

Merton Partnership
Community Plan 2020-25
Outline Draft for Comment
Version 1 October 2019

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1. Foreword

Foreword from The Leader (Chair of the Merton Partnership)

Foreword from Sally Benatar (Merton Partnership lead for the plan)

Community Plan

The Community Plan is the overarching strategy for the borough. It sets out the Merton Partnership's long term ambitions for the borough and the overall direction and priorities that the Partnership will focus on. The Community Plan will provide a framework for the different members of the Merton Partnership to work together with residents and communities over the next five years.

The overarching goal of the Community Plan is to increase community participation in Merton as a driver to improving resilience and wellbeing across the borough, and help achieve the ambitions that residents have for their borough and where they live. Throughout the Plan we have showcased a number of examples of activity that highlights the way in which people in the community are already contributing to making Merton a better place in which to live and work.

Merton has an active and vibrant voluntary and community sector that already provides a wide range of valuable services and makes a positive contribution to the lives of many in the borough. The Community Plan wants to further strengthen the ability of these groups to have a positive impact on the borough, through better co-ordination and joining up of the public and voluntary sectors, and working with local businesses on a collective set of priorities. Most importantly the Community Plan wants to encourage actions that mobilise and involve our local communities, so that they become active partners in helping us to meet the growing and changing needs of our population.

The Community Plan has eight priority areas on which it will focus, setting out actions for the how collectively, the Merton Partnership can support our communities to be more socially active to help meet these priorities. This will involve identifying and highlighting the assets in our communities, both physical spaces, as well as people and groups with skills and knowledge, that can help strengthen and grow community-led activities. To help build more cohesive and resilient communities the Community Plan will look at the ways that residents can connect with local community groups and activities.

- Priority 1 - Climate change
- Priority 2 - Building social capital to improve the environment of the borough
- Priority 3 - Tackling Diabetes as a Whole Systems Approach
- Priority 4 - Healthy Workplaces
- Priority 5 - Serious violence with a focus on drugs and a public health prevention model
- Priority 6 - ASB enforcement
- Priority 7 - Getting involved, having a say – promoting the voice of children, young people and families as active contributors to the borough
- Priority 8 - My Merton - connection with family, friends and the community

We want the Community Plan to be a helpful tool for everyone living and working in Merton. It aims to give the local community a clear articulation of the Merton Partnership's long term aspirations for the borough as well as setting out the ways in which they can get involved in communal activities to help to achieve them. For those with specific responsibility for directing and co-ordinating the actions in the Plan, like the council, the CCG and the Police, it will be a key document for guiding their activity.

2. Merton Partnership

The Merton Partnership brings together a range of key partners from the public, private and community and voluntary sectors in Merton. Its aim is to provide leadership and to co-ordinate joined up responses to issues where there is real benefit to different groups and agencies working together to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of those that live and work in the borough. The Partnership manages the delivery of the priorities and objectives set out in the Community Plan.

Within the Partnership there are four thematic subgroups that co-ordinate the activities of their members and to ensure that the actions in the Community Plan are being carried out through the relevant Boards and Trusts.

Children's Trust

Merton's Children's Trust brings together all partners involved in providing services to children and families in Merton. The Board encompasses a wide range of different groups and partnerships, overseeing their performance and activities. The Children's Trust is designed to deliver the outcomes set out in Merton's Children & Young People Plan 2019-23 which includes improving outcomes for those subject to the effects of disadvantage, safeguarding children and young people and closing the gap in educational outcomes and opportunity.

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Board brings together the Council, Clinical Commissioning Group, HealthWatch and the voluntary and community sector. Health and Wellbeing Boards deliver local leadership to improve health outcomes and inform the commissioning of health and social care services in Merton. It has a core role in encouraging services across the NHS, social care, public health and other local partners to join-up and work together to reduce health inequalities and support independent living. Currently its priorities are set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the latest version of which runs from 2019-2024 and which has four overarching themes: Start Well; Live Well; Age Well; in a Healthy Place.

Safer and Stronger Communities

Incorporating the statutory Community Safety Partnership, it is responsible for overseeing the strategic direction for community safety and the community cohesion agenda in the borough. The Community Safety Partnership has a statutory duty to undertake an annual strategic assessment to inform and shape the boroughs approach to addressing crime and disorder issues.

Key themes for the Community Safety Partnership include reducing crime and the fear of crime, reducing alcohol related violence in a sustainable manner whilst supporting those who are affected by alcohol dependency. The Community Safety Partnership also works to address anti-social behaviour and its effects on communities as well as individuals. The Partnership will work with our communities to empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision-making, increase community cohesion and integration.

Sustainable Communities and Transport Partnership

Established to create a more sustainable borough, one which is less reliant on fossil fuel and which reduces its negative impact on the environment and climate change, the Partnership aims to balance the different social, economic and environmental components of the community to meet the needs of existing and future generations.

The Partnership promotes investment into the borough in order to create new jobs, improve the skills and capacity of residents, and to improve the condition and supply of housing including affordable housing. The Partnership also works to promote the development of sustainable transport including cycling and walking, as well as public transport in and around Merton.

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3. Review of the previous community plan – “we said, we did”

STILL BEING WORKED ON

Sustainable Communities and Transport Partnership

Health and Wellbeing Board

We Said: We would support people to manage their own health and wellbeing

We Did: Pilot Social Prescribing and then rolled it out to a number of GP practices in Merton. An independent evaluation has shown an increase in self-reported health gains and a statistically significant reduction in GP visits (as a result of the social prescribing pilot)

We Said: We would give each child a healthy start

We Did: Ensured 171 teachers benefitted from school staff training about weight and childhood obesity. Five schools achieved Bronze Healthy Schools London Award and 1 achieved Silver.

