

# Merton Council

## Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

### Membership

**Councillors:** Edith Macauley MBE (Chair), Edith Macauley MBE (Chair), Abdul Latif (Vice-Chair), Fidelis Gadzama, Marsie Skeete, Charlie Chirico

**Substitute Members:** Laxmi Attawar, Adam Bush

### Ethnic Minority Organisations

African Educational Cultural & Health Organisation (AECHO)

Deputy

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association

Asian Diabetic Support & Awareness Group

Asian Elderly Group of Merton

Asian Youth Association

BAME Voice

Bangladeshi Association of Merton

Deputy

Bengali Association of Merton

Deputy

Bengali Women's Association of Merton

British Muslim Association of Merton

Ethnic Minority Centre

Euro Bangla Federation

Deputy

London South West Chinese Community Association

Merton African Organisation

Merton Somali Community

Mitcham Filipino British Association

Deputy

Merton and Lambeth Citizen's Advice Bureau

Pakistan Cultural Association of Merton & Wandsworth

Pakistan Welfare Association

Deputy

Positive Network

South London Somali Community Association

South London Tamil Welfare Group

Victim Support Merton and Sutton

Wimbledon Mosque

Revd Mrs H Neale

Mr C.H.Nawaz

Mrs N. Shah

Mr M S Sheikh

Revd Mrs H Neale

Mr. N. Islam

Mr J Choudhury

Mr M Rahman

Mrs M Ahmed

Mr B. Afridi

Mrs Sabitri Ray

Dr Z Haque

Mr Q Anwar

Ms L Saltoon

Mr C J Lusack

Mr A. Ali

Ms A Colquhoun

Ms C Batallones

Ms H James

Mr M A Shah

Mr S U Sheikh

Mr Rizvi

Ms G Salmon

Mr A Musse

Dr P Arumugaraasah

Mr A Morgan-Thorne

Mr Z Khan

**Date: Thursday 30 March 2017**

**Time: 7.15 pm**

**Venue: Council chamber - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX**

This is a public meeting and attendance by the public is encouraged and welcomed. For more information about the agenda please contact [diversity@merton.gov.uk](mailto:diversity@merton.gov.uk) or telephone [020 8545 4637](tel:02085454637). All Press contacts: [press@merton.gov.uk](mailto:press@merton.gov.uk), 020 8545 3181

# Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

## 30 March 2017

- |   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Declarations of Interest                                       |         |
| 2 | Apologies for absence  |         |
| 3 | Minutes of the previous meeting                                | 1 - 6   |
| 4 | Matters arising  |         |
| 5 | Great Weight Debate - Lisa Lancefield, Ecological              | 7 - 20  |
| 6 | Police Update - Chief Inspector Phillip Palmer, Merton Police  | 21 - 22 |
| 7 | Draft Equality Strategy 2017-21 Evereth Willis, Merton Council | 23 - 48 |
| 8 | Any Other Business   |         |

### Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. If members consider they should not participate because of a non-pecuniary interest which may give rise to a perception of bias, they should declare this, withdraw and not participate in consideration of the item. For further advice please speak with the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance.

# Agenda Item 3

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY  
ORGANISATIONS  
7 DECEMBER 2016

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Edith Macauley (in the Chair),  
Councillor Fidelis Gadzama, Councillor Abdul Latif and  
Councillor Charlie Chirico

Mr Nawaz, Revd. Mrs Neale, Mr Islam, Mr Rahman, Mr Savage,  
Dr Haque, Mr Sheikh, Dr Arumugaraasah, Mr Nazim, Councillor  
Akyigyina, Ms Peacock, Ms Asress, Mr Tchilingirian

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 1)

None.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies were received from Councillor Marsie Skeete, Jerry Hall, Revd. Mrs  
Hannah and Mr Khan.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes were agreed.

4 MATTERS ARISING (Agenda Item 4)

There were no matters arising.

5 MERTON IMPROVING ACCESS TO PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPIES  
SERVICE (MIAPT) - JOHANNA PEACOCK (Agenda Item 5)

Johanna Peacock from Merton Improving Access to Psychological Therapies Service  
(MIAPT) gave an overview of the service. MIAPT is a small mental health charity that  
treats clients with mild to moderate psychological disorders. The service is based at  
Cricket Green Surgery. G.P.s make referrals to the service.

MIAPT takes a 'Stepped Care' approach. Following referral, Stage 1 involves an  
assessment made to understand the underlying issues. Stage 2 is mainly via the  
telephone. Step 3 is face-to-face.

Ms Peacock informed the meeting that those who access the service directly are more likely to complete a course of treatment. A short term course is 6-8 weeks. Step 3 is 8 to 10 weeks. Most of the support given is Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT).

In Merton there is a high demand for a Women's group – one is to be set up at St Mark's in February 2017. An Anger Management Group is being set up in January 2017 and a Carers Group in February 2017.

## Questions

### **Councillor Chirico asked how the service will engage with vulnerable guests at the YMCA? Referral time – how long before treatment starts?**

Ms Peacock replied that MIAPT is doing outreach, homeless people need register with a doctor so that they can be referred. Clients get assessed within one week. Clients access Stage 2 within 2 to 4 weeks and Stage 3 within 3 to 4 weeks. Priority is being given to reducing the waiting times.

The telephone service allows people to be in their home and access services. Referrals are also made to other organisations so people can be fully supported.

**Dr Arumugaraasah queried how people can receive treatment if they are not registered with a GP Practice?** Ms Peacock replied that they have to register, it could be done temporarily, but is necessary in order to access the service. The G.P.s are kept up to date with the treatment..

**Mr Sheikh asked if the time period can be longer than 30 minutes and what is the relationship with the mental health hospital?** Ms Peacock replied that the initial assessment and Step 2 sessions last 30 minutes. Step 3 sessions last 50 minutes. MIAPT has to work with all services and have to be aware of different providers

**How many people are in the organisation and how is MIAPT coping with meeting the demand?** The service meets the gap in mental health service provision by providing support to those who need it. There are 25 people in the team – the service is part of an umbrella organisation.

**What steps are being taken to advertise the service?** Outreach is being done, including attending meetings community organisations.

6 POLICE UPDATE - SUPERINTENDENT PHILLIP PALMER (Agenda Item 6)

The item was deferred to the next meeting.

