



Greenwich Voice and Influence Programme

September 2024 Greenwich Hub for Influence, Voice, and Engagement Networking Event Report

Prepared by

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Workshop Details

Date: 12 September 2024

Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: METRO Woolwich

Conference Facilitators:

- Mark Delacour – Director of External Affairs, METRO GAVS
- Anna Ritchie – Head of Greenwich Giving, METRO GAVS
- Andrew Kerr – Voice and Influence Programme Manager, METRO GAVS
- Emily Nowell – Project Manager, METRO GAVS
- Roy Gopaul – Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator and Development Officer, METRO GAVS
- Mutmahim Roaf – Development Officer, METRO GAVS
- Colin Giordmaina – Programme Support Officer, METRO GAVS

Groups and Organisations in Attendance:

- Abbey Wood Women's Institute
- African Smile
- B Young Stars
- Between Humans
- British Gurkha Ex-Servicemen's Community - BGESC
- Delta Mind Foundation
- Derrick and Atlas Gardens Residents Association
- Eye 4 Change
- Greenwich Co-Operative Development Agency (GCDA)
- Greenwich Inclusion Project (GriP)
- Greenwich Parent Carer Participation Forum
- Groundwork London
- Javan Coker Foundation
- Marvellous Girls Club Ltd
- MumsAid
- New Arrivals Support
- Peabody Community Trust (Previously Trust Thamesmead)
- Royal Borough of Greenwich
 - Children's Services
 - Communities and Environment
 - Public Health
- Somali Teaching Group
- South East London Community Energy (SELCE)



- South London Counselling and Support Services (SLCSS)
- South East London Integrated Care Board
- Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance



Aim, Objectives, and Approach

The September 2024 Greenwich Hub for Influence, Voice, and Engagement (G-HIVE) Networking Event was the sixth workshop in the second phase of the Greenwich Voice and Influence Programme, which began in September 2022. It was the second dedicated networking opportunity hosted by METRO GAVS during the second year of G-HIVE's development.

The first aim of the event was to continue building professional relationships and networks between the Statutory and Voluntary Sectors within the Health and Social Care System in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. This was achieved through a formal networking activity during the first half of the event, as well as informal networking opportunities throughout the event and an activity for attendees to comment on the new Royal Borough of Greenwich Early Help and Prevention Strategy. The second aim of the event was to launch the METRO GAVS Directories, which was achieved through a presentation at the start of the event by Andrew Kerr, Voice and Influence Programme Manager. The third aim of the event was to co-develop the future focus(es) of G-HIVE beyond September 2025, which was achieved through an activity during the second half of the event.

Building upon previous G-HIVE networking events, the September 2024 G-HIVE Networking Event incorporated a mixture of activities and presentations. The activities included both formal and informal networking, co-development of a third phase of G-HIVE, and collaboration around the Royal Borough of Greenwich Early Help and Prevention Strategy. By METRO GAVS continuing to adopt this methodology and approach within G-HIVE, there is a role model for culture change across the system which G-HIVE is working to support and facilitate. The structure of the event was based around three activities and two presentations. This enabled attendees to network and get to know each other (Activity 1 and Activity 3), understand progress being made in the development of G-HIVE and Royal Borough of Greenwich (Presentation 1 and Presentation 2), and contribute towards work currently taking place in the Statutory and Voluntary Sectors (Activity 2 and Activity 3).

With Phase 1 of the Greenwich Voice and Influence Programme taking place entirely virtually, the decision was made to hold the event in person, with attendees registering with METRO GAVS. In total, forty-four people attended the September 2024 G-HIVE Networking Event.

Presentation 1: METRO GAVS Directories

As part of the reinvigoration of the METRO GAVS digital infrastructure, the G-HIVE Programme Team have developed three new directories for stakeholders within the Royal Borough of Greenwich to utilise in the delivery of their projects, programmes, services, and activities. The databases which have been developed (or redeveloped) are as follows:

- [Community Spaces Directory](#)
- [Consultation and Engagement Database](#)
- [METRO GAVS Members Directory](#)



At present, the Community Spaces Directory and the METRO GAVS Members Directory are fully functional, and ready to be accessed as and when required. The Consultation and Engagement Database, whilst live on the METRO GAVS website, has yet to be populated with outputs from consultation, collaboration, and engagement activities which have taken place within the borough. The G-HIVE Programme Team are due to embark on a process of backfilling relevant outputs until July 2021, when the first phase of the Greenwich Voice and Influence Programme begins. The database will allow the Health and Social Care System to continually build upon what has taken place previously to avoid duplication in future activities. Moreover, they are currently working with the Royal Borough of Greenwich Engagement and Participation Team to utilise the database as a central depository for all outputs which are developed and published by the Council.