Safer Stronger Partnership

We Said: We would focus on Youth Violence

We Did: Sustain a strong youth justice performance on First-Time Entrants with a reduction from 88 in 2013-14 to 64 in 2016-17 and an improving rate of re-offending (0.55 at the end of 2016-17 compared to 0.88 at the end of 2015-16).

We Said: We would focus on domestic crime

We Did: Work with partners, 100% of on-licence premises in Wimbledon signed up to Ask Angela; 95% overall in the borough.

Children's Trust

We Said: All our schools will be good or better

We Did: 93% of schools are good or better. 95% of pupils go to a school which is 'good' or better.

We Said: We would focus on Children at Risk

We Did: Ofsted inspections conducted in May 2017 demonstrated that children's safeguarding services were good with outstanding features.

We Said: we would prevent, deter, and divert young people from criminal behaviour

We Did: Continued to reduce number of first-time entrants and improve rate of reoffending.

4. Social Capital

The overarching goal of the Community Plan is to build social capital in Merton to improve the resilience and wellbeing of the borough. Social capital is about creating a shared sense of identity, a shared understanding, shared values and building trust, co-operation, and reciprocity.

Merton continues to have a thriving voluntary and community sector and a long history of partnership working across the public, voluntary and private sectors. There are already many of examples of social capital in action highlighted in this plan, which showcase the types of activity that the Community Plan is looking to build on and strengthen.

As well as more structured groups and activity, social capital can include more informal examples of sociability, for example the extent to which residents interact with one another on a day to day basis in their community, or how much people know, or feel like they could rely on their neighbours if they needed them.

There is significant evidence to suggest that areas with higher levels of social capital are likely to have higher levels of volunteering, higher engagement with the council and other civic agencies, as well as lower levels of loneliness and isolation, and better community cohesion. In turn, there is a strong link between high social capital, with lower crime rates, greater chances of early intervention, a reduced reliance on services, and better physical and mental health and wellbeing.

To support the development of the Community Plan, an evidence base has been developed to measure the existing levels of social capital on a ward-by-ward basis and give the Merton Partnership a baseline from which to work. This will enable the identification of areas with high social capital; existing community assets and good practice that can be tapped into as well as areas with lower social capital; places where the Merton Partnership can be proactive at trying to strengthen existing assets as well as developing new projects.

The evidence base uses 24 ward based indicators which have been aggregated to give a score for each ward across five measures of social capital. Scoring wards in this way enables us to recognise that different areas have different strengths.

- Social infrastructure
- Civic participation
- Volunteering
- Informal sociability
- Social trust

5. Our priorities for action

Priority 1	Climate Change	Sustainable Communities
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce Merton’s contribution to global warming and protect our planet for current and future generations. • To work towards becoming a carbon neutral Council by 2030 and a carbon neutral borough by 2050. • To make Merton a sustainable home for its residents and businesses. • To empower local residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint. 	
Call to action	<p>In October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a Special Report which concluded that global temperature rise must be kept below 1.5°C in order to minimise damaging climate impacts on human and natural systems¹. The report confirmed that human-induced global warming reached approximately 1°C above pre-industrial levels in 2017, increasing at 0.2°C per decade. Damaging climate impacts are already being felt today; these include an increased frequency of extreme weather events, damage to sensitive ecosystems such as coral reefs, as well as changing patterns of water availability and associated impacts on crop yields². The IPCC found that global CO2 emissions need to reach net zero around 2050 in order to have no or limited overshoot beyond 1.5°C of climate change.</p> <p>2019 has seen unprecedented demand for increased government action on climate change. School strikes, protests by Extinction Rebellion, and inspiring speeches from leaders of all ages, from Greta Thunberg to David Attenborough, were all calling for more action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>On 2nd May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change published a report recommending a new emissions target for the UK to have net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050³. On 27th June 2019, the UK became the first major economy in the world to pass a net zero emissions target into law⁴.</p> <p>On 10th July 2019, Merton Council declared a Climate Emergency and set ambitious carbon reduction targets to make Merton a carbon neutral borough by 2050 and to make Merton Council carbon neutral by</p>	

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>

³ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/>

⁴ <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8590>

	<p>2030⁵. The Council has committed to take a leadership role and join forces with the community to achieve carbon neutrality.</p> <p>Based on modelling carried out by National Government⁶, the Greater London Authority⁷ and the Anthesis Group⁸, Merton emits in the region of 0.5 to 1 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year. As a large proportion of emissions within the borough come from the buildings we work in and the vehicles we drive, the majority of which are outside the Council's direct control, everyone has an important role to play in decarbonising Merton.</p>
<p>What happens if we do nothing?</p> <p>The IPCC's 5th Assessment Report (2014) found that <i>continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems</i>. These impacts will likely include, but not be limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat waves will occur more often and last longer; • Extreme precipitation events will become more intense and frequent in many regions; • The ocean will continue to warm and acidify; • Global mean sea level will continue to rise; • An increasing number of species will face extinction; • Renewable surface water and groundwater resources in most dry subtropical regions will be reduced which will result in increased competition for water; • Food security will be undermined by impacts on fish stocks and crop yields for example; • Ill-health will increase in many regions and especially in developing countries; 	<p>What would it look and feel like if we succeed?</p> <p><u>Climate action co-benefits</u></p> <p>Among other things, we envisage a carbon-neutral Merton to have good public transport and active travel (walking and cycling) links, energy-efficient and well ventilated homes and offices, a significant proportion of locally generated electricity via solar panels installed across our rooftops for example, and increased tree coverage and green spaces. Taking action on climate change can have co-benefits in a number of areas⁹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and wellbeing benefits will arise from improved air quality (as a result of reducing the number of petrol and diesel cars on the road), increased active travel, and reduced fuel poverty (as a result of building more energy efficient homes). - Climate action will help build Resilience to future energy prices by generating energy locally for example. - Measures like promoting car-share clubs and developing better active travel networks across the borough, which have climate benefits, can also help develop a stronger sense of Community.