## 7 CHILD HEALTHY WEIGHT - DAVID TCHILINGIRIAN (Agenda Item 7)

Hilina Asrress and David Tchilingirian gave a presentation on Child Healthy Weight. They reported that nationally London has the highest obesity rate and it is a priority for Merton and the Health and Wellbeing Board. 95% of children are weighed and measured in Reception (4 to 5 year olds) and year 6 (10 to 11 year olds). 18% of Reception Children have excess weight, by Year 6 the figure increases to 34.6%. The overall gain in excess weight between 4-5 year olds and 10-11 year olds in Merton is slowly decreasing (compared to increases seen in London and England) and is currently 15.9% (down from 16.6% in 2014/15).

There are marked geographical inequalities with a higher prevalence of obesity in east Merton. Reception: There is a widening gap in obesity between east and west Merton as obesity is increasing in the east but decreasing in the west of the borough over time. Year 6: Obesity is increasing at the same rate in east and west Merton with a consistent gap over time.

Nationally there is a link between ethnicity and obesity. There is no Merton data – monitoring has now started. Deprivation could also be a factor causing obesity. 4-5 year olds -15.2% of Black children are obese compared to 8.8 of White children. 10-11 year olds - 29.5% Black children are obese compared to 18.1 of White children. Ethnicity recording will improve to support analysis.

A Child Healthy Weight action plan is being developed. Some of the issues being looked at includes: looking at the physical environment, food environment and engagement.

Funding has been secured for insight – procurement is being undertaken to find an organisation to work with local communities to achieve a healthy weight. The work will include a universal approach talking to groups and specific work to engage with particular communities.

Pan London the Great Weight Debate closes on 9 December and a questionnaire is available online.

### **Questions**

**Some ethnic communities encourage children to eat – do you liaise with schools to monitor weight?** The Healthy Schools London programme is active in the borough. Some schools have achieved Bronze and Silver status. There is also a healthy eating/weight forum. Public Health is working with the Children Schools and Families department for healthy and nutritious school meals.

**What is being concentrated on? Genetically some communities have high BMIs. There are also cultural issues – how will Public Health teach parents to consider weight?** Many factors influence choices. Public Health is working at different levels – individual and community to change practices. Consistent messages going out is important looking at excess but it is also important to look at overweight . There is a child weight management programme. Other measures include a Walking Bus, reducing traffic around and encouraging active forms of travel.

**Good work is being done but home is often responsible. What awareness can be done in these circumstances?** Every effort is being made to make every contact count. Training to have difficult conversations is being done.

**Obesity could be a symptom of something else, e.g. neglect. How far does Public Health delve into family circumstances?**

The School Nurse sends letters to families and safeguarding processes are used if necessary.

**Are sports activity made a priority in schools?** Physical activity is essential. There is a Schools Sports Premium, After School activities and a minimum of two hours activity in the school week.

Hilina informed the meeting that previously there was not a coordinated approach but there is now a steering group. The plan will be refreshed based on the outcome of the engagement. The action plan is a three year plan and work will be done to educate children by working with schools.

8 REFRESH OF THE EQUALITY STRATEGY - EVERETH WILLIS (Agenda Item 8)

Evereth Willis presented details of the draft Equalities Objectives. document. A more streamlined strategy and implementation plan will be produced. Six Equality Objectives have been developed through consultation with the council's Senior Leadership and stakeholders. The draft objectives are as follows:

- a. **To ensure key plans and strategies narrow the gap between different communities in the borough**
- b. **Improve equality of access to services for disadvantaged groups**
- c. **Ensure regeneration plans increase the opportunity for all Merton's residents to fulfil their educational and economic potential and participate in the renewal of the borough**
- d. **To recruit from all sections of the community (to reflect the community), actively promote staff development and career**

**progression opportunities and embed equalities across the organisation**

- e. Promoting a safe, healthy and cohesive borough where communities get on well together**
- f. Fulfil our statutory duties and ensure protected groups are effectively engaged when we change our services.**

Councillor Akyigyina commented that leadership positions need to be more diverse and the council needs to be seen to be doing what is right.

Councillor Chirico asked what is being done to speak to new entrants to find out if they are being monitored – do we get a real picture of the struggles faced by BAME staff?

The JCC members expressed concerns about the lack of diversity in management roles and suggested that a staff forum was required.

Evereth advised that previous attempts have been made by the council to establish a BME staff forum. Councillor Macauley stated that it was difficult to recruit BME staff if they do not put themselves forward for roles. Concern was expressed about the lack of change in terms of getting more diversity in management roles.

Following discussion the JCC resolved that recommendations be made to the Corporate Management Team to address the lack of diversity at the senior leadership level in Merton Council.

It was resolved that the following measures should be put in place to address the JCC's concerns:

1. Introduce a BAME staff forum
2. Develop a 'Rising Stars' programme to support BAME staff to progress into senior leadership roles.
3. Establish a Scrutiny Task Group panel with BAME staff to discuss career opportunities in the borough.

## 9 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD UPDATE - ABAYEH SAVAGE (Agenda Item 9)

Abayeh Savage provided feed back from the Safer Neighbourhood Board meeting held on 1 December. He reported that one-minute silence was observed in respect of late Revd Dr Andrew Wakefield, former Chair of Safer Neighbourhood Board.

Communities are expected to be closely involved in problem solving and crime prevention instead the MOPAC7 targets were imposed at the expense of other crimes being overlooked. MOPAC7 crime targets is "a one size fits all" MOPAC 7

objectives to reduce key neighbourhood crimes by 20%, boost public confidence by 20% and cut costs by 20% from 2013 – 2016.

A new approach is to give local areas greater control of local police priorities, ensuring that the police and council are focused on the issues of greatest concern in their area and that serious, high-harm, high vulnerability crimes that are priority for the whole area. The SNB is created to ensure that there is partnership between local communities and the local police to work on crime reduction issues. The areas of focus will be: keeping young people safe, including knife crime and gangs, violence against women and girls, standing together against hate and terrorism and the current justice system and how it supports victims.

Representatives on the SNB are supposed to stand down after a 3-year term but for continuity it was agreed that the current members can continue subject to the recommendation and approval of their respective organisations. The Board hopes to appoint a new chair at the next meeting.