Activity 1: Group Networking

The first activity of the event was focused on attendees continuing to get to know each other in order to understand more about them as individuals and their roles within the borough. This was facilitated through Activity 1 – Group Networking.

As part of this activity, attendees self-allocated into small groups and were given thirty minutes to engage with each other. This allowed them to also understand any crossover in their roles, and how they could begin to work together in the future. Whilst the topic(s) of discussion was open to each group, the following prompt questions were suggested to ‘kickstart’ conversations:

- Current role and delivery within the Royal Borough of Greenwich
- Types of health inequalities they are currently attempted to overcome, either directly or indirectly
- Ambitions for the future of the Royal Borough of Greenwich

Each attendee was also provided with a blank Contact Information Sheet and a pen to record the contact details of attendees they engaged with during the activity, and throughout the event.

The first activity once again proved to be successful, with several attendees commenting that they enjoyed being able to engage with other attendees in a relaxed manner. It was also noted that attendees have found this type of activity beneficial when it has been run at previous networking events, with the G-HIVE Programme Team keen to continue running it, albeit with adaptations as per feedback which is received.

Activity 2: G-HIVE Phase 3 Planning and Development

The G-HIVE Programme Team are keen to co-develop the future focus(es) of G-HIVE beyond September 2025 around the needs and aspirations of the Health and Social Care System within the Royal Borough of Greenwich. In order to capture this information, attendees were invited to partake in an activity to discuss the following questions:



- What health inequality / inequalities could G-HIVE focus on during Phase 3
- What elements of current G-HIVE delivery should continue into Phase 3
- Are there any changes which could be made to G-HIVE to ensure improved delivery

What health inequality / inequalities could G-HIVE focus on during Phase 3

To date, G-HIVE has not provided specific support and/or resourcing around a specific health inequality (or inequalities). This is due to G-HIVE as a programme still being in development, with the G-HIVE Programme Team adopting a testing and learning approach during this current stage of development. However, from engaging with different stakeholders within the Health and Social Care System, the G-HIVE Programme Team are beginning to understand that there is an appetite within the borough for the programme to provide more specific support and resourcing.

Following the first discussion during Activity 2, the main health inequality which was suggested for G-HIVE to focus on beyond September 2025 was mental health. Although this is a large and complex health inequality, several sub-focuses were also suggested:

- Mental health and neurodiversity (inclu. children and young people)
- Social isolation (inclu. adults and older people as well as children and young people)
- Community engagement and system collaboration around mental health (inclu. access to services)

In addition to this, other areas of focus were also suggested, including:

- Collaboration between health-focused Statutory Sector stakeholders around health inequality data (inclu. developing understandings of current issues)
- Support with problem solving and taking practical action
- Housing (inclu. stock maintenance)
- Heating and energy for vulnerable people (inclu. support and advocacy)
- Physical health (inclu. children and young people)
- Access to health services (inclu. marginalised communities)

Whilst other focuses were suggested, whilst good, were outside of G-HIVE's remit within the borough. Details of these suggestions can be found in Appendix 1.

What elements of current G-HIVE delivery should continue into Phase 3

As previously stated, the G-HIVE Programme Team has been adopting a testing and learning approach during this current stage of the programme's development. Therefore, it was important to understand the different elements which were currently working well, which attendees noted as follows



- Networking opportunities with stakeholders from across the health and social care system (inclu. promoting the importance of community networks)
- Enabling stakeholders to meet each other for the first time
- Facilitating the collective voice of the Voluntary Sector
- Bringing the Statutory and Voluntary Sectors together (inclu. supporting the Voluntary Sector to influence senior decision makers)
- Diversity of stakeholders invited and attending G-HIVE trainings and events (inclu. experts from different organisations)
- Learning, development, and training opportunities (inclu. promotion of G-HIVE events)
- Building of a knowledge hub, promotion of relevant resources, and development of public databases and directories
- Training and event refreshments

In addition to the above, it was also helpful to understand that attendees appreciated other areas which are working well more generally across METRO GAVS:

- Effective engagement and support for the Voluntary Sector
- Open communication with weekly e-bulletins (i.e. METRO GAVS Info Update)
- Promotion of funding opportunities with regular signposting and information sharing