⁵ <https://news.merton.gov.uk/2019/07/10/merton-council-declares-a-climate-change-emergency/>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016>

⁷ <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-s-zero-carbon-pathways-tool>

⁸ <https://www.anthesisgroup.com/scatter-carbon-footprint-reduction-tool>

⁹ <https://www.ashden.org/programmes/co-benefits>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic growth will slow down and capacity to reduce poverty will be reduced; • An increasing number of people will be displaced by climate impacts; • Existing inequalities will likely be amplified – climate risks are generally greater for disadvantaged people and communities; and • Conflicts will likely increase due to amplified poverty and pressures on resources. <p>The risks of abrupt or irreversible changes will increase as the magnitude of the warming increases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The local Economy can also benefit from climate initiatives by creating new green jobs as well as saving residents and businesses money on fuel and energy bills. <p><u>Avoided climate risks</u></p> <p>Taking action now to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and keep warming to below 1.5°C will help avoid a number of substantial climate risks. The IPCC’s Special Report (2018) identified the following avoided risks compared to higher levels of warming¹⁰:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Climate extremes. Temperature extremes are expected to increase by 2-3 times the increase in global average temperature between 1.5°C and 2°C. Around 420 million fewer people would be exposed to extreme heatwaves if warming was kept to 1.5°C than 2°C.</i> • <i>Ecosystems. Risks of species extinction on the land and in the ocean are lower at 1.5°C than 2°C. For example, the fraction of global land area that would change ecosystem type due to climate change factors at 2°C (13%) would be roughly halved if warming was kept below 1.5°C (7%).</i> • <i>Distribution of risks. The additional increase in climate risk between 1.5°C and 2°C warming would affect poor and vulnerable people most of all. Poverty and disadvantage have increased with recent warming and are expected to increase for many populations as average global temperatures increase from 1°C to 1.5°C and higher.</i> • <i>Irreversible changes. Marine ice sheet instability in Antarctica and/or irreversible loss of the Greenland ice sheet could possibly be triggered by warming between 1.5°C and 2°C. Keeping warming as low as possible reduces the risk of triggering these large-scale irreversible shifts in the climate.</i>
<p>What have you said</p>	<p>Results from residents survey/CYP survey</p>

¹⁰ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking about your local community, what issues most concern you? Air Pollution – 23% • How much of a problem is the cleanliness of the air in my area? (a problem/a big problem/a very big problem) 59% <p>Will include the results from the Climate Change Consultation when published</p>
<p>We will</p>	<p><u>Develop a Climate Action Plan</u></p> <p>Following the Council’s declaration of a Climate Emergency in July 2019, we are developing a Climate Action Plan to set out what actions are required to make the Council’s buildings and services carbon neutral by 2030 and to make the borough carbon neutral by 2050. The Climate Action Plan will focus on the following areas: energy consumption in buildings, emissions from transport, the carbon footprint associated with products and waste, financial investments and green spaces.</p> <p>We are working with internal and external stakeholders to inform the Climate Action Plan. Internal working groups will consider the actions required to decarbonise the Council’s own activities as well as mechanisms, strategies and policies which can be used to decarbonise the wider borough. An external working group formed of representatives from the borough, the Climate Emergency Working Group, has been set up to advise on the Climate Action Plan and the actions required to decarbonise the borough.</p> <p>We will also be running a public consultation via an online survey in October 2019 in order to engage with the wider community and provide residents and businesses with the opportunity to feed into the process.</p> <p><u>Lead by example by making Merton Council carbon neutral by 2030</u></p> <p>We have taken important steps towards reducing carbon emissions from our building stock over the last decade. We are generating more of our own energy and reducing carbon costs thanks to the use of solar panel systems installed on public buildings across the borough, including Council offices, schools and leisure centres. We have reduced our emissions by 35 per cent since 2009 and aim to build on this work towards our new target. This will involve work to reduce and decarbonise the energy used in our buildings, and to decarbonise our vehicle fleet and our procured services.</p>

