

Sustainable Community Strategy

Profile of Wandsworth (Story of Place)

October 2008

Contents

	Page
1. A profile of Wandsworth	3
2. Making Wandsworth Safer	8
• Crime and Community Safety	
3. Improving the Local environment	
• Environment	16
• Transport	30
4. Building a prosperous and vibrant community	
• Culture	38
• Economy and Employment	47
• Voluntary and Community Sector	61
5. Helping children and young people achieve their full potential	
• Children and young people	67
6. Improving health and social care	
• Health	92
• Adult Social Care	100
• Older people	108
7. Meeting Housing Needs	
• Housing	116
8. Equality and community cohesion	127

A PROFILE OF WANDSWORTH

Wandsworth is the largest inner London borough, stretching from central London at Vauxhall out to the edge of Richmond Park in the west. It comprises 20 wards and 174 Super Output Areas. The Borough includes a diverse range of communities. There are five town centres: Clapham Junction, Balham, Tooting, Wandsworth, Putney and smaller district centres at Earlsfield, Southfields, and Roehampton.

A third of the borough's land area is occupied by residential properties, many within one of the forty five conservation areas. A quarter of the borough's land is open space, much of this in the form of large areas of heath and common. The five town centres and eight local centres give focal points and identity to the communities that make up the borough.

The quality of much of the townscape and easy access to open space together with the proximity to central London make Wandsworth an attractive place to live.

Wandsworth Council has for many years had a policy of minimising the impact of local taxation on the population whilst maintaining high quality services. The level of Council Tax as measured at band D has been the lowest in the country since 2002 whilst external accreditation of the Council's services as measured by the Audit Commission have remained as four star or excellent. The Council undertakes a continuous scrutiny of services through the budget review process to ensure that cost levels are minimised whilst services are maintained or improved. Any requests for additional expenditure are scrutinised to ensure that only expenditure that cannot be met from existing resources is met by means of additional budget. In addition wherever appropriate charges for services are made on an economic basis. Capital investment on Council services and assets are also undertaken on the basis outlined in the Council's capital strategy.

Resident Population.

Wandsworth has a mobile population with high levels of residents moving both into and within the Borough. The population in the Borough has also increased in recent years.

In 2006, the resident population was estimated to be 279,000, which represents an increase of 6.4% on 1991. The number of births in Wandsworth has also increased year on year between 2002 – 2006 to 5,000, which represents a 18% increase in 5 years. The wards with the highest birth rates are Northcote, Wandsworth Common, Southfields and Latchmere. However, according to population forecasts, these wards are not those where population growth, both overall and 0-14, is expected to be greatest which suggests these are areas from which young families move out. The largest population growth is expected in the riverside wards where large scale residential development is continuing.

In 2001, the Census recorded 38,172 people moving into Wandsworth, representing 14.6% of total population as compared to 5.6% for Greater London as a whole. Between 2001 and 2006 Wandsworth had the 5th highest volume of migration per 1,000 population in England and Wales (3.10). The majority of “migrants” were internal migrants moving to the Borough from other parts of London or the United Kingdom. The migrant component of the 2006 mid-year estimate for Wandsworth represented 12% of the total population. National Insurance data for 2005/06 suggests that the highest number of non- UK nationals came from Poland (1,880), Australia (1,730) and South Africa (1,480).

The age structure of residents differs significantly from both the national and Greater London average. The 20-39 year age group represents 48% of the population compared to 28% nationally and 36% in Greater London. The 0-4 age group represents 7% of the population, which is on a par with the Greater London average. However, Wandsworth dips below the London average for the 5-19 age group, which equates to 12% of the population as compared to 17% in Greater London. The 40-59 population equates to 21% of the population, as compared to 25% in Greater London, with the 60+ population making up 13% of the local population, as compared to 16% in Greater London. This structure almost certainly reflects Wandsworth’s attractiveness as a location for young professional workers and young families.

Population estimates at a ward level show that the most populous wards are West Hill, Southfields and Queenstown and the least populous are Roehampton, West Putney and Shaftesbury although the difference in population between the extremes is no more than 2,400 people. The age structures vary by ward. 20% of the ward population is aged 0-15 in Roehampton, Furzedown and Latchmere, whilst the 0-15 population accounts for 12% of the population in Shaftesbury and East Putney and 13% in Bedford, Fairfield and St Mary’s Park. The older aged population (65%+) also varies, between 7% in Northcote, Bedford and Fairfield to more than 12% in East and West Putney and 15% in Roehampton.

The skills structure of Wandsworth also varies from the national picture with 50% of the working age population in Wandsworth qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above. This is twice the national average and, again, a likely product of the high number of professionals who choose to live in Wandsworth. However, 13% of the working age population have no qualifications, which is the same as the national average.

A diverse population.

The 2005 ONS mid-year estimates showed that ethnic minorities account for one in five of the Wandsworth population and one in three of the under 16s. Wandsworth’s non-white population is therefore below the Greater London average of 30%, meaning that the Borough has the 26th largest non-white population in London.

Although overall the non-white population has changed little since 2001, there has been significant percentage increases in the number of residents of Asian

or Asian British ethnicity, particularly Bangladeshi, Indian and Mixed White and Asian, and of Chinese or other ethnic groups. The largest percentage decreases between 2001 and 2005 are for Black or Black British ethnic groups, particularly Caribbean, African and Mixed White and Black Caribbean. The White Irish ethnic group has also seen a decrease in population whilst the White Other population has increased by 5%.

The 2001 Census showed that Tooting parliamentary constituency had the largest percentage of non-white population (28%), followed by Battersea (22%) and Putney (16%). Tooting also had a large Asian and Asian British population (11%) compared with Battersea and Putney (4% and 5% respectively). Battersea had the largest Black or Black British population (13%), followed by Tooting (11%) and Putney (6%).

In Wandsworth schools, the most frequently spoken languages spoken at home, other than English, are Urdu, Somali, Arabic, French, Portuguese and Spanish. In terms of support requested from the Wandsworth Interpreting Service in 2006/07, the most frequently requested languages were Urdu, Somali, Punjabi, Gujarati, Bengali, Tamil, Polish, Chinese, Hindi and French.

A large number of faiths are practised in Wandsworth. The Christian population in Wandsworth is slightly above the London average, 61.81% as compared to 58.23%. Members of the Christian faith are spread evenly across all wards. Wandsworth's Muslim population at 5.2% is below the London average of 8.46%, but significantly above the national average of 2.97%. Although there are members of the Muslim faith in all wards across the Borough, 29% of Wandsworth's Muslim population reside in the wards of Tooting, Graveney and Furzedown. The Hindu population in Wandsworth is below the London average of 4.07%. 40% of Wandsworth's Hindu population reside in the wards of Tooting and Graveney.

The 2001 Census showed that 52% of the population of Wandsworth was female, as compared to 51% for Greater London.

At the time of the Census in 2001, 2.9% of Wandsworth residents self declared as permanently sick or disabled. This is below the figure for Greater London of 4.57% but reflects the younger adult population structure of the Borough. In 2007, as a proportion of the older working-age population, (45-54 and 55-64), Wandsworth's had 10.9% and 12.45% respectively claiming invalidity benefit and both these percentages exceed those of London (10.4%, 11.7%) and England (9.1%, 11.1%)

Deprivation.

Wandsworth is an attractive place to live with a generally prosperous community, but parts of the Borough show significant levels of deprivation. According to a study conducted by Local Futures Wandsworth ranked 128th out of 408 local authorities in terms of deprivation and 10th in terms of prosperity but this masks substantial variations across the Borough.

The mean (unequalised) household income in Wandsworth in 2006 was £43,577, the 3rd highest in London behind the City of London and Richmond Upon Thames, and considerably higher than the London (£37,661) mean income. Wandsworth also had a much higher percentage of households with an income of over £60,000 (23%) than Greater London (15%). The Borough also has a lower percentage of households with an annual income of under £15,000 (12%) as compared to Greater London (16%).

However, when household income data is broken down by ward there are clear differences ranging from Northcote ward which has a household income of £51,859 and has the 7th highest income of the 633 wards in London, to Roehampton where it is £31,141, ranking it 507th out of 633 wards.

In 2006, the Local Strategic Partnership pooled the data sets held by members to conduct a review of how deprivation is spread across the Borough; a Priority Area Overview (POA). This analysis identified that the wards of Latchmere, Queenstown, Roehampton and Tooting all exhibit significant deprivation across most, if not all dimensions of deprivation. The least deprived wards are Thamesfield, Wandsworth Common and East Putney.

WHAT DO OUR RESIDENTS THINK?

Residents believe that Wandsworth is a cohesive community. In 2006, 83% of residents, 5% more than the Inner London average, said that Wandsworth is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. Only 47% agreed with the suggestion that people not treating other people with respect and consideration is an issue for Wandsworth, 7% below the London average.

Although residents feel the Council could do more to involve them in decision making locally, in a London context, Wandsworth residents feel more engaged than Londoners in general. In 2006, 47% of residents agreed that they can influence decisions in the local area, which is 5% higher than the Inner London average. When the characteristics of respondents were analysed, social tenants were more likely to agree than others. However, white respondents (56%) and male respondents (57%) were the most likely to say they did not feel they could influence decisions in the local area and 29% of residents surveyed were unable, unwilling or uninterested in responding to the question. This highlights a challenge for the Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership in terms of increasing engagement with residents who actively want to be engaged and addressing or acknowledging that a significant number of local residents do not wish to actively engage.

The 2007 residents' survey showed that residents view traffic congestion as a big problem (14%), followed by crime (10%), level of pollution (8%) and affordable decent housing (7%). 29% of residents also view anti-social behaviour as a slight problem followed by crime (27%) and affordable decent housing (23%). This highlights that crime and anti-social behaviour, transport/traffic and housing are key issues for Wandsworth residents.

The 2007 residents survey also asked respondents how long they had lived in their neighbourhood. 35% had lived in their neighbourhood for over 10 years, 17% for between 5 and 10 years, 20% between 2 and 5 years, 9% between 1 and 2 years and 17% less than a year.

When the results were analysed by age, the majority of residents aged 45 and above had lived in their neighbourhood for over 10 years, with the majority of 18-24 year olds having lived in their neighbourhood for less than 2 years. For respondents aged 25-34 there was a split between those who had lived in the neighbourhood for less than 2 years (44%) and those who had lived in the neighbourhood for between 2 and 10 years (49%). The majority of residents aged 35-44 (55%) had lived in their neighbourhood for between 2 and 10 years.

When the results were analysed by tenure, 60% of private rented tenants had lived in their neighbourhood for less than two years. 16% of Council tenants had lived in their neighbourhood for less than 2 years, 23% had lived there for over 2 but less than 5 years and 24% had lived there for over 20 years. This mirrors the pattern seen with both owner occupiers and Housing Association tenants.

The survey also asked if respondents felt that they were likely to move home in the next two years. 83% said they had no intention of moving, whilst 14% said they would definitely or probably move in the next two years. When broken down by age 22% of 18-24 year olds and 20% of 25-34 year olds said they would definitely or probably move in the next two years.

Respondents were asked why they would like to move. 17% said they didn't like the area, 16% said they wanted a larger home, with a further 14% saying they either wanted a garden or a bigger garden. 6% of respondents said that they would move as they wanted a house.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

The GLA population estimates forecast that the population of Wandsworth will increase 4% by 2016, however the projected increase is not evenly spread across the Borough. The population of Queenstown ward is estimated to increase by over 25% by 2016, with the populations of St Mary's Park and Thamesfield wards are estimated to grow by around 15%. This reflects the longer term impact of riverside residential developments. However, there are decreases in population forecast in Roehampton, Shaftesbury and Furzedown. This overall increase in population and changes in population across the wards will bring challenges for the Partnership in ensuring that sufficient services are in place to meet demand.

UNDERPINNING PLANS

Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy – preferred options
LDF Annual Monitoring Report 2006/07
Priority Area Overview 2007 (Paper 08-973)

MAKING WANDSWORTH SAFER

Crime in Wandsworth.

In 2006/07 Wandsworth was again identified as the safest place to live in inner London and one of the safest places to live in London.

The main types of crime experienced by Wandsworth residents are violence against the person, theft from and of motor vehicles, residential burglary and street crime. Annual reports on the different main types of crime experienced in Wandsworth are submitted to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and the Regeneration and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These reports showed that from April to December 2007 there were 1,771 residential burglaries, which equates to 13.7 per 1,000 households. The offence rate for burglary has decreased for the past three years. Residents aged 18-39 were the most likely to be targeted suggesting that their homes are currently the most vulnerable and may also contain the most desirable goods to steal. A large number of multi-occupancy homes were also targeted suggesting that these are also seen as easy to access. Residential burglaries were spread mainly across the eastern half of the Borough with Balham, Bedford and Northcote wards showing the highest levels.

Street crime accounted for 1,142 offences between April and December 2007. This equates to 4.1 per 1,000 residents and includes personal robberies and snatch thefts. Over the past three years, street crime has decreased, with Clapham Junction no longer being a primary hotspot, as a result of co-ordinated, multi-agency interventions, including additional, targeted patrolling by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Wandsworth has a lower offence rate for street crime than Greater London, and markedly lower than the Inner London rate. Street crime is clustered around busy town centres and transport hubs, with Tooting featuring as the primary hotspot. In 2007, hotspots also started to emerge around housing estates in the Battersea area. The majority of offenders were young males aged under 17 and a significant proportion of robberies involved school age victims.

Violence against the person accounted for 5,242 offences in 2007/08. This is a reduction on 2006/07. The spread of offences mirrors that found with street crime. Analysis suggests that, in the afternoon, youth-on-youth crime is more likely to occur, whilst in the evening, older young people may get involved while using entertainment facilities around town centres. 25% of violence against the person crimes were flagged as domestic violence.

There were 2,053 thefts from a motor vehicle from April to December 2007. This equates to 7.3 per 1,000 residents. The offence rate for motor vehicle crime decreased over the past three years and is lower than the rate for Greater London, and markedly lower than the Inner London rate. The majority of thefts from motor vehicles occurred overnight in residential areas with no off street parking. There were also 946 motor vehicle thefts of which a significant proportion were 2-wheeled vehicles.

The number of recorded racist offences has fallen for the past five years in Wandsworth to a rate of 0.5 offences per 1000 residents. However, it is

recognised that there will always be a level of under-reporting of hate crime. In order to address this issue the Partnership developed a race hate crime action plan in 2007/08 and continues to work through the Wandsworth Racial Incidents Panel to identify trends in hate crime and initiatives to encourage reporting of hate crime.

From April to December 2007, 10,867 calls were made to 999 in relation to anti-social behaviour. 51% of calls related to rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour, 5% to drugs and 4.4% to inconsiderate neighbours. It should be noted that any one incident of anti-social behaviour may result in several calls to 999. The main hotspot for anti-social behaviour calls was Tooting Town Centre, but calls were also found to cluster around town centres and transport links, in keeping with the patterns identified for street and violent crime.

As of February 2008 there were 504 adult offenders who were on a Community Order or Licence, which involved a supervision element. 90% of these offenders were male. 59% were aged 26-49, 21% 21-25 and 14% 18-21. The majority (70%) were in permanent, independent housing. 30% of offenders' assessment indicated that their drug misuse was linked to their offending and with 34% showing that alcohol was linked to their offending.

Like many London boroughs in 2007/08, Wandsworth saw an increase in concerns raised regarding gangs and gang crime. As a result an in-depth analysis of youth crime was conducted in 2007/08 in order to identify if there is a gang issue in Wandsworth and if so what steps could be taken. This analysis showed that 478 known young offenders were supervised by the Youth Offending Team (YOT) in 2006/07. Male young offenders were accused four times as frequently as female offenders and two thirds of the young offenders were 15 years-old or over at the time of the offence.

The analysis of the addresses of those supervised by the YOT also revealed a pattern showing that there were three main areas where most of the young offenders living the Borough are located. The first area was located in the western part of the Borough and includes the Roehampton, West Putney, West Hill and Southfields wards and the second area located in the southern part of Wandsworth includes Earlsfield, Tooting, Graveney, Furzedown and Bedford wards. The third area covered the Battersea wards of Latchmere, Queenstown and St Mary's Park.

The analysis also showed that young people were more likely to offend in groups as, although only a minority of offenders of all ages (11%) had been arrested alongside at least one other perpetrator amongst young people, the proportion increased to 21%. As at mid October 2007, it was estimated that there were 53 young people aged 18 and under involved in delinquent youth group activity. However, overall the analysis of youth crime found no clear evidence of an increase in 'gang-related' behaviour. This will, however, remain an area that is kept under regular review.

The Strategic Assessment (2007/08) contains more detail on crime trends and the main hotspots in the Borough.

Policing and crime prevention In Wandsworth.

Police. According to the Wandsworth Police Asset Management Plan, there are 608 police officers based in the Borough. This is a decrease from 1997 when the Borough had 662.

The Borough's police officers work alongside 94 police staff, 84 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO), 4 Victim focus desk PCSO, 9 Station Reception Officers (SROs) and 2 Court PCSO, based in Wandsworth. Overall this means that Wandsworth has 3% of London's police officers to deal with around 4% of London's crime

All 20 wards in the Borough are covered by a Safer Neighbourhood Team, which usually comprises of 1 sergeant, 2 PCs and 3 PCSOs. Each team has 1 'panel priority' and 1 'police priority'. The former is decided by the ward panel based on survey and crime figures. The latter follows the priority crimes being tackled in the Borough.

School officers are also deployed in Borough's schools. The model implemented is 1 PC and 1 PCSO per secondary school. Each PC also covers a cluster of primary schools.

Police and support staff in Wandsworth are split between seven key locations within the borough, five of which where a member of the public can report a crime. The key locations are as follows with an asterisk denoting a public counter:

- Battersea police station*;
- Earlsfield police station;
- Lavender Hill police station*;
- Wandsworth police station*;
- Tooting police station*;
- Trinity Road police station; and
- Jubilee House*.

In addition there are also 3 Safer Neighbourhoods bases in the community. These are:

- 37 Holybourne Avenue
- 325 Tildesley Avenue
- Roehampton Safer Neighbourhoods base.

There are currently three locations where custody cells are located in the Borough. These are at Wandsworth, Battersea and Tooting police stations, which between them provide 26 custody cells.

Council. The Council works in partnership with the Police in tackling crime and disorder and is a key partner in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and delivery of the Local Area Agreement targets and National Indicators. The Council's Community Safety Division, includes the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, Partnership support, CCTV Control Room, Wandsafe Burglary Aftercare Service, Distraction Burglary Service, Neighbourhood Watch (with over 480 Watches), work with Victim and Witness services, and a range of

other crime and disorder reduction services. The Council has implemented Section 17 of the CDA throughout its services, with Council departments undertaking a range of strategic and enforcement activities that contribute directly to reducing crime and disorder in the Borough, including those relating to anti social behaviour on housing estates, drugs, domestic violence, graffiti removal, benefit fraud, enviro-crimes, highways and road safety, alcohol-related disorder, license breaches, dangerous and anti-social dogs, counterfeit goods and rogue traders. The Parks Police undertake a range of security duties in addition to their main role in maintaining order and deterring crime in parks and open spaces and work closely with the Metropolitan Police. The multi-agency Youth Offending Team, and the Preventions Service lead in tackling youth crime. Town Centre Managers, through the Town Centre Partnership Boards, contribute to crime reduction in some of the largest hotspot areas in the Borough.

The strong partnership working in Wandsworth in relation to crime is highlighted by work undertaken on the community justice court and work with young people.

London's first community justice court was officially launched in Wandsworth in 2008 and is holding regular sessions. The new community justice court was set up to deal with a range of criminal offences committed in Roehampton and West Putney. As part of the initiative, people living in these two areas are able to suggest local projects they would like to benefit from community sentences passed by the court. This "community payback" idea means that people convicted of graffiti vandalism for example could be made to clean off tags from walls or pick up litter from the street. Wandsworth was chosen to pilot the new scheme for London because of the strong and effective partnership between the council, police and local community.

One of the programmes for young people developed in partnership in 2007/08 in the Borough was the Spark 2 Life Programme. This programme was recognised at the 2007 National Justice Awards held in Central London where it was awarded the Justice Award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Tackling Youth Crime'. Other initiatives include the production of a set of four DVDs (robbery, drugs, delinquent youth groups and stop and search) which were developed by a multi-agency group consisting of the Battersea Early Intervention Team, the Police, Chelsea Football Club-Football in the Community, and Children's Services that can be used in schools, youth centres and other settings to deliver preventive workshops focusing on key crime types that tend to be associated with young people to help them to resist involvement in group offending.

WHAT DO OUR RESIDENTS THINK?

In 2007 37% of residents surveyed said that crime was either a big or a slight problem, which made it their number one issue. Crime appears to be of particular concern for residents in low income areas with 12% saying it was a big problem as compared to 8% of residents in high income areas.

Residents also said that anti-social behaviour is an issue, with 35% saying that it is a big or slight problem. Although fewer residents said it was an issue

in 2007 than in 2002 anti-social behaviour is still second behind crime in terms of being seen as a big or slight issue locally. In terms of the types of anti-social behaviour that are of most concern to our residents 49% said that teenagers hanging around on the streets are their main concern. The same percentage also said that rubbish and litter lying around was an issue. However, for both these areas Wandsworth is still below the London average and both measures have seen a decrease in the percentage of residents saying they are an issue from 2003.

Residents were also asked about specific types of crime and asked which, if any, they were most worried about. 46% of residents said they were not worried about any of the ones listed. Of those that were concerned the greatest percentage, 28%, said they were worried about having their home broken into, with 14% worried about being physically or sexually attacked or mugged and 8% having their car or something from it stolen.

Residents said that they feel safe in their neighbourhood during the day. However the percentage feeling safe fell by 32% from 92% to 60% when asked if they felt safe at night time.

27% of residents, down from 51% in 2003, said that people using or dealing drugs was an issue.

Although crime is an issue for residents locally it is encouraging that they say that the Partnership, both Police and Council, are doing a good job at dealing with local crime, with 87% saying the Police are doing a good job and 85% saying the Council is doing a good job.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

The residential burglary rate of 13.7 offences per 1,000 residents is below the rate for inner London of 15.2. This represents a decrease on 2006/07 when a peak in offences was recorded. This highlights the need to ensure the sustainability of initiatives targeting this type of crime. The sanction detection rate remains low at 6.9% as compared to a target of 20%.

The street crime rate of 4.1 offences per 1,000 residents is below the inner London rate of 6.0 and represents another three year decrease in Wandsworth.

In 2006/07, violence against the person accounted for 14.1 offences per 1,000 residents. This is below the rate for inner London and is a decrease on the previous year. In terms of performance against other London boroughs in 2006/07, Wandsworth was ranked 15th out of 32 for BVPI 127a (Violent crimes (against the person, sexual offences and robbery) for every 1,000 population).

Overall the number of domestic violence offences in 2006/07 equated to 6.3 offences per 1000 residents, this is a decrease on the previous year which is positive news as the three previous years had seen an increase. This decrease resulted from co-ordinated multi-agency work to support victims as well as robust action from the Police to investigate offences and their drive to bring offenders to justice. Victims now seem more confident in reporting crime.

Thefts from motor vehicles accounted for 7.3 offences per 1,000 residents. This is below the rate for inner London of 9.7 and represents a three year decrease in Wandsworth. Thefts of motor vehicles represent 3.4 offences per 1,000 residents, however the trend has been increasing slowly indicating that thefts of motor vehicles are a growing issue specifically in the Borough, though the overall rate for total motor vehicle offences is decreasing.

Between April and September 2007, 436 recorded offences were committed by young offenders, which represents a 7.4% decrease on the previous year. Theft and handling offences (excluding motor vehicle thefts) represented the greatest proportion (17.7%) of all offences followed by violence against the person offences (16.3%) and robberies (12.4%). The number of violence against the person offences varied very little but showed nonetheless a slight decrease.

Youth on youth crime also decreased in the first six months of 2007/08. Overall the reduction was 20% on the same period in 2006. The reduction increased to 23.5% for violence against the person.

In 2006/07 of 1,845 drug tests conducted for “trigger offences”, 37% were positive, with the majority of positive tests following an arrest for theft, drugs offences or burglary. This suggests that offending forms part of a lifestyle involving drug use and highlights the need to reduce the number of drug users locally through the provision of effective treatment programmes coupled with continued enforcement action.

