – will see more people through their doors than ones that rely on an old-school website and the odd email newsletter.

The executive summary states:

On Digital Skills and capability the report noted skills gaps in the sector, such as data analysis and intellectual property knowledge, and highlighted the benefit of increasing digital skills and maturity. Since then:

- The Arts Council have launched their new £1.1 million Digital Culture network, a 2 year initiative to increase the digital skills and capacity of arts and cultural organisations, providing practical hands-on support, developing partnerships with the technology sector and facilitating the sharing of resources and best practice.
- DCMS have provided £200,000 to support the creation of a new Digital Culture Code and a Digital Maturity Index, a tool being developed by the Arts Council and National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership for the benefit of the whole culture sector.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund is embarking on a new £1 million campaign to build digital capability in the heritage sector. Over the next 2 years they will invest in new projects and learning opportunities that target heritage organisations that lack digital skills and confidence.
- The Intellectual Property Office have delivered 6 free training seminars on intellectual property attracting over 100 organisations from across the culture sector.
- The Space have worked with the sector to develop and agree a new IP rights terminology to make the contracting of contributors, creators and existing rights-holders easier and more standardised.

Culture is Digital: June 2019 progress report





Our Action Plan for the next three years sets out some of the key activities required to achieve our vision for the Arts in Havering.

Our vision for the Arts in Havering, is that

“in three years’ time our residents and visitors, through their high levels of engagement and participation in the arts in all their rich variety of forms, will be thriving like never before”

What this will look like:

Year 1

- The arts in Havering will be strong, vibrant and diverse, delivering its full potential in terms of intrinsic and instrumental benefits for individuals, towns and communities.
- Hosting a vibrant programme of professional and community-based visual arts exhibitions, talks and workshops, along with the centre’s busy craft shop generating business for Havering’s artists and makers.
- Havering’s young, exciting artists and artistic community will work together ever more imaginatively, creating new initiatives and forming national and international links. Havering’s own artistic landscape will be revolutionised.
- Record numbers of people of all ages and abilities will be learning, engaging, participating in the arts.
- Our Music Hub partnership will develop and continue to provide music education opportunities for every child and young person in Havering.



Year 2

- Work with partners to collectively develop a more diverse programme of arts activities and events to support the changing communities of our borough.
- A thriving programme of arts activity and participation will have been established in identified hard to reach areas, and arts education providers will continue to work together to produce high quality lifelong learning opportunities for all ages.
- Events, concerts and festivals in each of our major centres will be bigger, brighter and better attended than ever before.
- Access to opportunity and information will be easier, with arts opportunities achieving the maximum possible market penetration through consultation, partnership-working and the employment of new technologies. Residents and visitors alike will be able to find places to go and things to do quickly and comprehensively.
- Our voluntary arts sector will become ever more vibrant and accessible, with high levels of engagement particularly amongst young people.

Year 3

- Our thriving partnerships with community, health and care sectors will enable us to maintain a solid, effective and measurable outreach programme targeting hard-to-reach and at-risk groups.
- Disabled people, older people and economically disadvantaged members of the community will have the same opportunities to engage in the arts as everyone else, while our programming will respond to our ever more diverse population.
- Evaluate the range of arts on offer and approach gaps in provision.
- Support more grassroots music projects in maintaining an accessible and diverse programme.

Acknowledgments

Staricoff, R., Duncan, J. and Wright, M. 'A study of the effects of visual and performing arts in healthcare' Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, 2004;

Arts council England

New Direction

Artsmark





HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Subject Heading:	Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026–2029 (DRAFT)
Board Lead:	Mark Ansell - Director of Public Health, Insights, Policy & Strategy
Report Author and contact details:	Manny Manoharran – Head of Culture, Leisure, Heritage and Libraries Manny.Manoharan@havering.gov.uk

The subject matter of this report deals with the following themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

<input type="checkbox"/>	The wider determinants of health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase employment of people with health problems or disabilities • Develop the Council and NHS Trusts as anchor institutions that consciously seek to maximise the health and wellbeing benefit to residents of everything they do. • Prevent homelessness and minimise the harm caused to those affected, particularly rough sleepers and consequent impacts on the health and social care system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifestyles and behaviours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prevention of obesity • Further reduce the prevalence of smoking across the borough and particularly in disadvantaged communities and by vulnerable groups • Strengthen early years providers, schools and colleges as health improving settings
<input type="checkbox"/>	The communities and places we live in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realising the benefits of regeneration for the health of local residents and the health and social care services available to them • Targeted multidisciplinary working with people who, because of their life experiences, currently make frequent contact with a range of statutory services that are unable to fully resolve their underlying problem.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local health and social care services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of integrated health, housing and social care services at locality level.
<input type="checkbox"/>	BHR Integrated Care Partnership Board Transformation Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people and frailty and end of life • Long term conditions • Children and young people • Mental health • Planned Care <div> Cancer Primary Care Accident and Emergency Delivery Board Transforming Care Programme Board </div>

SUMMARY

This report presents the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026–2029: Creating an Active Havering, which provides the strategic framework for increasing physical activity levels across the borough and reducing health inequalities associated with inactivity.

Physical inactivity is a key contributor to poor physical and mental health outcomes in Havering, particularly among older people, people with long-term conditions, disabled residents and those living in more deprived communities. The strategy adopts a whole-systems, partnership-based approach that embeds physical activity into everyday life, places and services, supporting prevention, early intervention and improved wellbeing.

The strategy aligns with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Integrated Care priorities and wider Council strategies, recognising physical activity as a fundamental component of population health, mental wellbeing and community resilience.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recognise physical activity as a key contributor to prevention, mental wellbeing and the reduction of health inequalities.
- Support partnership delivery of the strategy across health, social care, education, planning, leisure and the voluntary sector.

REPORT DETAIL

The strategy responds to evidence that Havering has lower-than-average activity levels and significant inequalities in participation. It sets out a clear vision to enable residents to be more active through inclusive, accessible and sustainable opportunities across the life course.

Key priorities include targeting inactive residents, embedding physical activity into health and care pathways, improving access to community and green spaces, supporting children and young people to develop lifelong active habits, and using physical activity to improve mental health and reduce social isolation.

Delivery will be coordinated through partnership working, aligned action plans and ongoing monitoring, ensuring physical activity contributes effectively to Health and Wellbeing Board priorities and system-wide outcomes.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Health and Wellbeing Implications:

The strategy supports improved physical and mental health, prevention of long-term conditions, reduced loneliness and improved quality of life for residents.

Equality Implications:

A strong focus on reducing inequalities in physical activity participation. Risk of unequal impact will be mitigated through targeted, inclusive approaches and community-based delivery.

Financial Implications:

Delivery will primarily use existing resources and external funding opportunities. There are no immediate additional financial commitments arising from this report.

Delivery Risks:

Risks include limited partner capacity, funding uncertainty and challenges engaging inactive groups. These will be mitigated through strong governance, integrated delivery and continuous evaluation.



Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026–2029: Creating an Active Havering
(DRAFT)

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Creating an Active Havering – a sport and physical activity strategy for Havering 2026 – 2029



Creating an Active Havering – a sport and physical activity strategy for Havering 2026 – 2029

Contents/Executive Summary

4	Introduction & purpose
4	Havering's Vision – strategy aims and objectives
5	Health & wellbeing rationale
10	Current landscape for sport and physical activity within Havering
15	Links to local, regional & national strategies
19	Action Plan - formulated as part of consultation
21	Monitoring & Evaluation
22	References

Summary of the Sport & Physical Activity Strategy 2026–2029

The strategy, titled “Creating an Active Havering”, sets out a three-year plan to transform lives through sport and physical activity. It aims to embed physical activity into daily life, improve health and wellbeing, and reduce inequalities across the borough. The strategy is built on a whole-systems approach, recognising the need for collaboration across sectors and communities.

Key Objectives:

1. Health & Wellbeing: Increase physical activity to improve both physical and mental health.
2. Social Regeneration: Use sport to build community cohesion and reduce isolation.
3. Place Shaping: Make Havering's environment more conducive to active living.
4. Inclusion & Access: Ensure equitable access to sport and physical activity for all.
5. Digital Engagement: Develop accessible digital platforms to support participation.

Delivery Mechanisms:

- A borough-wide action plan co-developed with partners.
- A wide range of programmes through Havering Active, leisure centres, schools, and voluntary clubs.
- Alignment with local, regional, and national strategies including Sport England's “Uniting the Movement”.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

Success will be measured through increased participation, reduced inactivity, and improved health outcomes. The strategy includes a dynamic action plan and a commitment to ongoing consultation and partnership working.

Creating an Active Havering – a sport and physical activity strategy for Havering 2026 – 2029



Foreword

Draft Foreword (Proposed for Cllr Gillian Ford)

As Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care, I am proud to introduce Havering's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026–2029.

This strategy is more than a plan—it is a commitment to our residents. A commitment to healthier lives, stronger communities, and a borough where everyone has the opportunity to be active, regardless of age, background, or ability.

Physical activity is one of the most powerful tools we have to improve wellbeing, reduce health inequalities, and bring people together. Whether it's a walk in the park, a dance class at the local leisure centre, or a school sports day, every movement matters.

Through this strategy, we will work with our partners to create environments that inspire activity, services that are inclusive and accessible, and a culture that celebrates movement in all its forms.