Are there any changes which could be made to G-HIVE to ensure improved delivery

Whilst it is beneficial to understand what is currently working well with the delivery of G-HIVE, gaining an understanding of potential changes which would be made to ensure improved delivery is essential as G-HIVE continues to establish itself in the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

Targeted Networking / Focused Working Groups

One addition which was suggested was around more targeted networking based on service delivery and/or organisation type, as well as working groups focused on specific themes outside of G-HIVE's networking events. Given G-HIVE is likely going to be providing specific support and/or resourcing around a specific health inequality (or inequalities) as part of its future delivery, more targeted networking opportunities and/or working groups could naturally emerge because of this. Whilst it will not be possible during the current phase of delivery, the G-HIVE Programme Team will consider this as part of a third phase of the programme.

Diversification of Event Attendees

Whilst G-HIVE events continue to be well attended by stakeholders from the Statutory and Voluntary Sectors, attendees noted the need for greater representation from stakeholders in the



NHS as well as grassroots groups and organisations. Whilst METRO GAVS promotes G-HIVE as much as possible across the Health and Social Care System, it is important to ensure that greater representation is strived for. For grassroots groups and organisations, being able to claim for attendance is one method which has proved successful to date, as well as ongoing engagement with stakeholders in the NHS outside of G-HIVE events. However, METRO GAVS will continue to work on other methods which can facilitate greater representation during the last year of Phase 2 and into Phase 3.

Other changes and improvements which were suggested were more aligned more to other areas within METRO GAVS and have been referred to Greenwich Giving and the Infrastructure Support and Capacity Building Service. Details of these suggestions can be found in Appendix 2.

Presentation 2 and Activity 3: Royal Borough of Greenwich Early Help and Prevention Strategy

As part of the September 2024 G-HIVE Networking Event, the Royal Borough of Greenwich's Children's Services directorate delivered a presentation on the Early Help and Prevention Strategy for 2024 to 2025. This included an outline of the immediate priorities for the borough over the next twelve-to-eighteen-months, as well as an overview of what is meant by early help and prevention. Following this, attendees were invited to partake in an exercise in which they could feedback on two of the missions within the strategy:

- Building relationships across the early help and prevention system that works for all children
- Safeguarding and prevention in schools

Within the culture of collaboration and active feedback mechanisms which G-HIVE is aiming to foster within the borough, the feedback which the Children's Services directorate received at the event will be incorporated into the Early Help and Prevention Action Plan. This includes the circulation a summary of the key points discussed, and report back on progress at a future G-HIVE event.

For further information, please [email Sherry Glasgow, Innovation and Improvement Team Leader](#). You can also find the [Royal Borough of Greenwich Early Help and Prevention Strategy for 2024 to 2025 here](#).

A copy of the Royal Borough of Greenwich Early Help and Prevention Strategy presentation [can be found here](#). A copy of the feedback provided on missions within the strategy [can be found here](#).



Next Steps

The September 2024 G-HIVE Networking Event was the second of two networking events planned for G-HIVE Phase 2 Year 2 and marked the conclusion of the second year of development. As the programme transitions into its third and final year of development, the G-HIVE Programme Team will be hosting the annual G-HIVE Voice and Influence Conference in December 2024, and two further networking events in April and September 2025. They will also continue to facilitate a series of trainings on consultation and engagement, and diversity, equity, and inclusion as part of the G-HIVE Learning, Development, and Training Support Package.

For further information, please contact the following:

- [Andrew Kerr – Voice and Influence Programme Manager](#)
- [Roy Gopaul – Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator](#)
- [Colin Giordmania – Programme Support Officer](#)



Appendix 1: Suggested Future Focuses Outside of G-HIVE's Remit

- Community events for hard-to-reach communities
- Signposting with a focus on peer support

Whilst these are good suggestions for the G-HIVE Programme Team to consider as a future focus of G-HIVE, they are, unfortunately, outside of the delivery of G-HIVE's remit within the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

Appendix 2: Suggested Changes to Improve G-HIVE's Delivery

- Bridging the gap between grassroots groups and organisations and funding from the Royal Borough of Greenwich
- Increased methods to disseminate funding opportunities beyond the weekly e-bulletin (i.e. METRO GAVS Info Update) and improved ability to access funding opportunities
- Connecting smaller groups and organisations with larger organisations around support with funding bids

Whilst these are good suggestions for the G-HIVE Programme Team to consider in improving G-HIVE's delivery, they are more closely aligned to the delivery of Greenwich Giving and the Infrastructure Support and Capacity Building Service within METRO GAVS.