In 2006/07 35 ASBO applications were made by the Council, an increase from 12 in 2005/06. In 2006/07 25 ASBOs were obtained, an increase from 9 in 2005/06, and 22 ABCs issued, a slight decrease on 2005/06. In 2007/08, 26 ASBOs were obtained, and 21 ABCs were signed.

Wandsworth Council leads the way in association with the local Police in supporting and developing Neighbourhood Watch. Empowerment of the community by supporting Neighbourhood Watch and associated community safety initiatives has enabled local residents to play a major role in reducing crime in the Borough. The development and implementation of a new Neighbourhood Watch Strategy in response to the innovative Scrutiny of Neighbourhood Watch in Wandsworth represents a significant step forward.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Wandsworth has consistently maintained its ranking as the Inner London Borough with the lowest rate of crime. The aim is to keep Wandsworth as one of the safest places to live, work and visit in London.

Wandsworth continues to face a number of policing and crime and disorder reduction challenges. The forecast increases in resident population will put more pressure on policing resources and if police numbers do not keep pace with population rises there is a risk that crime in the Borough will increase.

Wandsworth needs its fair share of London’s police resources and the flexibility to match resources to local demand. The local partnership between the Police, the Council and other key agencies is vitally important if scarce Police resources are to continue to address cross-boundary crime issues and maintain Wandsworth’s relatively low crime rate.

There are also challenges in terms of the premises used by the Police across the Borough, which will pose challenges in the longer term. These include the need for:

- permanent bases for some of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams who are currently temporarily located;
- a new custody suite to replace the current cell provision, which is spread across 3 police stations; and
- A central patrol base, to replace those which are currently spread across the Borough.

The police stations in the Borough were also built to serve a previous era and were designed to meet the policing needs of that time. There is therefore a longer term need to review this provision.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WANDSWORTH?

Vision

The vision of the WLSP Partnership is to keep Wandsworth as one of the safest places to live, work and visit in London.

Priorities.

In order to make Wandsworth safer the following priorities have been identified:

- Reducing Residential Burglary
- Reducing Street crime, Robbery and Violent Crime
- Reducing Motor Vehicle Crime
- Tackling Anti Social Behaviour (including around Housing Estates)
- Crime and Disorder in Tooting Town Centre

Running through these priorities is a focus on tackling and reducing youth crime (including weapons and gangs) and the impact of drugs in the Borough.

Local Area Agreement targets.

NI 15 Serious violent crime rate

NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime rate

NI 30 Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders

NI 40 Drug users in effective treatment

NI 19 Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders

Long term plans.

The Police are currently consulting on their Asset Management Plan, which proposes:

- A new custody centre, which will accommodate all custody cells and related facilities in the borough
- A new patrol base, which will accommodate all of the operational officers and facilities in the borough
- New Safer Neighbourhoods bases, which will provide accommodation for each team

- Safer Neighbourhoods team currently housed in temporary accommodation in permanent bases, easily accessible to their wards
- New front counters, which will be available in a wide mix of police accommodation in the borough and provide enhanced accessibility and a sense of reassurance for every member of the local community

UNDERPINNING PLANS

Wandsworth Asset Management Plan

Crime and Disorder Reduction (CDRP) Partnership Plan (2008-11)

CDRP Strategic Assessment (2007/08)

IMPROVING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Physical characteristics

Wandsworth stretches from central London at Vauxhall through Battersea to Balham and Tooting in the south and through Wandsworth to Putney and Roehampton in the west, covering 34 sq. Km. Approximately a third of the borough's land use is residential containing around 128,500 dwellings and a legacy of densely developed nineteenth century housing. Much of this housing is of significant townscape value, with 45 Conservation Areas.

There is a significant concentration of industrial and commercial activity in Nine Elms and east Battersea, the Wandle Valley and in the Town Centres and Local Centres. There is much historic industrial activity associated with the River Wandle, leaving behind not only a legacy of potentially contaminated land, but also a rich industrial and archaeological heritage.

Strategic road and rail networks traverse the Borough providing direct links to central London. These are controlled by the Mayor for London via Transport for London (TfL) and rail operators. In 2005, estimated traffic flows in the Borough totalled 980 million vehicle kilometres, decreasing by 4.9% since 2001.

There is no one main borough town centre, but rather 5 smaller town centres (Putney, Clapham Junction, Balham, Tooting and Wandsworth Town) with a hierarchy of lesser centres below this. This spatial distribution, favouring local centres, has implications for travel and transport and is in keeping with goals to reduce the need for the private car.

The Borough has over 650 hectares of public open space that include large parks, such as Battersea Park, a regional resource, as well as Wandsworth and Tooting Bec Commons. Public open space makes up 19% of the Borough's area. There is also a significant amount of private open space, principally in the form of sports grounds and clubs. Despite this, some 305 hectares of the Borough (8.69%) have been defined as being in areas of Nature Conservation Deficiency.

Natural Environment

The natural environment is one of the Borough's major assets and is crucial to residents' quality of life, as well as making an important contribution to international biodiversity commitments. Open spaces provide formal and informal recreation opportunities, containing sports pitches, tennis courts, boating lakes and children's play areas that make them a hive of activity.

Biodiversity - Only the larger commons retain a significant quantity of natural vegetation, with other formally laid out parks and open spaces being generally contemporary with the surrounding streets and buildings, i.e. laid out in the last 100 years. Using data from the 1999 Phase 1 Habitat Survey, some 31 local sites have designated as being of nature conservation value and this is

recognised in the current Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and core policies in the Local Development Framework (LDF). Of these sites, 17 are managed by the Parks Service, the remainder being the responsibility of other public authorities or private landowners.

Wandsworth contributes to 17 of out of 22 London-wide biodiversity action plans. There are 27 habitats in the borough, within which some 1,600 different species have been recorded. Grassland and heathland are the most predominant and significant habitats. The Borough is home for 29 plant and animal species that are listed as London Biodiversity Action Plan "Priority Species." These include grey heron, black redstart and bats.

Battersea Park hosts the third largest heronry in London. Nests built on the islands in the lake each spring are used by around 90 herons. London is home to 30% of the national breeding population of Black Redstarts, a small sparrow-like bird with an orange tail. These are concentrated on industrial sites along the River Thames and are known to nest in the Borough. As the birds favour bare ground and derelict industrial structures, such as cranes, old jetties and disused buildings, they are particularly vulnerable to brownfield redevelopment and regeneration projects. There are 16 species of bat in the UK, five of which have been recorded in Wandsworth. All bats have suffered serious declines during the past century, mainly due to loss of roosting sites and a reduction in insects.

Trees - The Council is responsible for managing a stock of over 55,000 trees, approximately half the borough total. Some of these are located on-street, with large broadleaved species, such as plane and lime trees forming characteristic leafy avenues, whilst others are found in parks and other public open spaces. Trees significantly enhance the character and appearance of the Borough, forming an important part of the urban landscape.

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are used to protect trees and woodlands, if their removal is judged likely to have a significant impact on the environment and its enjoyment by the public. During 2006/07, nine additional TPOs were confirmed, covering 45 trees and making a total of 337 TPOs (8,137 trees) in total.

Rivers and Ponds - The River Thames is an important natural asset in terms of recreation, visual amenity and natural habitat, as are its tributaries the River Wandle and Beverley Brook. The Borough has 25 lakes and ponds, out of a total of 1,834 in London. This standing open water covers a total area of 17.25 hectares in Wandsworth. In recognition of the significance of the Borough's lakes and ponds, the Council is contributing to the London-wide habitat action plan on Standing Water, Lakes and Ponds.

Pollution

Air Quality

The negative impact of the heavy traffic levels on the strategic road network is felt by borough residents in terms of relatively high levels of air pollution levels

experienced at roadside locations as a result of vehicle emissions. Levels of particulates (PM10), and nitrogen dioxide (NO2), continue to fail to meet national air quality objectives. As a consequence, the Borough was declared an Air Quality Management Area in 2001 and annual Air Quality Action Plans are required to be produced detailing measures to reduce pollution levels. This includes, for example, voluntary vehicle emissions testing, promotion of sustainable travel modes and participation in a South London Freight Quality Partnership.

The Council monitors air quality at two fixed sites in the Borough as part of a London-wide programme of data collection, verification and modelling. This indicates that air quality objectives are still likely to be exceeded at roadside locations in future and additional continuous monitoring is now underway to provide further information. New monitoring stations are planned in 2008 for Putney (permanent) and Tooting for one year.

The impact of the Congestion Charging Zone and its western extension is a further issue of concern, reflecting this Council's concerns that boundary implications have not been fully taken into account.

Water Quality

Drinking water - To fulfil its duties in ensuring the "*wholesomeness and sufficiency of water supplies*", Wandsworth Council participates in a London-wide Drinking Water Survey. In the thirteen years since the survey was first conducted, there have been improvements in compliance with the 228 chemical parameters that include pesticides, nitrates and heavy metals, such as lead, as well as the 35 microbiological parameters. Compliance was 100% for 2005/06.

River water - The Environment Agency monitors the quality of water bodies in the Borough and assigns chemical and biological grades (A to F) to each stretch of river. Part of the River Wandle and Beverley Brook are included in the survey and 2006 results show that they were both assigned chemical grade C (fairly good) and biological grade D (fair). The failure to obtain higher scores was attributed to treated sewage discharge levels, coupled with urban runoff. Water quality problems are most acute in the upper reaches of the catchment and during drought periods, when treated sewage can contribute a significant proportion of the flow.

Lakes and ponds - The largest 7 of Wandsworth's 25 lakes are monitored quarterly by the Council. 2006/07 data showed them to be in good health, with the exception of Tooting Common Main Lake, which was experiencing circulation problems and a temporary problem with Battersea Park Ladies Lake. On occasion, urban runoff leads to eutrophication and algal blooms that can result in summer fish kills. Reedbeds and integrated lake management techniques have been introduced to minimise this problem and increase oxygenation.

Contaminated land

Contamination in land largely arises as a result of industrial activities or past waste disposal practices. There has been a wide variety of potentially polluting industrial processes active in the borough, ranging from gas works, large-scale oil storage depots and metal foundries to mills, engineering works and petrol stations. Although in more recent times there has been a decline in the industrial land uses, from about the 18th century onwards there has been a considerable amount of industry operating in the borough. Many of these industries developed along land adjoining the River Thames and the River Wandle using the river water for power and/or transport.

A contaminated land study of the borough in 2005 identified some 1256 sites as being of potential concern. By 2006/07, 9.6% of these had sufficient information available to decide remediation needs. The percentage is fairly low as the information is requested only re-actively from developers.

Noise and other forms of pollution

Most residents of the Borough will have been affected at some time by a 'nuisance' whether it is noise, smoke, dust or smells. Each year, the Council receives more than 5,000 complaints about nuisances, of which over 4,000 are about noise. The main sources are loud music and other domestic noise, car and intruder alarms, as well as construction noise. Where older houses have been converted into flats, the lack of proper sound insulation between flats often gives rise to intrusive noise. Given the proximity of domestic properties to industrial and commercial premises, a further cause for complaint is noise from pubs and clubs, early morning deliveries and overnight noise from ventilation or refrigeration plant.

Excessive noise can spoil residents' quality of life and, in extreme cases, pose a threat to human health. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 gives the Council powers to take action to solve or limit noise pollution problems.

A particular local issue is that of aircraft noise, particularly night flights that disturb sleep patterns. The Borough lies due east of the southern runway at Heathrow. Most aircraft land into the prevailing westerly wind, making their descent over Clapham, Battersea, Wandsworth and Putney. The Council has no powers to control this directly, but is monitoring its effects and using its influence to lobby for restricted flights and to alter runway take-off and landing patterns. It is a member of an all party group of local authorities in London and the South East opposed to any further expansion of Heathrow on environmental grounds. The Council is also in favour of a complete ban on night flights.

Waste management

Wandsworth residents generated some 103,000 tonnes of household waste in 2006/07, equating to 366 kg per resident per year. All household waste and recycling collected by the Council is delivered to Western Riverside Waste Authority (WRWA), the authority responsible for arranging for its safe disposal or recycling. WRWA also act as the waste disposal authority for Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Councils who jointly generate some 500,000 tonnes per annum of household and commercial waste. These four boroughs, along with WRWA are known as the riverside waste partnership and have produced a joint municipal waste management strategy to ensure that recycling targets are met and to establish best practice waste management systems for the period 2005-2011.

Objectives include minimising the quantity of municipal waste generated and maximising the proportion that is re-used, composed or recycled.

Waste Disposal

The Council has a statutory duty to collect household waste and to deliver it to one of WRWA's two waste transfer stations (Smugglers Way, SW18 and Cringle Street, SW4). Waste for disposal is transported on barges down the River Thames to a landfill site in Mucking, Essex. Due to the lack of waste treatment facilities, London landfills 73% of its waste and 85% of that is exported outside the Capital. Use of the river for transport does, however, save around 100,000 heavy goods vehicle movements each year, across the whole of WRWA area.

Whilst use of the river reduces traffic movements, landfill is not a viable long-term option for the Borough's waste disposal. This is due to, inter alia, the future scarcity of landfill space, legal requirements to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill, generation of climate change gases by landfill and policy directives for regional self-sufficiency in solutions for London's waste. Hence, an Energy from Waste plant has been selected as the most environmentally preferable and practicable longer-term option for waste disposal for the WRWA boroughs. Proposals are being pursued to construct a state of the art plant at Belvedere in the London Borough of Bexley to meet all the boroughs' projected future waste needs for the next 30 years.

The proposed new facility will be London's first river-served energy-from-waste plant and will make a significant contribution to renewable energy. After fifteen years of planning enquiries, the Government gave the go-ahead to the plant, which is designed to process up to 585,000 tonnes per year of residual waste, in June 2006. Once it is built, in around 2010, the plant will produce enough electricity to power 66,000 homes and will incorporate a combined heat and power system to improve its energy efficiency even further.

Other waste options - minimisation, re-use, composting and recycling

Waste minimisation, re-use, composting and recycling reduce the consumption of raw materials, save energy and limit the requirement for disposal options, such as landfill and energy from waste plants. Considerable progress has been made in influencing residents' behaviour and in developing and expanding convenient recycling facilities since the introduction of a comingled kerbside recycling collection service in March 2003. The tonnages of this co-mingled (i.e. mixed) recycling material collected continues to increase, with 23,100 tonnes in 2006/07, compared to 15,600 tonnes in 2004/05 and 13,500 tonnes in the first year of operation.

Overall, household recycling and composting rates have risen to mirror this shift, from 17.5% in 2003/04 to an anticipated 24% in 2007/08. To cater for the needs of residents in higher rise premises, where a true kerbside collection is not feasible, multi-material recycling banks have been placed at "near entry" locations of higher-rise blocks since 2004/05. Of 43,500 such premises with communal refuse storage, over 95% now have close proximity multi-media recycling banks.

Mixed recyclables collected this way are delivered to Cremorne Wharf, SW10, than transported to Crayford, Kent, where they are sorted and sold on to reprocessing organisations for manufacture into recycled products. Future plans are for Wandsworth's recycling to be diverted to a 84,000 tonnes per year state of the art Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) at the current Smuggler's Way waste transfer site. Planning permission for this was granted in 2005, subject to a legal agreement and conditions.

Subsidised composters are provided for residents to compost garden and kitchen waste at home and a chargeable system was set up in March 2007 for the collection of garden waste. Centralised composting rates are relatively low at 273 tonnes per annum, equating to only 0.27% of household waste, largely reflecting Wandsworth's position as a densely populated inner London Borough, with a lack of private gardens to generate significant quantities of green waste for composting. Note that, these figures does not take into account estimates for home composting, as this is excluded from statutory waste calculations. In 2007/08, recycling facilities for batteries and mobile phones were launched and new sorting and reprocessing techniques meant that foil coated cardboard "tetrapaks" could be added to the range of materials included in the mixed recycling scheme.

Waste minimisation campaigns are supported on a WRWA area-wide basis to encourage the use of cotton, rather than disposable, nappies, to reduce junk mail and discourage single use plastic bags, as examples. Buy recycled campaigns are in place to promote end markets for the newly recycled goods. Whilst the number of campaigns, participation and residents views are surveyed, it is difficult to quantify the impact of individual campaigns in terms of changes to consumer behaviour.

Pyrolysis

In parallel with the above, the Council is piloting a pyrolysis technique called "PyroPure" to see if it can be used effectively to deal with non-recyclable waste produced on local housing estates - thus reducing the amount sent for landfill. PyroPure is a uniquely clean thermal treatment, which uses a combination of steam and heat inside an insulated chamber to reduce most household waste into carbon dust.

Once off-site testing is completed, a full pilot scheme will be carried out on two local housing estates - one high rise and one low rise - to ascertain whether the process would work where refuse is currently deposited into chutes and collected in large communal paladin storage bins.

Energy Management and Climate change

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

The Council has been pro-active in tackling its own energy used in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, implementing an annual programme of energy efficiency and low carbon schemes in Council premises since the inception of the Energy Management Unit. Wandsworth was one of the first organisations to achieve recognition by the Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme and has held this award since 1994. Its ongoing commitment to wise energy management and target setting was demonstrated by its re-accreditation and renewal, ratified the Energy Institute, in November 2006.

The Council seeks to source low carbon energy where feasible and cost effective, with some 55% of its electricity supply deriving from a low carbon source - a mix of small-scale hydropower, onshore wind turbines, landfill gas and biomass. This supplies public street lighting and service roads on housing estates, the Town Hall Complex and Battersea Park. As at September 2007, 51 accounts were powered by green sources. There were also 860 solar powered pay and display machines in the Borough. The three largest Leisure Centres and the Town Hall all have combined Heat and Power (CHP) units that provide hot water and heating.

Significant energy improvements to its own premises and to council housing stock, plus procurement from low carbon sources have enabled the following results to be achieved:-

- a 7.8% reduction (from a 2000 baseline) in energy usage in council premises (September 2007);
- carbon dioxide emissions from Council premises reducing to 25.8% below 1990 levels (September 2007); and
- A 30.42% overall improvement in energy efficiency for private and council-owned dwellings between 1 April 1996-31st March 2007.

Adaptation to the effects of climate change

As part of the LDF planning process, the Council is undertaking a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) to establish the need to mitigate against flood risk and protect and enhance the important watercourses of the Thames and Wandle. The design criteria for new homes is becoming increasingly stringent in both energy and environmental terms, with the launch of the government's Code for Sustainable Homes.

Local Environmental Quality

Whilst "environment" is frequently used to refer to natural resources and impacts with a global dimension, the quality of the local physical urban environment is a key concern to residents. Noise nuisance and open spaces have already been alluded to. Other issues of concern include: the presence or absence of abandoned vehicles, litter, graffiti and flyposting that affect residents' sense of safety and wellbeing and the desirability of neighbourhoods. Statutory indicators (BV199) and now NI 195 have been developed in an attempt to quantify "local environmental quality" based on

sample street surveys conducted by an independent body and a weighted score aggregation.

WHAT DO OUR RESIDENTS SAY?

A face to face survey of over 1,200 Wandsworth residents was undertaken in June and July 2007. It followed up issues from similar surveys in 2005 and 2002 that informed the evolution of the Community Strategy. The aims of these surveys were to assess the impact of the Community Strategy on residents' perceptions and experiences and to give a snapshot of residents' views on priorities.

The same broad patterns emerged as in the 2003 and 2006 BVPI general surveys and the 2005 and 2007 surveys, but with some changes. These highlighted traffic congestion and speeds, pollution and local environmental quality (litter etc.) as the main environmental concerns. There was an improved perception of street cleaning levels, with 76% satisfied and 8% dissatisfied, compared to 70% and 14% respectively in 2005.

Residents were asked for their views on changes to the local environment compared to the previous year. The broad findings of the 2007 survey are that:

On recycling - there has been a substantial increase in the numbers using recycling services and the frequency with which they do so. This is reflected in all sectors of the population, but is particularly notable in those that were least active in 2005. In 2007, 48% of Council tenants used recycling banks and 37% used orange sacks at least once a week. In 2005, just 37% used either sacks or bins with this frequency. Just over one in ten (13%) of respondents said they wanted to recycle things they cannot at present, down from 22% in 2005. Garden waste/compostables (49%), plastics (40%) and batteries (11%) were the most frequently mentioned.

On waste reduction - there has been a substantial change in the attitude of residents to their own abilities to reduce waste. Half of all residents now feel they can do "a lot" to reduce waste, almost twice the number in 2005. This more positive attitude to waste reduction is found right across the population. Actions most frequently cited include: buying goods with less packaging; getting off junk mail lists; and buying recycled products.

On environmental behaviour – the 2007 survey attempted to gauge the environmental behaviour and attitudes of residents by focussing on what lifestyle steps people already took and what else they would be prepared to do. This indicates a considerable level of activity in terms of measures being undertaken by individuals to save energy and water at home and also a latent support for doing more with, for example, 72% stating that they would be willing to have a home energy check.

A Best Value Performance Indicators self-completion survey of residents was carried out in Autumn 2006. This was the third in a series of triennial surveys

that local authorities are required by Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to carry out. It contained 13 satisfaction indicators, of which 3 were environmental: BV89 - cleanliness standards; BV90 – waste, comprising a) household waste collection, b) recycling facilities, c) civic amenity sites; and BV119e -parks and open spaces.

At 74%, satisfaction with cleanliness standards placed Wandsworth fourth in London, behind the City of London, Westminster and Bexley and 7th amongst all single-tier and county councils. This was an improving result with a 17 percentage points change between 2003 and 2006.

Level of satisfaction with household waste collection were also at 74% and this has changed only marginally in the three surveys carried out since 2000. The position relative to other London borough councils had also changed little and was marginally below the average satisfaction level across London of 75%.

Satisfaction with recycling facilities, other than kerbside collections, was at 64%, also changing little since 2000 and placing Wandsworth eighth in London. High satisfaction levels of 83% were recorded for civic amenity sites, second in London and 10 percentage points above the London average.

The most impressive result is the 90% satisfaction rating for parks and open spaces, being 17 percentage points above the average for London. Wandsworth was ranked second only to Richmond amongst all single-tier and county councils on this indicator.

Living in Wandsworth

In addition to the statutory BVPI information, opportunities were also taken on a London-wide basis to include additional questions on residents' views of life in the Borough and perceptions of the Council's efforts to improve the local environment. On most of these measures, Wandsworth residents emerge as more positive than Londoners in general.

The matters of greatest importance in making the area "a good place to live" were unchanged from the 2003 survey. The five most important factors were, in order: level of crime; public transport; clean streets; parks and open spaces and health services. The aspects that "most needed improvement" were also virtually unchanged from 2003, with traffic congestion, level of crime, clean streets, affordable decent housing and road and pavement repairs of most concern.

Whilst these surveys show broad patterns and allow a degree of analysis by population sub-groups, they are limited in not showing the full range of views. In this survey, for example, just 6% felt that parks and open spaces needed improvement but in a 2007 survey of Wandsworth parents, 30% saw parks and playgrounds as very or fairly poor. Similarly, in a survey of Year 6 pupils, 13% described parks in their area as poor or very poor.

HOW WELL ARE WE CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT NOW?

The Council has a corporate environmental policy and an action plan that is annually updated. It responds publically to the results of survey work and BVPI results, as well as using Local Area Agreement (and previously) Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) targets as a basis for allocating funding.

As outlined above, it has achieved significant energy savings in its own premises through a longstanding programme of investment, with some 4.9% energy savings being made in the ten years prior to setting the 2000 baseline.

Recycling rates have increased to 24% meeting the government targets, largely through the introduction of simplified systems and widespread campaigns and publicity.

Resident satisfaction with parks and open spaces is high at 90% and this view has been reinforced by local surveys over the years. Under the terms of the parks strategy, Management Plans are being prepared for the larger parks and open spaces to enable local residents and user groups to be involved in future decisions on their local spaces.

The Council's Ecology Service works with partners London-wide to produce and implement Local Biodiversity Action Plans to ensure proper ecological management for wildlife habitats and ensure species protection. Despite its dense urban population and high levels of development, the Borough maintains a rich species diversity. The Ecology service works direct with the planning service on major developments, enabling significant mitigation and enhancement measures to be secured from developers. Ecology advice provided on 82 planning applications in 2006/07. These addressed the protection or creation of wildlife habitats or protected species. Guidelines are often produced for applicants to ensure full consideration of biodiversity in advance of submitting planning applications.