I invite all residents, organisations, and community leaders to join us in making Havering a more active, healthier, and connected place to live.

Cllr Gillian Ford

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care

Creating an Active Havering – a sport and physical activity strategy for Havering 2026 – 2029

Introduction & Purpose

Sport and physical activity are essential for people's physical and mental wellbeing. As working hours get longer and lifestyle related problems like obesity increase, engaging in physical activity becomes ever more important. The close links between levels of engagement in physical activity and health outcomes, means that these issues are of equal importance to both local authorities and the health service, hence why a close working relationship has been fostered by the London Borough of Havering and Havering Public Health. This strategy will supersede the Havering Sport & Physical Activity Strategy 2013-2015. Collaborative working between a wide range of partners will ensure we all have the same goals in sight.

Our vision for the next three years is to transform lives through sport and to promote physical activity and an active lifestyle. We believe that each resident of Havering should have the opportunity to be as active as they feel able, understand the impact of this on their own health and wellbeing, and feel supported to achieve this through access to relevant services, facilities and information. We recognise that there is no one solution to the issue of inactivity and a holistic, 'whole systems' approach that goes beyond the individual, is required.

For clarity we will be working to the definition of the term in the broadest sense. Periods of sustained activity that increase your heart rate are considered physical activity; this could involve anything from housework, gardening, playing in the garden with the children or walking / cycling from place to place. Physical activity also includes more structured activities such as taking part in casual or organised sports or visiting the gym or swimming to increase fitness levels.

We recognise that engagement in physical activity can have an impact on a range of cross-cutting issues beyond physical health, from reducing anti-social behaviour, to promoting mental wellbeing and a helping to encourage a sense of community.

This document is the product of a public consultation and seeks to set out the strategic direction for Havering's sport and physical activity over the next three years. An action plan showing key actions for delivery of this strategy, identifying who is responsible for delivery, is attached at the end of this document.

The purpose of this Sport & Physical Activity Strategy is to deliver, support and facilitate Havering residents to be more active, more often, and make sport and/or physical activity a core element of everyday life. In turn, transforming their lives through sustainable, healthier habits.

Creating an Active Havering – a sport and physical activity strategy for Havering 2026 – 2029



Increased levels of physical activity = improved health and wellbeing

This strategy will establish the approach that Havering Council, in partnership with various

partner organisations and residents, will take to ensure people have the opportunities or information to enable them to become more active.

Sport & Physical Activity has a positive impact on cross cutting themes such as:

- Improving physical and mental health
- Supporting residents and building capacity within communities
- Raising aspirations and increasing quality of life
- Promoting social and economic development through positive activities

Our ‘Creating an active Havering’ strategy sets out our plan of partnership working which will build upon the current levels of provision to achieve our vision:

Focusing on sport and physical activity’s ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

“To provide Havering residents with opportunities to be physically active and to enjoy the benefits of improved physical and mental wellbeing”

Creating an Active Havering – a sport and physical activity strategy for Havering 2026 – 2029



Aims, objectives and outcomes

‘Creating an active Havering’ strategy aims to increase the physical activity opportunities available, to encourage the people of Havering to become more physically active and to reduce the barriers to active participation people encounter.

Key themes and outcomes this strategy will look to deliver:

We will make physical activity an integral part of everyday life, through promotion of physical activity as a medicine for healthy lives while developing healthy habits from a young age and trying to engage with those residents who engage the least with the council.

Outcome 1

To improve the health and wellbeing of the borough by increased physical activity opportunities and engagement.

Outcome 2

Promote non-clinical pathways into services for mental and physical well-being through leisure and culture activities.

We will use physical activity as a social engagement tool, build community cohesion and fulfil potential through sport and physical activity to reduce isolation within older adults and provide a positive impact on social integration and inclusion.

Outcome 3

Increase awareness of the benefits and how to be more physically active within the community and with professionals.

Creating an Active Havering – a sport and physical activity strategy for Havering 2026 – 2029



Outcome 4

To ensure sport & physical activity are integral to the social regeneration of the borough. We will work with partner organisations and the community to shape future developments so we can provide a range of positive activities for residents, to assist in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour; while improving how Havering, as a place, supports residents to be active as a routine part of daily life to create improved physical environments that encourage increase activity

Outcome 5

to position physical activity at the heart of place shaping and ensure the environment in Havering is motivational and inspiring to enhance and sustain the uptake of physical activity and outdoor activities.

Outcome 6

ensure people engage with their local environment to improve their levels of physical activity.

We will encourage and enable people to stay involved in sport and physical activity by widening access and ensure people who do not traditionally participate are supported to do so. Through the strengthening of organisation and partnerships, to increase the number and quality of volunteers, coaches and clubs will enable us to ensure partner organisations commission in house services for health & wellbeing, utilising expertise within the Local Authority.

Outcome 7

To make sure our services work together around our resident's needs - services are inclusive and equitable, and support people around the factors contributing to their health and wellbeing.

Outcome 8

develop and implement an online digital experience that ensures the resident is easily able to participate in physical activity. Information is readily accessible as well as an effective booking system in place to encourage sign up.

Creating an Active Havering – a sport and physical activity strategy for Havering 2026 – 2029



Where are we now? – What is the current offer being provided?

Health and Sports Development Service – Havering Active

The Health and Sports Development Service is responsible for providing a sports development programme across the borough catering for all ages and abilities. The team have a wide range of partners who assist in delivering high quality, affordable activity sessions to Havering residents. The team are also involved in shaping the development opportunities at various sites across Havering including Bretons and Brittons. Consulting on plans and working on projects to further enhance the local offer for sport & physical activity.

More information on all of the current activities on offer are outlined below and an up-to-date list can always be found at www.haveringactive.co.uk

- Children's Activities – 5+
- Youth Sport – 11+
- Para Activities for people with disabilities or special educational needs
- Adult Health & Fitness Activities –
 - Havering's Walking for Health programme, focusing on those currently engaged in the lowest levels of physical activity and provides a supportive, friendly environment for getting moving.
 - Havering Active Tea Dances offered an opportunity for individuals, and particularly older age cohorts, to engage in physical activity and socialise.
- Specific women and girls' program
- Creating employment through casual coaching database
- Continuous partner working with voluntary sports clubs and coaches to promote wider sport & physical activity offer
- Pathways for elite sport by entering Havering teams into the London Youth Games and the extensive voluntary club network
- Workplace Wellbeing initiatives
- Applications for external funding with partners for various projects including diversionary activities in deprived areas and social integration activities for our older residents.

Creating an Active Havering – a sport and physical activity strategy for Havering 2026 – 2029



Internal Partners within Havering Council

Health & Wellbeing team work with various internal departments within the London Borough of Havering – a joined up approach allows all cross cutting themes are resourced together to maximise efficiencies. Thus ensuring sport & physical activity is on the agenda across the Local Authority.

- Public Health Team in Havering
- Communications & Marketing
- Human Resources – workplace wellbeing
- Live Well Havering Network Partnership
- Planning – to ensure suitable environment for health
- Smarter Travel Team
- Havering Youth Service & Youth Offending Service
- Havering Housing Team
- Wider Health & Wellbeing Team
- Events Team

Creating an Active Havering – a sport and physical activity strategy for Havering 2026 – 2029



Leisure Centres in Havering

There are five current leisure centres in Havering operated and managed by SLM Ltd (Everyone Active). SLM manage the day-to-day operations and programming at the centres with a view to creating a holistic approach to health and wellbeing while creating exciting and innovative ways to engage residents through physical activity. SLM are a key partner in delivering the aims and objectives in this strategy. Bespoke membership packages and free use available for some targeted users including looked after young people and those suffering with Alzheimer's.

Harrow Lodge Sports Centre

Replaced the old Hornchurch Sports Centre and opened as the Covid pandemic lockdown restrictions eased in April 2021. The Centre has a 25-metre, eight-lane swimming pool and a 20-metre-wide learning and diving pool, which has a movable floor to change the depth. It also features a 100-station health and fitness suite, sports hall and three exercise studios which includes Fortis, a new HIIT workout program. The Exercise Referral Scheme, run by Everyone Active, continues to provide the opportunity and support for individuals with health conditions to use exercise to improve their health.

Sapphire Ice & Leisure

Is Romford's premier ice skating and leisure facility, which newly opened in 2018 and offers a fantastic range of facilities and activities. At the forefront is a full-sized ice rink that, as well as being open to the public, is also home to the Everyone Active Raiders ice hockey team. Alongside the ice rink, you can also enjoy the state-of-the-art gym, two swimming pools and dance studios, as well as refuel and refresh at two cafés that serve a range of healthy eating options.

Creating an Active Havering – a sport and physical activity strategy for Havering 2026 – 2029



Rainham Leisure Centre

The brand-new, state-of-the-art Rainham Leisure Centre has been designed specifically to help everyone in the local community enjoy getting active. The centre boasts a fantastic range of facilities, meaning there is sure to be something for everybody. Rainham boasts a gym that's packed with all the very latest equipment, a swimming pool, group exercise studio, an outdoor recreation ground and an outside children's play area.

Central Park Leisure Centre

Provides residents with a huge range of activities to choose from. As well as a 75-station state-of-the-art gym and its two swimming pools – in which award-winning swimming lessons are hosted – there's also plenty of other things to do here. You can unwind in the sauna, steam room and spa, take advantage of the four-court sports hall and have a game of badminton or table tennis and enjoy a huge range of different group fitness classes.