The amount allocated to Merton by MOPAC for 2016/17 remains the same £22k. None of the bids submitted for 2015/2016 were approved. This was due to unclear outputs and outcomes. It was agreed that an A4 size paper be prepared outlining guidance of what or how applications be completed and possibly a small committee be set up to invite bidders to go through their applications.

Mr Savage encouraged JCC representatives with project ideas to contact Lee Roberts in Safer Merton as the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 is the deadline for submissions. Applications can be submitted at any time between now and then.

#### 10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item )

None.



# Great Weight Debate Merton



# Aims

- Extend the London Great Weight Debate
- More depth and a Merton Focus
- Engage the community in conversations to raise awareness, galvanise action and gather ideas

## Target Groups:

- Black and Minority Ethnic communities
- Residents in East Merton
- Parents
- Young People

# Pan Merton

## Great Weight Debate Merton questionnaire

- Online
- Face to face at doctors' surgeries and other locations
- Publicised through Social media and schools



# East Merton Parents

Two interactive group discussions  
with parents of KS2 (and above)  
children

Lonesome and Links Primary  
schools

# **BAME communities**

- JCC Ethnic Monitorites
- BAME Voice
- Muslim Women of Merton
- Seeking one further group
- Questionnaire target group

# Young People

- Co-production meeting with Youth Parliament
- Working with Youth Inspectors on Food Environment
- Interactive workshop with children from Y7-Y9 at St Marks' CofE Academy



# Interviews

With key  
health professionals





# Hackathon

Saturday 3rd June

10 - 1

- Fun, solution-focused morning
- Bringing together community
- reps, health professionals and interested people
- Take what we've been told and create answers for Merton

# Testing the ideas

## Family road-testing event

Saturday 17th June

8 families

## Road-shows

Mitcham Carnival

Morden Family Fun Day

# Reporting

Report - available on line  
Presentation  
Video  
Website

# How you can help

- Share the survey
- Follow us on social media and share posts and tweets - get the conversation going
- Come to the Hackathon June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Distribute Hackathon publicity and help recruit people from your community
- Seeking a group from the African community to talk to

# Discussion

- Are there any issues specific to your communities around child healthy weight and keeping children active?



# Take the survey; follow us

[www.greatweightdebatemerton.co.uk](http://www.greatweightdebatemerton.co.uk)

[info@greatweightdebatemerton.co.uk](mailto:info@greatweightdebatemerton.co.uk)

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## Police Update - JCC for Ethnic Minorities Meeting

March 2017

General Performance (To 16/03/17 – current rolling 12mth)

Crime Type	Offences	Difference from Previous 12 months
Total Crime	13,231	+2.7%
MOPAC 7	6,331	-18.3%
Burglary	1,450	-35.0%
Criminal Damage	1,373	-16.1%
Robbery	284	-58.1%
Theft from Motor vehicle	950	-34.3%
Theft of motor vehicle	707	+64%
Theft from Person	229	-15.8%
Violence with injury	1,338	-27.2%

Total notifiable offences Crime overall is up compared to the previous twelve months.

Hate Crime Performance, (FYTD to end w/e 05/03/17)

Borough		w/e 05/03/17			FY to end w/e 05/03/17				
		Incidents	Offences	SDs	Incidents	Offences	Sanction Detections		
							SDs	SD Rate	Change^
Flagged Religious and Racist	Merton	6	3	1	243	249	48	19.3%	-5.5pp
	MPS	294	311	67	14,872	15,308	3,348	21.9%	-3.3pp
Racist	Merton	6	3	1	223	229	48	21.0%	-5.6pp
	MPS	268	287	66	13,988	14,452	3,257	22.5%	-3.3pp
Faith	Merton	0	0	1	31	31	2	6.5%	-3.95p
	MPS	42	40	3	1,943	1,915	243	12.7%	-5.4pp
Anti-Semitic	Merton	0	0	0	2	2	0	0.0%	--
	MPS	5	5	0	524	493	39	7.9%	-7.7pp
Islamaphobic	Merton	0	0	1	17	19	2	10.5%	-2.0pp
	MPS	31	32	3	1,141	1,148	176	15.3%	-3.9pp





**Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) with Ethnic Minorities**

**30 March 2017**

**SUBJECT:** Refresh of the Equality Strategy

**LEAD CONTACT:** Evereth Willis, Merton Council  
([Evereth.willis@merton.gov.uk](mailto:Evereth.willis@merton.gov.uk) /020 8545 4637)

**POSITION:** Equality and Community Cohesion Officer

**ORGANISATION:** Merton Council

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** That the JCC:

1. Notes the draft Equality Strategy 2017-21 and action plan.

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The Council's Community Cohesion Strategy 2012-15 has expired and the Equality Strategy 2013-17 will expire at the end of March 2017. The Equality Act 2010 requires the council to publish equality objectives every four years to demonstrate how it will meet the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 1.2 The new strategy combines equality and community cohesion objectives, reflecting the synergies between the two. This report sets out a refreshed Equality Strategy and Action Plan for 2017-21

## **2. Background:**

- 2.1. The refreshed strategy stating the council's equality objectives meets legislative requirements to publish equality objectives every four years. Following the agreement of Corporate Management Team (CMT) the refreshed strategy combines equality and community cohesion commitments.
- 2.2. The equality objectives have been developed through discussion with community representatives, the Corporate Equality Steering Group, Collective DMT and the Senior Leadership Team. Five of the objectives relate to service provision and are outwardly focused and one of the objectives is internally focused relating to staffing matters.
- 2.3. Outlined below are the six draft equality objectives:
  - A. To ensure key plans and strategies narrow the gap between different communities in the borough;
  - B. Improve equality of access to services for disadvantaged groups;