The Council is active in representing its residents views on environmental issues that are not within its direct control, lobbying the government strongly on the proposed Heathrow expansion, night flights and Post Office Closures, to name but two topical issues. It is also working on a long-term basis with public transport providers and regional and national policy makers to lobby for improved rail services and buses and to secure funding for much needed investment in public transport infrastructure.

More recently, it has taken a more active role in encouraging residents, staff and local business to reduce their environmental impact. It is a partner in the LDA-funded "Go Green" initiative and is working on a South London basis to provide environmental audits and advice to the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) that make up the majority of business in the Borough. Since the start of the project in 2007, over 100 Wandsworth business have signed up to "Go Green." The scheme is backed up by grants and business environmental award scheme.

Travel plans continue to be required for new developments through planning conditions. In 2006/07, 14 plans were requested, whilst 9 plans had been requested by September 2007.

Developments along the riverside are required to provide riverside walks, cycle paths and routes to pedestrian and cycle infrastructure. The Council seeks one secure cycle parking space for each residential unit within new developments and it has become standard practice to require developers to:

- fund pedestrian and cycle-crossing facilities and traffic-calming schemes;
- allocate parking spaces within developments for car clubs;
- arrange for a car club approved by the Council to operate from them; and
- provide financial incentives to residents for them to use means of transport other than the private car.

Residents and staff are being encouraged to make green pledges and incentives are offered to encourage people to get more involved in “making a difference” on local and global environmental issues, see www.wandsworth.gov.uk/greenpledge . This scheme was launched in April 2007 and since then, the combined effect of residents' pledges on transport and energy is an estimated annual saving of 73 tonnes of atmospheric carbon emissions. A range of environmental award schemes are run, such as Wandsworth in Bloom, Allotment Awards and a Green Champions Award Scheme to reward environmental role models in schools, residents and in the business community.

Children of today will have future responsibility for our planet and so a sustainable schools approach is being integrated into the curriculum, encouraging pupils to participate in practical projects within school grounds and the wider community. Wandsworth schools participate annually in the London Schools Environment Award, building on existing programmes, such as Eco-Schools and working with organisations, such as Learning Through Landscapes. Sustainability is also been a main workstream for the Building Schools for the Future Programme.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Wandle Valley Regional Park - Potential has been identified for a Wandle Valley Regional Park to maximise access to the riverside and recognise this undervalued resource. The Regional Park will run from the source of the River Wandle in Croydon, through Sutton, Merton and Wandsworth and will be only the second of its kind in the capital. It could provide thousands of acres of connected green space along the length of this historic and scenic river. The establishment of the park would be the key factor in the wider regeneration of the Wandle Valley. As well as protecting the valley's open spaces and diverse natural environment, the aims are to maximise the area's potential for sustainable transport, health, tourism and leisure, while at the same time sparking the area's economic potential through the encouragement of enterprise and learning.

The development of a spatial strategy and implementation plan for the Wandle Valley Regional Park is being explored by key stakeholders including Merton, Sutton and Croydon Councils, Groundwork Merton, the Wandle Forum and other voluntary groups, charities, statutory agencies and local amenity societies to help deliver this new vision.

Nature conservation, site action plans. Whilst sites of Nature Conservation importance have been identified and are recognised in the Unitary Development Plan (UDP), there is no formal programme for implementing appropriate site management plans and for regularly recording the impact of this. Biodiversity action plans are being developed on a London-wide basis, but the focussed site management plans are required to translate these into practical and costed actions for the Boroughs green spaces, rivers and lakes.

Climate change. The threat of climate change is real, yet despite consistent energy savings from its own premises, there is a need for a wider strategy that encompasses carbon dioxide emissions from other sources, as well as formalising adaptation plans. We need to develop further measures to improve energy conservation and efficiency and contributions to renewable energy generation. All developments will need to make more efficient use of natural resources, employing good standards of sustainable design and construction, working towards low carbon and zero carbon standards.

Local environmental quality. The physical quality of the local environment will continue to be a pressing concern for residents. High development levels and footfall and all the pressures of a densely populated urban area will continue to impact upon open spaces, and street cleanliness as well as the overall the appearance of the street scene. There is concern that new development, together with the parallel pressure for the extension of existing dwellings, should not damage the environment, particularly in residential areas and the open spaces.

Continual and ongoing efforts are required to minimise the negative effects of traffic, noise and nuisance, as well as seeking improvement to public transport and facilities and routes for cyclists and pedestrians. A particular issue of concern is the rising level of subsidence claims for street trees. The combined effects of clay soils underlying much of the Borough, combined with dry weather increases the level of claims and is leading the Council to rethink its approach to street tree replacement. A reduction in the number of street trees in parts of the Borough could result, with a knock on effect on the urban landscape and local environmental quality.

Waste Management. Landfilling waste will effectively be outlawed by European Union over the next decade. However, the much needed new infrastructure for the Energy from Waste plant and local Materials Reclamation Facility has yet to materialise. Both proposals are far reaching and have been subject to lengthy and complex decision-making processes, involving much public debate and local opposition. These still need to be actively pursued through to implementation and operation to eliminate the Borough's reliance on landfill and to provide a state of the art in-borough

recycling plant. The range of materials collected for recycling will continue to expand as new markets are developed and ongoing publicity is required to alert residents to these changes as well as to counteract negative stories re: the outcome and final destination of their recycling.

Heathrow airport expansion - One of the main challenges for the borough into the next decade is the impact of growth of Heathrow airport. The Department for Transport's consultation 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow' sets out plans for a third runway. This would take the airport's capacity from 480,000 to 702,000 movements a year. This is equivalent to building a new airport the size of Gatwick and meaning non-stop noise throughout the day for many communities in south and west London. It appears to be in conflict with the government's commitment to climate change and would also generate additional traffic movements to and from the airport.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WANDSWORTH?

Vision.

“residents and business communities as global environmental citizens living sustainably in an attractive high quality local environment.”

Priorities.

- Tackle climate change by working with partners to reduce carbon emissions and develop an adaptation plan.
- Promote sustainable transport and actions to improve air quality
- Manage waste by encouraging waste reduction, re-use, composting, recycling and Recovering energy from waste, in accordance with the waste hierarchy
- Promote sustainable development through planning and resource management
- Maintain a healthy, clean and green Wandsworth
- Protect and enhance open spaces and the natural environment, and seek the protection and enhancement of habitat and biodiversity.
- Encourage sustainable building techniques and sustainable water resources.
- Protect, conserve and enhance the existing varied character and heritage of the borough and its amenity.

Local Area Agreement Targets.

NI 192 Household waste recycled and composted

NI 188 Adapting to climate change

NI 197 improved local biodiversity- active management of local sites

NI 185 CO2 reduction from Local authority operations

UNDERPINNING PLANS

Environmental Action Plan 2007

Local Implementation Plan 2007 - 2011

Local Development Framework: core strategy 2007

Parks Strategy 2006

Tree Strategy 2003
Open Space Study, WS Atkins, 2006
Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005
Recycling and Refuse Action Plan 2005 -2011
17 London Biodiversity Action Plans 2006 onwards
Air Quality Action Plans 2001- 2007
Contaminated Land Strategy 2002

TRANSPORT

The Borough Infrastructure

Roads

Strategic radial transport routes, both road and rail, converge in Wandsworth, crossing other routes. Eight Thames bridges link the borough to the north side of the river. The transportation opportunities offer good accessibility, particularly to central London, though orbital movement is less easy.

There are nearly 400 km of roads in the borough. Some 33.5 km of highway are designated as part of the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN) and are subject to Red Route controls, including the A205 (South Circular Road), A3/A3205, and A24. Transport for London (TfL) is both the Highway and Traffic Authority for the TLRN and the Traffic Authority for the side road Red Route extensions from the TLRN.

The Council is the Highway and Traffic Authority for all other public roads within the borough. Approximately 9km of roads have been designated as Strategic Roads by the Secretary of State for Transport.

The road network is constrained by the River Thames and River Wandle, the railways and protected open space. There are five Thames road bridges, two of which - Putney Bridge and Wandsworth Bridge - are the responsibility of the council. Chelsea Bridge and Albert Bridge are managed by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Battersea Bridge is part of the TLRN and is the responsibility of TfL.

The River Wandle that divides the borough north to south has only four road crossings in the borough, restricting movement east to west.

Buses

The Borough is generally well served by bus services, although there are a limited number of local areas remote from the bus network and some journeys are difficult to make directly by bus (e.g. Balham to Wandsworth Town). The lack of nearby rail or London Underground services makes areas such as Roehampton especially dependent on buses for public transport.

More than 50 different routes serve the borough, including around 15 night buses. These are supplemented by a range of mobility buses, dial-a-ride and community transport services.

Rail

The Borough is served by national rail links to Victoria and Waterloo through Clapham Junction, the busiest railway station in the country. London Underground services are provided by the Northern and District lines. However, the centre, south-west and Battersea Reach areas of the borough are not particularly well served by rail.

There are eight overland railway stations in the borough and a further five close to the borough boundary in neighbouring boroughs. The majority of rail services in the borough are operated by two operators - South West Trains, which runs services from Waterloo via Clapham Junction to the South west of England, and Southern, which operates from Victoria through Clapham Junction to Croydon and the south coast.

London Underground stations are at East Putney and Southfields on the Wimbledon to Earls Court branch of the District Line. Northern Line stations are situated at Clapham South, Balham, Tooting Bec and Tooting Broadway, following the route of the A24.

There is an active rail freight depot at Stewarts Lane and a key rail freight route from the Channel Tunnel over the Thames at Battersea using the West London Line.

Cycling

In addition to the highway network there are more than 8km of off-road cycle routes and paths in the borough, passing through parks and along the riverside.

Cars and Vans

Car and van ownership in the borough is around the national average with 44% of households having one car or van (2001). In addition, in 2001 41% of households in the Borough had no car or van compared to 51% in Inner London, 37% in Greater London and 27% in England and Wales.

Modes of Travel

In 2001 56% of the Borough's working population aged 16 to 74 used public transport to travel to work compared with 53% in Inner London and 42% in Greater London. Modal share in travel to school: percentage of pupils travelling to school by car remained steady at 28%.

Parking

The provision and enforcement of parking controls are essential to support London's economic and social activity. The safe and efficient management of the road network requires restrictions to be placed on the waiting and loading of vehicles in places where the demand for parking would otherwise contribute to congestion by causing obstructions or delays to people and other vehicles. Restrictions on the waiting and loading of vehicles will include regulations that prohibit parking and regulations that manage parking through a combination of pricing policy and/or time restrictions.

Controlled parking zones (CPZs) now cover most of the borough's town centres and other areas where demand for parking would otherwise exceed the supply of available kerb space. They help to manage the competing demands of different user groups and are particularly beneficial in areas where demand for commuter, shopping or leisure parking conflicts with residents' needs. They also help to restrain traffic in areas well served by public transport, while providing essential parking and servicing facilities.

WHAT DO OUR RESIDENTS THINK?

Regular consultation with residents about priorities and improvements in the borough has shown a continued concern about traffic. In 2007 the continuing impact of traffic (congestion, pollution, noise and speed), was still identified as a prominent concern for residents,

Reducing traffic speeds. 68% were satisfied and 3% dissatisfied with the actions taken (57% and 13% in 2005). All sections of the population were more satisfied and less dissatisfied than they had been. In 2005, those in high-income areas were marginally the more dissatisfied. In 2007 this position was held by those in middle-income areas. Where in 2005 there had been no significant difference between white and other residents, in 2007 the former were significantly more satisfied than others (70% v 62%).

Although a majority were satisfied with the actions taken to reduce traffic speeds, views as to whether there has been a reduction in speed remain less clear. Asked whether traffic speeds have reduced, 36% agreed (29% in 2005) and 28% disagreed (27%). Just over one in four (27%) neither agreed nor disagreed and 8% did not know.

Traffic issues

The resident's survey identified two areas of concern, traffic congestion and traffic speeds, where almost as many respondents considered the situation to have worsened as considered the situation to have improved. This would suggest that further attention is required on these issues.

Encouraging people to walk or cycle is important to health policy as well as to reducing traffic congestion and pollution. The level of agreement with both statements is encouraging. In 2005, men were more likely to agree that it is now safer and more pleasurable to walk than were women (43% v 38%) and non-white residents were more likely than others to agree (43% v 39%). By 2007, all groups were markedly more likely to agree and these differences had been reduced to a non-significant level, 53% men, 51% of women, 52% of white and 53% non-white respondents.

Those car owners reporting a reduction in car use were asked what forms of transport they now use more. Buses (by 37%), walking (24%) and tubes (17%) were the most commonly mentioned. The increase in bus use is reflected in trends across London identified by Transport for London. Both the main train operators serving the borough have also seen continued growth in use. The figure for walking chimes with the findings from the resident's survey that a significant proportion of residents now feel it is safer and more pleasurable to walk and cycle. Broadly, the pattern of switches follows that found in 2005 except in relation to cycling; in 2005, 12% had switched to cycling but this fell to 5% in 2007. This may be a reflection of the different reasons now given for reducing car use.

A key finding from the consultation on the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) was that the aims of the council's transport strategy were very strongly

supported. Of those expressing a preference, 89% supported the council's strategy.

The findings show strong support for public transport improvements and the need to reduce traffic speeds. However, softer measures such as 20 mph zones, home zones signage and travel awareness programmes were preferred to the introduction of physical measures.

HOW WELL ARE WE PERFORMING?

The proportion of households in the Borough with no car or van has decreased significantly from 53% in 1981 to 44% in 1991. In 2001 it decreased further to 41%. The 2007 Residents Survey showed that almost one in four (24%) had reduced their car use compared to a year ago, 20% by a little and 4% by a lot. This suggests that a combination of factors is continuing to influence drivers to consider the need for car journeys.

The Council has been active in encouraging walking, cycling and public transport in preference to the private car by promoting travel awareness campaigns, its school travel strategy, the development of green travel plans and introduction of car clubs.

Nevertheless road traffic congestion on the borough's highways remains a major issue. Roads carrying large volumes of traffic can be very intrusive, and are a danger to pedestrians and cyclists, particularly in town and local centres and where they cut across neighbourhoods. Traffic congestion was one of the most prominent issues to come out of consultation on the LDF. As well as causing travel delays, it produces air pollution. As such it is a hazard to health as well as being a contributor to global warming.

A total of 980 million vehicle kilometres are travelled on Wandsworth's roads per annum (2005), the highest of any central London Borough. The Mayor's Transport Strategy proposes zero growth in traffic across inner London and town centres (Proposal 4G.Pr12). Traffic volumes in Wandsworth rose by approximately 2.5% between 1993 and 2002 but were relatively stable during the latter half of this period. There has been a 3.5% fall in traffic between 2002 and 2005 but the overall amount of traffic remains very high.

Most of the major roads suffer from traffic congestion, delays and accidents. The most seriously affected roads are the A205 (South Circular), the A3 (particularly where it coincides with the South Circular through Wandsworth Town Centre), the A3205 and the A24. Traffic congestion problems are no longer confined to peak hours and many roads, particularly the South Circular, suffer from congestion throughout the day and at weekends. Wandsworth, Putney and Chelsea Bridges are among the busiest Thames crossings for the a.m. peak period (0700-0930), with Putney Bridge carrying the sixth highest flow (DETR 1996).

The Borough has a significant network of bus routes and has seen an increase in bus patronage over recent years and is a trend that is expected to continue into the future. Buses offer a high degree of flexibility and can move

high volumes of people efficiently. However, they also suffer from the congestion on the road network and can become unreliable and consequently less attractive.

The Borough's underground and overground stations do offer a high capacity rail service, which primarily serves Central London. However, many of these services are operating at capacity in the peak periods and measures are required to increase capacity to meet both existing and future predicted demand.

Road safety

The latest records we have for road safety in Wandsworth are for 2006 when 905 people were reported injured: 7 died, 127 were seriously injured and a further 771 were slightly injured.

There were 76 fewer injuries and deaths in 2006 than 2005. The Council is working towards National and London road safety targets (published in 2000), to reduce crashes and injuries, by 2010 from the 1994-1998 average. The number of people killed or injured on Wandsworth's roads since 2000 has reduced from 1460 to 905 which is a reduction of 38%.

In line with the Mayor's targets, the Council's road safety priorities are to target the most vulnerable road users who, if involved in an incident are likely to suffer serious or long term injury: pedestrians; cyclists; children; and mopeds and motorbike riders and passengers

School travel plans

Best practice also indicates that changes in travel patterns are most likely to be achieved if healthy, safe and sustainable travel becomes entrenched in the school's culture. Therefore, individual schools are encouraged to develop their own school travel plans. A school travel plan is a document setting out a package of measures for reducing the number of car trips made to a school and for improving safety on the school journey. Increasingly, a school travel plan is a requirement of planning permission or a pre-requisite for implementing engineering measures near schools. Over the last 20 years the national patterns of how children and young people travel to and from school have changed dramatically. The proportion walking and cycling to school has been falling, and the proportion being driven has been rising.

Nationally, among children attending primary school (5 – 10 years old) the level of walking dropped from 67% in 1985/6 to 54% in 1999/2001. The corresponding level of car use for the journey to school rose from 27% to 39%. In the same period, among 11 – 16 year olds, the level of walking dropped from 52% to 43% and car use increased from 10% to 18%. Following extensive work through the School Travel Strategy, the number of school children (primary and secondary) travelling to school by car was reduced to 28%, which was the target set for the LPSA. This will require ongoing activity as the school population is constantly changing.

The percentage of schools with an approved School Travel Plan is 64% at the end of 2007/8, with a target of 100% for 2009/10

Road conditions

The condition of the road network is based on SCANNER data used to assess the proportion of main roads that require structural maintenance. The council has traditionally had a very small proportion of road that was identified for works, but between 2005/6 and 2006/7 there was an increase in the proportion of roads requiring attention. As a result a larger funding application has been made to TfL to address this situation.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Transport issues affect not just Wandsworth but the wider London region. A Transport for London (TfL) report (Transport 2025) forecasts a 40 per cent surge in demand for public transport by 2025. This is equivalent to an extra four million journeys a day. In the same period London's population will grow by 800,000 – equivalent to a city the size of Leeds – and a growth in jobs by 900,000

The strategic radial routes that start to converge in Wandsworth and the other routes that cross the Thames offer good accessibility. However, the public transport infrastructure, particularly the rail and underground networks, is struggling to cope. The predicted population increase in London together with the predicted sharp rise in jobs in inner London will exacerbate this problem. This is a regional problem and investment in public transport is a matter for regional and central Government.

The Council actively supports large scale investment in public transport and this is a key objective in the Local Implementation Plan and a policy in the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy promotes regeneration opportunities in locations where public transport can address additional travel requirements.

As the effects of climate change are likely to become more significant, measures will need to be taken to mitigate these effects and reduce the use of fossil fuels. In addition, we will need to ensure that there is a sustainable relationship between development of the borough and transport so as to minimise the need to travel.

The LDF therefore contains a range of action including promoting the need for robust travel plans for all major developments and the provision of car clubs within new and existing residential developments.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WANDSWORTH?

Vision (draft from LDF and LIP)

The WLSP wants to see a transport system that is safe and efficient and has proper respect for the environment. Central to the strategy is the belief that the key to solving London's transport problems lies in:

- integrating, improving and expanding public transport facilities;

- restraining non-essential vehicular traffic through demand management; and
- reducing dependence on the car and encouraging a shift to more environmentally friendly modes of transport.

The WLSP acknowledges that there is a balance to be struck between the needs and desires of different transport users. It also recognises the importance of minimising and reducing the impact of traffic while still facilitating economic growth and regeneration. The council's own transport strategy aims to minimise adverse environmental effects of transport, and to improve the environment where possible.

Within London, there is a clear priority given to schemes addressing East London and the Thames Gateway, strengthened by the need to have adequate transport for the Olympics in 2012. The Council, alongside the South London Partnership is promoting a package of improvements that will address the existing and predicted transport needs of South London.

Priorities

The Council's Transport Strategy's core aims look to promote sustainable development through planning and resource management and to tackle climate change through sustainable transport:

- supporting large-scale investment in public transport
- opposing large-scale road building as unsustainable;
- developing walking, cycling and public transport as viable and safe alternatives to the private car;
- making the best use of the transport infrastructure by effective maintenance and management;
- maintaining and improving the efficient movement of all traffic, including pedestrians;
- maintaining and improving accessibility to the transport system for everyone;
- improving road safety.
- reducing the need for travel through greater travel awareness and use of local services and facilities;
- providing effective and enhanced enforcement of traffic and parking restrictions;
- facilitating effective and sustainable economic growth and regeneration;

Specific long-term plans:

- Working with TfL, the rail industry and private development partners to develop Clapham Junction Station as a major transport interchange, fit for the twenty-first century through improvements to the station including a new entrance in St John's Hill, lifts to the platforms and improved bus/rail interchange facilities.
- Supporting major transport infrastructure schemes like Crossrail 2, which was previously known as the Chelsea-Hackney line, and would link SW London with NE London and have a route via Clapham Junction.

- East London Line Extension Phase 2, The first phase of the East London extension will provide a link to Croydon and open in 2010. The second phase would make it possible for commuters from Clapham Junction to get to Canary Wharf with just one change at Canada Water.
- The Airtrack project would provide a direct link from Waterloo via Clapham Junction to Heathrow Airport. The council would also want a stop at Putney.
- Tramlink extensions to the Tooting area and consideration of how either a new Cross River Tram or City tram proposal could provide a link to the developing Vauxhall and Nine Elms Opportunity Area.
- 10-car trains on commuter services with associated platform lengthening at all stations within the borough.
- The ability to use Oyster pre-pay on all rail services in London.
- The use of Waterloo International to provide additional capacity for suburban rail services.
- Station improvements to provide improved passenger facilities and accessibility.
- Reducing the impact of through traffic in Wandsworth High Street so it becomes an attractive place for pedestrians to enjoy.

UNDERPINNING PLANS.

Local Implementation Plan 2007 - 2011

Local Development Framework: core strategy

Environmental Action Plan

BUILDING A PROSPEROUS AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY

CULTURE IN WANDSWORTH.

Taking part in cultural and leisure activities is a key ingredient for a happy and fulfilled life for many people. Participating and engaging with sport and all aspects of the arts; drawing on the resources in libraries; appreciating the history and heritage of the borough and its residents; enjoying the many open spaces and relaxing in the five town centres are all worthwhile and valuable in their own right. Together they shape the character of the borough's communities and can play a significant role in making it safe, healthy, prosperous and sustainable. Parks and open spaces for instance are one of the main reasons given by residents who consider Wandsworth a good place to live, whilst the vast range of opportunities in central London are readily accessible.

Heritage

Wandsworth has a rich historical heritage which is not always readily appreciated by people moving into the borough. The Heritage Service promotes a sense of place and belonging to the borough, and encourages residents to gain an understanding of the heritage of local people from other cultures. Every library displays information on the area's history and has a large overhead computer screen showing a diverse programme of Council and local information, with current news, historical photographs and images. A new Wandsworth museum run by a charitable company backed by a local friends group is expected to open in 2008/9. A 'Green Plaque' scheme is being introduced which will identify people and places of local historical importance. This will enhance the interpretation of the Borough's built heritage, which is conserved through 45 Conservation Areas and the protection of buildings of architectural and historic interest.

The African Caribbean and Asian Libraries at Clapham Junction and Tooting respectively make important contribution to understanding the heritage of several on the borough's newer communities.

Arts

The main performing arts venue in the borough is BAC in Clapham Junction, providing theatre shows within three spaces and a venue for hire at the back of the building. Theatre503 is a small producing theatre with a strong track record in Battersea, the recently open Tara Studio is at Earlsfield in the centre of the borough, and The Bedford has a mix of cabaret, music and touring theatre programming in Balham. Putney Arts Theatre is a dedicated amateur theatre venue used by the resident company and hired by other theatre groups throughout the year. There are two multi-screen cinema complexes in the borough at Putney and Wandsworth town centres. St Mary's Church, Putney, and St Luke's Church, Balham, have regular classical concerts attended by audiences of over 200 per performance, Court Sessions, a traditional folk group, perform in Tooting and there are more than 20 small professional music venues across the borough, like Brooks Blues Bar in Roehampton, Halo in Battersea, The County Arms in Wandsworth Common and the Half Moon in Putney. Comedy and cabaret is presented by Jongleurs

in Battersea, the Bedford in Balham and several small cafes and bars. The Pump House Gallery is a contemporary visual arts space in Battersea Park, the De Morgan Centre has a permanent display and temporary gallery in Wandsworth, and there are more than 20 professional galleries across the borough, including the Barbara Stanley Gallery, John Bloxham gallery, the Russell Gallery and the Wyer Gallery.