<p>What can you do?</p>	<p>Everyone will need to work together to make adjustments to their daily lives in order to secure a better future for all. The following sets out some of the key ways you can play your part in decarbonising the borough of Merton. You are also encouraged to engage with the Climate Action Plan process through the Climate Emergency Working Group and the public consultation.</p> <p><u>Buildings</u></p> <p>There are around 88,000 households in Merton¹¹. By 2050, greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy consumption in all of Merton's buildings will need to be near zero. To achieve this, nearly all buildings will need to have the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be highly energy efficient; • Use low carbon heating and cooking appliances (minimising the use of gas) - At least half of all buildings would need to improve their energy efficiency in order to install efficient electric heating, in the form of heat pumps, and if currently using a combi boiler, would need to install additional hot water storage; • Be supplied by renewable electricity (through a green tariff); • Maximise on-site low carbon energy generation (e.g. solar PV); and • Store energy (e.g. in batteries) so that electricity can be used when needed. <p>Nearly all buildings in Merton are outside the Council's ownership, so the most effective actions will be the individual choices made by owner occupiers, landlords and developers.</p> <p>You can help by implementing these changes in your own home and workspaces and encouraging others to do so. Here are some ideas of where to start:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce your energy consumption by making your home or business more energy efficient – see whether you are eligible for free advice or a low cost loan with the Mayor of London's endorsed schemes RE:FIT¹² and RE:NEW¹³. • Find out whether your home is suitable for efficient electric heating such as a heat pump¹⁴ – you may be eligible for payments through the Government's Renewable Heat Incentive¹⁵ whose aim it is to increase low carbon heat in the UK.
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¹¹ <https://www.merton.gov.uk/assets/Documents/Local%20Plan%202020%20-%20Vision%20and%20Strategic%20Objectives.pdf>

¹² <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/energy-buildings/refit/what-refit-london>

¹³ <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/renew-0>

¹⁴ <https://www.renewableenergyhub.co.uk/main/heat-pumps-information/>

¹⁵ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/domestic-rhi>

- Switch your power supply to a 100% green tariff or green energy supplier. It may not cost you more than a standard tariff.
- Take part in the Mayor of London's Solar Together Scheme¹⁶ by registering for high quality low-cost solar panels before 22 October.
- You could get paid for any low-carbon electricity you export to the grid, with the National Government's Smart Export Guarantee¹⁷.
- If you are interested in community energy please consider applying to the London Mayor's Community Energy Fund¹⁸.

Transport

Merton's roads support 600 million km of vehicle use per year¹⁹; the vast majority of which is run on fossil fuels. 72,000 vehicles are registered in Merton²⁰, with 68% of residents owning at least one car or van. The number of petrol and diesel road vehicles in Merton will need to decrease by 2,400 every year to 2050.

You can help by avoiding using your car or replacing your petrol/diesel vehicle with a low carbon alternative. For short journeys, try leaving your car at home. Walking and cycling improves health and reduces your carbon footprint. To find or improve Merton's cycling routes go to Merton's cycling page²¹.

Electric vehicles are more popular than ever. Electric cars do not produce air pollution and have a much lower carbon footprint. To find an existing electric vehicle charging point or request one in your area go to the Power My Street website²².

Given that climate change is a global challenge, you should also consider how you travel outside the borough (e.g. take the train as a low carbon alternative to flying).

Waste and products

¹⁶ <https://www.solartogether.co.uk/merton/home>

¹⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-small-scale-low-carbon-generation>

¹⁸ <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/london-community-energy-fund>

¹⁹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/801266/tra8904.ods

²⁰ <https://data.merton.gov.uk/environment/>

²¹ <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/cycling>

²² <https://powermystreet.co.uk/>

	<p>You can help by applying the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy local; • Reduce meat and dairy consumption; • Follow the principles of the waste hierarchy and avoid generating waste wherever possible (e.g. by avoiding unnecessary packaging); • Avoid buying surplus food; and • Collect food waste. <p><u>Financial investments</u> You can help by investing in sustainable products and services. Promote low carbon activities by ensuring that your pension fund, the money in your bank account, and any other personal investments sustainable investments.</p> <p><u>Green spaces</u> You can help by planting trees on your property and encouraging others to do so. Please contact the Council if you are willing to become involved in a neighbourhood tree planting and maintenance effort or to use your property for tree planting.</p>
‘Spotlight on’ a facility, community group, initiative etc. #1	Climate Emergency Working Group
‘Spotlight on’ a facility, community group, initiative etc. #2	SwopItUp

Priority 2	Building social capital to improve the environment of the borough	Sustainable Communities
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a very cross cutting approach – takes into consideration social capital in relation to environmental cleanliness, park management, street and Community Champions – linked to recycling, food and air quality 	
Call to action	Why is this is a priority? (Supported by data/statistics)	
What happens if we do nothing?		What would it look and feel like if we succeed?
What have you said	Residents Survey 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do you think you have not participated in any community activity in the last 12 months? I do not have the time due to other commitments – 69% It has never occurred to me to do it – 13% I do not feel I can make any difference to my local community – 6% 	
We will		
What can you do?		
'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #1	'Spotlight on' sections will be woven into the community plan. Each 'spotlight' will detail the work a community group, VCO, individual, etc is doing and how that work is having an impact on the community. The 'spotlight on a facility' idea takes inspiration from the 2013 refreshed Merton plan, this made the report more engaging to read and provided valuable information about the community.	
'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #2	Spotlight on' sections will be woven into the community plan. Each 'spotlight' will detail the work a community group, VCO, individual, etc is doing and how that work is having an impact on the community. The 'spotlight on a facility' idea takes inspiration from the 2013 refreshed Merton plan, this made the report more engaging to read and provided valuable information about the community.	