- C. Ensure regeneration plans increase the opportunity for all Merton's residents to fulfil their educational, health and economic potential, participate in the renewal of the borough and create a health promoting environment;
  - D. Promoting a safe, healthy and cohesive borough where communities get on well together ;
  - E. Encourage recruitment from all sections of the community , actively promote staff development and career progression opportunities and embed equalities across the organisation;
  - F. Fulfil our statutory duties and ensure protected groups are effectively engaged when we change our services.
- 2.4. The objectives aim to narrow the gap in outcomes between residents in the East and West of the borough. A cross-departmental approach will be needed to deliver some of the commitments such as Hate Crime and Domestic Violence.
  - 2.5. The draft Equality Strategy 2017-2021, attached at Appendix I, is a four-year strategy that sets out what the council will do to tackle discrimination and inequality and promote equal opportunities and community cohesion in Merton.
  - 2.6. The accompanying Action Plan (the delivery vehicle for the draft strategy attached at Appendix II), sets out the actions we will take to meet our equality priorities both corporately and departmentally
  - 2.7. In this new draft strategy the activity in the action plan are closely linked to the council's performance framework as commitments are aligned with departmental service plans. This will ensure the strategy is embedded in service plans across the council to ensure effective implementation. The aim is to set smart targets and, where no baseline information exists, improving data collection and analysis will itself become a target. The actions will be reviewed annually and reported on to Overview and Scrutiny Commission, Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) with Ethnic Minorities and CMT.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1 As a public authority the council has a duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people of different backgrounds. The publication of an Equality Strategy setting out our equality objectives fulfils the Council's legal obligations relating to equalities legislation. Failure to do so would mean the Council is not fulfilling its legal obligations and could be subject to legal action. Not having an Equality Strategy would put the Council at risk of legal challenge and potentially damage the council's reputation.

### **4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1 Extensive consultation was undertaken with a range of stakeholders which included meetings with user groups and a web based survey. Public consultation ran from 26 January 2017 to 10 March 2017 and outlined below are the questions in the online survey:
  - 4.1.1 Do you think we have set the right priorities for Merton Council to focus on over the next four years? If not what should our priorities be?
  - 4.1.2 Are there any other issues you think should be included in this Equality Strategy?

- 4.1.3 The aims of the strategy will be delivered through the activity in the Action Plan – do we have the right actions?
- 4.1.4 Do you have any other comments you would like to make about this draft Equality Strategy?
- 4.2 The draft strategy was well received and it was felt that we are focusing on the right things.
- 4.3 A number of consistent themes emerged with concerns expressed about:
  - 4.3.1 The need to improve engagement and do more outreach work, especially with User groups. In particular managers should engage with residents at the start of service reviews and not just at the end.
  - 4.3.2 The need for ambitious targets and clear success criteria in the action plan.
  - 4.3.3 The need for more diversity in leadership roles.
  - 4.3.4 Respondents with hidden disabilities felt that some officers displayed a lack of sensitivity in their approach.
  - 4.3.4 Disabled residents are willing to work with officers to deliver disability equality training.
  - 4.35 A more pro-active community cohesion approach is needed through a publicity campaign to educate the public about diversity and how we can more effectively live together and behave towards each other.
- 4.4 The emerging issues will be discussed with departments and responses included in the final version of the draft strategy presented to Council.

**5. TIMETABLE**

Action	Date
Document to be presented to Council for adoption	12 April 2017
Launch and publicity for new objectives	April 2017

**6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The activity in the action plan is linked to departmental service plans and will be delivered within existing resources.

**7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 On 6 April 2011 the Equality Act 2010 introduced the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which requires the Local Authority, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not. “Protected characteristics” are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation and, in relation to the duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination only, marriage and civil partnership.
- 7.2 With effect from 12 April 2012 the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulation 2011 requires the council to prepare and publish equality objectives and subsequently at least four-yearly. The objectives must be specific and measurable.

**8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 By developing and producing a new Equality Strategy, the Council is re-affirming its commitment to human rights, equality and community cohesion. Merton’s approach to

equality and diversity is driven by its overall vision of Merton – a great place to live, work, learn and visit. The draft strategy will encourage a wider public debate about equalities in Merton and the actions needed to address inequality.

**9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There is a risk of increased hate crime activity directed towards certain groups if there is no commitment to eliminate discrimination and harassment.

**10. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There is a risk to the Council's reputation if it fails to produce and publish equalities objectives. This can also increase the risk of legal challenge against the council's decisions. Additionally there is a risk of claims of discrimination based on age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

**11. APPENDICES – the following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report**

- Appendix I: Draft Equality Strategy 201-2021
- Appendix II: Draft Equality Strategy 2017-2021 Action Plan

**12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1 Merton's Equality Strategy 2013-17

- 12.2 [http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/plansandpolicies/equality\\_strategy\\_2013-17\\_final\\_v2.pdf](http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/plansandpolicies/equality_strategy_2013-17_final_v2.pdf)

## **APPENDIX I - DRAFT EQUALITY STRATEGY**

### **Merton's Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy 2017-21**

#### **1. Introduction**

The Equality Strategy sets out the council's equality objectives in one document and outlines how we will embed equalities considerations into our day-to-day business.

Under the Equality Act 2010 Merton has a Public Sector Equality Duty to ensure that in exercising our functions and delivering services and partnership work we:

1. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation
2. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share a protected characteristic
3. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

The Act also introduced nine 'Protected Characteristics; age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation.

At the decision-making stage councils are required to assess how changes to policies and service delivery will affect different people. Therefore the Act requires that we provide accessible services to all our customers.

We acknowledge that the Council has a key role to play to promote a fair and more equal society by putting equalities considerations central to the decisions we make about service delivery, contract arrangements and employment.

In producing this strategy we have developed objectives that promote equality and promote community cohesion in Merton by addressing issues of concern in the borough.

The Equality Act underpins the strategy and the objectives apply to all the protected characteristics. Therefore, we will not tolerate discrimination and will endeavour consider all the protected characteristics in the delivery of our services.

We recognise that some people share more than one protected characteristic and as a result may face multiple disadvantage.

## 2. Merton the place

Merton's population, according to Greater London Authority (GLA) 2016 projections, is 207,141 people, living across 83,446 occupied households. The population density of the borough is higher in the wards of the east compared to the wards that are in the west. Just over half of the borough is female (51%).

The average age of residents in the borough is 36.6, this is just above the London average of 35.9. GLA 2013 round population projections records Merton's BAME population as 74,971, meaning Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups make up around 36.7% of the population. This is lower than the London average of 42.5%.