Noak Hill Sports Complex

Has fantastic facilities to offer. Football fans can take advantage of the full-size 3G artificial pitch or two grass football pitches, all of which are available to be hired throughout the week. Meanwhile, tennis players can book one of the four outdoor courts while the centre also have you covered for a game of netball. Inside, there's a group fitness studio that offers a full programme of classes to choose from, while the sports hall hosts a number of activities.

The Havering School Sport Collective

The Havering Sports Collective is a network of primary and secondary schools in the London Borough of Havering, hosted by the School Games Organisers to provide opportunities for young people to take part in competitive sport and physical activity.

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The Havering Sports Collective aims to keep all schools in the London Borough of Havering joined together through PE and Sport. To create opportunities for developing relationships between primary and secondary schools through sports competition and leadership as well as providing CPD, Health and Safety advice and the most up to date information on how PE and School Sport can impact on learning and achievement. Before and after school clubs can also be made available as part of the Collective through various funding streams.

Outdoor Sports

Havering Council is proud to manage a variety of parks and open spaces, from small village greens to vast country parks, including a wide range of sports pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens, golf courses, multi-use games areas and outdoor gyms. Havering also hosts outdoor events and festivals of which are key to increasing community cohesion through cultural methods.

Sixteen of the sites have been awarded Green Flag status. A Green Flag Award means the parks boast the highest possible standards, are well maintained and have excellent facilities. The wide variety of parks and open spaces Havering has to offer means that there is something for everyone. The parks and open spaces are welcoming, safe and inclusive for everyone.

Hornchurch Stadium

Is the host facility for Havering Athletics Club and AFC Hornchurch. The facility also caters for school sports days, district events and school holiday activities including disability athletics and athletics masterclasses. The stadium is also available for hire to local clubs such as Havering Tri Club.

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School and College Sports facilities

A wide range of sports facilities are based on school premises. Facilities based on school premises range from grass football, rugby and cricket pitches to sports halls, gyms and swimming pools. The majority are open for community use and extensively used by sports clubs.

YMCA Romford

Has a newly refurbished 65 station gym and studios, which deliver over 100 classes a week. Fitness instructors are on hand to offer advice and guidance as well as motivate you to achieve your fitness goals.

The YMCA works with a number of local schools to provide fitness activities, specialising in working with those with additional needs, older people and families.

Havering Sports Council

Havering Sports Council is the collective voice for sport in the borough and is the body with which Havering Council consults on issues relating to sport.

As the umbrella organisation for voluntary sports clubs within the borough, a strong network of clubs provides a wealth of opportunities for all ages across a wide range of sports. The majority of member clubs are affiliated to their National Governing Body, giving the club access to support, and giving members access to development pathways.

The objectives of the Sports Council:

- to assess the sporting needs of the London Borough of Havering
- to examine the need for improving existing facilities and the provision of new facilities
- to assist with information of available sporting facilities throughout the borough

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- to assist Havering Council or any other authority requiring assistance by advising on the collective opinions of local sports interests for the future planning for sports facilities
- to encourage schools, school leavers and young adults to participate in sport
- to consider and take action as deemed necessary on reports and recommendations from other organisations concerning the interest of sport.
- to assist where necessary in organising events to further sporting interests in the borough

In addition, Havering Sports Council organises and promotes the annual Havering Sports Awards, publishes a handbook listing and promoting affiliated clubs, publishes a newsletter and, when funds are available, can provide limited financial assistance to individuals. The Sports Council can also be called on by Sport England to comment on any Lottery grant applications made by clubs based in the borough.

Voluntary Sports Clubs & National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs)

A strong network of voluntary sports clubs caters for all levels of player, from coaching for beginners to providing opportunities to enjoy sport at either a social or competitive level. Many of the Havering teams competing in the London Youth Games are supported by local clubs. Club members regularly take part successfully in regional and national competitions, and go on to represent Essex, England and Great Britain. Havering club members are currently national champions or national squad members in a wide range of sports as diverse as athletics, swimming, ice hockey, judo, karate and shooting.

Continuous and ongoing engagement with NGBs on agreed and identified local priorities of both Havering and the NGB. Working collaboratively to pool resources in order to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes across a wide variety of agendas including club and coach development, reducing inactivity levels, facility development and ensuring pathways are in place across all areas of the sports development continuum.

Havering Disabled Sports Association & Havering Disability Steering Group

Havering Disabled Sports Association occupies fully adapted premises at the Noak Hill Sports Centre and provides a range of opportunities for disabled people including archery, table tennis and multi sports.

The Havering Disability Steering group has a wide range of varying partners who meet regularly to develop, increase and implement opportunities for disabled residents of the Borough. By broadening the opportunities available, collaboratively as part of the group, the offer is becoming more sustainable with less barriers to participation.

Private Sector Organisations

Within Havering there are a number of private organisations providing health and wellbeing programmes for residents. These include gyms and clubs that provide a range of activity classes for adults and young people.

Creating an Active Havering – a sport and physical activity strategy for Havering 2026 – 2029

Links to other Strategies

Our strategy has been developed in line with the following local, regional and national strategies and policies. We have aligned our aims and objectives to the key themes and priorities held within these important documents.

Local

Havering's Culture Strategy

“A GOOD LIFE 2025-2028” - is a framework that will inform a future direction for culture, and cultural activities in Havering. Culture is at the heart of improving lives health and well-being, helping people having a greater understanding of themselves and increased empathy with respect to others.

The Strategy focuses on four principles for a good life:

Developing a Creative Health Borough - Intricately weaving the concept of long-term wellbeing throughout cultural strategy

Transforming the Cultural Ecology - Capacity building to benefit from growth and seeking a levelling up in investment.

Redefining Heritage for the 21st Century - Rebalancing the widest definition of heritage, to better include the borough's new population

Every Child & Young Person Engaging in Culture -Uniting education and arts partners to empower young people and make them feel proud.

Havering Healthy Weight Strategy 2024-2029

Everybody's Business: A whole systems approach to reducing overweight and obesity

This document sets out the local strategic approach for addressing high levels of overweight and obesity in the Borough, through a “whole systems place-based approach”. This will support the longer-term vision for the Borough; within 20 years' childhood obesity will have been eradicated, and that the Borough will have become a healthy place to live work and play, and a place where communities have come together to make the healthier choice the easier choice

This strategy's aims will be delivered through eight objectives, grouped into three themes:

- **Theme one** is concerned with ensuring that the whole system is engaged and works together on the many drivers of obesity
- **Theme two** is concerned with the Borough becoming a place that promotes healthy weight; recognising that the places where people live, work and play shape the type of foods they eat and how physically active they are.
- **Theme three** recognises the importance of a life-course approach, and ensuring that individuals are supported to achieve a healthy weight.

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Regional

London Sport Strategy 2021 – LDN MOVING

“Becoming the most active city in the world isn’t simply an ambition to build London’s reputation, but a call-to-arms to improve the lives of all Londoners through physical activity and sport.”

Tove Okunniwa, Chief Executive London Sport

Key themes:

- Increase physical activity levels among less active adults, reducing inequalities and inactivity
- Give all young Londoners the best opportunity to form a positive physical activity habit for life
- Improve policy, systems and investment to support active lives
- Use tech, data and digital communications to support Londoners to get and stay active
- Lead the way in bringing organisations together to create, develop, test, champion and scale innovative ways of supporting active lives
- Ensure evidence, data and high-quality insight inform the development of policy and practice of supporting active lives.

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National

Sport England – Uniting the Movement – 10 year vision

Recover and reinvent

Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

Connecting communities

Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

Positive experiences for children and young people

Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

Connecting with health and wellbeing

Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

Active environments

Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

2022-2025 – 3 year Uniting the Movement Plan:

This plan sets out collective aims for implementing Uniting the Movement over the next three years, and what that means for Sport England's role.

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The main priorities within this plan are listed below.

This plan for 2022-25 sets out our collective aims for implementing Uniting the Movement over the next three years, and what that means for our role as we work with others to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity. This plan for 2022-25 sets out our collective aims for implementing Uniting the Movement over the next three years, and what that means for our role as we work with others to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

- More investment and resources for communities with the greatest need
- Inclusive, safe and accessible experiences as standard
- Supporting, recognising and celebrating success
- Adapting to people's changing needs and expectations
- Listening to, and involving, people less likely to be active
- A diverse network of leaders, volunteers and professionals
- Positive experiences for children and young people and supporting talented athletes
- Collaborating with the health, education and transport sectors
- Contribution to net zero embedded in everyday thinking

Key successes will be measured by the following criteria:

- Overall levels of activity across the population are going up, not down
- Overall levels of inactivity across the population are going down, not up
- Levels of inequality across both measures are narrowing, not widening.

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This plan for 2022-25 sets out our collective aims for implementing Uniting the Movement over the next three years, and what that means for our role as we work with others to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity. This plan for 2022-25 sets out our collective aims for implementing Uniting the Movement over the next three years, and what that means for our role as we work with others to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

Consultation

This strategy was consulted on with (residents, businesses etc) through an online survey on Citizen Space. **We received X number of response which highlighted (INSERT OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION)**

Action plan - Implementation and monitoring

Once the action plan is completed by partners during consultation this will form the implementation section of the strategy.