Priority 3	Tackling Diabetes	Health and Wellbeing Board
Objectives	Diabetes is a key priority for Merton Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). We have just launched a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy but are keeping a focus on tackling diabetes to maintain momentum. Whilst good work is taking place and our whole systems approach and Diabetes Truth Programme have been cited as good practice, it is important that momentum continues.	
Call to action	Approximately 6% (11,160) of the registered adult population within Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is diagnosed with diabetes; a further 2% (2,585) are estimated to be undiagnosed, and 11% (18,450) have non-diabetic hyperglycaemia (pre-diabetes). In 2017, the HWB agreed to build upon its previous work on promoting child healthy weight and focus as a partnership on tackling diabetes. This followed a presentation to the Board by local GPs highlighting the unabated epidemic and insufficiency of trying to tackle diabetes as a medical problem only. In response, the Board agreed to adopt a 'whole system approach' across the life course, using the focus on diabetes as an exemplar for developing holistic care hand in hand with creating a healthy place. Both involve a strong focus on understanding what most matters to local people and actively engaging all partners across Merton whilst accepting and encouraging lessons learnt along the way.	
What happens if we do nothing? If nothing changes, it is estimated that the total diabetes prevalence will rise by 5,000 to over 18,000 or 9% of Merton's population over the next 10 years. Diabetes currently consumes approximately 10% of the overall NHS budget, and this too is projected to rise. The Annual Public Health Report provides additional facts and figures.		What would it look and feel like if we succeed? The Tackling Diabetes Action Plan aims to create a healthy place where clinical services and prevention work effectively together to provide truly holistic care. Partners working proactively to address wider issues including mental health and healthy environments and collaboratively to ensure real ownership by the community.
What have you said	The Diabetes Truth Programme ran from January to March 2018 with each, individual HWB member 'buddying up' with a Merton resident who had a lived experience of diabetes. Through a series of one to one conversations, members of the HWB gained an insight into the life and challenges that people at risk of, living with or caring for someone with diabetes face on a daily basis. This helped Board members identify the most important areas to focus on, made clear what matters to residents and also reinforced a commitment of the HWB to work with residents and communities as an integral part of the solution. This insight, alongside data analysis and a review of the evidence, aligned with partnership work led by Public Health and Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, has informed the development of the Tackling Diabetes Action Plan. Community engagement to raise awareness of how diabetes can best be managed and prevented is continuing to support implementation of the Action Plan. Healthwatch Merton has also spoken with a	

	<p>number of BAME groups and MVSC plan further work in autumn 2019 and spring 2020 to gain better understanding of how people from South Asian and BAME backgrounds are coping with diabetes and to help support co-production of services with the voluntary and community sector.</p> <p>The innovative approach taken in Merton has been presented at a number of fora where it has been positively received. This includes the South West London Diabetes Steering Group, Merton CCG Patient Engagement Group and the South West London Clinical Senate Conference.</p> <p>CYP Survey 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? There are too many unhealthy food and drink options (eg. fast food outlets) which makes it harder for young people to lead healthy lives in my area – strongly agree/agree – 52% There is too much advertising of unhealthy food and drink, which makes it harder for young people to lead healthy lives in my area – strongly agree/agree – 52% The cost of healthy food and drink makes it harder for young people to lead healthy lives in my area – strongly agree/agree – 54% My school supports me to lead a healthy life and have healthy habits (eg. to eat healthily and be physically active – strongly disagree/disagree – 29%
<p>We will</p>	<p>The Tackling Diabetes Action Plan sets out high-level actions, under three overarching themes: clinical oversight and service improvement, holistic individual care and healthy place.</p> <p>It is not an exhaustive list of all activities and actions that contribute to tackling diabetes but contains a small number of high value actions that, when delivered together, are expected to have the most impact in Merton. Good progress against each of the three themes has been seen over the last six months, with key highlights including:</p> <p>Clinical oversight and service improvement –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of new services, including those for key communities e.g. Tamil and African Caribbean communities, are starting soon. • Holistic individual care - • An increase in uptake of the National Diabetes Prevention Programme, with Merton having the highest number of first appointments (285) from across South London between April 2019 and August 2019. • Healthy place - • The council has approved a revised advertising policy that will introduce restrictions on unhealthy food and drink (those high in salt, sugar and fat) in Merton, which mirror those introduced by Transport for London in February 2019. • Development of ‘Schools Neighbourhood Approach Pilot (SNAP)

<p>What can you do?</p>	<p>There are a variety of actions that partners can take to keep the momentum on tackling diabetes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing more to understand what matters to local people - gather patients' feedback on services and release the potential that community groups can have in Merton. • Advocacy and awareness raising around diabetes (and Child Healthy Weight), through a commitment to supporting World Diabetes Day (14th November 2019) and the Merton Year of Physical Activity, which will seek to enhance the awareness of the existing sport and physical activity offer in Merton. • 'Think diabetes in the workplace' and explore putting the policies and processes in place to make reasonable adjustments for staff members who are at risk of, or living with, diabetes so that they can attend structured education and prevention programmes (see https://healthinnovationnetwork.com/projects/think-diabetes-in-the-workplace/) • Encourage staff members to innovate, actively work with community groups and work in partnership across organisations boundaries including on development of a network of Diabetes Champions. • Support MVSC in their three year programme, funded by the City Bridge Trust, to get a better understanding of how people from South Asian and BAME backgrounds are coping with diabetes, active co-production of service design and development and a subsequent review of services.
<p>'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #1</p>	<p><i>'Spotlight on' sections will be woven into the community plan. Each 'spotlight' will detail the work a community group, VCO, individual, etc is doing and how that work is having an impact on the community. The 'spotlight on a facility' idea takes inspiration from the 2013 refreshed Merton plan, this made the report more engaging to read and provided valuable information about the community.</i></p>
<p>'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #2</p>	<p><i>'Spotlight on' sections will be woven into the community plan. Each 'spotlight' will detail the work a community group, VCO, individual, etc is doing and how that work is having an impact on the community. The 'spotlight on a facility' idea takes inspiration from the 2013 refreshed Merton plan, this made the report more engaging to read and provided valuable information about the community.</i></p>