Professional development and training opportunities for residents in the borough in the performing arts at ALRA at Wandsworth Common, National Opera Studio in Wandsworth, South Thames College and Roehampton University, and the visual arts at the Royal Academy of Art, Putney School of Art and Design and South Thames College. Small and micro businesses in the creative industries benefit from local business units supported by the Council, and in the borough Wimbledon Arts Studios and Westcote Mews Studios both provide high quality dedicated space for more than 200 professional artists.

The Council through provides directly services like tea dances and variety shows for older people, the Young Performer of the Year competition, Open Studios project involving 150 local visual artists and the Wandsworth Photographic Competition, and partners with local groups on festivals, such as the Wandle Festival, the Furzedown Festival and the Wandsworth Arts Festival. The Council supports local amateur groups like Group 64, a youth theatre at Putney Arts Theatre, the Wandsworth Symphony Orchestra and Gforce who provide street dance classes. The borough benefits from initiatives supported through the town centre scheme, like the Putney Music Festival and the SW11 Literary Festival. The Film Office provides support to local filmmakers through a training grant scheme, services directory, extras listing and location management sourcing and licensing. The Events Team assist in putting on outdoor events in parks and open spaces. The Music Service provides a peripatetic teaching service and runs two very active centres in the borough.

The Council has a published Arts Strategy and participates in both the Central London Arts Partnership and the South London Arts Partnership, recognising the links with areas.

Town Centre Partnerships

Town Centre Partnerships have been increasingly active in promoting cultural activities within town centres, notable successes being the SW11 Literary Festival, the Putney Music Festival over the weekend of the University Boat Race and the Chariot Festival in Tooting and associated 'Discover Tooting' event.

Extended Schools

The introduction of the Extended Schools programme will give all children of school age the opportunity to take part for at least 2 hours per week in a varied programme of activities including music, drama and sport. A Borough-wide Play Strategy was adopted in 2007 with the vision for "...children and young people in Wandsworth to achieve their full potential and enjoy a

healthy, safe, stable and happy life. In addition, we want them to be active citizens who take responsibility for their actions and who respect others. To help achieve this we want to deliver accessible, responsive and integrated services of a high quality. There should also be well-targeted early intervention and support for all those that need it.” The School Music Service has expanded to provide two Junior Centres for Young Musicians and a Senior Centre for secondary school aged young people.

Libraries

The eleven libraries in the Borough provide a welcoming community space with access to a wide range of up to date books and reading support, information and online services. Activities include reading groups, some of which are for minority groups; Bookstart packs for children when they are babies, under 2 and under 3; the Summer Reading Challenge and the Super Library Reading Challenge; Storytime for young children; learning activities for children and for adults who lack level 2 qualifications. The Home Delivery Service serves those unable to visit a library and the African Caribbean Library at Battersea and the Asian Community Library at Tooting serve particular communities in the borough.

The Council has modernised eight of its libraries since 1990, with further investment of £4.4 million planned for 2008/09. This will improve the Borough’s busiest library in Tooting in 2008/9, supported by funding from the Big Lottery Fund, and will provide a new Wandsworth Town Library, due to open in 2009 in the former Court House, Garratt Lane SW18 (Fairfield) to replace West Hill and Alvering Libraries. There will then be a library in each of the five town centres, complemented by libraries in local centres and other areas, acting as community centred hubs for the local area.

Parks

Wandsworth boasts many beautiful parks and open spaces enjoyed by its residents. Within the borough, 670 hectares (1600 acres) is covered by parks, commons, allotments, and cemetery land - the largest proportion for any inner London authority. Much of this land is managed by the highly regarded Parks Service. Open space is however concentrated in the western side of the borough and parts of Tooting are poorly served by local open space.

A Parks Management Strategy was adopted in April 2005 and detailed management plans are being prepared for open spaces throughout the borough involving local residents and special interest groups. Furzedown Recreation Ground has been redeveloped in line with landscape plans drawn up by the local community, a link that continues with their involvement in the day to day management of the open space. This was the first such redevelopment and it now serves as the model for current and future management plans. In addition there are long established Management Advisory Committees for Wandsworth and Tooting Commons and the partnership with the Friends of Battersea Park.

The Parks Service is also responsible for the provision and management of the boroughs allotments. There are currently in excess of 500 individual plots

located on 10 allotment sites around the borough. We estimate that the current plots provide opportunities for at least 1000 local residents to enjoy the benefits of home produced fruit and vegetables, healthy outdoor exercise and social interaction with other plot holders who truly represent the borough's great diversity. Currently there are approximately 1000 local residents on the waiting list for allotments and the Service is constantly looking for ways to increase the provision of allotments.

Sports

As a borough, Wandsworth benefits from a wide range of accessible and high quality facilities for sport, physical activity and recreation. Located across the Borough the Council provides residents with four Leisure Centres, five sport and recreation centres, two athletics tracks, a boathouse and the unique Tooting Bec Lido (which at 90 metres in length is the largest fresh water pool in Europe). A £6.2m improvement programme, including a renewed centre in Roehampton, was completed in 2007. Together with an extensive range of sports pitches and tennis courts within the Borough's parks and open spaces, the Lawn Tennis Association's National Tennis Centre at Roehampton and a good variety of private fitness opportunities, the borough is in a strong position to raise participation and support pathways to sporting excellence.

As part of the borough's School Sport Partnerships the facilities at Wandsworth's two specialist sports colleges (Ernest Bevin College and Southfields Community College) have benefited from extensive investment and development thanks to Big Lottery Funding. Plans to develop facilities at Barn Elms, Tooting Triangle site and at Falcon Park are all under discussion to extend sports facilities.

Working to the Sports Strategy, which reflects priorities identified in other national, regional and local plans and strategies, a wide range of the partnership work undertaken across the borough targets the needs of priority groups. These groups have been identified by Sport England as key in meeting the national target (also applied to Wandsworth on an individual borough level) of raising participation in sport and physical activity by 1% year on year. Related to the target group of children and young people, the School Sport Partnership does extensive work in helping teachers to gain the skills they need for developing PE and school sport, the partnership also develops and works with clubs, National Governing Bodies of Sport and Wandsworth Sports Development to provide a range of activities outside of curriculum provision.

To ensure that young people have the competition opportunities essential to the development pathways into elite sport, the Borough has a strong involvement in the London Youth Games coming in 5th place and winning the Inner London Borough Trophy in 2007. With a full time Club and Coach Development Officer and growing links with the Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency, partnerships across the borough work to develop community sport provision through sports clubs, coaches and volunteers. . The role of the Council's Sports Development Officer – People with Disabilities is to further the accessibility of provision in the borough, identifying

need and gaps in provision through the likes of taster sessions held as part of the London Development Agency's Winter of Sport (feeding into a new Paralympic specific sports club) and the growing national participation in Panathlon events.

Health and Physical Activity.

Sitting hand in hand with the borough's success in raising participation in sport are extensive activities designed to promote healthy lifestyles through physical activity and recreation. For young people the MEND programme (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do it!) targets childhood obesity among children aged 8-14 is delivered by the borough's Physical Activity Co-ordinator – Young People. Looking at the 45+ target group, the Council has successfully relaunched the Active Lifestyles 50+ programme which provides a variety of activities around the borough such as specially designed exercise classes and walking groups in the borough's parks and open spaces. Membership of the programme has grown to over 2500 individuals meaning that the borough successfully met the target set out in its Local Public Service Agreement 2, securing Performance Reward Grant funding allowing activity to be extended for a further 3 years. This provision is coordinated with the work of the local Primary Care Trust around the frail elderly and falls prevention. The PCT also leads on provision for cardiac rehab patients and GP Referrals of individuals whose condition will be improved by moderate exercise utilising the facilities available within the Leisure Centres and the other sports facilities run by the Council. Within the voluntary sector, partners such as Age Concern Wandsworth, Careline and Adult Social Services work to deliver physical activity opportunities within residential care and community group settings.

The combination of the extensive projects around sport and physical activity within the borough, together with the work of the Wandsworth Sport and Physical Activity Network, the Council's corporate communications team and all partners in raising awareness of the importance of sport and physical activity has helped the borough to achieve the 3rd highest rate of participation in London for sport and physical activity. The indicator measures the percentage of the borough's residents over the age of 16 who undertake 3x30 minutes of sport and physical activity on a weekly basis. Measured annually the borough's score of 27% of residents achieving this level of participation has been set the target of rising by 1% year on year.

Allotments provide opportunities for residents to remain healthy through physical activity, in particular providing opportunities to many who do not wish, or unable, to participate in more traditional sporting activities.

WHAT DO OUR RESIDENTS THINK?

When asked what most needed improvement locally, the aspects of culture listed in the residents survey were accorded the following priorities within the 21 points listed: -

- Cultural facilities (9th -16% of respondents)
- Sports and leisure facilities (12th –9 % of respondents)
- Parks and Open Spaces (19th - 9% of respondents)
- Access to nature (21st – 5 % of respondents)

The importance accorded to Parks and Open Spaces, taken with their low priority for improvement is in line with BVPI 119e that 90% of residents are satisfied with Parks and Open Spaces. The challenge here is to maintain the quality in line with expectations. The need to improve Activities for Teenagers was ranked 6th with 26% of respondents identifying this as in need of improvement.

69% of residents stated that they were satisfied with Wandsworth's sports services as part of the National Sport England Active People survey.

HOW WELL ARE WE PERFORMING?

The culture service assessment has been assessed as three stars; performing well, consistently above minimum requirements.

Libraries

2.7 million visits were made to Wandsworth Libraries in 2006/07, which is equal to almost 10 visits a year by every resident, compared to the London average of 7.5 library visits per resident.

Every resident under 14 borrowed an average of 18.3 books each in 2006/07, the highest across London, and 8% more children's books were borrowed from the Borough's libraries than from any other borough. Regular book borrowing by under 4s increased by 4% in 2006/07.

The number of over 60s learning new IT skills in libraries increased by 33% over the last two years to 250 in 2007/08. The number of over 60s borrowing books on four or more occasions each year increased by 1.6% in 2006/07, despite the decrease in this section of the population.

There are number of performance indicators where the library service achieves the upper threshold:

- C2 Public library service standards on access – PLSS 1, 2 & 6
- C3 Public library service standards on ICT provision – PLSS 3 & 4
- C11 Public library service standards on stock – PLSS 5, 9 & 10
- C13 Cost per visit (libraries)
- C14a Public library service standards on satisfaction – assessment of users 16 and over of their library service

Sport

The number of over 50s visiting a leisure centre increased by 35% over the last year. Over the same period the number of individuals registered on the Council's 50+ database went up by 17% in the last year's to its level at approximately 2500.

The percentage of children and young people aged 5-16 meeting the government's target of undertaking 2 or more hours of high quality PE and school sport on a weekly basis currently stands at 89%.

27% of residents undertake 3x30 minutes of moderate sport or physical activity on a weekly basis, which is above the London average of 21%. The 3rd highest score in London (Active Peoples Survey)

The Active People survey also demonstrated that Wandsworth had the highest rate of participation of residents with a disability in the same target within London at 17% (London average 9%).

In 2007 the Borough's Choice and Opportunity Score (measuring the percentage of residents living within a 20 minute walk of 3 or more leisure and sport facilities, of which at least one has a quality accreditation) rose from 54% to 80% largely due to the excellent work of the Leisure Centres in achieving the Quest quality standard for leisure and sport.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Olympics.

The decision to hold the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London in 2012 with the complementary Cultural Olympiad is likely to provide some opportunities within the Borough although potentially greater access to sports facilities across London. Wandsworth Advisory Group for the London Olympic Games (WAGLOG) has been established to co-ordinate a local programme of activities to maximise the legacy for Borough residents from this unique once in a lifetime event. Seven facilities in the borough have been included in the Pre Games Training Camp Guide and the Council will make determined efforts to attract and host teams from participating countries in conjunction with Roehampton University and St George's Hospital.

Major Developments.

New cultural facilities, including a multi screen cinema and gym, have been provided as part of the renewal of the Southside Centre in Wandsworth. Future major developments where opportunities will arise for enhancing cultural facilities in the Borough include the former Ram Brewery in central Wandsworth, Nine Elms including Battersea Power Station, Springfield Hospital, Clapham Junction and the centre of Roehampton. The increased population arising from new developments will result in higher demand for leisure and cultural activities and put pressure on existing facilities.

Wandle Valley Regional Park.

The Wandle Forum, which includes representation from the Council and other Borough organisations, is developing proposals with three other boroughs for a new regional park which will unlock the full potential of the Wandle Valley to contribute to the wellbeing of local people.

Role of Voluntary Agencies.

Several cultural facilities are now run by voluntary agencies or private companies rather than the Council, including BAC, the Nature Study Centre and Battersea Park Zoo. BAC is being granted a long lease on the Battersea Arts Centre as part of a move to the organisation requiring less support from the Council and, if current negotiations are completed successfully an independent trust will run Wandsworth Museum. There may be further scope

for the Council to act in an enabling role in the provision of cultural facilities and services for the benefit of the community.

Relationship with Central London

Residents of Wandsworth have ready access to the Theatres and Concert Halls, Museums and Galleries in central London, many of which are world class. With the possible exception of the Battersea Power Station site, facilities in Wandsworth will complement rather than compete with these by mainly providing opportunities for local people to participate and engage in cultural and leisure activities. Similarly the borough will not seek to compete with the established tourist venues in central London at the expense of facilities for local people.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WANDSWORTH?

Vision

'Our vision is for everyone to have the opportunity to participate in a variety of cultural activities which will increase their well being; promote community engagement and cohesion through an appreciation of Wandsworth's diversity, and; foster a sense of place and belonging within the borough.'

Priorities

- Establish a Cultural Partnership for the borough, to complement the Wandsworth Sport and Physical Activity Network, charged with the task of carrying forward a revised Cultural Strategy.
- Develop a successful library in Wandsworth town centre by converting a Grade 2 listed building to a new public use and by positively engaging the local community
- Complete the redevelopment of Tooting Library with funding from the Community Libraries lottery programme and support through the community engagement process
- Establish BAC as a sustainable centre for the performing arts serving inner south west London and beyond.
- Achieve the national target for participation in sport and physical activity of three times 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport or physical activity per week by a year on year increase of 1%. Particular emphasis needs to be placed on programmes and activities that will benefit the identified priority groups of children and young people, adults over the age of 45, people with a disability, women and Black and Minority Ethnic groups.
- Ensure that each child and young person has the opportunity to participate in 5 hours of varied and engaging cultural activity each week
- Maximise engagement with the opportunities arising from the Cultural Olympiad and Olympic Games, including a legacy of improved facilities and raised levels of engagement and participation.
- Further development of cultural activities in the Council's strategies and action plans for disadvantaged groups – including services for older people and people with disabilities and mental health issues.
- Develop a sustainable Museum for the Borough

- Maximise investment in cultural and leisure facilities and programmes from all available sources, including through development and partnerships with regional agencies for sport and the arts.

UNDERPINNING PLANS

Cultural Strategy

Annual Library Plan

Heritage Strategy

Arts Strategy

Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

Parks Management Strategy

Town Centre Partnership Business Plans

WANDSWORTH'S ECONOMY

Wandsworth used to be one of London's more deprived boroughs. However over the last 10 years there has been a major transformation in Wandsworth's economy. Wandsworth is now a relatively prosperous London borough with overall high rates of business formation, relatively high levels of employment, highly qualified residents working highly skilled and well-paid professions. However, there are still significant pockets of deprivation (predominantly in Roehampton, Battersea and Tooting).

Economic activity is concentrated in east Battersea and Nine Elms, the Wandle Valley and in the Borough's five town centres. Economic inactivity is concentrated in Battersea, Roehampton and Tooting.

Town Centres

Wandsworth is particularly fortunate in having five town centres (Balham, Clapham Junction, Putney, Tooting and Wandsworth). These are well served by public transport and provide a wide range of choice in shopping readily accessible to people living and working in the Borough. They are also key locations for recreation, leisure and entertainment activities as well as other employment uses and a variety of service functions. The five town centres are the preferred locations for large-scale retail developments.

No one town centre has been given a leading role rather all five have separate strategies building on their individual strengths and addressing their weaknesses. Each town centre has its own Town Centre Partnership, involving public, private and voluntary sectors, and individual Business Plans to enhance and sustain the vitality and viability of each centre. The Town Centres form an important part of the regeneration strategy for the Borough. Wandsworth Town Centre in particular has been subject to a major regeneration initiative through the former Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) programme. Alongside the town centres there are 8 local centres and 25 Important Local Parades.

The policy of supporting and promoting each of the 5 Town Centres, 8 Local Centres and 25 Important Local Parades has been pursued successfully for over 25 years. The policy is in line with Government guidance and policies in the London Plan. It is a central plank of the spatial vision and strategy of the Local Development Framework's Core Strategy, and has been supported strongly in consultations and by the Sustainability Appraisal.

Business

The structure, location and size of business and industry in Wandsworth has changed radically over the last thirty years. Heavy industry and utilities have left the Thames riverside. Manufacturing has also largely disappeared, replaced by logistics, catering, financial and other business services.

The sectors with the largest number of employees in Wandsworth are now found in the Distribution, Retail, Hotel and Restaurant and the Banking, Finance and Insurance sectors. In 2005, these sectors accounted for 48% of employees in Wandsworth. The Health and Social Care work sector is also a large employer, employing 16% of people who worked in Wandsworth in

2005. There are also a significant number of media and creative companies being based in Wandsworth.

According to VAT registrations in 2006 there were 11,090 VAT registered businesses in Wandsworth. This included 1,370 new businesses, which had formed during the year.

The total number of workplaces in Wandsworth in 2005 stood at 14,000, an increase on the previous year. The majority of businesses employ 10 or less people. In 2005 businesses employing 10 or less employees accounted for 90% of all Wandsworth businesses, whilst a further 8% employed between 11-49 employees.

At the end of 2006/07 there was a total 1,612,000 m² commercial, industrial and retail floorspace in Wandsworth. The 'A' use class (retail shops and services, restaurants, cafes and bars) accounted for the largest amount of floorspace available in the Borough. Commercial and retail property vacancy rates were amongst the lowest in London. As at 31st March 2007 schemes in the development pipeline could potentially provide a further 194,296 m² (gross) commercial floorspace. Schemes in the planning pipeline where existing commercial floorspace could potentially be lost totaled 108,558 m². Therefore the net gain in commercial floorspace, if all schemes were implemented would be 85,738 m².

Employment.

For 2006/07 the economically active population in Wandsworth was estimated to be 152,500 (78.7% of the working age population). Of the economically active population 144,500 were in employment with the remainder looking for employment. This means that 74.4% of the working age population were in employment, which is above the London average of 69.4%. Wandsworth has a high rate of self-employment at 13.5%; higher than both the regional and national averages (10.6% and 9.3% respectively).

In March 2008 the total number of Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) claimants in Wandsworth was 3,745, which equates to 1.8% of the working age population. This is below the London average of 2.6%. The total number of working age key benefit claimants was 21,300, which equates to 10.4% of the working age population. This is also below the London average of 14.4%. When the type of claimant is analysed the largest percentage were claiming Incapacity Benefit (4.7% of the working age population), which mirrors the London-wide picture.

An overall improvement in unemployment in the Borough masks some worrying trends. Research by the Council has shown that a higher proportion (than London and nationally) of those on JSA are also aged over 50 and unemployed for over 12 months. In addition, whilst the JSA claimant count has decreased, the proportion of people claiming other benefits, such as Incapacity Benefit, is increasing. Unemployment in the Borough's most deprived wards has also worsened in comparison with the Borough's overall unemployment position.

The majority of people in employment (69.2%) were engaged as managers and senior officials, in professional occupations or associate professional and technical occupations. This is above the London average of 52.3%. The

second highest source of employment was administrative, secretarial and skilled trades, which accounted for 13.8%, below the London average of 20.4%. 29% of Wandsworth's working residents work in the Borough with a further 46% working in other central London boroughs.

In terms of qualifications the Office of National Statistics (ONS) annual population survey showed that 70.5% were qualified to NVQ level 2 or above. Although this is above the London average of 60.9% it still means that 29.5% of residents are not qualified to NVQ Level 2, which is equivalent to 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C, intermediate GNVQ, NVQ 2 or equivalent.

In terms of earnings the ONS annual survey of hours and earnings found for full time workers living in Wandsworth the gross weekly pay was £613.30, which is above the London average of £553.30.

Analysis of unemployment rates by ethnicity, as recorded in the 2001 Census, showed that unemployment rates were highest for Black or Black British ethnic groups in Wandsworth. When this was examined further, it highlighted that in Wandsworth there was a disproportionately high number of Black Caribbean young men who were unemployed. Data showed that, whilst in some boroughs high unemployment rates amongst young men usually translated into high unemployment rates amongst young men of Caribbean heritage in a small number of boroughs, there is a disproportionate relationship. This was the case with Wandsworth which at the time of the Census was 13th in terms of unemployment rates amongst young men overall but the 6th highest for young men of Caribbean heritage. As a result, the Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership (WLSP) set up a sub-group to identify the potential drivers behind this and actions to be implemented.

Regeneration.

Although there are three super output areas (SOAs) in Wandsworth in the 20% most deprived on each of the three deprivation indicators (Income, living environment and crime and disorder) the Borough is not eligible for funding under the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, which replaces the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, and incorporates the Jobcentre plus' Deprived Areas Fund.

Tooting, Battersea and Roehampton are the borough's "priority neighbourhoods" and have been subject to specific and targeted action to reduce inequalities as part of the former SRB Programmes, Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, and Priority Area Overview.

The Council and its partners continue to seek funding from central and regional Government agencies and the European Union (EU) to support economic development and regeneration in the Borough. The priorities for funding are to:-

- provide support into employment for young black men of Caribbean Heritage and address worklessness;
- continue the entrepreneurship work to encourage the creation and growth of more small firms;

- provide support into employment for those who are out of work, especially those living in the most deprived wards of Latchmere, Queenstown, Tooting and Roehampton;
- provide support to training and recruitment into those jobs employers are seeking generally and at the major development sites in the Borough such as the Battersea Power Station site, SW8 (Queenstown);
- develop and sustain the older industrial areas of the Borough, such as Stewarts Road, SW8 (Queenstown) and Garratt Business Park, SW17 (Earlsfield) and provide new employment creating space in Roehampton;
- provide long-term regeneration funding for the Borough, especially the deprived wards of Latchmere, Queenstown and Roehampton, from the private sector as an alternative to Government funds.

In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to secure significant funds to meet the challenges.

The Council and its partners have completed three major comprehensive regeneration programmes in Wandsworth Town Centre, East Battersea and Tooting. These programmes were supported by over £30 million of funds through the former SRB programme.

The Wandsworth town centre SRB Programme was very successful. There is now estimated to be about £1 billion worth of private development taking place or planned in and around Wandsworth Town Centre.

In 1997, the Council and its strategic partners established the East Battersea Powerhouse Partnership Board to oversee a seven-year SRB programme worth about £2.5m (plus £2.6m non SRB funds). The Regeneration Programme was designed to prepare local people and businesses so that they could benefit from the opportunities generated by the Battersea Power Station development. The Programme was successful in spending the allocated funds and was largely successful in meeting its output targets. At the end of the Programme, the Power Station Opportunity Board was set up to oversee the implementation of the Section 106 Agreement commitments. In late 2006 the site was acquired by Real Estate Opportunity (REO), whose main shareholder is Treasury Holdings.

The Tooting Young People Agents for Change partnership completed the SRB funded regeneration programme in March 2007. This successful Programme contained a range of innovative projects. Overall the Programme helped to raise educational achievement levels; reduce the percentage of young people not in education, employment and training; increase usage of health, crime prevention, community safety, community and cultural initiatives; helped create new business and actively involved young people in decision-making and project implementation.