A clear plan to deliver the strategy will be formulated. Detailed actions will be linked back to the strategy objectives and outcomes.

The outcomes within the action plan will be monitored and reviewed to gauge the success of the strategy in delivering its aims and objectives.

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Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2026– 2029, Action Plan

Outcome	Actions required	Lead organisation	Timescale	Measure of performance
To improve the health and wellbeing of the borough by increased physical activity opportunities and engagement				
X Promote non-clinical pathways into services for mental and physical well-being through leisure and culture activities				
Increase awareness of the benefits and how to be more physically active within the community and with professionals				
To ensure sport & physical activity are integral to the social regeneration of the borough				
To position physical activity at the heart of place shaping and ensure the environment in Havering is motivational and inspiring to enhance and sustain the uptake of physical activity				
Ensure people engage with their local environment to improve their levels of physical activity				
To make sure our services work together around our resident's needs - services are inclusive and equitable, and support people around the factors contributing to their health and wellbeing				
Develop and implement an online digital experience that ensures the resident is easily able to participate in physical activity. Information is readily accessible as well as an effective booking system in place to encourage sign up				



Monitoring outcomes and performance – evaluation & review

The action plan will be delivered over the lifetime of this strategy where there will be ongoing engagement with partners and other stakeholders. Regular meetings and partnership working will ensure adequate monitoring of the outcomes will be continuous. The achievement of the outcomes identified will be supported through communication and promotion which will be aimed at ensuring:

- Residents understand and appreciate the benefits of being active
- Opportunities to be active and participate in leisure activities are widely promoted and information is easily accessible to all.
- Participants will be able to easily find the activity they are wishing to take part in, and an adequate booking/payment process is in place for them.

We are committed to work to ensure a more co-ordinated and joined up approach and will work closely with our various partners to take advantage of opportunities for cross-promotion of messages and activities.

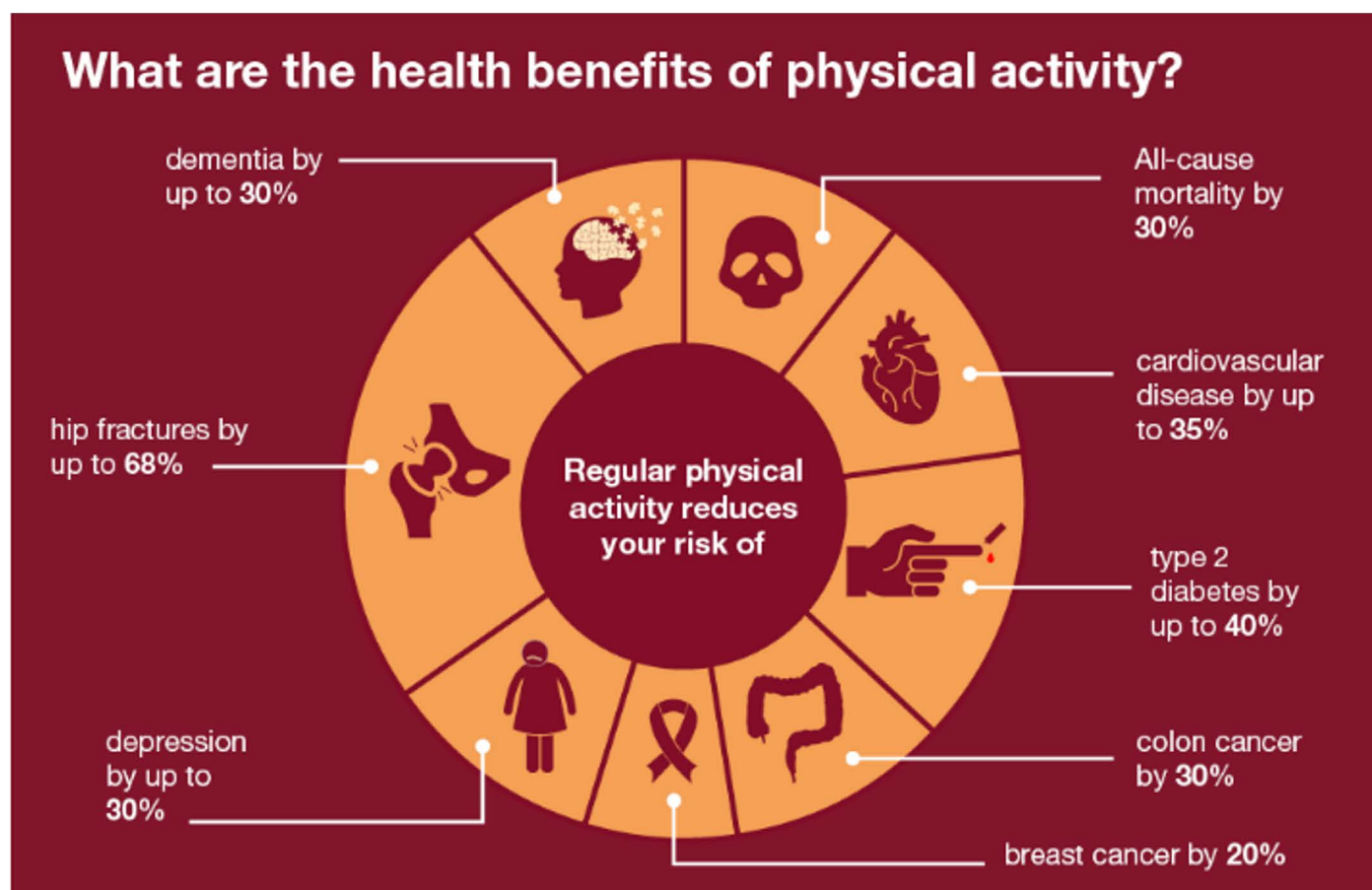
Appendix A

Health and wellbeing impacts of physical activity – data insight and strategic context

Physical inactivity is one of the leading risk factors for mortality, being associated with 1 in 6 deaths in the UK and costing £7.4 billion per year (including £0.9 billion to the NHS alone)¹.

Being physical active has a clear protective effect in preventing or delaying the onset of many chronic conditions; Over 20 chronic conditions, including some cancers, heart disease and type 2 diabetes can be prevented or managed through participation in regular physical activity².

Figure 1: Estimated risk reduction for key chronic conditions achieved through meeting the Chief Medical Officer's minimum recommended levels of physical activity³



¹ Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2015) Physical activity: applying All Our Health www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-applying-all-our-health

² Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2015) Physical activity: applying All Our Health www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-applying-all-our-health

Whole systems approach to physical activity and healthy weight

Addressing the growing rates of childhood and adult overweight and obesity is a corporate priority for the London Borough of Havering. Latest data suggests that 22% of 4- to 5-year-olds and 40% of 10- to 11-year-olds in Havering are overweight or obese, with nearly two of every three adults thought to be overweight or obese .

Physical activity represents the most effective way of increasing daily energy expenditure which can help to balance energy intake from food and drink. In combination with dietary change, physical activity can play an important role in preventing weight gain and reducing body fat .

However, people's diet and levels of physical activity are strongly influenced by the circumstances in which they live, work and play , and the conditions of modern day living often aren't conducive to good health. Addressing diet, exercise and healthy weight therefore requires a 'whole-system' approach, which acknowledges the broad range of factors that influence these health behaviours, and which involve all of the individuals and organisations that have a role to play in helping to make healthy choices easier.

For more information about Havering's whole-systems approach to promoting healthy weight, please see the [Havering Healthy Weight Strategy 2024-2029. \(Hyperlink\)](#)

As well as the physical health benefits, greater levels of physical activity are associated with positive mental wellbeing, and vice versa. Physical activity has been linked with reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression, improved cognitive health and better sleep . Mental health conditions have been found to be less common among those who are physically active, and physical activity can also be used to help manage diagnosed mental health conditions .

The 2021-22 Active Lives Survey for England also found that those who reported being active or fairly active were less likely to report frequent loneliness, compared to those who were inactive.

³ Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Obesity profile. Available at: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/national-child-measurement-programme>

⁴ UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines (2019). Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-guidelines-uk-chief-medical-officers-report

⁵ Butland, B., Jebb, S., Kopelman, P., McPherson, K., Thomas, S., Mardell, J. and Parry, V., 2007. Tackling obesity: future choices-project report (Vol. 10, p. 17). London: Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills

⁶ Henry Dimbelby. 2022. The National Food Strategy

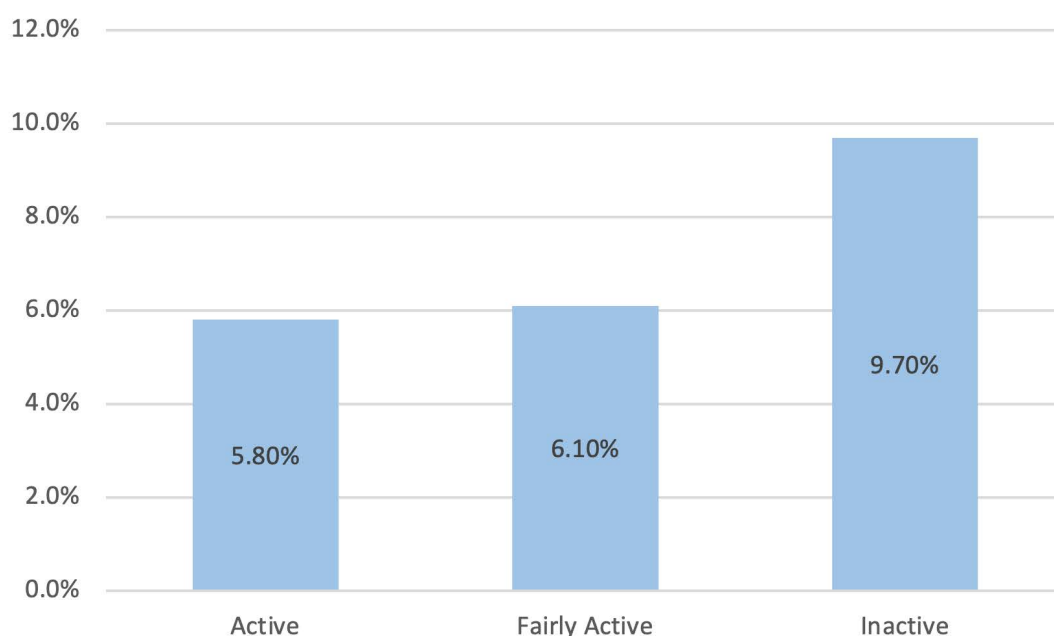
⁷ World Health Organisation (2022) Physical activity factsheet. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/physical-activity>

⁸ NICE guidance, 2022. Depression in Adults: Treatment and Management. Available: www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng222/chapter/Recommendations

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Figure 2: Percentage of adults in England responding to the Active Lives Survey 2021-22 reporting feeling often or always lonely, by physical activity level⁹.



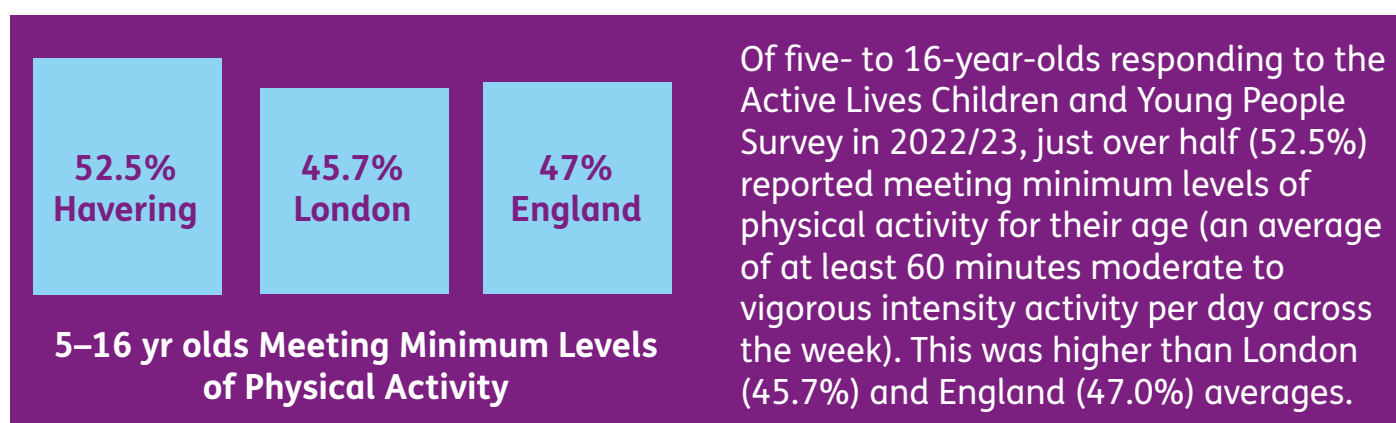
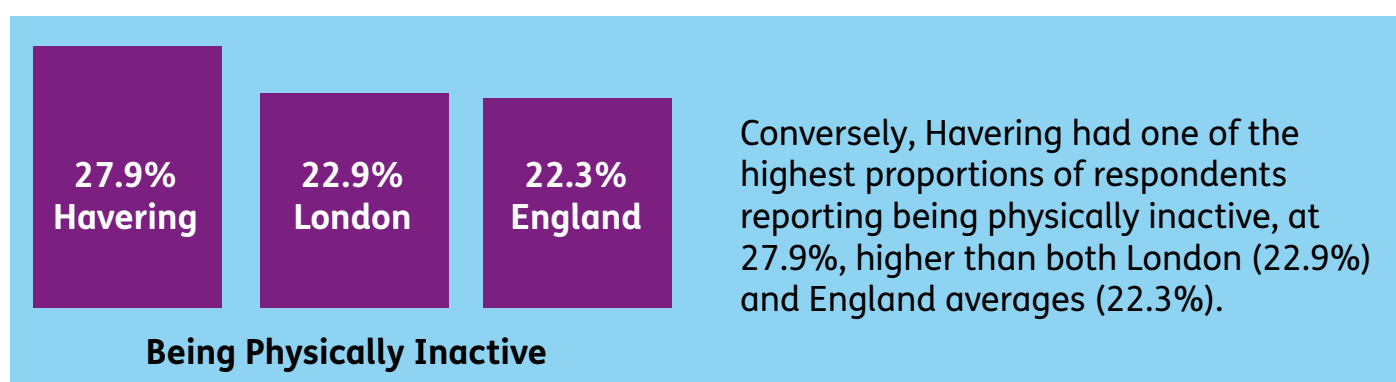
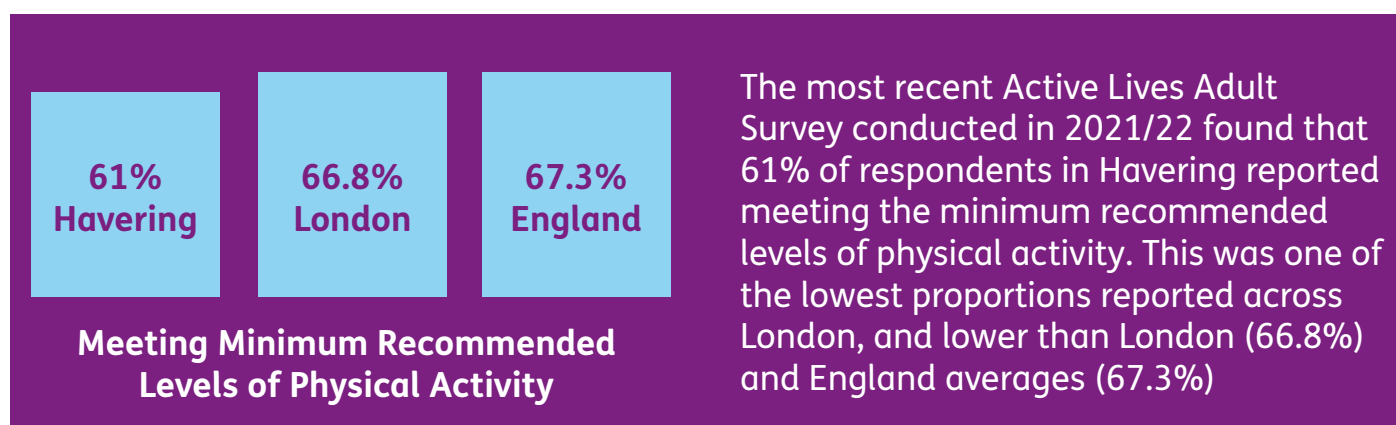
Active = an average of 60 minutes or more a day; Fairly active = an average of 30-59 minutes a day; Inactive = less than an average of 30 minutes or more a day.

⁹ Sport England Active Lives data tables. Available at:
www.sportengland.org/research-and-data/data/active-lives/active-lives-data-tables#november-2021-22-30770