Priority 4	Healthy Workplace across Merton	Health and Wellbeing Board
Objectives	It is being proposed to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) at their meeting 8 th October that the first priority for action of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy should be scaling up Healthy Workplace across Merton. Specifically, to encourage the development of healthy workplaces across Merton by scaling up commitment to the London Healthy Workplace Award.	
Call to action	<p>For those working in Merton the percentage of working days which are taken off for sickness is 1.3 (2015-17 PHOF). This is higher than the London average (1.0%) and the England average (1.1%). Merton is the 9th worst for this statistic when compared to the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London. The average worker in the UK works 40.2 hours a week, and this doesn't include time spent thinking about work. The Labour Force Survey 2017/18 showed that in recent years the rate of self-reported stress depression or anxiety has been steadily increasing.</p> <p>The London Healthy Workplace Award (LHWA) is an accreditation scheme led by the Mayor of London's Office and supported by Public Health England. It acts as a template for good practice and recognises London employers who invest in their employee's health and wellbeing. The scheme supports organisations of all sizes across public, private and voluntary sectors.</p> <p>The current award is an updated version of the London Healthy Workplace Charter, which ran between 2012 – 2018. The LHWA has been updated to incorporate the latest evidence on how best to promote health and wellbeing in the workplace. The award framework consisted of three pillars under which sits nine standards, each of which has criteria which must be met in order to achieve the Award. More information about the standards, the criteria for their achievement at each level of the Award, and the application process is available on the GLA website at https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/lhwa_overview_2019.pdf</p> <p>The rationale for choosing Healthy Workplace across Merton as a priority includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unequivocal evidence of need - the rate of working days lost across Merton due to sickness absence is greater than in London or England as a whole. • Opportunity to apply the principles of the HWB including promoting fairness and community engagement. • Adding value to what can be achieved by individual organisations alone, through learning and contributing to wider local and regional work. 	
What happens if we do nothing?		What would it look and feel like if we succeed?
Not making time for stress relief at work can lead to a self-perpetuating problem - people become more and more stressed or even burnout, both of which can reduce productivity further. If we do		Working together we aim to create working environments where making the healthy choice is easy, from the food we eat to how we choose to travel from one place to another. We want to use workplaces to put in place interventions which will influence a large

nothing to improve workplace health we can expect to see increasing sickness absence rates and a less productive workforce in Merton.	number of individuals behaviours in a way that fits in with their daily routine. This in turn will create a more productive workforce and save costs for employers. Success will also mean more Merton organisations working for the accreditation for the London Healthy Workplace Award.
What have you said	<p>As part of the engagement programme on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy there was widespread stakeholder support for a focus on healthy settings and identification of key outcomes that can be delivered through healthy workplaces (e.g. better mental health, more active travel and more people eating healthy food). This fits with the HWBs agreed ways of working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing inequalities - checking that there is a good spread of organisations across Merton geographically and by type that embrace the healthy workplace agenda, and highlighting gaps • Prevention and Early Intervention - championing approaches such as education for staff with long term conditions e.g. diabetes (see diabetes section) and seasonal flu vaccination • Health in All Policies - promoting policy implementation in line with LHWA standard 1. • Community engagement - inviting business leaders, particularly where gaps have been highlighted, to engage with Board members, based on the positive experience of the Diabetes Truth programme • Experimenting and Learning – London Healthy Workplace Award is evidence based with the opportunity to develop links between Award criteria and Strategy key outcomes. • Think Family - promoting family friendly policies such as understanding for carers, flexible working and support for parents
We will	TBC – following agreement as priority. Healthy Workplace with initial focus on mental health and active travel
What can you do?	<p>TBC – examples might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness and use of the “Good Thinking” website and the wide range of resources it points users towards (https://www.good-thinking.uk). The website has been quality assured by the NHS and many of its resources are free for Londoners. • Undertaking training to become a mental health first aider. This 2-day training teaches people how to offer initial support to someone who is experiencing mental distress until appropriate professional help is received or until the crisis resolves. Employers who have included this within their staff development programme report benefits such as greater self-esteem and wider cultural changes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking stakeholder support for a Merton Active Travel Awards scheme. This scheme would celebrate excellence and innovation amongst Merton employers for initiatives that reduce car use and encourage walking and cycling for work-related travel.
'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #1	<i>'Spotlight on' sections will be woven into the community plan. Each 'spotlight' will detail the work a community group, VCO, individual, etc is doing and how that work is having an impact on the community. The 'spotlight on a facility' idea takes inspiration from the 2013 refreshed Merton plan, this made the report more engaging to read and provided valuable information about the community.</i>
'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #2	<i>'Spotlight on' sections will be woven into the community plan. Each 'spotlight' will detail the work a community group, VCO, individual, etc is doing and how that work is having an impact on the community. The 'spotlight on a facility' idea takes inspiration from the 2013 refreshed Merton plan, this made the report more engaging to read and provided valuable information about the community.</i>