There is a strong correlation between localised deprivation and levels of enterprise; the higher the level of deprivation, the lower the level of business start-up. Therefore, one of the greatest impacts on regenerating the Borough's deprived areas will come from private investment. Private sector investment, through the expansion of the business base and through new investment in new property, has been a large factor in creating the current levels of

prosperity across most of the Borough. There is a long way to go, however, before all of the Borough benefits from the same levels of prosperity. It is therefore important that stronger efforts are made to attract private sector and other funds to address deprivation in the three priority areas.

The Borough also has one of the largest private sector led regeneration projects in the capital in Battersea Power Station. The proposed works here comprise of the restoration of the listed power station building and redevelopment of the surrounding land. Other large sites are expected to come forward for development in the Nine Elms Area, including New Covent Garden Market.

The WLSP is also supporting the large scale, ambitious regeneration of the centre of Roehampton, which is currently in its early stage of planning, following widespread public consultation. To be successful these plans will require private sector partners.

In addition, there are a multitude of other factors that also need to be tackled to further improve the situation in deprived areas including access to financial resources; dealing with the specific needs of ethnic minority communities who are more likely to live in deprived areas; and tackling unemployment, and supporting those on incapacity and other benefits.

WHAT DO OUR RESIDENTS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES THINK?

The 2007 Business Survey, conducted in December 2007 and January 2008, showed that business confidence in Wandsworth has declined slightly, dropping back to the level reported in 2004 with around one in three businesses expecting to expand in the next year or so. Confidence has declined in both the retail and non-retail sectors, and amongst businesses of all sizes, although retailers and small businesses remain the least optimistic about future growth.

Reflecting their reduced confidence, businesses in Wandsworth were more likely than in previous years to anticipate a need for more financial support and business advice over the next two years. This was particularly the case in the non-retail sector. Businesses were also more likely to be considering looking for different accommodation.

The predominant concerns of businesses in Wandsworth relate to two key issues - parking and business rates. The proportion of businesses concerned about parking issues has increased significantly since 2005, while business rates are now the primary concern of almost a quarter of businesses, many of whom feel their rates are too high and offer poor value for money.

The 2012 Olympic Games and the development of Battersea Power Station are both viewed positively overall by local businesses, with around one in four businesses anticipating a positive effect on their business as a result of each of these developments. However, the proportion of businesses feeling confident about the impact of the 2012 Olympic Games on their business has declined a little since 2006.

Congestion charging continues to be an issue for concern amongst local businesses, with only one in four local businesses feeling that congestion

charging has “worked” over the past year, and one in three believing that it has had a detrimental effect on their business.

Three in ten businesses surveyed (and four in ten retail businesses) claimed to have been a victim of business crime in the past year. Larger organisations are more likely to have experienced crime, but one in five small businesses also claimed to have been a victim of business crime. Burglary, anti-social behaviour, theft (by staff or other) and criminal damage are the types of crime most commonly experienced by businesses in Wandsworth.

Four out of ten businesses in Wandsworth believe that promoting their business as “environmentally friendly” would have a positive effect on growth over the next five years, and two thirds of businesses claim already to have taken steps to reduce the cost of energy, water or waste disposal to their business. Larger organisations appear to be at the forefront of the move towards reducing their environmental impact; they are more likely to anticipate a positive effect on business and more likely than smaller businesses to have implemented actions to reduce energy consumption and waste. The cost of implementing steps to reduce environmental impact, and a lack of information on how to do this are the primary obstacles to businesses taking more action. One in five businesses would appreciate help in identifying measures they could take.

In 2006 a survey of Wandsworth male Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) was conducted to identify the barriers they faced in terms of accessing employment. Alongside this a survey of local employers was conducted. A comparison of the findings of these two surveys showed that there is a mismatch between where young people are looking for jobs (Job Centres, via Connexions, local newspapers or approaching employers direct) and where local employers advertise their vacancies (websites, recruitment agencies, local press, word of mouth and Jobcentre Plus). The NEET survey highlighted that NEETs did not feel they faced any racial discrimination when applying for jobs, but did feel that they faced negative stereotypes about them as young people. Employers were asked what they thought the issues might be in relation to 16-24 year olds not being successful in finding a job. The most common answers were experience, motivation, attitude to work, literacy skills and timekeeping. Employers also referred to poor attitude, lack of enthusiasm/motivation/initiative, poor reliability/time-keeping, poor communication skills, and poor presentation.

HOW WELL ARE WE PERFORMING?

Analysis carried out during 2006/07 compared the Economic Development Office (EDO) and its impact with other boroughs and other similar agencies. This showed that Wandsworth’s economy, including its town centres, compares well with other Boroughs and that the EDO’s services also compare well to similar services in other comparable Boroughs. The Audit Commission’s Comprehensive Performance Assessment Value for Money Profile showed that Wandsworth has a low net expenditure on economic development compared to 15 ‘Nearest Neighbours’ councils and that its level of expenditure is commensurate with its level of deprivation. An independent survey by the Local Futures Group puts Wandsworth at number one in a

league table when comparing Wandsworth with ten other London Boroughs in terms of a range of economic indicators.

In 2006/07, through the funded programmes managed by the EDO, in partnership with local stakeholders, the following outputs were achieved:

- 146 new jobs created;
- £285,000 loans and grants to businesses;
- £2,017,000 private investment linked to projects;
- 447 people placed into work;
- 676 businesses supported.

Town Centres

The key performance indicators show that, overall, the Borough's five town centres continue to prosper. There has been a sustained growth in rental levels since 2000, ranging from a 25% increase in Putney to over 70% in Balham and Tooting and 166% in Wandsworth.

Wandsworth was identified as the best performing centre in London over the year to May 2006 and nationally over the five years to May 2006 by Colliers CRE. The Town Centre is thriving with record levels of high quality investment in residential, leisure and retail facilities throughout the town centre. Major investment in the former Arndale Shopping Centre, the Arndale Estate, the new Riverside Quarter and Hardwicks Quarter, together with further development of the niche high quality parade of Old York Road has transformed the town centre into a new retailing destination. Current projects underway include Southside North Mall, 127 to 129 Hardwicks Way, the Young's Brewery site, Wandsworth High Street and 20 to 30 Buckhold Road, Wandsworth Business Village, Wandsworth Riverside Quarter, Battersea Reach, Broomhill Road and the expansion of Wandsworth South Thames College. Other possible long term sites including Feathers Wharf, Hunts Trucks, Gasholder site, Homebase, B&Q and Wandsworth Bridge Roundabout. The private sector is investing £1 billion in the future of Wandsworth town centre. This quantum of development will generate a significant level of traffic and demand for public transport and put severe strain on the existing transport system.

A recent survey also ranked Tooting town centre as the fifth best performer in the UK with rental growth of 21.4 per cent in a year. The number of empty units is among the lowest in the borough. Rents today are around £85 per square foot compared to £50 in 2000. Tooting's residential population is changing, with an increasing number of young professionals choosing to make their home in the area. Footfall (always an indicator of success) remains high and even leads to pedestrian congestion. Nevertheless, action is required to enable major new stores and investors to take advantage of the new retail opportunities that are emerging in Tooting. Despite the closure of Marks and Spencer, there is every reason to be upbeat about Tooting's future.

There have also been a number of achievements implemented by the Council in partnership with the Clapham Junction Town Centre Partnership including the implementation of a £1 million townscape improvement programme in St

John's Road, a £225,000 programme of physical improvements under the Conservation Area Partnership programme, the expansion of Northcote Road Market and a new image and banner programme for Clapham Junction. In 2005, the Council agreed a 10-point plan for Clapham Junction. This plan proposed improvements to the railway station, to the range of rail services using the Station, to the quality of interchange with the town centre and to the town centre itself. Some of these improvements, and others lobbied for by the Council, have taken place or are now taking place, including improvements to South West Trains and West London Line services, oyster pre-pay being rolled out for rail services, the East London Line extension moving higher up the agenda, and Network Rail's provision of lifts and other accessibility improvements at the Station. The Council has also developed an 'exemplar' scheme for new and widened footways, more direct, convenient and safer road crossings, and better facilities for bus passengers and cyclists, centred on the main crossroads at Falcon Road, Lavender Hill, St. John's Road and St. John's Hill. This has received widespread public support. The Council is also in detailed pre-application discussions with a developer about a possible redevelopment of the station entrance and adjoining properties, which would, if approved and built, lead to significant improvements to the Station and a new retail offer for the town centre. A planning application is expected shortly.

Putney town centre has seen significant inward investment over recent years leading to improvements to the Exchange Shopping Centre; Putney Wharf and the adjacent Brewer Building next to St. Mary's church. The one mile long riverside Putney Sculpture Trail is now being constructed and the War Memorial was relocated into Church Square. Putney High Street is also being repaved.

Balham town centre has seen rapid changes over the last three years, seemingly triggered by investments in Balham's two main supermarkets. The number of quality convenience shops, multiples and independents has blossomed, along with a lively evening economy. The Council has invested heavily in improving Hildreth Mews and this has been followed by private investment in Hildreth Mews.

The target for overall vacancy rates for premises in town centres is 10%. The overall vacancy rate in 2006 was 6%, which is lower than the vacancy rate recorded in 2002 and 2004. Within the Core Shopping Frontages of town centres the target for the proportion of A1 retail units is 80% or above and within Town Centre Secondary Shopping Frontages the proportion should not fall below 60%. In 2006 both these targets were exceeded as the overall percentage of A1 retail units in the Town Centre Core Shopping Frontages was 84% and within Town Centre Secondary Shopping Frontages it was 62%.

49% of all new retail floorspace granted planning permission in 2006/07 was located within a town centre. At 31st March 2007 there were 30 retail developments under construction totalling 7,690 m². There is planning permission for 7,900 m² of retail space and proposals for a further 17,700 m² retail space in the pipeline.

Business

At the end of 2006 there were 11,090 VAT registered businesses in Wandsworth. Between 1996 and 2005 there was an increase of over 50% in the number of VAT registered businesses in the Borough.

In 2005, there were 1,370 new business start-ups (the second highest since 1994) and 885 business closures. Overall there are 625 businesses per 10,000 residents. The wards with the most VAT registered businesses are Thamesfield (810), Queenstown (775) and St. Mary's Park (756). The wards with the lowest number of businesses were Roehampton (165) and Furzedown (200).

Between September 2002 and March 2007 over 130 loans and grants under the Council's Town Centre Improvement Scheme were offered worth almost £1.6 million and leveraging in private investment of almost £11 million. These projects helped preserve 287 jobs and create 345 new jobs.

The Business Improvement Scheme was also introduced to help businesses based in Stewarts Road, SW8 (Queenstown) and Garratt Park, SW17 (Earlsfield) area. Since its inception in April 2006, four loan and grant offers totalling £67,905 have been approved for businesses in Garratt Business Park (including one BME) and these are expected to lead to the creation of 6 new employment opportunities and to £257,117 of private sector investment. This Scheme is being extended to New Covent Garden Market from 1st April 2008.

Employment

In 2007/08 the first meeting of the Wandsworth Employment and Skills Partnership was held to review the issues facing Wandsworth and agree a forward action plan. The data they reviewed is summarised in this section.

The number of residents claiming JSA fell from 4,779 (2.3% of the working age population) in January 2007 to 3,745 (1.8%) in March 2008. The work of the WLSP BME Scoping Group identified that the number of black residents aged 16-24 claiming JSA as % black residents aged 15-24 (based on average JSA claimant count over 12 months) also decreased from 11.48% year ending March 2007 to 9.38% year ending February 2008.

The number claiming a working age benefit also fell from 22,370 in May 2006 to 21,300 in May 2007. However, the percentage of people claiming benefits who have been out of work for more than a year rose from 18.8% in 2005/06 to 22.75% in 2006/07. Moreover, although the number claiming JSA reduced the numbers claiming incapacity benefit and lone parent support did not change significantly. The number of residents receiving incapacity benefit in May 2006 was 9,730 and was 9,520 in May 2007. The number of residents receiving lone parent support in May 2006 was 4,570 and was in 4,470 May 2007. The three wards with the highest percentage of working age residents on a key benefit were Roehampton, Latchmere and Queenstown.

Although JSA and claimant rates have decreased the overall employment rate in Wandsworth is a little below that of other boroughs and the rate of decrease of employment in the Borough is very much sharper than in other London boroughs.

For some groups, the trend in is even more marked. Wandsworth has the biggest drop in employment rate amongst the 35-49 age group anywhere in

the country. The trends in activity rates for various disadvantaged groups also show that those with qualifications below Level 2 have the lowest employment rate. There is also a slight downward trend in the unemployment rate of BMEs which is mirrored by the London and national picture but the gap is not closing in relation to other groups. The lowest employment rate is among the Pakistani/Bangladeshi community. Wandsworth also has the thirteen highest unemployment rate for young people in London.

Self-employment rates are increasing in Wandsworth from 7.5% of the economically active population in the 1991 Census to 12.6% in 2001. It has now risen to 15.4%.

Regeneration.

The Roehampton Regeneration Framework, comprising of 43 projects costing about £33m was agreed in 2004. The Framework aims to improve the look and feel of the Roehampton area; make Roehampton safer; integrate and link usage and access to facilities; improve access to the area; and maximise its ability to generate and sustain economic activity and trade. By the end of 2007, a significant number of the projects had been completed at a cost of almost £20 million. Roehampton has also seen the completion of a new hospital, major expansion of the University, new housing development on the east side of Roehampton Lane, investment at the Bank of England Sports Ground; the construction of the national centre of excellence for tennis and the creating of a new Children's Centre at 166 Roehampton Lane SWQ15 (Roehampton).

In January 2008 the refurbished Roehampton Recreation Centre was re-opened. This is part of the proposed plans for regenerating Roehampton. The refurbishment cost £1,800,000 and resulted in an increase of space from 540 m² to 1,200 m². The refurbishment has provided a new sports hall, new reception area, new changing rooms, a children's play area, multi purpose rooms, a dance studio and, for the first time, a fitness suite.

The Co-op in Roehampton has also recently spent over £200,000 refurbishing their store. The Council has approved a request from the leaseholder of units 53-57 Danebury Avenue, for Town Centre Improvement Scheme grant and loan totaling £30,000 towards overall costs of £275,000 to create a 280 m² supermarket and a grant and loan totaling £30,000 towards improvements and the installation of a much-needed Automated Telling Machine at the Post Office at 31a Danebury Avenue, SW15 (Roehampton).

The scale of activity in Battersea has inevitably decreased following the completion of the SRB Programme in March 2005. Nevertheless, a range of targeted initiatives were put in place to support local residents to capitalise on the Battersea Power Station regeneration project. These include the Peabody Digivan project which through outreach targets the most "hard to reach" and through intensive support has helped 66 people into work, as compared to a target of 75 by the end of 2007. At the heart of the regeneration of East Battersea is the 'Job Shop'. The Job Shop is the essential core Power Station Opportunity service and is a properly resourced job recruitment service delivered by the JCP. Since it opened, the Job Shop and training centre have helped over 770 people to get training (Construction Skills Certificated Skills)

and 292 to get a job in construction. Examples of other projects in Battersea include the on-site training centre at the Power Station, James Grove Regeneration Scheme, Dimson Lodge, Battersea Sure Start, Thrive Garden in Battersea Park, Sound Minds, Battersea Youth Sports Centre and Thessaly Community Project.

The key areas for continuing action for the Tooting regeneration area are addressing health issues through outreach; addressing the fear of crime and anti social disorder through targeted work with young people at risk of offending and those young people who have offended; and supporting unemployed young people into employment and ensuring they stay in employment.

The Council and its partners continue to seek external sources of funds to deliver priority projects. Projects which were implemented in 2007/08 include:

- Entrepreneurship – European Social Fund (ESF) funding 2004-2007 (£1,175,000)
- Cluster Action Teams – Funds from the London Development Agency 2006-2009 (£546,470)
- Society of London Manufacturers Estates Excellence 2008-2011 to support the development of south London business estates, including Garratt Business Park, SW17 (Earlsfield) (£500,000)
- Business Networking project in Wandsworth - funded by the LDA 2007-2009 (£80,000).

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Battersea Power Station is a celebrated international iconic building and significant regeneration opportunity. It is estimated that employment could total 3,000 people during construction and when the Battersea Power Station development opens, up to approximately 9,000 new jobs could be created. It is hoped that up to 20% of the jobs created will be filled by local residents living within 20 minutes walk or bus ride of the Power Station. Other major developments in the pipeline in the Battersea area, such as the New Covent Garden Market will help emphasise the importance of this area as having the biggest concentration of jobs in the Borough.

The expansion of Roehampton University and redevelopment of Queen Mary's Hospital offers an opportunity to regenerate Roehampton and making the area more attractive to non-local residents. More workspace for small businesses is required to grow the area's business base; an essential ingredient in the area's regeneration plan. Despite the efforts over the last 5 years and the obvious improvements that have taken place, the extent of Roehampton's deprivation has not improved.

Although all the town centres are thriving, they would all benefit from some degree of redevelopment, intensification and modernisation of floor space. For Balham, this means making better use of the land adjacent to the Station; in Clapham Junction, this means the new development at the Station and implementing the action plan for Northcote Road; for Putney, this means

looking for a new approach to Upper Richmond Road; for Tooting, this means looking to improve the area around Marks and Spencer's recently closed store and in Wandsworth, this means completing the refurbishment of the Southside Shopping Centre and securing the redevelopment of the Brewery site for mix of uses. In addition, Wandsworth Town Centre has a particular problem of the one-way system and the volume of traffic fragmenting the centre. The redevelopment opportunity provided by the closure of the Young's Brewery may offer opportunities to help address this.

With national planning policies appearing to be moving in favour of the big stores there is a risk that this will force many of the Borough's local independents shops, which are seen by many as one of the attractions of the Borough, to close or relocate. Support for out of town stores also poses a potential threat to our town centres, where there are a mix of large stores and smaller, independent shops. The growth in internet shopping could also undermine the retail sector

There is also a risk to the local services such as pharmacies and post offices, where current proposals out for consultation are proposing that in Wandsworth one in four local post offices may be closed.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WANDSWORTH?

Vision

The vision of the WLSP is "to build a prosperous and vibrant community with five distinct town centres, a wide range of opportunities for new and existing businesses and a successful regeneration programme tackling areas of inequality and worklessness"

Priorities

The WLSP's vision of building a prosperous and vibrant community will be achieved by the Council and partners:

- Helping encourage a viable and prosperous economy in Wandsworth, particularly with respect to small enterprises
- Working together to co-ordinate and deliver targeted regeneration programmes in our priority neighbourhoods (Queenstown, Latchmere, Roehampton and Tooting wards) to reduce poverty and economic and social exclusion. Outside these three priority areas, other pockets of deprivation, particularly in areas of social housing, will be addressed.
- Developing the skills and supporting the capacity of Wandsworth's adult workforce and improving opportunities for lifelong learning
- Working together to reduce worklessness in Wandsworth:.
- Extending the concept of the Job Shop to other (deprived) parts of the Borough by seeking contributions from developers through Section 106 (and any successor such as the Community Infrastructure Levy) Agreements to contribute towards the costs of Job Shops.
- Securing significant funds from the partners, stakeholders, private and public sectors to enable the above priorities to be implemented

Longer term plans

With the help of partners, particularly the private sector, by 2020 the WLSP aims to:

- generate a further 4,000 new businesses;
- create 20,000 net new jobs;
- provide 70,000 square metres (net) of new retail space in the five town centres; and
- provide at least an additional 100,000 square metres of employment space, on top of the space approved at Battersea Power Station with most development concentrated either around the Wandle Delta area or in Nine Elms.

Implement the Roehampton Regeneration Framework comprising 28 projects (including some new partner projects added to the original 43 projects), with the support of partners and the private sector. These projects include enhanced retail provision; business incubation hub; creating a regenerated centre for Roehampton and improving access. One of the new projects is the proposal to regenerate the centre of Roehampton.

In Battersea the partners will work together to support the Covent Garden Market Authority (CGMA) to bring forward plans to ensure that an operational composite market is at the core of any new development at NCGM and examine the scope for regeneration and improvements to the Battersea High Street Market and Battersea High Street/Battersea Park Road area;

In Tooting the Council is planning to conduct in-depth analysis with a view to developing plans to secure the long-term future of Tooting. In addition, the WLSP partners will implement the YPAC Forward Strategy which comprises the following 3 key areas as priorities for future action:

- addressing health issues through outreach;
- addressing the fear of crime and anti social disorder through targeted work with young people at risk of offending and those young people who have offended; and
- supporting unemployed young people into employment and ensuring they stay in employment.

The Council and its partners will ensure that the five town centres, Balham, Clapham Junction, Putney, Tooting and Wandsworth will continue to be the focus for shopping and complementary activities, including business, cultural, leisure and entertainment uses in line with the London Plan and Local Development Framework. Each centre will be promoted to provide a distinctive range of facilities serving their local area, but no centre will be encouraged to grow substantially at the expense of the others. The individual business plans for each town centre, which include detailed plans are referenced below.

LAA Targets.

NI 171 Increasing the VAT registration rate

UNDERPINNING PLANS.

Local Development Framework Core Strategy – Preferred Options
Annual Report of the Economic Development Office for 2006/07
Roehampton Regeneration Framework
Wandsworth Town Centre Business Plan
Balham Town Centre Business Plan
Clapham Junction Town Centre Business Plan
Putney Town Centre Business Plan
Tooting Town Centre Business Plan
Wandsworth Adult and Community Learning Development Plan 2007-10

THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR (VCS)

VCS PROFILE

Wandsworth has an active voluntary and community sector (VCS) befitting a large and diverse inner London borough. The VCS comprises a wide range of organised activity from large- scale national charities through to small local community groups.

Over 650 locally based voluntary and community organisations (VCO) are registered on the Voluntary Information Service borough database. Another 200 regional and national organisations are also on this database. However, there are many other VCS groups which are not registered but who contribute greatly to the community life of the borough e.g. church groups or parent/staff associations in schools.

More recently, some of the Borough's more mature organisations have grown and no longer just serve the immediate area or are dependent on the Council for their core funding and are generating surpluses which are being reinvested in more services which benefit society.

In 2006 a baseline survey of volunteering activity linked to the WLSP partners revealed around 1200 schemes in total., About 1030 of these are schemes (inclusive of 840 Neighbourhood Watches) supported directly through Wandsworth Council (e.g. parent governors, parent partnership scheme workers, neighbourhood watches, parks management committees, community centres management committees, residents' associations, and town centre partnership representatives).

At that time around 4500 individuals participated in an unpaid capacity across all these schemes. This included around 1600 volunteers or participants directly related to Wandsworth Council activity (980 of which are residents' association members). There are, in addition, around 1000 volunteers that contribute through organisations grant-aided, contracted or supported by the Council (e.g. Adult Social Services contracts, voluntary youth clubs, uniformed voluntary organisations, Neighbourhood Watch coordinators). This list does not include the many volunteers in groups with which the Council has no links at all e.g. local faith groups, or political parties.

The economic impact of the Borough's VCS is estimated to be the equivalent of the Borough's manufacturing sector.

The Economic Development Office (EDO) supports the Borough's VCS so it can make a significant contribution to Wandsworth's diverse and vibrant community. It funds the Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency (WVSDA) to run the volunteering service and provide information and support to local voluntary groups.

WVSDA receives funding from the EDO, and a wide range of other funders including Bridge House Trust, the Big Lottery, City Parochial Foundation; Wates Foundation; Home Office; the Central London Councils of Voluntary Service; Government Office for London; ChangeUp / Capacity Builders; the

Learning Skills Council and others. to provide information, advice and training on VCS issues in Wandsworth. WVSDA offers a range of help to build the capacity of local VCS organisations including the Voluntary Information

Service.. WVSDA keep a database of voluntary organisations and community groups in Wandsworth. WVSDA also manage the Wandsworth Volunteer Centre (which offers help and advice to local residents who are looking for volunteering opportunities and to organisations looking for volunteers.)

It also contracts with the Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureaux to provide advice to local people on a wide range of issues, including money, debt and benefits. The Council contributes to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme to support the voluntary sector in London.

Following research into the local VCS's support needs, WVSDA has now taken on the role as the Borough's Council for Voluntary Service.