Based on GLA trend-based projections, Merton's population is projected to increase by 13,245 between 2014 and 2020. During this time the boroughs age profile is also projected to change, with the most notable growth coming in the numbers of those aged under 16 and those over 50. This will be set against a projected decline in the proportion of people aged 25-35. Merton's ethnic composition is also forecast to change, with the BAME proportion set to increase to 40%

The borough's growing diversity shows the number of people that live in the borough that come from different backgrounds. According to data collected from the 2011 Census the three largest migrant populations by country of birth are Polish (3.5%), Sri Lankan (3.2%) and South African (2.8%). 34.9% of school pupils in Merton have a first language known or believed to be other than English.

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) sets out a relative position for each local authority in the country, giving an overall score for each area. The indices were updated in September 2015 and ranks Merton as 7th least deprived out of the 33 London boroughs and 212 out of 354 local authority areas (where 1 is the most deprived) for the rest of England. This overall lack of deprivation does, however, hide stark inequalities in the borough between deprived wards in the east of the borough (Mitcham) and the more affluent wards in the west (Wimbledon).

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Merton highlights health inequalities that are based on gender, ethnicity and where people live. Health outcomes in Merton are generally better than those in London, and in line with or above the rest of England, however, there is a difference between the most and least deprived areas within the borough for life expectancy of 7.9 years for men and 5.2 years for women. Linked to deprivation, those in the east of the borough have a much higher chance of serious illness and early deaths from illnesses such as cancer and heart disease. In 2015 13.5% of residents in Merton that are of a working-age were recorded as having a disability or long-term health condition.

Merton residents who are in active full-time employment are distributed all over the borough, however, unemployed residents are concentrated towards the east of Merton, and self-employed residents are concentrated toward the west. Although unemployment in the borough is below the national average, it rises significantly in some of the eastern wards, and 63% of all benefit claimants live in the east of the borough. There are also significant differences in skill levels between residents in the Wimbledon area, with higher numbers of people in the east of the borough in receipt of benefits such as Job Seekers Allowance. The GLA Pay-check 2011 dataset illustrates the large disparities in the distribution of income within Merton. In general the west of the borough is more affluent, notably Wimbledon Park, Village, and Hillside wards. These wards have a median income range of £41-£50,000. By comparison wards in the east such as Figge's Marsh, Pollards Hill, St. Helier, and Cricket Green have a median income range of £24-28,000.

### 3. Our achievements

Over the past three years progress has been made towards embedding equality practice throughout the Council and promoting community cohesion. Outlined below are some of our successes:

- **Merton School Improvement (MSI) Service** continued its programme of support and challenge to schools to identify, track and accelerate progress made by individual pupils from target groups. Identified secondary schools have been supported to implement English support targeted to **Bangladeshi** and **Asian-Other** pupils.
- **20% of Looked after Children (LAC)** achieved 5 GCSEs A\*-C or equivalent (incl. English & Maths) in 2013-14 which is above the national LAC average of 15%.
- A range of commissioned preventative services continue to be available for children and young people with disabilities including family-based overnight **short breaks**, weekend clubs offering activities and excursions, a holiday play scheme for children with complex needs, and a parent carer support service and parent forum.
- The work within Transforming Families and the Youth Justice Team, in particular, meant that interventions could be provided as early as possible in order to ensure that escalations in a young person's behaviour and/or offending are dealt with as quickly as possible. Geographically, there has been a focus on areas in the East of the borough which are generally more deprived.
- The use of equality analysis is embedded in the service planning process and savings proposals have been accompanied by an assessment of the impact of proposed changes on the protected characteristics.
- We worked with key community representatives to support the development of Black, Asian and Minority Voice to provide a strategic voice for the borough's BAME community.
- The council has also worked with community representatives to revitalise the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Forum to progress issues facing the community.
- Volunteer Merton, a new online portal that seamlessly links up volunteers with volunteer opportunities through a digital platform has been launched. This will make it much simpler and quicker to link volunteers to actual volunteering opportunities
- We have signed up to ValueYou: a new accreditation scheme to recognise individuals who have delivered over 100 hours of volunteering and offer them discount cards at local businesses.

### 4. Key issues we want to tackle

The aim of the Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy 2017-21 is to address keys issues such as:

- bridging the gap between the levels of deprivation and prosperity in the borough particularly focusing on:
  - raising educational attainment for all children and young people and reduce attainment gaps for target groups including children with special education needs or disabilities, those who are looked after in care, specific BAME groups, specific groups of White boys and those who are excluded from school
  - tackling rising unemployment particularly among young BAME communities and disabled residents and supporting those who are long term unemployed back into work
  - Reducing health inequalities particularly the issues affecting some BAME communities, disabled and older residents.
  - Support residents who may be affected by mental illness or dementia
  - increasing education and economic opportunity in the east of the borough

- Improving understanding of the borough's diversity and foster better understanding between communities.
- Improving understanding of 'hidden' disabilities and the challenges that disabled residents face in all aspects of their lives. We aim to work in a cross-cutting way and take a holistic approach to more effectively address the needs of disabled residents.
- supporting those who do not usually get involved in decision-making to better understand how they can get involved and get their voices heard
- Supporting residents to access on-line access services
- Providing services that meet the needs of a changing population.
- employing staff that reflect the borough's diversity

## 5 Objectives and Indicators

Not everyone receives the same start in life and this can significantly shape their opportunities in life. As a council we recognise that understanding this difference is key to addressing some of the complex issues that create barriers and exclusion for some of our residents. Therefore we are committed to working toward:

- Everyone having an opportunity to fulfil their potential
- Individuals having choice and control to improve life chances and outcome<sup>1</sup>
- Everyone having ways to tackle the barriers that lead to inequality

It is evident<sup>2</sup> that some families experience inter-generational disadvantage that results in individuals experiencing inequality throughout their lives. Some disadvantaged people often lack basic information and skills. The challenges of disadvantage is felt by a range of people including teenage pregnancy, those who experience difficulty in the transition from being a young people to adulthood, gypsies and travelers, the long-term unemployed, disabled people and young adults leaving care.

## Equality Objectives

We have developed 6 objectives that aim to improve the life chances of our residents and create a more level starting point for all. The objectives are outlined below:

1. To ensure key plans and strategies narrow the gap between different communities in the borough
2. Improve equality of access to services for disadvantaged groups
3. Ensure regeneration plans increase the opportunity for all Merton's residents to fulfil their educational, health and economic potential, participate in the renewal of the borough and create a health promoting environment.