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Priority 5	Serious violence	Safer Stronger
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knife crime, drugs, public health model 	
Call to action	<p>Why is this is a priority?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious Violence is not only a priority for us in Merton, but across London. The Mayor's Office as a result has set up a dedicated unit to tackle violence reduction. The unit will seek to reduce all types of violence following the approach used by Public Health which seeks to look at the underlying causes of offending. • Based on the rolling 12 months at the end of July 2019 there had been an increase of 29% in knife offences, compared to the previous 12 months. • Upward trend in the % of the public who feel that knife crime is a problem (Public Attitude Survey) • A need to better understand and tackle the links between drugs and violence both in terms of violent offences being committed by those under the influence of drugs and violence involving drug dealing and gang activity. <p>(https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/weapon-enabled-crime-dashboard)</p>	
What happens if we do nothing?		What would it look and feel like if we succeed?
Serious Violence and the associated links to knife crime and drugs may increase. Public confidence in partner agencies may be affected and fear of crime due to increase press coverage may increase.		Safer borough in terms of the number of offences and a reduction in fear of crime.
What have you said	<p>Residents Survey 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The things that you value the most in Merton It is safe and there are low-levels of crime – 48% • Thinking about this local area, how much of a problem do you think each of the following is... People using or dealing drugs - A fairly big problem/a very big problem - 20% <p>CYP survey 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What most needs improving about Merton? Amount of crime – 28% • I feel safe in my local area – Disagree/strongly disagree – 17% • Thinking about your local community, what issues most concern you? – Crime - 33% Drug dealing and drug use - 22% 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29% of young people aged 11-17 reported gangs as one of their top 3 concerns (Residents Survey 2017) • 27.5% of respondents chose 'Amount of Crime' as one of the things most needing improvement in Merton. (Residents Survey 2017) <p>Responses to engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will also have the results of our Community Safety Survey – (we are currently at about 550 responses with another 4 weeks to go) • Public Attitude Survey (administered by MOPAC)
We will	<p>Work in partnership to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support victims of crime, particularly those who are vulnerable. • address offending, for example looking at diversion schemes • design out drug related crime through environmental projects • develop the intelligence picture of serious violence on the borough, to better understand the problems that need to be addressed. • develop relevant plans and strategies to monitor activity and share best practise with colleagues across London.
What can you do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that crime or intelligence is reported to the Police or Crime Stoppers if you prefer to notify someone anonymously.
'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knife Crime?? – Work on the knife crime plan (or an action from the plan??) • Drug related crime?? (to be developed as the work on the strategy begins to develop)
'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #2	<p>Spotlight on' sections will be woven into the community plan. Each 'spotlight' will detail the work a community group, VCO, individual, etc is doing and how that work is having an impact on the community. The 'spotlight on a facility' idea takes inspiration from the 2013 refreshed Merton plan, this made the report more engaging to read and provided valuable information about the community.</p>

Priority 6	ASB ENFORCEMENT	Safer Stronger
Objectives	Take action against non-law abiding citizens	
Call to action	There has been an increase of ASB complaints both to the Police and the council. There were 1166 complaints to the council in the financial year 2018/19 compared with 787 in 2017/18.	
What happens if we do nothing?	What would it look and feel like if we succeed?	
Increase in crime/ASB Increase in fear of crime/ASB Residents distrust of partners	Safer borough Reduction in fear of crime/ASB Residents trust in partners will increase	
What have you said	<p>Residents Survey 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thinking about this local area, how much of a problem (a fairly big problem/a very big problem) do you think each of the following is... ASB - 20% Vehicle Crime – 23% People being drunk or rowdy in public places – 13% Groups hanging around the streets – 15% <p>CYP Survey 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thinking about your local community, what issues most concern you? Bad behaviour - 17% Bullying - 14% Which of the following will most encourage you to stay in Merton when you finish your education/training? An area I feel safe in – 23% <p>Responses to engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will also have the results of our Community Safety Survey – (we are currently at about 550 responses with another 4 weeks to go) Public Attitude Survey (administered by MOPAC) 	
We will	Promote awareness of ASB and how to report it Deal with every complaint Work with partners to support victims Enforce against perpetrators using various legislation	
What can you do?	Report ASB to Safer Merton	

	Be willing to support enforcement action e.g. impact statements
'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #1	<p>Street drinking- Merton has a street drinking public space protection order under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014. It deals with anti-social drinking in public spaces. Safer Merton and the Police have been enforcing the order with a focus on Mitcham town centre. This has caused a visible reduction in street drinking in the town centre.</p> <p>Prostitution- Working in partnership with the Police, Safer Merton has identified the modus operandi of individuals running illegal brothels in the borough. Using the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014, we have managed to identify and shut down five (5) brothels so far between 2018/19.</p>
'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #2	'Spotlight on' sections will be woven into the community plan. Each 'spotlight' will detail the work a community group, VCO, individual, etc is doing and how that work is having an impact on the community. The 'spotlight on a facility' idea takes inspiration from the 2013 refreshed Merton plan, this made the report more engaging to read and provided valuable information about the community.

