Why do Local Wellbeing Networks Exist/what are they for?

This document sets out to clearly define the purpose of the Local Wellbeing Networks, their relationship with the Locality Leadership Teams, and the wider Fairer Together initiative.

As part of Islington Council's 'Fairer Together' initiative (See <u>A strategy for early intervention and prevention in Islington</u>, Voluntary Action Islington and Octopus Community Networks came together to establish Local Wellbeing Networks ("LWNs") throughout the borough.

The LWNs were born out of:
   A) The council's ambition to increase collaboration between services and
   B) To provide a platform for community voice.

See <u>Fairer Together Local Wellbeing Networks</u>, <u>Islington Together for a More Equal Future</u> and, <u>Islington Together 2030</u>,

Islington Council have also launched the Islington Promise, which outlines what residents can expect from the council and what it will ask in return, to work together for a more equal borough. There will be an opportunity for the community to share their promise or what they can do to help create a more equal Islington on <u>Let's Talk Islington</u>, the Councils new consultation and engagement site.

The Networks consist of statutory service providers, charities, community groups and residents, all of whom have committed to taking a more active role in their local community by sharing best practice, exploring emerging trends, discussing concerns and, sharing ideas on how best to support residents work together to achieve positive social change by collaborating on initiatives and programs that address the social, emotional, and physical well-being of individuals and communities (see Page 17 of <u>Islington Together 2030 Plan</u>).

Due to the nature of the Fairer Together partnership rooting in local connectivity, the Local Wellbeing Networks have the potential to play a critical role in the overall success of the initiative. Building skills (Community Change-Makers), strengthening relationships (locality-based meetings) and connecting with the community (Community Organisers)

Islington is a vibrant and diverse borough with a good supply of local jobs, access to the wider London economy, a rich cultural heritage, and some of the highest property prices in the country. However, many Islington families are living in poverty.

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019, ranked Islington as the 53rd most deprived local authority area in England (out of 317 local authorities) and 6th most deprived local authority in London. It has the 10th highest level of income deprivation affecting children, and 4th highest in England for income deprivation affecting older people. Please also see <u>State of Equalities annual report 2022 (islington.gov.uk)</u>

The complete IMD dataset and summary reports can be <u>found on the Government's website.</u>

Three LWNs have been established in the borough (North, Central and South) meeting bi-monthly (the meetings are hosted by a rotating Network member). The **Council's new Strategic Plan recognises the critical value of this work** and seeks to put communities at the heart of its ambition for a more equal future for Islington. In order to transform outcomes for some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised communities, the Council recognises the need for a different

relationship. One that involves working alongside, learning from and understanding the communities they serve and putting them in the driving seat in terms of delivering change.

The Council wants residents to know that their voice matters and that they are able to influence change. It is committed to align investment to local priorities, enabling bottom up change from those who know best and supporting residents and VCS groups to lead change through effective community investment.

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Local Wellbeing Networks
Vision

"We are a collaborative network which shares resources to amplify the voice of residents and unlock their power to respond to community needs through collective action".

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Delivery Model for the 'Local Wellbeing Networks'

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Based on the Social Change Agency [Network Building Canvas](#) which is a practical guide for setting up a successful peer network or getting an existing one to flourish.

Each Local Wellbeing Network will be taken through the same Network Building Canvas experience. Each Network is, and should be allowed, to develop at their own pace

Network Building Canvas steps:
- Connect
- Co-deliver
- Facilitate Community Voice
- Shaping vision and priorities by the people who live and work in the community
- Building on local knowledge, strengths and experience
- Intentional cross-sector collaboration
- Communities drive their own solutions with local leadership at the centre, and
- Learning by doing

Learning exchanges across the three locality areas will be facilitated through **Action Learning Sets**

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How the LWNs work to address community concerns

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Community Building
The LWNs aim to make a difference to outcomes for residents by:
- Harnessing the power of local residents and communities to find solutions to local issues. The LWNs will ensure residents views are used to inform their strategies and plans.
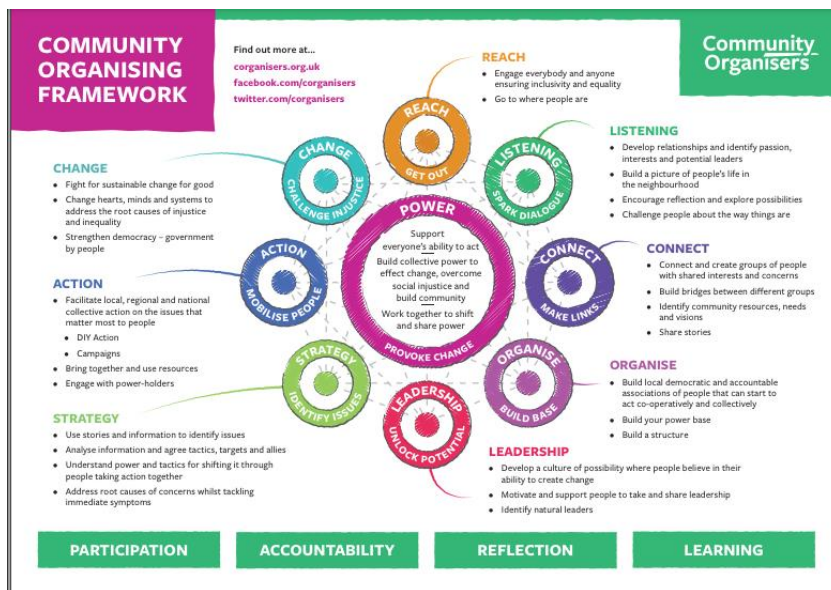
The LWNs will:

• Through collaboration provide effective support to local residents

• Where appropriate change ways of working to improve and strengthen support to residents

• Ensure that LWN strategies are informed by evidence

Collective impact

The collective impact approach to solving societal problems is based on the idea that no organisation acting alone can solve complex issues. Alongside the Social Change Agency Network Building Framework we are adapting the five conditions of collective success first set out in the Stanford Social Innovation Review (See below for our revised four conditions). At the heart of the LWN model is engagement with, and the involvement of local residents whose needs and voices will help guide the work.