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<sup>1</sup> Dimensions of equality as defined by the Equality Review published in 2007: longevity, health, physical security, education, standard of living, productive and valued activities, and individual and family life, participation, influence and voice, identity, expression, and self-respect, legal security.

<sup>2</sup> Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), (2010) How fair is Britain? equality, human rights and good relations in 2010: the first triennial review.

Marmot (2010). The Marmot Review: Fair Society, Healthy Lives. Strategic review of health inequalities

in England post-2010



4. Encourage recruitment from all sections of the community , actively promote staff development and career progression opportunities and embed equalities across the organisation
5. Promoting a safe, healthy and cohesive borough where communities get on well together
6. Fulfil our statutory duties and ensure protected groups are effectively engaged when we change our services.

## **6. Equality Analysis**

An Equality Analysis (EA) is an assessment and improvement process that helps us to determine how the Council's policies, procedures, services, practices, or new proposals will impact on or affect different communities – especially those groups or communities who experience inequality, discrimination, social exclusion or disadvantage.

In Merton Equality Analysis is generally used to inform and or support the following:

- Savings proposals
- Growth
- Major policy changes around service access
- Service cessation
- Restructuring

DMTs are responsible for identifying which proposed changes require an Equality Analysis. This will ensure that the EA becomes embedded in all our processes.

Additionally officers are required to provide Cabinet Members with sufficient evidence about who the stakeholders are and how they will be affected by proposed changes.

## **7. How will performance be measured?**

### **Leadership – responsibility and accountability**

Merton's elected members have overall responsibility for the Council's Equality Strategy. The Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Equalities and Engagement has the executive responsibility for promoting equality and diversity across the partnership and all council services, including those delivered on its behalf by businesses, voluntary, community and faith organisations.

Our Corporate Management Team and Departmental Management Teams will have responsibility for the strategic implementation of the strategy. This includes making sure that equalities is central to all work done by the council, communicating and promoting the strategy to others inside and outside the council, setting out what we aim to achieve in terms of equality and diversity, and holding departments to account through performance reviews.

All managers must be familiar with the strategy and be responsible for ensuring equality and diversity is an integral part of any policy development, service design and delivery, employment practices; and procuring and commissioning of goods and services.

All staff including those we work in partnership with, and who are contracted or commissioned to work on our behalf, have a responsibility to promote equality, eliminate discrimination in their day-to-day work, and recognise and respect the different backgrounds and circumstances of people.

The strategy will be monitored through the governance structure outlined below:

**Corporate Equality Steering Group** is comprised of the CMT Equalities Champion (the Director of Children Schools and Families) and departmental representatives. The group will take the lead in monitoring the delivery of the strategy's commitments and where necessary highlight issues of concern and make recommendations to CMT for further improvements.

**Departmental Equality Steering Groups** - each department has a steering group comprised of representatives from across the department. They will be responsible for local delivery of the corporate objectives and will review and revise the priorities based on assessment of service need

**Departmental Management Teams** - will be responsible for the delivery of the strategy through service, teams and personal development plans.

**Corporate Management Team** - will receive progress reports twice a year.

**Overview and Scrutiny Commission** - will receive an annual update on our progress towards achieving the priorities identified in the strategy.

## **8. Implementation Plan**

We will develop a range of robust equality and diversity related performance indicators that we will use to help us monitor our performance. These will be outlined in an action plan outlining the priorities for each objective and the performance measures

## APPENDIX II ACTION PLAN

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/ Division
<b>Equality Objective 1: To ensure key plans and strategies narrow the gap between different communities in the borough</b>			
1. To reduce health inequalities between different communities in the borough: Sustained halt in rise in the gap in life expectancy between least and most deprived areas within Merton, through improving life expectancy amongst the most deprived	2012/14 Male -6.8 yrs Female-5 yrs Baseline 2011/13 & target Male -7.9 yrs Female- 5.2 yrs	Health and Wellbeing strategy (2015-18)	C&H
2. Halt the widening gap in % of obese 10-11 year olds between east & west Merton, through reducing obesity in children in east Merton	Target 2015/16 – 2017/18 9.2% Baseline: 2012/13-2014/15 9.2% gap  Trend in the gap between east and west Merton is increasing  East: 23.6% obese West: 14.4% obese	Health & Wellbeing Strategy/ Merton action plan to prevent childhood obesity 2016	C&H

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/Division
3. Reduce gap in % of obese 10-11 year olds between east & west Merton, through reducing obesity amongst children in east Merton	target 2016/17 – 18/19 8% Baseline: 2012/13 –14/15 9.2% gap  Trend in the gap between east and west Merton is increasing  East: 23.6% obese West: 14.4% obese	Health & Wellbeing Strategy/ Merton action plan to prevent childhood obesity 2016	C&H
4. Increase active usage of libraries by 5% in the east of the borough amongst 11-16 year olds.	2015/16: 2270 active library users aged 11-16 years in the CR4 postcode.	Business Plan 2016-2021	C&H
5. Increase course take up by 25% in deprived wards by delivering a focussed employability and family learning offer.	2015/16: 52% of adult learners on employability and family learning courses were from deprived wards in academic year 2015-16.	Merton Adult Learning Strategy	C&H
6. Promote digital inclusion through activities that support the Customer Contact strategy	Proportion of completed online transactions for available services	Customer Contact strategy/Business Improvement	CS
7. Produce guidance and training for commissioners on the use of the Social Value Act including the development of a model approach for measuring and evaluating social value.	Quarter 3 2017/18	Corporate Services/Infrastructure & Transactions division/ Commercial services team	CS

