

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:

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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• Cancer• Primary Care• Accident and Emergency Delivery Board• Transforming Care Programme Board

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.

BACKGROUND PAPERS



Arts Strategy 2026–2029 (DRAFT)