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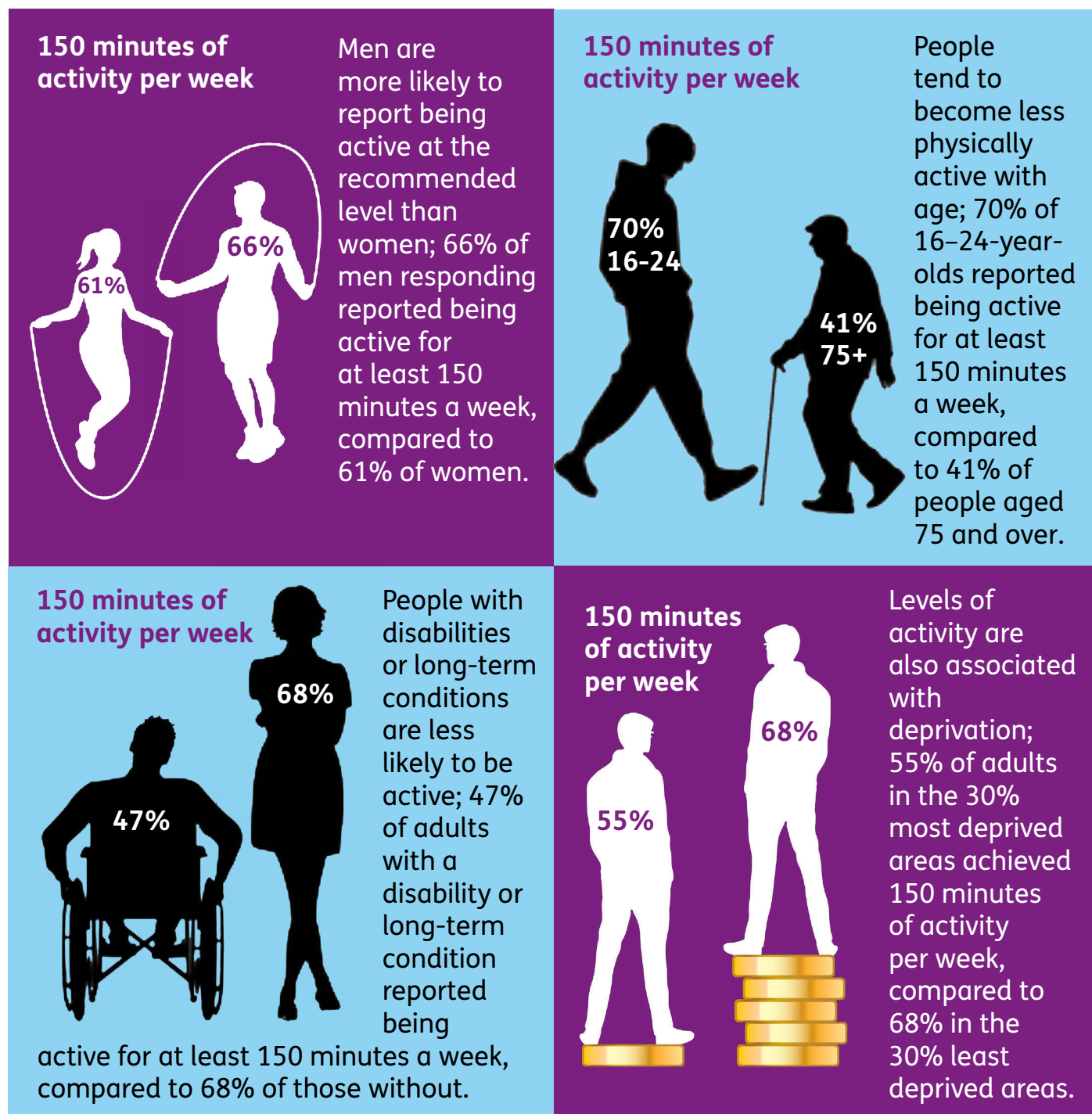


Participation in physical activity in Havering



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Evidence also shows that generally, there are differences in the levels of physical activity reported by different groups within the population. The examples below use data for England taken from the 2021/22 Active Lives Survey for adults:



Similar differences in levels of physical activity will exist across Havering and will be directly contributing to existing inequalities in health and wellbeing outcomes experienced by our residents. As such, acknowledging these differences and the reasons behind them is an important element of developing a comprehensive approach to supporting increases in physical activity for all.

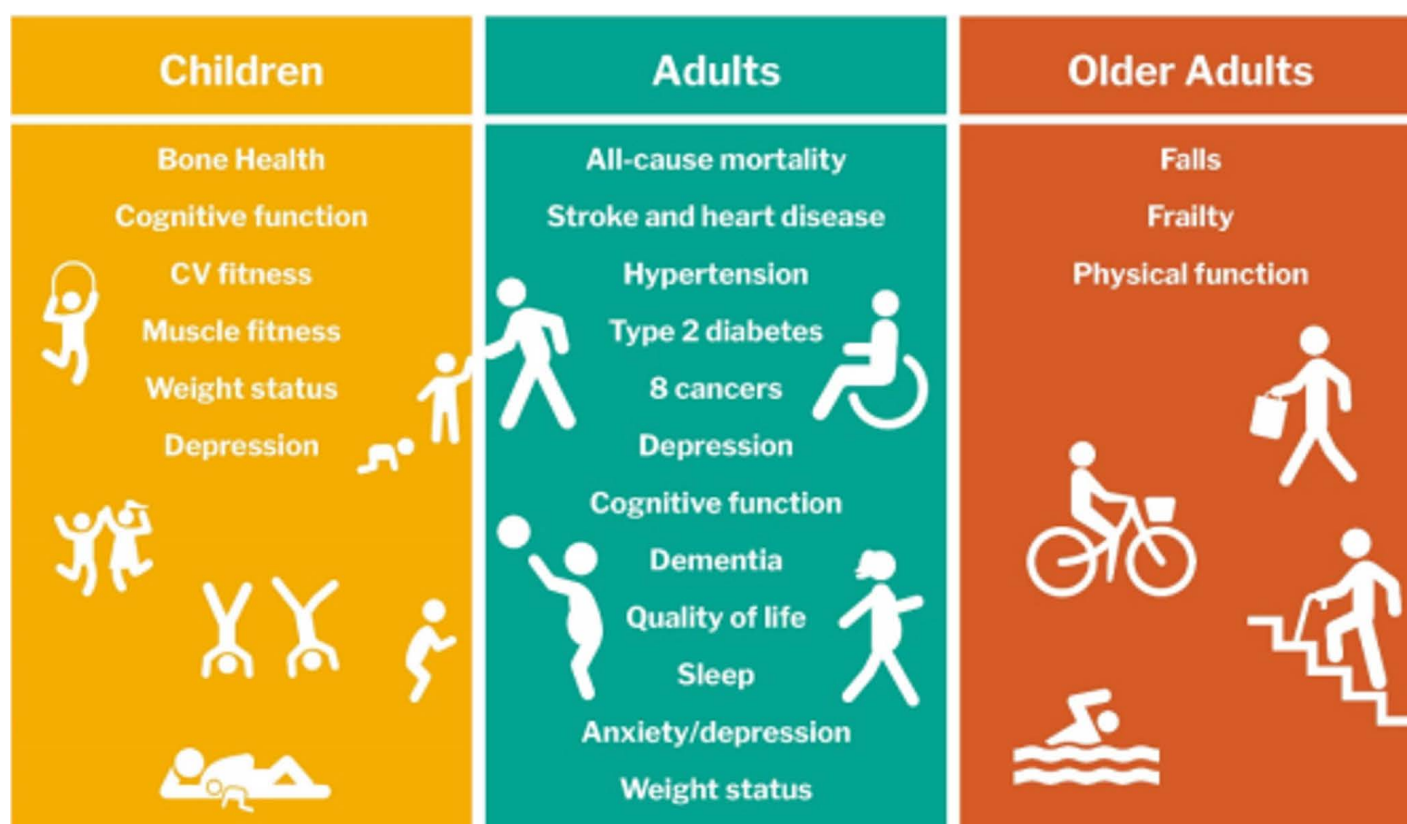
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Supporting physical activity across the life course

Physical activity is important at every stage of life. From supporting the development of key cognitive skills amongst children, to reducing the risk of falls amongst older adults, there is good evidence for the health benefits of physical activity, and how these vary across the life course.

Moderate or strong evidence for health benefit

Figure 3: Benefits of physical activity across the life course¹⁰



*CV Fitness = cardiovascular fitness

The benefits of physical activity build up over time, so being physically active from an early age is an important part of maximising the long-term impact on physical and mental wellbeing. However, it is never too late to gain health benefits from taking up physical activity, so there should be opportunities available to support people to increase their activity levels across the life course¹¹.

With the aim of supporting the achievement of these and other health benefits, the UK Chief Medical Officer's (CMO's) physical activity guidelines lay out the recommended levels of activity for people of different ages:

¹⁰ UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines (2019). Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-guidelines-uk-chief-medical-officers-report

¹¹ UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines (2019). Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-guidelines-uk-chief-medical-officers-report

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Supporting physical activity across the life course

Physical activity is important at every stage of life. From supporting the development of key cognitive skills amongst children, to reducing the risk of falls amongst older adults, there is good evidence for the health benefits of physical activity, and how these vary across the life course.

Chief Medical Officer guidelines for physical activity ¹²	
Everyone	Should aim to be physically active every day and minimise time spent sedentary
Under 5s	Under 1 year - should be physically active several times every day in a variety of ways, including interactive floor-based activity, e.g. crawling. For infants not yet mobile, this includes at least 30 minutes of tummy time spread throughout the day while awake. 1-4 year olds: at least 180 minutes per day in a variety of physical activities at any intensity, including active and outdoor play, spread throughout the day
Children & Young People (5-18 years)	Moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week. E.g. physical education, active travel, after-school activities, play and sports.
Adults (19 to 64)	Engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity (e.g. brisk walking or cycling) per week; or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity (e.g. running); or even shorter durations of very vigorous activity.
Older Adults (65 years +)	Aim for 150 minutes of moderate intensity aerobic activity per week.

The CMO's recommendations reflect the amount and type of physical activity that is needed to maximise the benefit to health. However, evidence shows that there is no minimum amount of physical activity required to achieve some health benefits, and as such all increases in physical activity levels should be encouraged¹³.