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/Division
8. Work with MVSC to increase community giving to the VCS, in particular to support smaller groups with low/no income base - working with disadvantage and vulnerable groups.	Report to Compact Board Autumn 2017 with proposals	Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Strategy	CS
9. Review the support offer to Merton's VCS organisations, in particular to smaller and informal groups	Revised commissioning objectives for VCS support in 2017/18	Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Strategy	CS
10. Financial Inclusion/Welfare Reform	Continue with existing council tax support scheme and local welfare support scheme for 2017/18. The local welfare support scheme will include referrals to the Food bank and continued part funding of a CAB Welfare Disabilities Advisor	% of council tax collection	CS
11. Continue to improve the educational outcomes for disadvantaged groups including LAC; SEN; and pupils eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium	Education Outcomes at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Years</li> <li>• Key Stage 2</li> <li>• Key Stage 4</li> </ul> For disadvantaged groups of pupils	Children and Young People's Plan 2016 -2019  CSF Departmental Equalities and Community Cohesion Annual Plan  Annual School Standards Report	CSF

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/Division
12. Challenge schools to improve attendance and reduce exclusions for all children.	<p>School attendance in primary and secondary schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % attendance</li> <li>• % persistent absence</li> </ul> <p>Exclusions in primary and secondary schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of permanent exclusions</li> <li>• % of fixed-term exclusions</li> </ul>	<p>Children and Young People's Plan 2016 -2019</p> <p>CSF Departmental Equalities and Community Cohesion Annual Plan</p> <p>Annual School Standards Report</p>	CSF
13. Work with London Councils, as the borough lead for a pan-London employment project to address the following two priorities – 1. Inclusive labour markets 2. Skills for Growth	<p>Quarterly outputs provided by the contractor on</p> <p>Total participants and including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• long term unemployed</li> <li>• over 50's</li> <li>• ethnic minorities</li> </ul>	Economic Development Strategy Refresh 2012	E&R
<b>Equality Objective 2: Provide equality of access to services for disadvantaged groups</b>			
1. Adult Social Care - ensure equality of uptake of social care for all- in line with residents' needs - and take action through commissioning and provision decisions to improve equality of uptake	Annual analysis of pattern of service use by characteristics relating to need- including ethnicity	Commissioning /service plans	C&H
2. Housing –prevention of homelessness through advice and assistance	450 cases annual target	Service plan	C&H

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/ Division
3. Engage BAME groups to inform adult learning and library service development, tailored to their needs.	A range of services are currently provided. Workshops will be used to direct where some of our future resources are placed. Run 2 workshops each year.	Merton Adult Learning Strategy	C&H
4. Disabilities and autism – to assess the need and picture of inequalities and inequity for people with disabilities and autism in Merton, and develop autism and disabilities strategies and action plans to tackle gaps in support, provision and access. These will take a pragmatic approach in recognition of existing financial constraints in the statutory sector, looking at optimising existing resources.	Needs assessments on autism and disabilities completed. Strategies and action plans developed for autism (by September 2017) and disabilities (by 31 March 2018).	Health and Wellbeing Strategy Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19	C&H CSF
5. Provide an assisted collection for residents who otherwise may not be able to present their wheeled bin in accordance with standard policy	100% of those requesting assisted collection who meet the criteria set out in the standard policy to receive assisted collections		E&R
6. Continues to raise the issue of step free access at train stations such as Motspur Park, Rayne Park, Wimbledon Park Stations as opportunities arise	This falls under NetworkRails' jurisdiction. However, Merton will continue to raise this at the south London partnership meetings and at other stake holder groups.	Merton Local Plan & Local Implementation Plan	E&R

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/ Division
7. work with TfL to ensure that all signalised crossings have the appropriate tactile and audible features & all other controlled crossings have the appropriate tactile paving	All controlled crossings on borough roads adhere to the regulation and are DDA complaint. TfL have recently completed their review and remedial works at all signalised junctions.	Merton Local Plan & Local Implementation Plan	E&R
8. Where possible, the Council endeavours to make the public realm accessible by:  A. ensure that the kerbs are dropped at key locations such as at junctions; B. de-clutter the footways and footpaths to improve accessibility C. ensuring that dropped kerbs at formal crossings and at some informal crossings have the appropriate tactile paving.	Attend quarterly meetings with the sub-regional mobility forums  This is also measured through the annual monitoring of the Local Implementation plan	Local Implementation plan	E&R
9. Continue to work with BAME Voice, Merton Centre For Independent Living, the LGBT and Faith and Belief forums to disseminate and raise awareness in their respective communities of services and support on offered by the council and partners.	Hold regular or quarterly meetings	Voluntary Sector Strategy	CS



Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/ Division
10. Continue to target families living in areas of deprivation to utilise children's centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of total 0-4 year estimated Census 2011 population from areas of deprivation (IDACI 30%) whose families have accessed children's center services</li> </ul>	Children and Young People's Plan 2016 -2019	CSF
11. Ensure that looked after children achieve long-term stability and permanency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers of children adopted or subject of a special guardianship order</li> <li>• % of LAC in placement for at least 2 years</li> <li>• % of LAC at the end of the month with 3 or more placements</li> </ul>	Children and Young People's Plan 2016 -2019  Looked after Children and Care Leavers Strategy	CSF
12. Ensure the <b>timely delivery of Education, Health and Care Plans</b> for children with special educational needs and disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % Education, Health and Care Plans completed within timescale</li> </ul>	Children and Young People's Plan 2016 -2019	CSF
<b>Equality Objective 3: Ensure regeneration plans and activities increase the opportunity for all Merton's residents to fulfil their educational, health and economic potential, participate in the renewal of the borough and create a health promoting environment.</b>			

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/Division
1. Merton Partnership to look at opportunities through the One Public Estate programme to review how the public sector collectively uses its public estate and supports the VCS to deliver increased social value.	Report to Merton Partnership on OPE opportunities Autumn 2017	One Public Estate programme	CS/ER
2. Continue to support young people into Education, Employment and Training	Reduce the % of NEET young people  Reduce the % of "not known" NEET  Reduce the % of Care Leavers NEET	Children and Young People's Plan 2016 -2019  Looked after Children and Care Leavers Strategy	CSF
3. Housing needs for vulnerable people and families to be considered as part of the affordable housing proportion of all planning applications (planning conditions s106)	Affordable housing supply and nominations policy between LBM and RPs.	Housing Strategy & Merton's Local Plan	E&R
4. We will work with Clarion-Latimer to promote access to local employment and apprenticeships opportunities via planning conditions and for Clarion's procurement for re-building the estates.	To be determined and monitored as planning conditions of the regeneration.	Merton's Local Plan & Estates Local Plan	E&R
<b>Equality Objective 4: To encourage recruitment from all sections of the community, actively promote staff development and career progression opportunities and embed equalities across the organisation</b>			