The VCS are playing an increasing role in contributing to policy making in the Borough. They are also valued partners on the many partnerships in the Borough alongside the public and private sectors. They now have a strengthened position on the Local Strategic Partnership.

WHAT DO OUR RESIDENTS THINK?

Active membership of VCOS

As part of the Biennial Residents Survey, residents were asked about their own involvement in VCOs. Respondents were shown a long list of organisations, including religious groups, sports and social clubs, voluntary groups, etc. and asked if they are currently an active member of any of them. More than three-quarters (77%) of respondents were not an active member of any of the organisations, while 21% were current active members. The three organisations they were most likely to be a member of were:

- A sports club (8%)
- A religious group or church organisation (4%); and
- Neighbourhood Watch (3%).

Respondents who were not currently members of any of the organisations listed [923] were also asked how interested they would be in becoming involved in local organisations or groups. Over one in five (22%) are interested, which includes 2% who are very interested.

In addition respondents were asked whether or not they feel local organisations should have responsibility for managing some local facilities. Just over two fifths (42%) are in agreement, however one third (33%) are in disagreement.

Further to this, all respondents were asked to rate their level of interest in being involved with local community groups. Once again, the majority indicated a lack of interest (50% not interested); followed by one fifth (21%) who are interested and the same proportion (20%), who are ambivalent and a further 8% do not know.

Other surveys have shown that residents support a strong and independent voluntary sector. They value their independence in helping those residents who lack the necessary skills to find their way through the intricate maze of public sector services to get the best out of 'the system'. The VCS can often reach parts of the community, particularly the most deprived parts of the Borough, at a time when some services are becoming increasingly centralised. Research carried out by Roehampton University's Social

Research Unit into the take-up of information and advice services in Roehampton and West Putney found that residents regarded the Wandsworth CAB as easy to approach, and were supportive and holistic in its approach in helping them deal with 'the system'. The VCS play an important role on behalf of vulnerable members of society and help them receive the support that they need.

Volunteering

The BVPI Residents' Survey was used to establish a volunteering baseline for the 2007 LAA and the targets which the WLSP were required to set .

Residents were asked *"In the last twelve months have you given your time, without pay, to any charitable, religious, voluntary or community organisation? For example, you might give your time to a school PTA, organisations such as Age Concern, Victim Support etc, local residents' associations, Neighbourhood Watch, union or political activity, or help at a place of worship."* Overall, 23% said they had done formal volunteering and 72% said they had not. The remainder did not respond. Following BVPI convention, the non-responders are omitted from further calculations. MORI national surveys suggest that Wandsworth is exactly at the national average.

Those who confirmed that they had undertaken volunteering activity were then asked *"If you have volunteered during the past year, roughly how many total hours have you volunteered, on average, per week?"* Those saying they had volunteered for at least two hours a week equate to 10.1% of those who responded to the first question. Applying survey results, in 2006 there were an estimated 23,200 people doing 2+ hours per week of formal volunteering. However, if all volunteering is counted, including 0-2 hours per week, the figure more than doubles to over 46,000 people.

WHAT DO VCOS THINK?

Health of the sector

The Economic Development Officer has initiated an annual survey of the Borough's voluntary sector. The results help gauge the health of the voluntary sector and the impact of public procurement on turnover in the sector. The results of a survey of 201 voluntary organisations in the Borough in 2007, showed that since March 2006, 19% of the VCO reported funding had increased; 15% reported that funding had decreased; and 51% reported that funding had stayed the same. Many of those surveyed planned to expand over the next two years.

Barriers to growth

The need for some action on funding the voluntary sector, was underlined in the EDO's first annual survey of the Borough's VCOs in 2007 which revealed that 70% of VCOs surveyed reported that access to funding was their main barrier to meeting their users' needs and access funding was holding back their development This was at least double any other factor constraining their development.

HOW WELL ARE WE PERFORMING ?

During 2006/07, the Council alone funded 339 VCOs in return for the provision of a wide range of services, outputs, outcomes and benefits for the Council and Borough at a total cost estimated to be £23.8 million. In 2007/08 funds allocated to the voluntary sector are estimated to be worth almost £25 million. Adult Social Services and Children's Services are the two biggest areas of spend with VCOs.

During 2006/07 the Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Charter and Compact (designed to improve relations between the public sector and VCO) was agreed and published. The Compact underpins a wide range of direct and indirect complex relationships between the public sector and voluntary sector. Subsequently, three guidance notes have been prepared by WVSDA on consultation, funding and procurement and best practice governance.

In order to widen the range of funding sources available to the Borough's VCO and to enable greater advantage to be taken of the skills and knowledge of the sector, officers have investigated the concept of a Wandsworth Community Fund (WCF). In response to this work, a proposal received from the Thames Community Foundation (TCF) to establish the WCF as new approach to address this situation. Applications would be sought and considered from local VCOs based in and serving the London Borough of Wandsworth that meet at least one of the strategic priorities and objectives drawn from the forthcoming Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

Levels of volunteering are viewed as an important indicator of active citizenship with direct benefits for both the local community and the personal development of the volunteer themselves. WVSDA, in partnership with Wandsworth Council, have committed to increase levels of volunteering to the Government's 2 hours per week/ 100 hours per annum threshold through a challenging LAA Reward target for the period 2007-2010. This target is tightly prescribed and specifies that an additional 1000 volunteers will be placed by the WVSDA over the 3 year period together with an additional 300 hard to reach volunteers.

Efforts are also being made to promote volunteering more generally within the population with a variety of information and guidance such as a new volunteer guide, volunteer fair and award scheme.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

The voluntary sector

In June 2004, the Home Office published 'ChangeUp', a capacity building and infrastructure framework for the voluntary sector so that, by 2014, the needs of frontline voluntary organisations would be met by voluntary sector infrastructure development organisations. WVSDA have prepared the Wandsworth Consortium Infrastructure Business Plan 2008-11. This includes the following actions:

- (a) Ensuring membership of the Consortium better reflects the diversity of the VCS and achieving the commitment from all public sector partners to the Consortium;

- (b) Improving Collaboration between the various different VCS networks;
- (c) improving awareness and best practice across the VCS, especially for small groups in terms of governance, business planning, performance management and quality standards;
- (d) delivering a wide range of training and development opportunities to up skill voluntary and community organisations and individuals volunteers;
- (e) assisting the VCS to access the widest range of sources of funding, including income generating activities to support their work;
- (f) securing a fully accessible Resource Centre for the sector that will offer start up space for small and emerging groups and comprehensive training facilities;
- (g) expanding volunteering opportunities and placements.

Central Government also aspires to develop the voluntary sector's role in delivering public services. It views a diverse supply base, including voluntary organisations, as more competitive and more likely to meet service users' requirements. It also acknowledges that a thriving voluntary sector can contribute to community engagement.

We cannot accurately predict the development of the VCS over the next 10 years. However, in the context of the above commitments and the Council's own recognition of the role of the voluntary sector, it is clear that the sector will continue to have an important role in helping to identify community needs, providing innovative solutions to meet these needs and maximising voluntary effort to manage and deliver services.

Volunteering

There are real practical challenges in increasing the proportion of people volunteering for more than two hours per week. To achieve it would require an increase in the proportion volunteering or an increase in the hours worked by volunteers or both. There are a number of reasons for arguing that even maintaining the status quo will be difficult in the local context:

- (a) women comprise 52% of the 18+ population and 56% of all volunteers. Unless more men could be encouraged to volunteer, there would need to be a bigger increase in volunteering by women;
- (b) those not in full time employment are both more likely to volunteer and to do more volunteering hours per week. The prospects for increasing voluntary activity seem, therefore, to depend heavily on an increase in the proportion of the population not working full time, particularly men (see above). It should be noted that this is not a reflection of age; the over 65s are among the least likely to volunteer. This leads to the perverse situation where an economic downturn would probably increase levels of volunteering; and .
- (c) around one in four of the 18+ population has been in the Borough for less than 3 years. These tend to be younger (under 35) and are among the least likely to volunteer. Even so, they make up a sizeable part of the volunteering force. By 2009, therefore, many of the younger (under 35

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WANDSWORTH

Vision

A borough of where there are more active citizens supporting a vibrant, inclusive, independent and strong voluntary and community sector delivering services which meet the needs of our diverse community.

Priorities

- (a) to grow the proportion of residents who affirm that they have engaged in formal volunteering and on an average of at least two hours per week over the last year;
- (b) promote volunteering opportunities in public services and other organisations;
- (c) develop the capacity and skills of Wandsworth's VCOs to deliver improved services for Borough residents that contribute towards a vibrant, diverse and cohesive community;
- (d) help the VCS to access external funding and to develop their own independent sources of income;
- (e) support the development of a range of appropriate voluntary and community sector networks, help them function effectively so that they contribute to the WLSP's Community Strategy;

Specific long-term plans

Work towards improving the support infrastructure, including a fully accessible Resource Centre, for the Borough's VCS;

Establish the Wandsworth Community Fund, which attracts funds from a range of sources, so that it can act as a new source of funding for the Borough's VCS so that it can contribute more to the delivery of the Community Strategy;

Underpinning plans

Voluntary Sector Compact

Council's Voluntary Sector Charter

Wandsworth Consortium Infrastructure Business Plan 2008-11

HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

BACKGROUND.

There are 51,889 children and young people (aged 0 to 19 years) living in Wandsworth, which make up over 18% of the total population. In 2006, 84.7% of Wandsworth resident children and young people attended local schools.

The most common family type in Wandsworth is families with 2 or more dependent children aged between 0 and 4 years. Approximately 28% of all dependent children and young people are cared for by single parents.

The population of children and young people in Wandsworth is ethnically diverse. In 2007, 35.2% of the under 19 population were from black or minority ethnic backgrounds. The largest black and minority ethnic group in children and young people under 19 are those from black ethnic backgrounds, which account for 17.9% of total under 19 population. The ethnic distribution of children and young people under 19 is not expected to change more than 1 – 2% over the next 10 years.

Additional information collected as part of the school census process in 2007 highlights the Borough's school population is significantly more ethnically diverse, with over 61.4% of pupils in maintained secondary schools and 56.0% of pupils in maintained primary schools being from black or minority ethnic backgrounds.

Relative to the national picture deprivation affecting children in Wandsworth is increasing, with 74 of 174 local super output areas (SOAs) being amongst the worst 25% of all SOAs nationally compared to 64 in 2004. The picture is varied, as there are now 24 SOAs in the best 25% of all SOAs nationally for deprivation affecting children compared to 20 in 2004.

As at March 2007, there were 1,628 children and young people in need of support, of which 254 were looked after by the Council. There were 133 children and young people registered on the Child Protection Register. In 2007/08, there were 1,168 children and young people resident in Wandsworth having a special education needs, around 2.25% of the total 0 to 19 population.

Education services for children and young people are delivered in a range of settings including: -

- 3 maintained nursery schools
- 56 maintained primary schools
- 11 secondary schools
- 8 special schools
- 16 integrated children's centres
- 3 pupil referral units

In addition there is a range of private and independent education provision for children, particularly in the early years.

There are a range of other children's services within the borough, including

- 4 Family centres
- 17 Youth Clubs (10 full time, 7 part time)
- 3 Connexions centres
- 10 1 o'clock centres for parents and toddlers (Monday to Friday)
- 1 morning centre (Monday to Friday term-time only)
- 11 Children's Libraries
- 4 Adventure playgrounds including one for children with special needs
- 184 unsupervised playgrounds (63 managed by the Children's Services Department and 121 managed by the Housing Department)

Policy and planning to improve outcomes for children and young people is led by the Children's Trust Arrangements, including a Strategy Board and a Children and Young People's Board. The latter is a high-level multi agency group, which is the core of the borough's co-ordination of all providers of services for children, young people and their families.

In 2006, the first Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) was published by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, a forerunner of the formal Trust Arrangements. This sets out the priorities for improving the outcomes for all children and young people in Wandsworth. This was shaped by the views and expressed needs of children and young people. The priorities contained in the plan are grouped under the 5 Every Child Matters outcome areas, which are inter-dependent, and reflect the key things that really matter to children, young people and their families. These outcomes are:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic wellbeing

WHAT DO CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES THINK?

A variety of surveys and consultations have been undertaken from which the views below emerged. These views have been taken into account in subsequent planning and identification of priorities for future development.

BEING HEALTHY

Pupils and parents views

- Almost 9 in 10 feel they are very or fairly healthy
- 80% take part in sport or physical activity 2 or more times a week at school
- 78% of Wandsworth parents agree that their children get enough exercise
- The main worries for year 6 were: Friendship (60%); exams (54%) and getting into trouble (Tellus survey of young people)

Schools views of support

Good overall and especially on

- Promotion of sport, recreation and exercise outside school
- meeting the physical health needs
- Promoting sexual health and reducing teenage pregnancy

But weak on

- Meeting the needs of children and young people with disabilities and long term health conditions

STAYING SAFE

Pupils and parents views

- Bullying at school is an issue: amongst year 6 pupils, 10% say it's a serious problem and 44% a minor problem
- 7% said they were bullied most days and a further 10% between one and three times a week
- 69% said their school deals quite or very well with bullying, but 21% said not very well or not at all
- 56% of parents worry to some degree about their child being bullied in the area where they live
- 9 in 10 feel very or fairly safe on the way to and from school
- The main places where children felt a bit or very unsafe were on public transport (38%), around the local area (30%) (Tellus survey of young people)

Schools views of support

Good overall and especially on

- Reducing fear of crime
- Training advice support on child protection (for school staff)
- Clarity of guidance on child protection referral

But weak on

- Support to enable schools to use effectively the common assessment framework

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

Pupils and parents views

- Almost 9 in 10 enjoy school and feel they are doing very or fairly well – a view shared by parents
- Around a third 36% of primary and secondary said there was nothing to do or nowhere to go in their local area, 17% disagreed. Parents views were more positive – 60% thought there was plenty to do
- 67% said they enjoy school most of the time (higher than national) with only 5% saying they never enjoy it. 88% said they tried their best at school always or most of the time
- To help them do better Year 6 pupils wanted more fun/interesting lessons (79%) and, well behind this, quieter or better behaved class, more help from teachers, fewer bullies, more help from family and friends,

- Things that year 6 pupils wanted to do or go to included: swimming pool (54%) (well above national), gym (48%), cinema (47%) art craft dance or drama class outside school (40%). – youth facilities were less popular (Tellus survey of young people)
- The main reasons for not using them were: not having the time 38%, no facilities nearby (27%) and costs (22%), but in the Year 6 survey by far the main reason was because my friends don't go (Tellus survey of young people)

Schools views of support

Good overall and especially on

- Meeting needs of EAL, gifted and talented, out of school, and excluded pupils
- Support for Looked After Children including co-ordination, timely reviews and access to social workers
- Co-ordination of admissions

But weak on

- Support for developing effectiveness of governing bodies

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Pupils views

- 82% feel they can make a difference to improve things in their area.
- 45% had voted in a school, class or year group election and 19% had been on a school council (more than national) (Tellus survey of young people)
- 87% agree that school councils are a good idea, 82% agree that their school is interested in their views and 78% feel their school council works well – however, just 68% agree that the school council can affect big decisions in the school

School views of support

Good overall and especially on

- Helping young people to understand their civil and legal rights
- Supporting young carers to achieve positive outcomes
- Intervening to deflect children and young people from anti-social behaviour

ACHIEVING ECONOMIC WELL BEING

Pupils and parents views

- 90% of secondary parents feel they will want to go on to do A levels or other qualifications (83% of all parents with school age children)
- Parents wanted advice most about Health care, childcare and employment/job training opportunities

In Year 6 (Tellus survey of young people)

- 75% thought their area was a good or very good area to live in but 9% thought it was poor or very poor. (Same as national)
- 66% thought that public transport was good or very good (better than national) but 12% thought it was poor or fairly poor

Things that would most improve the area were:

- Cleaner and less litter (59%), more parks and green spaces (56%), safer and less crime (55%), more and better activities for young people (49%) safer roads (45%) more and better sports clubs and centres (44%)

Things that most make their lives better were:

- By a substantial majority – more places to hang out with friends (30%) followed by more organised activities and things to do (16%) and more help to plan for the future (15%) and more help to feel safer at school (11%)

Schools views of support

Good overall and especially on

- Extent to which community and regeneration programmes take account of the needs of children and young people

But weak on

- Effectiveness of provision for 14-19 education in meeting local needs

SERVICE MANAGEMENT

Good overall and especially on effectiveness of

- Leadership of elected members of the council
- Extent to which schools influence policies, plans, procedures for children and young people.
- preventative strategy to reduce the number of children who go into care
- Support to schools to promote the wellbeing and community cohesion
- data collection and managing information and data
- Support to improve financial and resource management

HOW WELL ARE WE PERFORMING?

Over the last few years there has been a significant and positive change in the way in which services for children and young people in Wandsworth are planned and delivered. More importantly, there is strong evidence that outcomes for all children, particularly the most vulnerable, are improving.

The comprehensive Children and Young People’s Plan sets out a detailed picture of need in the borough and the plans of the Council, schools and partners for improving the quality of life for all children against the five Every Child Matters outcomes.

The Council has received a written report on the third Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of children’s services, which was conducted by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). On the key judgement “overall effectiveness of Children’s Services” the Council has achieved the top grade.

Five of the six remaining scores are also graded 4 (best) with the sixth achieving a grade 3.

There are seven areas identified for development and these have informed the selection of LAA priorities:

- (a) work with partners to increase the take up for immunisation and improve the oral health of children under the age of 5;
- (b) improve achievement in Key Stage 1;
- (c) raise the achievement of boys and some Black and minority ethnic groups;
- (d) reduce the number of exclusions of Black and minority ethnic children and young people;
- (e) reduce rates of re-offending;
- (f) further improve level 2 and 3 outcomes for 19 year olds; and
- (g) implement plans for putting Children Trust Arrangements in place.

In addition in 2007 the council and its partners were the subject of a Joint Area Review (JAR) of children's services. Its scope included services for children and young people aged from 0-19 inclusive whether by statutory, voluntary or private providers and also includes services to those over 19 who are receiving services as care leavers under the Children Act 1989 and those over 19 but under 25 with a learning difficulty.

The JAR report includes the following 6 judgements with the 5 mandatory areas receiving grade. The judgement scores are given on a scale from 1 (worse) to 4 (best): -

Areas for judgement	Grade awarded	Contribution of local services to improving outcomes for children and young people
Safeguarding	4	Outstanding
Looked after children	4	Outstanding
\Learning difficulties/and or disabilities	4	Outstanding
Enjoyment and achievement of boys at KS4	*	Good with outstanding features
Service management	3	Good with outstanding features
Capacity to improve	4	Outstanding

* Note: - Enjoyment and Achievement of Boys at KS4 does not receive a grade because it is a 'further investigation' unique to Wandsworth and as such grade descriptors do not fully cover the area investigated.

The JAR identified a number of strengths and also a small number of areas for improvement.

Be Healthy

Health outcomes for children and young people in Wandsworth are excellent. An integrated network of children's centres supports effective preventative

and early intervention health services across the Borough. The proportion of babies born with low birth weight (less than 2,500g) is 6.6%, well below the London and national averages. In 2007, 82.8% of mothers were reported to initiate breastfeeding, higher than the national average of 69.6%. Children's oral health in Wandsworth is also generally good, and improves with age. In 2006 37.8% of 5 year olds had some form of serious decay, missing or filled tooth/teeth, below both the London and national average. This proportion decreases in 12 year olds, where only 27.8% recoded serious decay, missing or filled tooth/teeth, again below the London and national average.

However, recent data continues to highlight some areas for development for younger children, such as immunisations. Between 2003 and 2006 the proportion of children in Wandsworth immunised at their 2nd birthday decreased by between 15% and 18% for all immunisations with the exception of MMR, which has decreased by 4%.

The promotion of healthy lifestyles is a key focus in Wandsworth, with many activities being undertaken to address issues around childhood obesity. In 2008 of children in reception attending Wandsworth schools, 11.7% are obese and of those in Year 6, 22.5% are obese. These measures have both increased since 2006, when the levels were above London averages.

Services for young people are also showing marked improvements, with efforts to address the high teenage pregnancy rates (particularly for young women between the ages of 13 and 17) making real impacts. Data released in February 2008 show that for periods 1998-2000, 2001-2003 and 2004-2006 there is a sound downward trend, though there are year on year fluctuations. The rates per 1,000 females aged between 15 and 17 for Wandsworth are: 69.8 for 1998-2000, 62.6 for 2001-2003 and 56.9 for 2004-2006. Wandsworth's reduction between the first and last period is 18.4%. This compares to reductions in Inner London of 13.3%, London as a whole 7.4% and England 8.7%.

The teenage conception rates in Wandsworth for females aged between 13 and 15 has decreased even more rapidly, with the rates of teenage conception for under 16s decreasing from 15.4 in 1998-2000 to 11.6 in the 2002-2004 period which is a reduction of 21.5%

The Council has also implemented a range of strategies to address the sexual health of young people in the Borough. There has been improved access to sexual health information and advice in Wandsworth through the development of safer sex media campaigns, health events and web-based information. These initiatives have been supported through integration of more information on sexual health and relationships in school and college curricula. While wide ranging data on the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections amongst the under 19 population in Wandsworth is not available, that which is available suggests this may be an area of emerging priority action. The national chlamydia-screening programme for 16-24s is being rolled out in Wandsworth that will contribute to the improvement of young people's sexual health in Wandsworth.

Mental health services for children and adolescents are being developed, with a 24-hour access service recently made available. A detailed needs assessment based on national prevalence rates has been undertaken to develop the CAMHS service over the next few years. In 2007, 1,077 referrals were made to Child and Adolescent Health Services, mainly from young people aged between 14 to 17 years. Future work will involve further development of local dataset to ensure services are targeted to those most in need.

Increased school-based activity on substance misuse has significantly increased the awareness of not only the issues around this area, but also to access of supportive services such as counselling over the past few years. Between 2003 and 2006 there were 55 admissions to hospital of young people under 20 with emotional and behavioural disorders associated with drug use, below the national average. In 2006 there were 41 aged under 18 years receiving drug treatment, which equates to 3% of the total population receiving drug treatment. The proportion of under 18 substance users in treatment nationally sits at 11%, which may indicate that more work needs to be done to get young people into treatment. However it should be noted that the 2007 figures are an increase of 53.9% on the previous year. Of those in drug treatment, over 95% were being treated in services designed for young people (rather than being treated through adult services). Again while this improvement is encouraging, substance misuse remains a key issue for young people in Wandsworth and further preventative and targeted intervention work will be pursued in the future.

Vulnerable groups are well supported.

In 2008, there were 3,790 pupils in schools in Wandsworth with an identified learning difficulty or disability that was supported by services provided external to the school (children and young people who had a statement of special education need or were at the School Action Plus of the SEN Code of Practice). Of these children and young people with a behavioural, emotional or social difficulty accounted for 31.5%, the largest proportion of all the primary need categories. It should also be noted that diagnoses of children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) resident in the borough have increased from 161 in 2001 to 448 in 2007, and are projected to reach over 600 by 2015.

Children and young people with a learning difficulty and/or disability are well supported through multi-agency working. Prevention and early intervention work has been significantly improved through the work of children's centres where support begins for the family at the child's birth through an integrated team approach to ensure needs are identified and the appropriate services are easily accessed. There is a high standard of residential care and a variety of short breaks and respite care options are available. Good provision of leisure and recreation activities for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is well established, supported through a local Disability Coordinator.

The health needs of children looked after are well cared for. The proportion of children and young people looked after who have had a health assessment and dental checks has increased by 88% to 94%, driven by targeted work of the looked after children's nurse and good information is easily accessible on a wide range of health issues such as healthy living, sexual health and drugs.

Recent statistics also highlight increases in the infant mortality rate for Wandsworth between 2000-02 and 2003-05 by 12%, from 3.8 to 4.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births (equates to approximately 15 additional infant deaths over the period). Further analysis has highlighted that this is driven by increases in stillbirths and neonatal mortality rates.

Stay Safe

Promoting and securing the safety of children and young people in Wandsworth is a key priority.

Overall levels of crime in Wandsworth remain low compared with other inner-London authorities, however, young people continue to tell us that fear of crime is one of their top concerns. Children and young people have raised concerns in relation to bullying, gang culture and safety on transport.