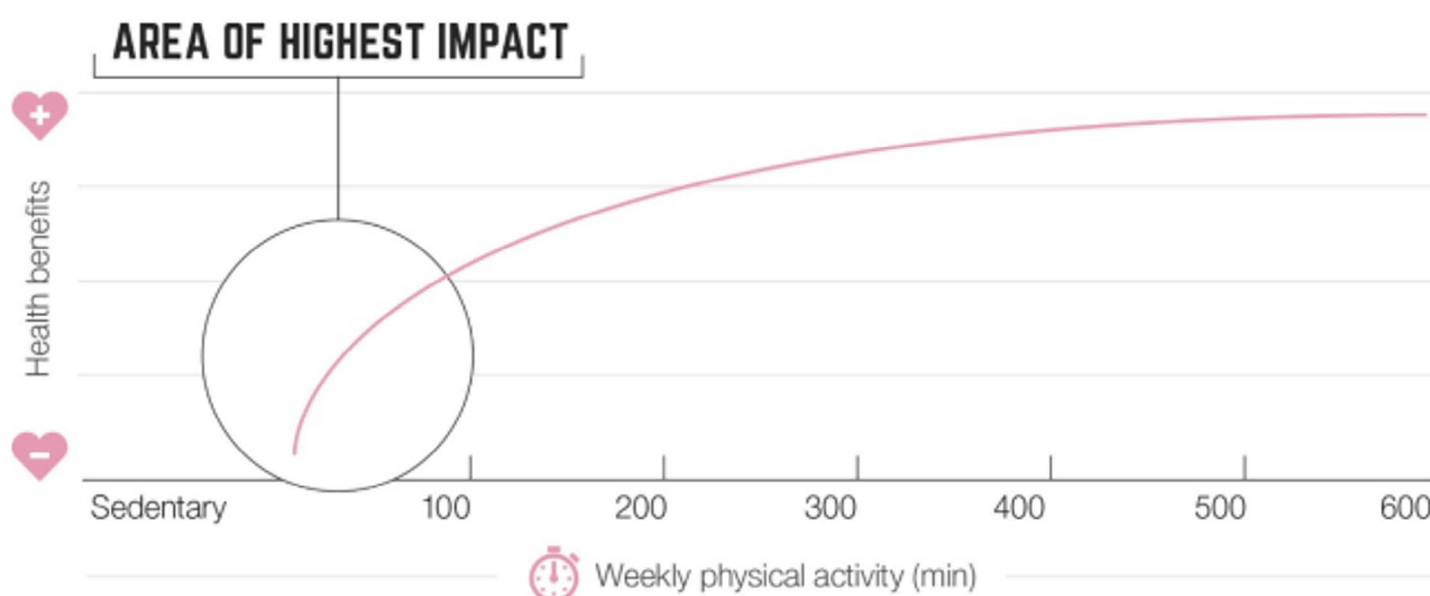
¹² UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines (2019). Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-guidelines-uk-chief-medical-officers-report

¹³ UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines (2019). Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-guidelines-uk-chief-medical-officers-report

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While increasing the time spent being physical active leads to greater physical and mental health benefits, as figure 4 below shows, the greatest improvement in population health can be achieved by enabling those that are currently sedentary or inactive to start some level of physically activity¹⁴. This means that to maximise the population health gains, greatest emphasis should be placed on delivering activities or interventions which encourage and enable those with the most sedentary lifestyles to start being physical active, while still offering opportunities for all residents to increase their physical activity levels.

Figure 4: Relative health gains associated with increasing levels of physical activity¹⁵



¹⁴ UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines (2019). Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-guidelines-uk-chief-medical-officers-report

¹⁵ UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines (2019). Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-guidelines-uk-chief-medical-officers-report

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HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Subject Heading:	Havering Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) – Annual Report 2024/25
Board Lead:	Mark Ansell, Director of Public Health
Report Author and contact details:	Parth Pillai, Parth.Pillai@havering.gov.uk

The subject matter of this report deals with the following themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The wider determinants of health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase employment of people with health problems or disabilities • Develop the Council and NHS Trusts as anchor institutions that consciously seek to maximise the health and wellbeing benefit to residents of everything they do. • Prevent homelessness and minimise the harm caused to those affected, particularly rough sleepers and consequent impacts on the health and social care system.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lifestyles and behaviours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prevention of obesity • Further reduce the prevalence of smoking across the borough and particularly in disadvantaged communities and by vulnerable groups • Strengthen early years providers, schools and colleges as health improving settings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The communities and places we live in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realising the benefits of regeneration for the health of local residents and the health and social care services available to them • Targeted multidisciplinary working with people who, because of their life experiences, currently make frequent contact with a range of statutory services that are unable to fully resolve their underlying problem.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local health and social care services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of integrated health, housing and social care services at locality level.
<input type="checkbox"/>	BHR Integrated Care Partnership Board Transformation Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people and frailty and end of life • Long term conditions • Children and young people • Mental health • Planned Care <div> Cancer Primary Care Accident and Emergency Delivery Board Transforming Care Programme Board </div>

SUMMARY

The Havering Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) Annual Report 2024–25 sets out progress made in reducing drug and alcohol-related harms across the borough through joint working between the Council, NHS, police, voluntary sector and community partners.

The report describes how the CDP continues to strengthen treatment and recovery systems, improve partnership coordination, and respond to emerging risks such as synthetic opioids. Alcohol remains the greatest cause of substance-related harm locally, though drug misuse continues to present challenges linked to health, crime, and community safety.

Havering continues to perform strongly in key outcome areas. Treatment engagement and recovery rates are above both London and England averages, with the number of adults and young people in structured treatment increasing during 2024/25. The partnership has successfully transitioned to the new Drug and Alcohol Treatment, Recovery and Improvement Grant (DATRIG), sustaining service capacity despite short-term funding cycles.

The CDP operates a whole-system approach, aligning enforcement, treatment, and prevention work. Key developments include improved data sharing, the implementation of a synthetic opioids preparedness plan, enhanced safeguarding training, and the piloting of a Drug and Alcohol Review of Deaths (DARD) process.

Overall, the report demonstrates continued progress, strong governance, and a coordinated approach to reducing harm and improving recovery outcomes for Havering residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board **endorse** the partnership's priorities for 2025/26, including:

- Embedding Project ADDER;
- Refreshing the local Substance Misuse Needs Assessment;
- Implementing the Children & Young People's Communications Plan;
- Rolling out the DARD process;
- Continuing work to improve opiate recovery and continuity of care.

REPORT DETAIL

See attached CDP Annual report



IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The partnership's ability to sustain current service levels is dependent on continuation of national grant funding beyond March 2026.

The emergence of synthetic opioids presents an ongoing public health risk requiring local preparedness.

Rising service demand and cost-of-living pressures may impact delivery capacity.

Strong partnership coordination remains essential to maintain progress and address inequalities in access and outcomes.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Havering Combatting Drugs Partnership Annual Report 2024/25

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CDP annual report 2024/25

Health and Wellbeing Board

4th February 2026

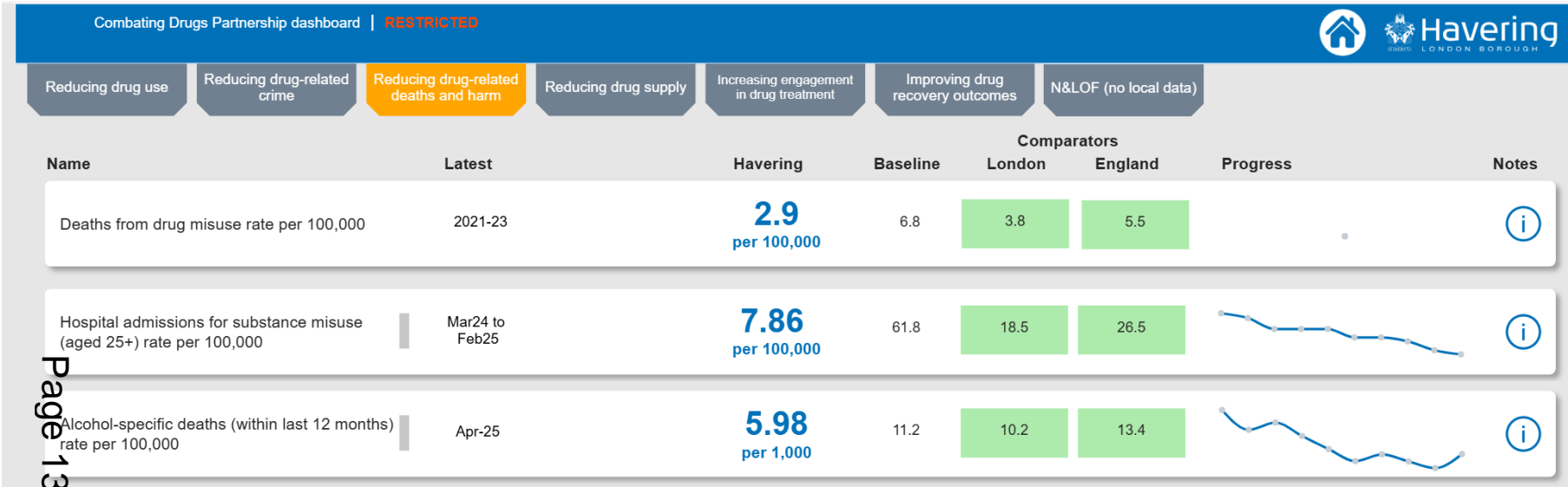
JLHWS priorities this report contributes to:

- ☐ Supporting people with mental health problems to live fulfilling, meaningful and healthy lives.
- ☐ Reduce homelessness and the harm caused.
- ☐ Increase levels of employment and income to reduce poverty.

