



# Local Assemblies Review

## 2012/13 Performance

- **Total number of newcomers:**
- **2011/12 – 36% of all attendees were newcomers**
- **2012/13 – 37% of all attendees were newcomers**

## **Young people's attendance at meetings:**

- **2011/12 – 5%**
- **2012/13 – 5%**

## **BME attendance at meetings:**

- **2011/12 – 37%**
- **2013/14 – 38%**

## **Disabled people attendance at meetings:**

- **2011/12 – 12%**
- **2012/13 - 13%**

## **LGBT attendance at meetings:**

- **2011/12 - 5%**
- **2012/13 - 5%**

## **Average attendance per meeting:**

- **2011/12 – 73**
- **2012/13 – 77**

## **Total meeting attendance:**

- **2011/12 – 4,990**
- **2012/13 – 4,710**

## **Total number of meetings:**

- **2011/12 – 68**
- **2013/14 – 61**

## **Total participation in and outside meetings:**

- **2011/12 – 12,671**
- **2012/13 – 12,418**

**Attendees agree that the Assembly allowed them to learn more about local issues:**

- **2011/12 – 90%**
- **2012/13 – 89%**

**Attendees agree the Assembly allowed them to influence decisions affecting the local area:**

- **2011/12 – 61%**
- **2012/13 – 62%**

- Ring-fencing of Assembly Funding for young people
- Engagement and participation outside of meetings
- Specific young people's campaigns launched through assemblies

**Evelyn Assembly has initiated a Youth Partnership which has co-ordinated local organisations and residents to address an identified need to support unemployed young people and divert them from crime. Partners have worked together to access initiatives, such as the Millwall Leadership programme and, with £48k raised through the Jobcentre Plus Flexible Support Fund, they have run outreach programmes to improve JCP engagement, including working with ECO Communities, with the potential for roll-out across Lewisham.**

**Kelvin Grove School in Forest Hill Ward has used £2,000 to develop a local archive display area in the CEL building (formerly the Kirkdale Centre). The young people wanted to give back something to the community so they decided to open a display area to showcase items of local interest, particularly as they were aware of the significant levels of historical interest relating to the building.**

Engaging Young People



- Assemblies work with statutory agencies to influence change and make improvements to services
- Assembly action plans influence service development

Following discussions between Sydenham Local Assembly and traders about plans for streetscaping Sydenham High Street, it was agreed that communication would be improved by having a shopfront on the high street where contractors could provide information to residents and traders. This proved highly successful at engaging local people in the development work and improving an understanding of the disruption necessary while the work took place. Contractors also agreed to have a weekly update posting on the Lewisham website.

680 young people from schools and clubs in Perry Vale, Forest Hill and Sydenham wards answered a Free Time Questionnaire which asked their views on a variety of issues including youth provision, what they do in their spare time, what they like/dislike about their local area and their ideas for improving things. The survey results were compiled into a comprehensive report which was widely disseminated within the borough and formed a solid basis for targeted funding in relation to youth provision.

- Assemblies encourage volunteering and community involvement
- Assemblies enable the community to work together
- Assemblies provide a platform to start a campaign or garner support

**Catford Bulbs in Bloom is a community-led project funded by Catford South Assembly and administered by Lewisham Gardens. The project planted 6000+ bulbs in Catford in autumn 2013, working with local volunteers to promote the project and package and deliver bulbs to local organisations for planting. Over 30 local groups received bulbs to plant in their outside spaces. Follow-up enquiries suggest that, as a result of the project, local groups and people have a better understanding of the purpose of assemblies, are more committed to their work and are keen to work more closely with them in the future.**

**The Blackheath Playspace Project 2012/13 initially encountered resistance to the building of a playspace in Eliot Pits on Blackheath. As a result, a resident working group was established which is working with the project on identifying options for sites and influencing the structure of the playspace before submitting a planning application.**

**Community Led Action**





**Ladywell Assembly 12/03/13**

Good to hear about the Save Lewisham Hospital campaign.

Good group discussion, particularly on volunteering.

Heard about the Lewisham Time Credit scheme

**Rushey Green Assembly 19/01/13**

Always helpful to learn about our area and this is exactly what the local assembly does.

**Lee Green Assembly 12/02/13**

As always I get the feeling that Lee Green is a place where residents feel actively involved in the present & future life of this area. It is a life enhancing experience to attend assemblies here.

**Sydenham assembly March 2013**

I was pleased to hear many local residents wanting the wonderful TNG building to be used by all generations in our area.

**Bellingham Assembly March 2013**

Good place for specific issues and needs and especially good for people to talk together/discuss more in depth

**Telegraph Hill Assembly Feb 2013**

Pleased to see so many women attending - majority of attendees. Well done! .

Feedback on Assemblies



- 2012/13 – total fund of £337,500
- £18,750 funding allocated per assembly, including £3,750 discretionary funding
- 195 projects delivered ranging from £100 to £15,000
- 70 projects were £1,000 or under
- Average spend was £1,796
- Different approaches to spend across different assemblies – ranging from small grants to strategic commissioning

- How Local Assemblies can best foster community action
- How Local Assemblies can jointly develop areas of work which are of mutual interest
- How Local Assemblies can continue to engage with communities outside of meetings and maintain a strong and pro-active profile in challenging fiscal times

Questions to Consider