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/ Division
1. Monitor progress with respect to the recruitment of apprenticeships as required through the Waste Collection and Environmental Services Contract	% of apprentices as a proportion of the total workforce operating on this contract within Merton. In total the Lot 1 contractor has committed to 25 apprenticeship placements being made across the contract for all SLWP boroughs.		E&R
2. Ensure that the procurement of Environmental services contracts, allow for the recognition of social value through the employment of special needs, apprenticeships and local long term unemployed	A commitment to implement the Contractors Voluntary Work Placement Programme (Veolia Re-start) is contained within the contract. This programme is run in conjunction with JobCentre Plus and Welfare to Work partners.		E&R

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/ Division
<p>3. Access to Apprenticeships:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Departments will work with HR to create opportunities for apprenticeships.</li> <li>2. HR will work with managers to get maximum benefit from the Apprenticeship Levy by developing existing workforce.</li> <li>3. The Council will continue to work closely with CSF to prioritise apprenticeships for its Looked After Children and Care Leavers.</li> </ol>	<p>HR will host quarterly apprenticeship awareness workshops for managers.</p> <p>% of apprenticeship levy accessed per workforce.</p> <p>Provide regular apprenticeship news stories and plan activities for Apprenticeship Day</p> <p>Set up quarterly meetings with Head of service to establish which young person/s would benefit from participating in an apprenticeship scheme and determine the support needed to ensure the young person fulfils their potential</p>	Workforce Strategy	CS

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/ Division
<p>4. Increase the diversity of Senior Leadership Team:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We cannot positively discriminate however we will ensure that our recruitment processes are adhered to for senior roles including the appointment of the best candidate for the role.</li> <li>2. HR will ensure that the Council's Executive search consultants and recruitment team advertise the vacancies widely.</li> <li>3. HR will monitor equal access to Learning and development opportunities including management and leadership development.</li> <li>4. For an organisation to have a healthy, harmonious culture it needs a mission that unifies its diverse stakeholder community. Therefore, engagement with the relevant diversity interest group: customers, staff and partners.</li> </ol>	<p>Monitor recruitment on quarterly basis and report findings to CMT as part of the HR metrics report.</p> <p>Provide CMT with the end of recruitment summary</p> <p>Provide participation rate on a quarterly basis to identify trends and respond to these as appropriate.</p> <p>Increase rating by 5% in the staff survey in relation to development</p>	Workforce Strategy	CS

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/ Division
5. In developing HR policies and procedures – statutory requirement and best practice is incorporated	<p>Policies are agreed and staff are briefed and made aware of the new policies.</p> <p>Measure take up of briefing sessions.</p> <p>Ensure the policies are compliant with Equalities Act 2010.</p>	Workforce Strategy	CS
<b>Equality Objective 5: Promoting a safe, healthy and cohesive borough where communities get on well together</b>			
1. Increase the confidence of victims to report Hate Crime and Domestic Violence	<p>The performance measures remain tbc until year 1 priorities are confirmed and the strategic assessment is completed in January 2017</p> <p>Current performance is designed to increase reporting by 20% year on year for 2016-17. This will be subject to review in the new year when the strategic assessment is finalised and the MOPAC police and crime plan performance is confirmed</p>	Hate Crime Strategy Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy	E&R
2. Working in partnership to deliver the Prevent Duty and keep Merton a safe and cohesive borough	Hold monthly Prevent Case Management meetings	Prevent Delivery Plan	CS Lead

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/Division
3. Working in partnership to reduce alcohol-related harm	Baseline Admission episodes for alcohol related conditions (broad)-1,858 rate per 100,000 population	Strategic Framework for prevention of substance misuse (September 2017) Local Alcohol Action Area	Public Health & E&R
4. Continue to celebrate diversity by promoting community cohesion activity such as Black History Month and LGBT History Month	Hold annual civic event for Holocaust Memorial Day and promote LGBT History Month and Black History Month events	Equality Strategy	CS/ER
5. Continue to work collaboratively to reduce bullying in Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of primary and secondary schools graded 'Good' or better for personal development, behaviour and welfare by Ofsted</li> </ul>	CSF Departmental Equalities and Community Cohesion Annual Plan	CSF
6. Continue to work in partnership to reduce the number of First-Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice system and undertake targeted work to identify and support those at risk of offending and re-offending.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of FTE to the YJS aged 10-17</li> <li>Rate of proven reoffending in the YJS</li> </ul>	Children and Young People's Plan 2016 -2019	CSF
<b>Equality Objective 6: Fulfil our statutory duties and ensure (relevant stakeholders are consulted) protected groups are effectively engaged when we change our services.</b>			
1. Equality Analysis routinely undertaken to support the decision making process	Savings, growth and service reviews to include EAs	Equality Strategy	All

Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/ Division
2. Refresh User Voice Strategy and ensure children, young people and families continue to impact continuous improvement for all services across CSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure each CSF service commit to User Voice activity in annual Service Plans.</li> <li>• Report quarterly to Director's management team on annual action plan and programme of User Voice activity.</li> </ul>	CSF User Voice Strategy 2017 -2019	CSF
3. Continue to consult with children, young people and parents in the development of services for children with SEN and disabilities in line with the expectations of the Children and Families Act 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report quarterly to Director's management team.</li> </ul>	CSF User Voice Strategy 2017 -2019	CSF



Key activity	Performance Measure	Key strategy/Plan	Department/ Division
4. Polling station review to be undertaken ahead of the council elections in May 2018	<p>Seek to ensure that all electors in the local authority area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.</p> <p>Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled.</p>	Electoral Commission Performance Standards for Returning Officers	CS
<p>5. Target particular communities who have not responded or registered to vote:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to collect council tax and housing benefit data on a monthly basis in order to identify new electors, plus student data at the beginning of each academic year. Expand data mining in an attempt to gain access to registrars, blue badge, and libraries data to identify new citizens/residents.</li> <li>2. Compare non responding properties to mosaic data in order to identify if there are particular communities under represented on the electoral register.</li> </ol>	50% of all new monthly registrations through data mining.	Electoral Commission Performance Standards for Electoral Registration Officers	CS

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