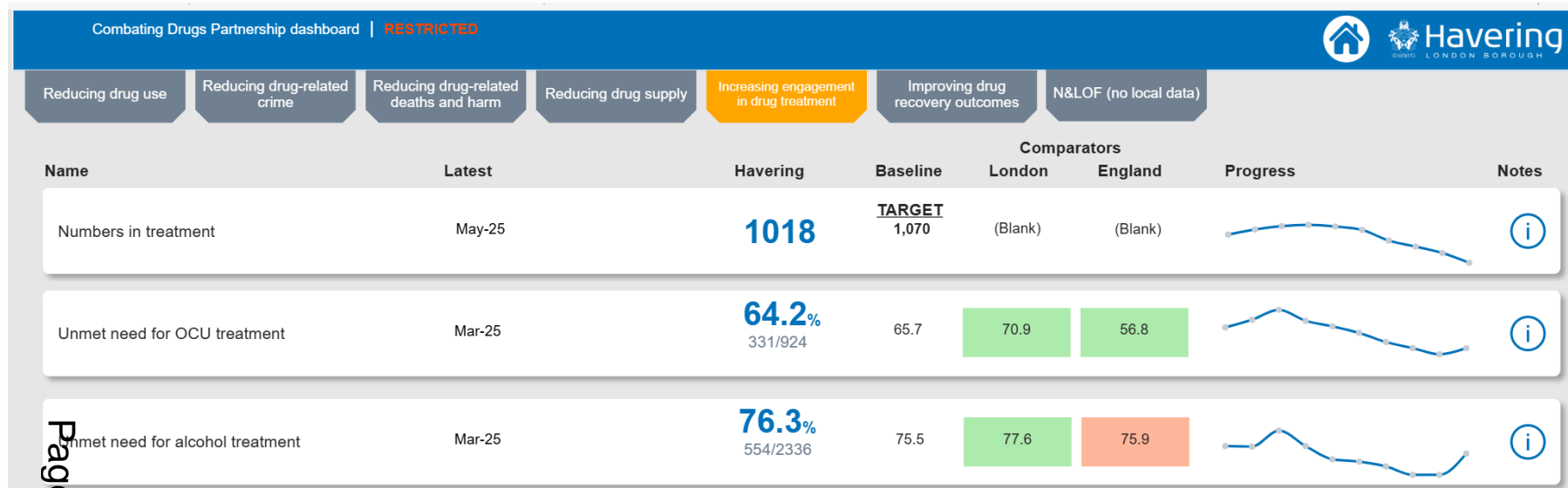
Why these priorities matter:

- Substance misuse and poor mental health often co-exist, creating cycles of harm, inequality, and social exclusion.
- Supporting recovery contributes to improved wellbeing, housing stability, and employment opportunities.
- Addressing drug-related harm reduces pressure on health, social care, and criminal justice systems.
- Aligning with this priority ensures that the Combatting Drugs Partnership delivers integrated, person-centered support across agencies.

- ✓ The production of a synthetic opioid's preparedness plan.
- ✓ Completion of the Children and Young People's (CYP) service improvement framework from ADPH London.
- ✓ The drug and alcohol indicator dashboard has been reviewed and updated to align with CDP priorities.
- ✓ Adults in treatment with our drug and alcohol service provider has risen to 1,018 (May 2025).
- ✓ Young people in treatment with our drug and alcohol service provider has more than doubled as compared to the year before.
- ✓ Ongoing multi agency safeguarding training around substance use for adults and children delivered by CGL



- Hospital admissions for substance misuse has been decreasing in the past year and is lower than both London and England averages.
- In the past 12 months (April 2024 - April 2025), the rate of alcohol-specific deaths in Havering was 5.98 per 100,000, lower than both the London average of 10.1 and the England average of 13.5 per 100,000

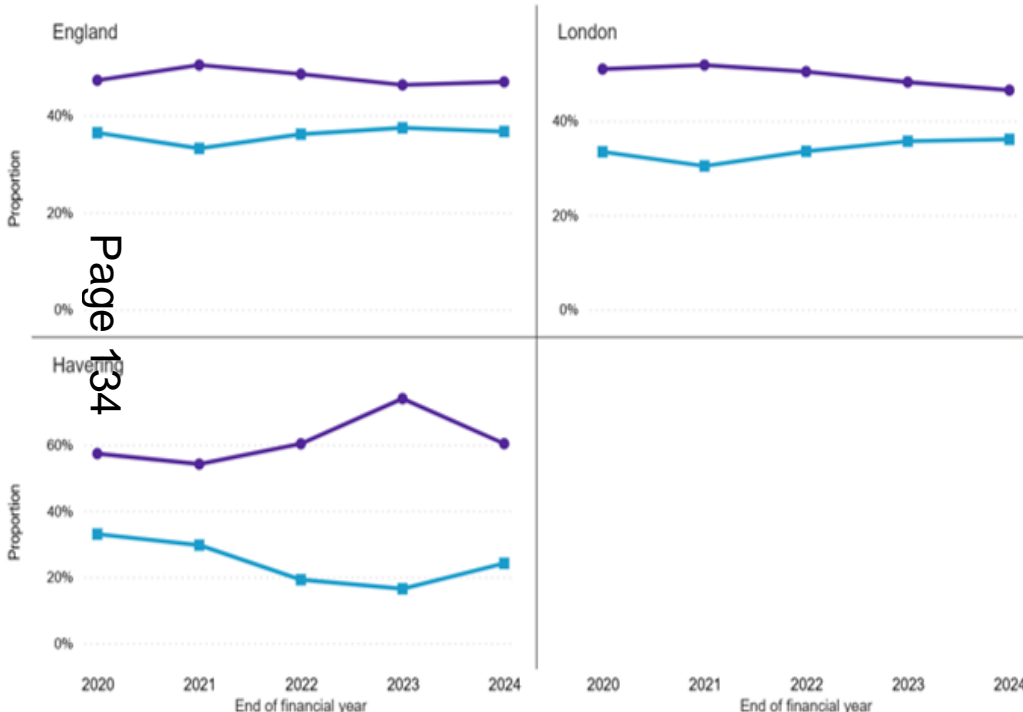


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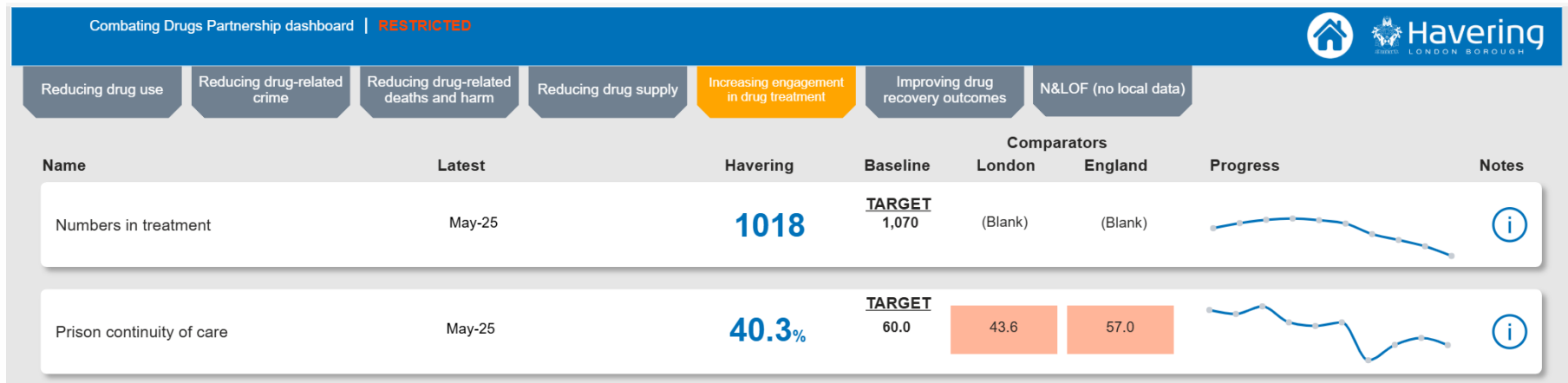
- ☒ The proportion of opiate and/or crack cocaine users in Havering not currently engaged with treatment was 64.2% as of March 2025. This rate is lower than the London average of 70.9% but remains above the England average of 56.8%.
- ☐ The proportion of adults with alcohol dependency not currently engaged in treatment was 76.3% as of March 2025. This rate is lower than the London average of 77.6% but slightly higher than the England average of 75.9%.

Treatment exits - All in treatment

All in treatment - (Opiate, Non-opiate only, Alcohol only, Non-opiate & alcohol) - (Male, Female) - (18-29, 30-49, 50+)



- ❑ This graph shows the proportion of all treatment exits that were either successful completions or dropouts.
- ❑ Nationally and across London, completion rates have remained relatively stable, with England averaging around 45–50% and London slightly below this.
- ❑ Havering has consistently performed above both the London and England averages in successful completions of treatment.
- ❑ Havering's treatment exits due to service users dropping out has slightly increased to 25% however it is still lower than England (37%) and London (36%)



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☐ Havering has a lower rate of prison continuity of care (percentage of prison leavers with continued treatment need picked up in the community within three weeks).

☐ We are still below our target of numbers in treatment.

- ☐ During 24/25, Havering CDP continues to operate under a business-as-usual model, with a 5-year strategy in place, along with a rolling action plan. Strong links continue between participating agencies and other relevant local partnerships.
- ☐ Quarterly updates to the Combatting Drugs Partnership.
- ☐ Progress is outlined in the annual progress report and will continue to be presented at the Health and Wellbeing Board annually.
- ☐ Progress also presented to HSAB and Community Safety Partnership.