This requires the commitment to reach all residents, including those who do not engage with services and support, whose voices are seldom heard. We are creating a community wide movement empowered to support local residents. Working closely with residents is critical to achieving long term and sustainable change. This means building residents wellbeing, confidence, knowledge, and skills. The LWNs are recruiting and training local residents and others from the community as Community Organisers to be our "Community Change Makers".

The LWNs are the backbone support organisation that will provide the capacity and skills to allow diverse stakeholders to collaborate.

The LWNs help local stakeholders use and share data to better understand local needs and to create common strategies. The LWNs work with partners to improve the quality, use, and sharing of data and the development of shared measurement systems. This will inform a "test, learn and refine" approach, allowing the LWNs to evaluate what works and what does not work, and help create a long-term legacy of effective, data-informed practice. The LWNs will build on knowledge and good practice from other initiatives and programmes, including Let's Talk Islington

The Revised Four Conditions of Collective Success

Common Agenda

Collective impact requires all participants to have a shared vision for change, one that includes a common understanding of the problem(s) and a joint approach to solving it/them through agreed actions.

Shared Measurement Systems

Developing a shared measurement system is essential to collective impact. Agreement on a common

agenda is illusory without agreement on the ways success will be measured and reported. Collecting data and measuring the results consistently on a short list of indicators at the community level and across all participating organisations not only ensures that all efforts remain aligned, it also enables the participants to hold each other accountable and learn from each other.

Mutually Reinforcing Activities
Collective impact initiatives depend on a diverse group of stakeholders working together, not by requiring that all participants do the same thing, but by encouraging each participant to undertake the specific set of activities at which it excels in a way that supports and is coordinated with the actions of others. Each stakeholders efforts must fit into an overarching plan if their combined efforts are to succeed. The multiple causes of social problems, and the components of their solutions, are interdependent. They cannot be addressed by uncoordinated actions among isolated organisations.

Continuous Communication
Developing trust is a monumental challenge. Participants need time to build up enough experience with each other to recognise and appreciate the common motivation behind their different efforts. They need time to see that their own interests will be treated fairly, and that decisions will be made on the basis of objective evidence and the best possible solution to the problem, not to favour the priorities of one organisation over another. Even the process of creating a common vocabulary takes time, and it is an essential prerequisite to developing shared measurement systems.

Measuring Success

- The development of outcomes, evaluation and monitoring plans for each of the three Localities. This will include how to turn data into actionable insight to help improve outcomes
- Effective resident led evaluation to avoid the pitfalls of tokenism
- Working toward achieving equitable and anti-racist evaluation
- Putting a monetary value on the impact of the work within the community Insights/making more of the data in early intervention
- Capturing the outcomes in community work and highlighting the limitations of formal evaluation
- Using storytelling to measure impact - Share Success Stories

Success for the LWNs will be measured by assessing the improvement in working with communities where there is distrust between residents and those are perceived as being in positions of power, and between stakeholders, Initial measures of progress will include levels of resident engagement and increased resident wellbeing as well as changes in attitudes and perceptions in the wider community. We are as interested in making improvements in the way people work (system change) as we are seeking to make a long term and sustainable differences for residents.

We will develop a framework which will provide local communities with practices and tools to work together, that are easy to navigate, cost-effective, and supported by the LWNs. Putting residents at the heart of the LWNs (building their knowledge, skills, and confidence to support themselves and each other) is key to sustainability. We aim to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of preventative support provided by the Community Change Makers, compared to the significant costs of late intervention.

Ways to measure impact

<u>Wellbeing Ranking</u>
Wellbeing ranking refers to the process of evaluating and comparing the overall well-being or quality of life of individuals, communities, regions, or countries based on various indicators and criteria.

Wellbeing rankings typically consider a wide range of factors that contribute to a persons or a communities overall quality of life, such as:
1. **Economic Factors:** This includes income levels, employment rates, and access to economic opportunities.
2. **Healthcare:** Measures related to healthcare include access to healthcare services, life expectancy, and overall health outcomes.
3. **Education:** Educational factors consider access to quality education, literacy rates, and educational attainment.
4. **Environmental Quality:** Environmental factors may include air and water quality, access to green spaces, and environmental sustainability.
5. **Social and Community Well-Being:** This can include factors like social support systems, community engagement, and social cohesion.
6. **Safety and Security:** Measures of safety include crime rates, personal safety, and access to a secure living environment.
7. **Happiness and Life Satisfaction:** Subjective well-being indicators, such as happiness surveys and life satisfaction assessments, are increasingly considered in well-being rankings.
8. **Access to Basic Needs:** Access to basic needs like food, clean water, and housing are fundamental to well-being.
9. **Inequality and Equity:** Well-being rankings may also take into account income inequality and disparities in access to resources and opportunities.
10. **Cultural and Recreational Opportunities:** Access to cultural and recreational activities can contribute to a higher quality of life.

<u>NHS:</u>
[5 steps to mental wellbeing - NHS](#)
1. Connect with other people
2. Be physically active
3. Learn new skills
4. Give to others
5. Pay attention to the current moment – Mindfulness

Also see: https://www.mind.org.uk/media/9007/tools-for-measuring-changes-in-mental-health.pdf