Priority 7	Getting involved, having a say	Children and Young People's Trust
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the voice of children, YP and families using the Participation Promise and 'The Merton Pledge' Engage YP in decisions affecting them through regular consultation feedback Recognise children and YP's people's voices as active contributors to services Improve access to volunteering and other opportunities Ensure user voice feedback is heard and shapes service improvement 	
Call to action	<p>Children and young people want to be included more on decisions affecting them.</p> <p>Over 67% would like to volunteer in their local community.</p> <p>Over 3,000 young voices have been heard through consultation, focus groups and youth-led activity to inform service delivery.</p>	
What happens if we do nothing?		What would it look and feel like if we succeed?
		<p>Young people engaged in decisions affecting them and involved in regular consultation and feedback.</p> <p>Children and young people's voices recognised as active contributors, where they can have a real influence on decisions being taken that effects them, and shape service improvement.</p> <p>Improved access for children and young people to volunteering and other opportunities.</p>
What have you said	<p>Residents Survey 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merton Council...Involves Residents when making decisions? Not at all – 12% Not very much – 35% To what extent do you think Merton Council acts on the concerns of local residents? Not very much – 26% <p>CYP Survey 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What most need improving in the London Borough of Merton? Things for young people to do – 30% 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do you agree or disagree that you feel part of your local community? Strongly disagree/disagree – 13% Don't know – 36% • I feel supported to make decisions about my future Strongly disagree/disagree – 6% Don't know – 19%
We will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch the Participation Promise across the Children's Trust • Continue to engage with children and young people via School Councils and other forums • Health in Justice Peer Leaders to embed the working influence / have a voice in the Youth Crime Prevention Executive Board and service delivery • Continue to use a range of feedback mechanisms and outcome maps to ensure that 'user voice' informs and influences service activity and development • Increase volunteering through Duke of Edinburgh Awards and other identified avenues • Recruit parent volunteers to deliver the parent led Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) programme • Build and embed young people's voice in commissioning activities, e.g. via the Young Commissioners Group
What can you do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of young advisors and young inspectors • Fire Cadets – BTEC • Dof E • Police Cadets • Scout Groups • Wood Craft Folk • Endeavour Youth Club
'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #1	<p>'Spotlight on' sections will be woven into the community plan. Each 'spotlight' will detail the work a community group, VCO, individual, etc is doing and how that work is having an impact on the community. The 'spotlight on a facility' idea takes inspiration from the 2013 refreshed Merton plan, this made the report more engaging to read and provided valuable information about the community.</p>

'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #2

'Spotlight on' sections will be woven into the community plan. Each 'spotlight' will detail the work a community group, VCO, individual, etc is doing and how that work is having an impact on the community. The 'spotlight on a facility' idea takes inspiration from the 2013 refreshed Merton plan, this made the report more engaging to read and provided valuable information about the community.

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Priority 8: My Merton (Children's Trust)

Priority 8	My Merton – connection with family, friends and the community	Children and Young People's Trust
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to support partners to make Merton a place where children and YP feel they belong, stay safe and thrive • Work with partners to encourage the involvement of young people in environmental design incl. the development of youth friendly spaces • Work with partners to challenge poor air quality surrounding youth friendly spaces and schools 	
Call to action	Children and young people are mostly positive about their social and community experiences, but air quality and litter needs improving, while traffic was a key issue of concern. Access to public transport is a challenge for young people.	
What happens if we do nothing?	What would it look and feel like if we succeed?	
	<p>Merton will be a place where children and young people feel they belong, stay safe and thrive.</p> <p>Partners across the Children's Trust will be working together to ensure that young people are involved in environmental design, including the development of youth friendly spaces</p> <p>Air quality will be improved around youth friendly spaces and schools.</p> <p>Improved access to the Local Offer and a broadened awareness of the range of opportunities available in Merton for Children and Young People.</p>	
What have you said	<p>CYP Survey 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do you agree or disagree that there are enough places for you to socialise with your friends? Strongly disagree/disagree – 21% • To what extent do you agree or disagree that you would like to stay in Merton when you finish your education/training? Strongly disagree/disagree – 30% Don't know – 37% 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which of the following will most encourage you to stay in Merton when you finish your education/training? Affordable housing – 29% Friends and family who live in or near the area – 31% Good job prospects – 18% <p>Responses to engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23% of Merton Care Leavers were identified as having low well-being. (Bright Spots, 2018) • Almost half of young people 'rarely' or 'never' felt lonely. Around a quarter were 'always' or 'sometimes' lonely. (CYPP Consultation, 2019)
We will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Contextual Safeguarding through engagement of schools and community sites • Develop social infrastructure to encourage community engagement specifically for children and young people • Engage children and families in Mitcham in historical and natural heritage through the Canons Project to foster local pride • Monitor air quality(including audit work) for all schools in the borough to reduce exposure to toxic pollution levels • Deliver the Schools Streets Project (Superzones) to restrict vehicle movement outside school entrances • Promote the use of the Merton Local Offer to families and children with SEN and/or disabilities and to professionals • Promote and encourage use of the 'Getting It On' website to promote positive life-style choices and access to services • Develop a Local Offer for young people mapping crime prevention services
What can you do?	Work with partners to encourage the involvement of young people in environmental design including the development of youth friendly spaces

<p>'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #1</p>	<p>'Spotlight on' sections will be woven into the community plan. Each 'spotlight' will detail the work a community group, VCO, individual, etc is doing and how that work is having an impact on the community. The 'spotlight on a facility' idea takes inspiration from the 2013 refreshed Merton plan, this made the report more engaging to read and provided valuable information about the community.</p>
<p>'Spotlight on' a facility, community group, initiative etc. #2</p>	<p>'Spotlight on' sections will be woven into the community plan. Each 'spotlight' will detail the work a community group, VCO, individual, etc is doing and how that work is having an impact on the community. The 'spotlight on a facility' idea takes inspiration from the 2013 refreshed Merton plan, this made the report more engaging to read and provided valuable information about the community.</p>

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