

Greenwich Council – healthy urban planning

Case Study

Background

The London borough of Greenwich is experiencing unprecedented levels of housing development, and, in health terms, major inequalities in life expectancy between its most and least advantaged residents.

With funding from the Centre for Public Scrutiny, Greenwich Council commissioned ODS to facilitate the first stage of developing a Healthy Urban Planning Framework.

Partners

Unique in its inclusive approach, the project involved numerous representatives from the local authority – including both councillors and officers from planning and policy, environment, housing, transport, regeneration and scrutiny – and representatives from Greenwich Teaching Primary Care Trust.

Activity

- An innovative ‘Action Learning Set’ approach was introduced to combine representatives from the various organisations involved and ensure continuous progress
- The Action Learning set agenda was shaped to review inter-organisation relationships, consider evidence and to develop the key principles and characteristics of the Healthy Urban Planning Framework
- Activity also included a challenging review of recent developments, to identify best-practice and opportunities for improvement

Results

- Achieved multi-agency understanding of issues and sharing of professional perspectives
- Provided a robust platform from which to complete this complex project, as well as bringing a real sense of momentum
- Delivered its objective to deadline, with the Framework now being progressed towards draft guidance
- Project outlined within Greenwich Council’s successful application to receive Beacon status in relation to healthier communities

“ODS brought an innovative approach to this project, through the Action Set Learning methodology, which was identified as a strength in the recent IDeA peer review of the Council’s healthier communities programme.”

Cllr Janet Gillman – Chair of the Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Panel