An examination of all suspects (all ages) committing offences against young people showed a 19% reduction over the past year. Young people are most commonly the victims of street crime and violence against the person. The proportion of street crimes where young people are victims has decreased by 9% over the past year. In 2007, 15% of victims of violence against the person were aged under 18 years.

Youth on youth crime has more recently been identified as having significant impacts on the safeguarding outcomes for children and young people. In a recent investigation into youth on youth crime, the Police have identified an overall reduction of 20% across all crime types. Despite this, young people are increasingly raising concerns or reporting incidences of young people being threatened with violence by 'groups' of other young people. This has coincided with an increase in the number of young people reporting to belong to a 'gang'.

While limited data currently exists around the prevalence of bullying, reports of racial incidents in schools have decreased by 7% over the past year, however incidents of physical assault and threatening behaviour have increased.

Multi-agency work to prevent and protect children and young people suffering from maltreatment, neglect, violence or sexual exploitation has had significant impacts.

Referrals to social care have decreased, most significantly for re-referrals with 12 months of initial referral, which have decreased by 33.5% between 2005 and 2007. Over the past 4 years, rates of children and young people looked

after have declined by over 30%, and is now significantly below London and national averages. The number of children and young people with a Child Protection Plan (CPP) has also decreased in recent years, and in comparison to its statistical neighbours Wandsworth now has the 4th lowest rate of children requiring a CPP due to improved preventative support.

Stable placements in family settings is one of the key ways in which the life chances of children and young people in care can be improved, and action has been taken over the past few years to increase safe and stable family-based placements.

In 2007 over 80% of children and young people looked after were placed in family-based placements. The majority of children and young people in care are placed in foster care placements, higher than that recorded at London and national levels. Children and young people placed within the Borough's boundary has increased over the past year, with Wandsworth now having the 4th highest proportion of children and young people looked after being placed within its boundaries of its statistical neighbours. The proportion of children and young people looked after placed within 20 miles of their family home has also increased over the past year.

Action to improve short and long term placement stability has also impacted on the outcomes for children and young people in care. The number of children and young people in care placed in 3 or more placements has decreased over the past year. Although, the proportion of children and young people placed for adopted also decreased the number of children living with special guardians has increase and Wandsworth's performance remains significantly higher than London averages.

Enjoy and Achieve

As an inner London borough Wandsworth has a challenging educational environment. There is a high proportion of pupils for whom English is not their first language - 33% of Under Fives, 35% of primary pupils and 33% in secondary schools (11% and 9% nationally). There are high levels of pupil mobility, with some schools reporting turnover up to 30% in 2006 from Year 3 to Year 5. Wandsworth is also the highest net importer of pupils of any Inner London Borough.

In the Foundation Stage, Wandsworth is now at or above the national average in all areas. The most notable difference is in Writing, where Wandsworth is six points above the national average.

At Key Stage 1, standards increased in reading, mathematics and science in 2007. The Borough's results are three and five percentage points below national average in these areas. Standards in writing declined in 2007, in line with national trends.

At Key Stage 2, the proportion of pupils attaining Level 4 or above in English improved by 2% to 80%, equal to the national average in 2007. The proportion of young people achieving level 4 or above in mathematics also

increased to national average levels. Achievements in science remained static, to levels slightly below the national average.

At Key Stage 3 (KS3), the proportion of pupils attaining level 5 or above remained static in English and mathematics, with attainment in science increasing by 4% in 2007. The Borough's results now sit between three and five points below the national average.

In 2007 the highest ever entry rate (of 98%) was recorded for GCSEs, with the proportion of pupils leaving school with no GCSE passes decreasing to 3.8%, the lowest proportion achieved to date. The proportion of pupils obtaining five or more GCSE higher grades (A* - C) increased by 2.4% to 58.5%. Even greater increases were seen in the proportion of pupils obtaining five or more GCSE higher grades, which included English and mathematics by 5.1% to 44.8%. However, the proportion of pupils obtaining five or more GCSE passes (A*-G) declined slightly to 87%. Comparatively, Wandsworth remains slightly below national averages in GCSE attainment figures, however the rate of improvement has been much faster than the national rate over the last four years.

In the primary phase (Key Stage 1 and 2), boys perform higher than girls in mathematics but girls perform higher in English. In Key Stage 3 and at GCSE, girls perform higher than boys in all areas, although at GCSE level this gap is half of that seen nationally. The focus on increasing the attainment of pupils from black and minority ethnic backgrounds is widely supported across the Council, with outcomes improving across all the key stages. Black Caribbean and Black African performed below average levels in 2007, but recorded improved results in many areas. Pupils from Bangladeshi, Latin/South/Central America and Black Somali backgrounds continue to perform below the Borough average in all key stages, including GCSE, and these pupils will be a key focus in the future. Pupils eligible for free school meals also perform below the Borough average, but the attainment gap has been narrowed over the past year, particularly in Key Stage 3. The attainment of children and young people looked after improved significantly, but remains below average levels for children of the same age as a whole. Children and young people with a learning difficulty and/or disability continue to achieve well, with new improvements in provision likely to further increase their attainment. While these improvements are encouraging the Council will ensure that focus remains on improving outcomes for all vulnerable groups, particularly those most in need.

Attendance at primary and secondary schools has been improving, but tackling persistent absentees (those with less than 80% attendance) remains a challenge.

The Wandsworth 14-19 Partnership Strategy is the key document that will drive forward local developments to maximise achievement for all young people. The Strategy sets out four main priorities:

1. Raise achievement and improve quality through strengthened collaboration and quality assurance

2. Improve choice, breadth and entitlement in order to increase participation and raise achievement
3. Strengthen Information, Advice and Guidance
4. Build capacity and infrastructure

Implementation of these priorities are consistent with national reforms to 14-19 Education and mirror the ambition of the DCSF Plan Promoting Achievement, Valuing Success: A Strategy for 14 – 19 qualifications. The Plan describes the phased movement towards a more comprehensive and coherent qualification offer which offers GCSEs and A Levels, Diplomas, Apprenticeships and the Foundation Learning Tier.

Recent inspections have highlighted the wide variety and high standard of recreational facilities, in particular the high quality play provision. Registered attendances at youth clubs (council run and volunteer) have increased over the past year by 6%. A recent survey of Year 6 pupils highlighted that the majority enjoy school always or most of the time. However, outside school the majority of pupils reported that they would like a little or a lot more activities in the local area.

Make a Positive Contribution

Ensuring children and young people make a positive contribution encompasses a wide range of things from opportunities to get involved with decision making to volunteer and youth work to the prevention of negative behaviour.

Supporting children and young people to make a positive contribution begins with ensuring they have the skills to engage with the wider community. In 2007 over 70% of the pupils in Foundation Stage we assessed as working securely within the learning goals that relate to personal, social and emotional development. This was marginally higher than the national average and higher than the London average.

Youth provision has increased in 2007 by 4.9%, so that 21.9% of the 13 to 19 year old population is reached by council run youth services. As previously mentioned registered attendances at youth clubs (council run and volunteer) have increase over the past year by 6%. There has been a 7% increase in the number of females attending youth services during the same period, leaving the total proportion of attendances of females at 41%. However during this period the proportion of young people from black or minority ethnic backgrounds has decreased to 63%, but remains above the local target of 60%. Increasing participation in the future will be driven by broadening the curriculum offer and developing improved outreach services for hard to reach groups.

Over the past year there have been increases in the proportion of young people engaging in youth work. In addition to this, there has been an increase of 28.7% of young people who engage in youth work receiving a recorded outcome. In a recent survey, over 75% of pupils in Year 6 reported

that they had done something to assist raising money for a charity or local group. However, the proportion of young people reached by youth services has been declining over the past 3 years. Supporting more young people to achieve a recorded outcome through youth work will remain a key priority in the future.

As a result of the strong commitment in Wandsworth to engage children and young people in the design and delivery of the services they receive, there has been a sustained increase in the proportion of children and young people in care participating in their reviews over the past year, with current levels now at 90% of all children and young people in care.

Positive work has been undertaken to support children and young people through key transitions in their lives, particularly for those with a learning difficulty or disability. However recent research looking at parenting support services in Wandsworth has identified some gaps, specifically around primary to secondary transitions.

Over the past year, there have been decreases in the number of children and young people placed on anti-social behaviour orders. However, figures from between April 2007 and February 2008 indicate this trend is starting to reverse, driven particularly by orders placed on young people aged 16 years and over. Fixed and permanent exclusions from school have continued to rise, albeit slightly, and remain above London and national averages.

The number of young people offending in Wandsworth has decreased since 2006, although during this same period the number of crimes being committed by young offenders has increased by 5.8%. This translates to a 5% increase in the number of young offenders committing multiple crimes. The numbers of first time young offenders has remained relatively stable over the past year. Re-offending rates have also remained stable over the past year, but remain above the national average.

In 2007, the proportion of children and young people looked after for more than 12 months were given a final warning/reprimand or were convicted during the year, increased by 1.1% to 3.5%, which now places Wandsworth higher than the national average.

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

The overall economic position in Wandsworth is good. Around 72% of Wandsworth Residents who were of working age are in employment, the second highest rate in inner London after the City.

In 2007, 50.9% of the 16 to 19 year old population in Wandsworth had a GCE A level or equivalent, and increase of 6.9% on the previous year and significantly higher than the London and national average. The population generally is also well educated, with 50.0% holding a NVQ4 or more (higher education degree level). This has increased over the past year, and was also significantly higher than London and national averages. In 2007, there has

been an increase of 31% in the number of young people taking a vocational course at level 1 and 2. An additional 100 places in Level 1 construction, engineering, and hospitality and catering have been created from September 2007.

Wandsworth has relatively low levels of youth unemployment overall, and one of the lowest levels of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) in central London. In 2007, only 6.0% of 16 – 18 years olds and 5.5% of 19 year olds were NEET. In both cases this was below the national average, and had decreased over the previous year, particularly so for 19 year olds where the proportion NEET has decreased by over one third.

In 2007, 67.4% of teenage parents were NEET. While this seems quite high it is below the national average. Of those young people with a learning difficulty and/or disability, 13.3% were NEET. This was also lower than the national average. The proportion of young offenders and care leavers NEET was recorded at 40% and 38% respectively. No national data is available for these groups.

The Government's 'Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index' (IDACI) combines different indicators of deprivation, largely those relating to household income, to identify the scale and location of deprivation nationally within small sub-ward areas known as super-output areas (SOAs). The IDACI reveals significant pockets of deprivation affecting children in the Battersea, Tooting and Roehampton areas.

Access to affordable and good quality childcare is key to enabling parents and carers to work and therefore fundamental to families' economic wellbeing. Wandsworth has more full-day care places per 100 children aged under 5 (22.3) than London (15.8) and nationally (20.4). However, Wandsworth does have significantly fewer childminding places per 100 children under 5 (5.4) than both London (8.2) and England (10.0). The overall position is that Wandsworth has slightly fewer places per 100 children in both forms of long day care than the national average, but a better provision of places than London. In common with most inner city areas, Wandsworth consistently has amongst the highest costs for childcare in London for the 0- 5 age group.

Having access to decent homes is also often used as an indicator of economic wellbeing. Wandsworth is a very population dense area, with the number of persons per hectare far exceeding the London and national average. This has a number of implications for housing within the Borough, particularly those in which children and young people reside. As at March 2007, 36% of properties owned by the Council were rented to families with one or more child/young person. Of those properties, 23% were on the fifth floor or above.

Crosscutting Activities and Developments

Extended schools

By 2010 the Government expects all schools to provide or have access to an extended services core offer that is intended 'support and motivate children and young people to achieve their full potential'. The core offer is -

- childcare or safe places for young people to be,
- a varied menu of activities,
- parenting support,
- swift and easy access to support services and
- community access and adult learning.

The aspiration is to establish schools as community hubs through which children, young people and their families can access a range of extended services. Since 2006 schools across the Borough have been working with the local authority in 6 collaborative groups or clusters to strategically plan, commission and coordinate extended services. Clusters contain primary, secondary and special schools. The development of services has initially focused on the commissioning of parent and family support services and targeted children and young people's support services, particularly for the most vulnerable.

The clusters have been established within defined localities in the Borough, with each locality having 2 clusters. These clusters are working together within and beyond locality boundaries to establish the core offer menu, intended to support both children and young people's achievement and community cohesion. Since 2006 the Council has provided supported to 44 schools across the Borough to assist them to deliver or have access to all parts of the core offer. This has exceeded our 2008 target by 5 schools.

Building Schools for the Future

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is the biggest single government investment in improving school buildings over the next 50 years. The aim is to rebuild or renew every secondary school in England over a 10 to 15 year period and create environments, which will inspire learning for decades to come. Every Wandsworth Secondary school will receive investment in new or remodelled buildings and Information Communication Technology (ICT) in the next few years. The Council has made sustainability a key priority of its BSF project, underpinned by its Environmental Policy, which aims to address climate change by investing in energy efficient measures in all new premises, wise energy management, educating young people and adults and investigating low carbon energy sources.

Our programme to date has included the complete renewal of electrical services in 3 primary schools, including the introduction of automatic daylight control of lighting and movement detectors in classrooms, which has produced a saving of up to 20% of the energy used. One of our major renewal projects has involved the installation of solar panels, which now provide enough energy to light the ground floor classrooms at Furzedown Primary School. In addition to this we have installed condensing boilers in a further 2 primary schools, resulting in savings of 15% to 20%.

Integrated Children's Centres (ICCs)

In 2004, through the Ten Year Childcare strategy the Government outlined its commitment to building Integrated (Sure Start) Children's Centres in the most deprived areas across the country and eventually to provide one in every community. These Centres aimed to build on the successes of previously established Sure Start Local Programmes, Early Excellence Centres and

Neighbourhood Nurseries, providing a place where children aged under 5 and their families can easily access a comprehensive range of integrated services. Over the last 4 year Wandsworth has developed 16 Children's Centres, clustered in 3 localities which will all become fully operational during 2008-09. While specific service provision within the Centres varies considerably in response to local needs, all will provide a range of family support, health, group work, parenting and information services alongside childcare and/or play provision for children aged under 5 or signposting to those services when not offered on site.

Locality Teams have been established to work in partnership with Children's Centre staff to ensure the full ICC programme is available to all and targeted support provided to those who need it.

Following a detailed Council review of Early Years provision for vulnerable children, an aspect of the service developments has been a focus on providing more targeted support for children identified as having additional needs, particularly around preparing children for school and supporting parents. Children's Centres have also played a pivotal role in the pilot of the Common Assessment Framework. As a result of this, an effective system of local Early Years Multi-Agency Panels has been implemented in each locality to plan, implement, coordinate review and evaluate a personal package of support for individual children with additional needs from the services on offer.

Reconfiguration of special school provision

The Council has reconfigured its special school provision to provide the specialist facilities and resources to meet the needs of children with increasingly severe and complex SEN. A major redevelopment programme is already partly completed with the expansion of Garratt Park Secondary School for pupils with mild and moderate learning difficulties and additional needs, and the redevelopment of Linden Lodge School to meet the needs of pupils with visual impairment and significant additional disabilities and to deliver new provision for secondary-aged pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). A redeveloped specialist site for the borough with state of the art facilities for primary-aged pupils with physical disabilities and profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), and pupils with significant learning difficulties including those with an autistic spectrum disorder will be completed by the end of 2009. Residential and day secondary provision for pupils with severe learning difficulties and autistic spectrum disorder is also the subject of a major building programme.

At the same time the Council has been developing the capacity of its mainstream schools to meet the needs of children with SEN. A range of strategies to develop provision in mainstream have been introduced including, for example, provision mapping, the ongoing development of specialist advisory services, and improvements to target-setting and monitoring of progress for pupils with SEN. The Council is also expanding its specialist provision linked to mainstream schools. Two new bases for children aged 2 to 5, and a base for secondary aged pupils with an autistic spectrum disorder will open in 2008/09. A resource base for pupils with moderate learning difficulties and additional needs opened in September 2007.

As previously mentioned, diagnoses of children and young people with ASD resident in the borough have increased from 161 in 2001 to 448 in 2007, and are projected to reach over 600 by 2015. The Council has already planned the development of additional provision, but meeting the needs of the increased numbers of pupils diagnosed with ASD moving into the secondary sector prior to the main phase of BSF development remains a challenge. Developments too in medical technology mean that an increasing number of babies with severe and complex needs are surviving into adulthood, and the impact of this trend on the newly developed special school provision will continue to be monitored.

Parenting Support

Through the development of the early years multi agency teams and as part of the 14 – 19 agenda there are a range of effective parenting support programmes in place. However the multi agency Review and Refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2006 – 08 identified a local need that was not reflected in the original plan. This resulted in a new cross cutting priority within the reviewed CYPP of developing parenting support to -

'...ensure greater consistency, coordination and improved information on the availability of programmes across providers' -

(First Annual Review and Refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan for Wandsworth 2006 – 08, June 2007)

More recently an audit of current parenting support programmes, along with a gap analysis has been undertaken as part of the development of an overriding parenting support strategy for Wandsworth. The views of parents and carers are important to the Trust arrangement and excellent practice is followed in obtaining these views, through for example the Early Years Forums and the locality based Parent Forums. In 2007 an extensive Borough wide survey of parents was undertaken to capture the views and ideas of service and non-service users.

As a cross cutting priority within the CYPP the following will be key objectives to enhance the development and delivery of high quality parenting support programmes in Wandsworth –

- Ensuring that a spectrum of parenting support programmes are available from universal services to those that follow a statutory intervention
- Further engage parents in the development, design and monitoring of services by developing appropriate reference and extended services cluster groups
- Reflect the Trust's commitment to supporting parents within an overarching strategy containing a Parent's Charter. The Charter will outline the minimum standards that parents and carers can expect from the Children's Trust Arrangement in regard to parenting support
- Improve access to information for parents, carers, children and young people through the development of a web based Family Information Service

Prevention

The intent to steer services to ensure a greater emphasis on early intervention and prevention was a major consideration as part of the planning processes for the original Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), its review and refresh in 2007, and as part of the process for identifying the strategic priorities for the 2008 – 11 plan. Whilst there is no overarching prevention strategy in place the following have been some of the key local developments that highlight the progress made in terms of early intervention and prevention.

- Piloting and roll out of CAF, eCAF and Multi Agency Planning meetings (MAPs) across Early Years Locality based teams and Primary schools
- Pilot programme for the Targeted Youth Support Team in Tooting (TYST)
- The development, consultation and publication of the Play Strategy
- Developing and delivering Lead Professional training to compliment the local guidance that was developed
- Establishment of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, its sub groups and training packages for staff working across the Children's Trust
- Development and launch of safeguarding web site for children, young people and their parents and carers
- Roll out of Integrated Children's centres building upon the SureStart initiative
- Established 6 Extended Schools clusters operating within 3 localities (Putney and Roehampton, Battersea and Tooting)

Joint Planning and Commissioning

Effective planning arrangements have ensured cross sector involvement in the development of, and review and refresh of the Children's Plan 2006 – 08. At both strategic and operational levels services are planned and developed in a multi agency way. There is a history of good practice of a multi agency approach and input into service reviews which has supported the development and roll out of the Early Years Integrated Children's Centres and more recently the review of the Youth Work Service.

Joint commissioning has been undertaken for a number of priorities including comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and to support a pilot project adopting a new approach to commission and deliver therapy services in Special Schools to improve outcomes for service users and offer better value for money.

The effective current arrangements will be enhanced with a focus on:

- Capturing the current good practice for joint planning and commissioning across the Trust within a strategy that will serve as a reference for future developments as well as offer a guide, toolkit and proposed commissioning schedule
- Embedding a multi agency joint planning and commissioning sub group as part of the Children's Trust Arrangement to oversee the strategic development and delivery of our commissioning arrangements

Aligning where possible, planning and budget setting cycles across agencies and sectors working with children and young people to aid the development of the joint planning and commissioning of services at all levels.

Information Sharing and Assessment

Information Sharing and Assessment refers to a multi-agency approach to facilitate those involved in providing services to children and young people to work more closely together and effectively share information to ensure all potential problems faced by children and young people are identified and addressed appropriately. Two key projects in this area are Contact Point and the Common Assessment Framework.

A national online directory, ContactPoint, is being established to allow practitioners working with a child or young person to access information about other services being provided to that child or young person to ensure a coordinated approach is taken at all times. Within Wandsworth initial work has focused on preparation for implementation of the system, which will be deployed in March 2009, with training commencing after the data has been reviewed and improved to meet required standards. To ensure the quality of data, a data quality improvement programme will be designed and delivered by 2010 for Children's Services and partner systems. High priority sources will be addressed in the first year. A programme of regular readiness assessments will also be completed during this time. Another area of work will be to ensure that HR policies and service / departmental processes for the Council and partner organisations are created or amended to include use (and misuse) of ContactPoint. A Contact Point Team will be established in 2008 to oversee the programme and provide support to users.

All Local Authorities are required to implement the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) by March 2008. This Framework is a 'shared assessment tool for use across all children's services and all local areas' and 'aims to help early identification of need and promote co-ordinated service provision'¹. Since 2006 the CAF has been 'rolled out' in a number of settings across the Borough. This has been most successful in the Early Years settings and Primary Schools. The secondary age group is being piloted during 2007 and 2008, with the Targeted Youth Support Team in Tooting. A more intensive training programme for staff across Children's Services and their partners including the Primary Care Trust, Acute Trust and Mental Health Trust and voluntary Sector started in September 2007 and continues to build the awareness and skill base required to ensure we meet the Government's deadline. The CAF process is supported by a local web based eCAF solution, which also provides a secure messaging system for registered users. The application includes electronic referrals and responses. The opportunity to share up to date information swiftly, securely with those who need to see it is vital in supporting multi-agency working. A new release of eCAF was successfully implemented in August 2007. Future work will focus on continuing to engage partner agencies in the CAF process and reviewing the CAF process once it is fully established from which a rolling programme of improvements will be developed to ensure that outcomes improve for children, young people and families.

¹ The Common Assessment Framework for Children and Young People: A Manager's Guide

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

The population of Wandsworth is projected to grow. By 2011 the proportion of children and young people in Wandsworth is expected to increase by 8.7%, almost three times the amount the Wandsworth general population is expected to increase. Significant increases in the school age population are expected, with increases of 22.5% expected by 2017. This is driven by significant increases in births in Wandsworth since 2004, where the number of births have increased by 15.1% (between 1995 and 2003 live births only increased by 5.1%).

The increase in children and young people is likely to place demands on all aspects of services. Whilst the impact on the Borough's school enrolments is remains unclear, a key element of the Council's Primary Capital Strategy and plans for secondary schools, known as Building Schools for the Future, is to match demand for school places with supply.

In December 2007, the Department of Children, Schools and Families released The Children's Plan: Building Brighter Futures. This Plan provides the framework for how work will be taken forward in the next 10 years to improve the lives of all children and young people. This will be done by:

- securing the health and wellbeing of children and young people;
- safeguarding the young and vulnerable;
- achieving world-class standards;
- closing the gap in educational achievement for children from disadvantaged backgrounds;
- ensuring young people are participating and achieving their potential to 18 and beyond; and
- keeping children and young people on the path to success.

Child poverty/disadvantage: Significant challenges remain due to the large variations in overall economic and income related deprivation in Wandsworth, with significant pockets of deprivation as well as high levels of affluence. Guided by the actions laid out in Child Poverty: Everybody's Business and the London Child Poverty Commissions report, Capital Gains, we will develop a long-term approach to lifting families out of poverty. For those children and young people experiencing poverty, we will build on existing multi-agency work and co-ordination of services to build their aspirations and maximise their opportunities to ensure the best outcomes are achieved.

Multi-agency teams and locality working: To enable an integrated approach to the identification of need, the planning on how best to meet that need, the delivery of services and the review of the effectiveness of that delivery, there is a need to bring together those who work in a range of agencies. There is not one model that applies to all age groups and all parts of the Borough. The nature of multi-agency working is evolving in a pragmatic way to best suit local needs and the age and needs of the children concerned.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WANDSWORTH?

COLLABORATIVE WORKING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Council, as the statutory lead for ensuring co-ordinated service planning and provision for children, has combined its services for children and young people into one Department, with a lead Cabinet Member. The Director of the Children's Services Department chairs the Children and Young People's Board, the key officer forum within the 'Trust' and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People chairs the Children's Strategy Board, which is a sub group of the Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership. Through these arrangements, the Council works with other public services, school and college representatives and the voluntary sector, to plan and agree joint priorities and services for children, young people and their parents and carers. This involves joint work to audit existing provision, assess need for service change and development and agree how to make best use of the resources available within each service, in order to achieve those priorities. A Children and Young People's Plan sets out priorities for the next three years, relating to the work of all partners. It is the blueprint for the common approach to achieving the five Every Child Matters outcomes:

Being Healthy

Staying Safe

Enjoying and Achieving

Making a positive contribution

Achieving economic wellbeing

and a range of cross-cutting priorities. The Trust has a number of sub-groups to ensure the detailed implication of the plan and to undertake quarterly monitoring and review.

THE VISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN WANDSWORTH

The vision underpinning the work of the Trust is: -

- We want children and young people in Wandsworth to achieve their full potential and enjoy a healthy, safe, stable and happy life. In addition, we want them to be active citizens who take responsibility for their action and who respect others. To help achieve this we want to deliver accessible, responsive and integrated services for high quality. There should also be well-targeted early intervention and support for all those who need it.

This vision will be closer to achievement by 2020. We have set out below what we would expect to be in place by that stage, which reflects the activities spelt out in the DCSF Children's Plan, Building Brighter Futures.

Early Intervention and Prevention

As it is better to prevent failure than to tackle crisis, we will have systems that, as early as possible, take a multi-agency approach to identifying need, and agreeing how best to meet that need. There will be a wider range of additional and targeted services for children, young people and their families to provide information, help and support as early as possible. As a result,

there will be fewer referrals to specialist services, especially of a type where little or no service can be offered following referral.

Reducing levels of child poverty

The Trust Arrangements will have resulted in a greater proportion of single parents and others previously on benefits, in training or employment. A range of affordable childcare options will support these parents. Arrangements for supporting young carers will also continue to improve. There will be fewer young people not in education, employment and training and levels of teenage pregnancy will be reduced.

Safeguarding

There will be fewer incidents of bullying, more children and young people will report feeling safe at, and to and from, school and there will be fewer accidents involving children and young people. Children and young people will report that they feel safe. All staff working with children will be properly and regularly vetted and there will be fewer incidents of abuse to children and young people.

Fewer children will be in the care of the Local Authority, with an emphasis on supporting children to stay with their families, or in permanent placements including adoption or special guardianship arrangements.

Levels of risk-taking behaviour by young people, such as drugs and alcohol abuse, will be reduced; levels of antisocial and offending behaviour and youth crime will be reduced. Re-offending rates in particular will decline. Attendance rates will improve significantly, and the incidence of persistent absences similarly improves. No child will be out of school for long periods of time.

Involving children, young people, parents and carers

There will be a range of informal and formal mechanisms through which children, young people and their parents and carers will be involved in evaluating the effectiveness of services provided, the development of priorities for service change and development and the planning and commissioning arrangements for new services. This will include open access drop-in centres and forums, focus groups and more formalised arrangements for representation on reference groups and sub-groups linked with the Children's Trust arrangements.

Information and support for parents and carers

There will be an easily accessible information system for use by children and young people, their parents and carers and service providers, which sets out details of all services for children and young people. These will range from the universal, such as schools and health provision, additional services, such as after school activities and family learning, childcare and school holiday schemes, more specialist services for children, young people and their families with particular needs and a range of voluntary and community services. It will provide a menu of opportunities by age range, geographical area, service type and child, young person and parent/carer need.

Support for parents and carers will range from information, opportunities to volunteer, group work, workshops and family learning, as well as more formalised parenting classes and statutory programmes.

Excellence and equity

At every age we will have made substantial progress in eradicating the gap in education achievement between the lowest achiever and the average. In particular, we will have raised the achievement of the black and minority groups. We will have significantly raised the attainment of children looked after, children in need of protection and those with learning difficulties and disabilities.

All families with children under 5 will have access to multi-agency services through one of the 22 or more Integrated Children's Centres in the Borough. The assessment and provision for children under 5 with special needs or disabilities, will also be closely connected to the planning and delivery of services through these Integrated Children's Centres in order to ensure the earliest identification of need and intervention work in a universal, non-stigmatised context.

An enviable mixture of high performing and diverse schools at the heart of their communities will be developed, where attainment of learners exceeds national expectations, specifically:

- i) secondary schools will be transformed into vibrant and confident community learning and recreational hubs offering, with the Further Education sector and work-based training providers, a full range of diverse and accessible education and training pathways;
- ii) Integrated primary schools, special schools and children's centres will be developed providing a range of education, health, care and support services to families;
- iii) the highest standards of attainment for pupils and students through the setting of individualised targets and associated programmes of work, both during the core school day and through the provision of a wide range of extended services, on the school site and in the wider community will be secured;
- iv) schools will collaborate in clusters to make best use of available resources in order to provide children and young people with education, childcare and a varied menu of enriching activities and development opportunities available all year round, from at least 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. and with opportunities for evening and weekend activities. Within this offer, those children with additional needs will be able to receive this support;
- v) the Building Schools for the Future and the Primary Capital Strategy initiatives will have resulted in improved primary school facilities and significantly restructured secondary school buildings, better suited to 21st century education.
- vi) bilingual provision in primary schools will have been extended across all parts of the borough

Young people will stay on in education or training at least to the age of 17 and many beyond, taking up a wider range of courses, including diplomas and work focused learning. Young people will be active beyond school, working in the community and as volunteers.

Virtually all children and young people, including those with special educational needs will be catered for in terms of their care and educational needs within or close to the borough.

Workforce Reform and leadership development

All professional groups working with children and young people will have undergone some common training and development to ensure a consistent approach between different services. Identification of need, planning to meet that need and the provision of agreed services, as well as the monitoring of that provision, will routinely be undertaken in multi-agency contexts. Recruitment and retention initiatives will have resulted in a motivated well-trained workforce and there will more flexible career pathways and opportunities for staff development and training. A rigorous programme of supervision, management and leadership development will ensure that staff are effective, well deployed and working purposefully in a way which children, young people, parents and carers trust, value and respect.

Children's Trust Arrangements

Within the next 10 years, a completely integrated Children's Trust with seamless commissioning of service will drive forward and lead this transformation programme for improving outcomes for children and young people. This will involve:

- i) aligning all relevant budgets of partner agencies where that is consistent with improved outcomes for children and young people and better value for money;
- ii) moving to greater integration of service management amongst partner agencies;
- iii) developing and adopting inter-agency policies across all areas affecting children and young people;
- iv) building the capacity of the voluntary and community sector to deliver services, including those targeted towards hard to reach groups;
- v) creating a children's workforce with a consistently high level of generic skills together with more specific individual professional based competencies

Local Area Agreement Targets

In addition to the mandatory targets the following targets are included in the LAA:

NI 56 Obesity among primary school children in year 6

NI 79 Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19

NI 102 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at KS2 and KS4

NI 112 Under 18 conception rate

NI 113 Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 20 year olds

NI 114 Rate of permanent exclusions from school

UNDERPINNING PLANS

Children and Young People's Plan

Corporate Business Plan

14-19 Plan

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

PCT Local Delivery Plan

Young People's Substance Misuse Plan

Road Safety Plan

Play Strategy

Connexions Delivery Plan

Behaviour Support Plan

South Thames College Three-Year Development Plan 2005-2008

Youth Justice Plan

Crime, Disorder and Drugs Reduction Strategy 2005-2008

Children's Workforce Strategy

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Strategy

Domestic Violence Strategy for Wandsworth

Joint Area Review

SEN and Inclusion Strategy and Implementation Plan

IMPROVING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

HEALTH IN WANDSWORTH.

Borough profile and background

Health and health care needs in Wandsworth are affected by the unusual age structure of its population. An exceptionally high proportion are aged between 20 and 44 (53.7%, compared to 42.8% of the London population and 35.1% of the population of England). People in this age range use generally make less use of health care services than older people or young children, a fact that is reflected in NHS funding allocations for Wandsworth. However, they can be expected to place a high level of demand on some health provision, for example sexual health, substance misuse, or maternity services. Promotion of healthy lifestyles is also a priority.

There are sharp contrasts within Wandsworth, with several wards in the most deprived fifth of areas in England and others in the least deprived fifth. Annual Public Health Reports have demonstrated, across a range of measures, that the health of people in the more deprived wards is worse than those in the more affluent wards. Overall, life expectancy for women in Wandsworth is close to the national average, with life expectancy for men being below average.

Wandsworth Teaching PCT is responsible for commissioning health services on behalf of the Borough's population, as well as an additional 58,700 who are registered with Wandsworth GP practices but live outside the Borough, a total of 328,000 people.

The provider landscape is made up of acute, community, mental health and primary care providers offering a range of NHS clinical services to the local population of Wandsworth. Prison healthcare services are provided via a social enterprise and services for people with learning disabilities are provided in partnership with the local authority. Major providers include:-

- St. Georges
- The new Queen Mary's Hospital in Roehampton
- Chelsea and Westminster NHS foundation trust
- Guy's and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust
- 49 GP practices
- 48 dental surgeries
- SW London & St Georges MH Trust

Approximately 70% of the PCT's commissioning budget is spent on hospital-based services, whilst the greatest number of contacts by patients with health professionals takes place in primary and community care settings (over 80%). The majority of diagnostic tests and most access to urgent care services are currently undertaken in secondary care. The PCT is concerned to bring about a shift toward offering these services in community and primary care settings.

The PCT has prioritised the needs of the most deprived wards (Latchmere, Roehampton, Queenstown, Tooting and Graveney) with plans to allocate new resources and redesign and develop services.

WHAT DO OUR RESIDENTS THINK?

A national programme of surveys of users' experience of healthcare is conducted by the Healthcare Commission. Comparative data is also available from the national survey of access to GP services conducted in 2007. Key areas of concern arising from these surveys are:

- people in Wandsworth are significantly less satisfied than the national average in relation to hours of opening of GP surgeries and arrangements for booking appointments more than 48 hours in advance;
- in-patients at St George's were more likely than those in other hospitals to say they had had to share a sleeping area with patients of the opposite sex;
- satisfaction with hospital food at St George's is low;
- patients at St George's were also less satisfied than patients in other hospitals with cleanliness standards, especially cleanliness of bathrooms;
- mothers who had given birth at St. George's were less satisfied than the national average with the way in which they were treated by the staff they encountered in labour and after the birth;
- patients of the South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust are significantly less satisfied than the average about the way they are treated by community psychiatric nurses.

On the other hand, there are some positive findings:

- a higher proportion of patients than the national average say that they have been copied into correspondence between their GP and the hospital to which they have been referred;
- the proportion of women who gave birth at St George's who were given a choice over where ante-natal checkups would take place was well above the national average, as was the proportion of women who saw their GP at ante-natal check-ups
- there has been a substantial improvement in the level of satisfaction of patients of the South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust since the disappointing results of the 2004 survey.

In addition to these national survey programmes, the PCT and other local trust maintain local programmes of patient and public involvement which monitor user experience of different aspects of health care and priorities for service development. Until recently, Patient and Public Involvement Fora have provided an independent user perspective on the health care provided by each local NHS Trust. From April 2008 these bodies are replaced by a Local Involvement Network which will support user engagement across all health and social care services used by Wandsworth residents.

The Wandsworth PCT Public Health Directorate has undertaken a series of needs assessments incorporating community views on social, environmental and lifestyle factors that affect their health and well-being, and has recently commissioned a borough-wide health and lifestyle survey that will enable this information to be collated across the whole Borough.

HOW WELL ARE WE PERFORMING ?

The most recent performance assessments of the bodies responsible for providing health and social care in Wandsworth are as follows:

- Wandsworth Primary Care Trust is assessed by the Healthcare Commission as fair in relation to both quality of services and use of resources
- St George's Healthcare NHS Trust is assessed by the Healthcare Commission as fair in relation to quality of services and weak on use of resources
- South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust is assessed by the Healthcare Commission as fair on both quality of services and use of resources

The healthcare commission has also produced a number of thematic reviews, in which the results for Wandsworth services are as follows:

- Tobacco control (published October 2006): Good
- Substance misuse (published October 2006): Fair
- Community mental health services (published October 2006): Weak
- Heart failure (published July 2007): Excellent
- Diabetes (published July 2007): Weak

In addition, the Healthcare Commission has produced a number of reviews which include ratings for aspects of the services provided by St George's Hospital:

- Services for children in hospital (published October 2006): Fair
- Medicines management (published October 2006): Good
- Diagnostic services (published October 2006): Good
- Admissions management (published October 2006): Fair
- Maternity services (published January 2008): Least well performing

All of the local NHS Trusts undertake detailed monitoring of the performance of the services for which they are responsible and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee maintains an overview of local NHS Services. Some areas of concern are:

- recorded childhood immunisation rates are low;
- despite the PCT's good rating for its work in relation to tobacco control, uptake of its smoking cessation services has been low;
- although waiting times have fallen dramatically, St. George's has struggled to maintain performance against the target that 98% of patients attending the accident and emergency department should spend no more than four hours in the department;
- for several years, St George's has suffered from relatively high rates of healthcare acquired infection, although there has been good progress over the past year in reducing the rates of both MRSA and C Difficile infection; and
- despite good performance against targets for access to sexual health services, it is known that waiting times in family planning clinics are such that around a quarter of people who attend leave before they are seen.

There is little systematic data on the health behaviours and lifestyles of people resident in Wandsworth. The forthcoming survey commissioned by the PCT's public health directorate will fill this gap in our knowledge. In addition, a survey is currently taking place of drug, alcohol and tobacco use by 11-15 year olds attending Wandsworth Schools. The Active People survey has shown that the proportion of people in Wandsworth who undertake the recommended level of physical activity is well above the national average. Imputed estimates based on available demographic data for Wandsworth suggests that there are likely to be an above-average proportion of smokers in the population, and that the proportion of the population who engage in binge drinking is higher than in any other London Borough.

The following are key data on health outcomes:-

- The infant mortality rate in Wandsworth has fallen faster than the national average and in 2004-06 was 4.2 per 1,000 live births, below the London and national averages;
- On average, men in Wandsworth live shorter lives than those in England as a whole. Female life expectancy is similar to that of England. Life expectancy is increasing overall more rapidly than the national rate of increase.
- There is a seven year difference in life expectancy between people living in more affluent parts of the borough and those living in the less affluent parts of the borough. According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), 2004, Latchmere is the most deprived ward, and for the period 2000-2004 the life expectancy was 71.2 (male) and 77.7 years (female). This compares to the most affluent ward - Thamesfield - of 78.8 (male), and 83.3 (female). Life expectancy in Latchmere is not increasing as rapidly as elsewhere in Wandsworth.
- Expressed as directly age standardised mortality rates, cardiovascular disease mortality has also dropped but the rate of early deaths from heart disease and stroke is high compared to the average for England.
- Expressed as directly age standardised mortality rates, cancer mortality has shown a noticeable drop for males and females. These rates are in line with the rates for Inner London for 2003-05 of 145 for men and 107 for women.
- Between 1998 and 2006, the teenage pregnancy rate had dropped by 18.7%, but is still above the London and national averages;
- 20.5% of children in year 6 in Wandsworth Schools in the 2006-07 academic year were obese, above the national average of 17.5% although just below the London average of 20.8%;
- There are high and increasing rate of sexual transmitted diseases, although this may partly reflect good access to diagnostic and treatment services.

Levels of partnership working between the Council and PCT are very good and has been successful in promoting healthier lifestyles. Working with the PCT, the Council used the recent change in legislation on smoking in public to focus a campaign of awareness-raising and education, which included targeting local businesses. Council improvements to leisure services have been strongly focused on health promotion, including development of facilities

for people with disabilities. In the Battersea regeneration scheme, schools are all on course to meet the new Government target of five hours activity in advance of the target date. Staying Healthy events, run jointly by the Council and the PCT, offer health checks and lifestyle advice and the Young Person's Health Promotion Team is targeting work in Roehampton to reduce smoking and substance misuse. In addition, considerable progress has been made with the Integration of health services through the Children's Centres particularly in disadvantaged areas and with plans to integrate health-visiting work with Integrated Children's Centres borough-wide.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

The predicted population growth within the borough is likely to place additional demand on health services. The high percentage of young people is projected to increase further. The compound growth rate in population from 2007/08 to 2011/12 is 7.6% for children and 3.0% for adults. The over-75 population is projected to decrease by 10% (about 1,200 fewer people aged over 75) by 2012. But as life expectancy increases, the oldest people will have greater complexity of needs.

Due to the anticipated rise in obesity the incidence of Diabetes and Coronary Heart Disease is expected to grow year on year. GP registers in Wandsworth in 2006/07 show a total of 8,725 people with diabetes. The growth in the incidence of Diabetes is expected to continue at 1.0% per year, giving a population of 9,200 people with Diabetes by 2012.

GP registers in 2006/07 show a total of 3,600 people with CHD. The growth in the incidence of Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) is expected to continue at 0.5% per year, giving a population of 3,690 people with CHD by 2012.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has identified the following big challenges for Wandsworth:

- Great disparity in health and life chances between residents of different parts of the borough;
- Youthful population, some of it with significant money, making poor health choices around lifestyle, including sexual health, mental health and substance misuse;
- Meeting the expectations of an increasingly articulate and well-educated population;
- Supporting patients with long term conditions in a sensitive and effective way.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WANDSWORTH?

The 2006 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health identified three population groups meriting specific attention in the development of health policy:

- The *young and mobile* population, including people living alone and young families. Whilst this is generally a healthy population making relatively low use of health services, the promotion of healthy lifestyles is a key issue for this group. The mobility of the group, and the fact that many of them are working long hours, poses particular challenges for engagement with health services;

- The *traditional* group of mainly long-term and older residents. This group is generally less affluent and has a much higher level of need for health and social care; and
- *Refugees and asylum seekers*. Although a much smaller group, they are likely to have complex needs and particular difficulties in engaging with health and social care services.

In promoting population health, work will take place at four levels:

- *Improving health and social care services* in order to improve outcomes for people with health problems and disabilities
- *Strengthening preventive healthcare*, including screening, immunisation and targeted health improvement services (e.g. smoking cessation services)
- *Promotion of healthy lifestyles*, focussing particularly on those aspects of lifestyle most associated with poor health (i.e. diet, physical activity, alcohol consumption, smoking, and sexual health)
- *Addressing the broader determinants of health*. These include educational attainment, the physical and social environment, and economic well-being.

Vision

The shared vision of the WLSP is to ensure that there is synergy between activity taking place at all the above levels, to ensure that the pattern of improving health outcomes over the past ten years is maintained and that the benefits are shared across the whole of the borough, including the more deprived wards.

In its Commissioning Strategy Plan, Wandsworth Teaching Primary Care Trust aims to promote healthy living and deliver high quality healthcare by commissioning services for the next 5 years and beyond that are modern, truly patient centred and in the most appropriate setting.

Priorities

The commissioning priorities for the agreed by the PCT for next 5 years are:

1. To improve the life expectancy over and above the expected trends and focus on greater health gain for those in deprived wards.
2. Young People will enter adulthood in a state of health that enables them to reach their full potential.
3. Improve the quality and responsiveness of services that address mental well-being, sexual health, drugs, alcohol and obesity.
4. Improve access to, and the responsiveness of, GP and other primary care services.
5. Improve the quality of services for people living with complex and/or long-term conditions.

In working towards these goals, the PCT is committed to initiatives addressing the following issues:-

- Child Health
- Stop Smoking
- Healthy Living

- Mental Health
- Drug and Alcohol
- Obesity
- Sexual Health
- Access and Primary Care Infrastructure
- Long Term Conditions

Other agencies within the Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership will endeavour to support these initiatives in the areas of work for which they have responsibility

Local Area Agreement Targets

NI 134 The number of emergency bed days per head of weighted population

NI 121 Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75

Long term plans

The improvement of health and health care will be supported by the long-term plans described in other strands of the sustainable community strategy, including maintaining and improving the environment, improving educational attainment, economic regeneration, and reducing crime and disorder.

Specific plans to improve the health of the population include:

- A reconfiguration of family planning and sexual health services to increase integration and improve access;
- Implementation of an alcohol strategy, increasing the provision of brief intervention services for hazardous and harmful drinkers and offering a strengthened and more integrated service for dependent drinkers;
- Development of a health trainers programme to promote healthy living amongst more deprived population groups; and
- Strengthening the health and well-being services available to young people.

Changes in the provision of healthcare will include:

- a shift of diagnostic, outpatient and minor surgery services from hospital to community settings;
- strengthening primary care through local networks of general practitioners, supported by primary care centres bringing together a range of professionals and offering enhanced resources;
- a major programme of physical improvements at St George's, underpinned by a strengthening of St George's role as the main centre for specialist acute services in South West London; and
- an increase in locally-focussed commissioning of health services through strengthening of practice-based commissioning.

UNDERPINNING PLANS

Commissioning Strategy Plan

Alcohol Strategy

Sexual Health Strategy

Childhood Immunisation Action Plan

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
Drugs Treatment Plan
Children and Young People's Plan

Social Care

Background

There are many adults within Wandsworth who need care, help and support in their daily lives to maintain their independence. Local people may have needs that arise from:-

- physical disabilities;
- sensory problems affecting sight, hearing or speech;
- short or long term illnesses;
- learning disabilities;
- mental health difficulties;
- substance misuse.

The Council is funding social care support for 2711 people between the ages of 18 to 64. Of these 632 are in residential or nursing homes and 2079 are being supported to live at home through various forms of support that includes home care, day services, meals provision and a range of services designed to promote independence.

Looking at the people with physical disabilities, sensory problems and those with long term or short-term illness, the Council supports a total of 819 people with social care services. 109 of these people live in residential care or nursing homes whilst 710 are helped to live at home. The Wandsworth rate of younger, i.e. between 18 and 64 years old, physically disabled people supported to live at home is significantly less than the London average (3.4 per 1,000 adult population compared to 4.15 for London). The population profile (i.e. a young population within the 18-64 group) has an impact on this figure. There are significant over representations in the Black and Asian communities and under representation in the White community. The wards with the highest rates of younger physically disabled people supported are Roehampton, Latchmere, West Putney and Graveney. Long Term Conditions (LTC) are those conditions, such as diabetes, heart failure and asthma, that cannot at the moment be cured, but whose progress can be managed and controlled by medication and other interventions, such as therapies for example. It is estimated that 30% (17.5 million people) of the UK population are living with a long-term condition (Supporting People with LTC. Liberating the talents of nurses who care for people with LTC, DoH 2005). This group also includes intermittent and progressive neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson disease and motor neurone disease.

Overall there are 956 people with learning disabilities supported; 330 in residential settings and 626 supported at home. At 3.3 per 1,000 adult population Wandsworth has the highest rate of people with learning disabilities helped to live at home in London (London average 2.3). Black people are over represented in this group. There is some correlation with deprivation indicators with the highest concentration living in Roehampton, Bedford, Furzedown, Nightingale and Graveney wards. Service trends and population data indicate that the number of people with learning disabilities will continue to grow.

Of the people with mental health problems being supported, there are 193 in residential or nursing care and 743 supported to live independently. There are 3.5 per 1,000 adult population supported to live at home in Wandsworth. This is significantly lower than the London figure of 4.6 and also lower than England as a whole. The number is forecast to grow in line with service patterns and incidence of severe mental illness. The highest concentrations are in Latchmere, Bedford, Earlsfield and Tooting. There is a significant overrepresentation of Black and under representation of Asian and White groups. Almost a quarter of Wandsworth's adult population report not having good mental health. Almost three quarters of these also report symptoms of mental ill health (PCT Public Health Annual Report 2005/06). Moreover, physical and emotional well-being are closely related and adults with limiting chronic illness are most vulnerable.

Wandsworth has an estimated 2,349 problem cocaine and opiate users of whom 55% are not known to treatment services. There are also a significant number of problem users of other drugs, although no estimate of this is available. It is estimated that around 14,000 people in Wandsworth are dependent drinkers, and 55,000 drink above sensible limits. Although measures of directly alcohol-related harm (deaths, hospital admissions and ambulance call-outs) are below average for London, they remain significant.

According to the 2001 Census, the proportion of households within the Borough with a limiting long-term illness is around a fifth less than the London figure and nearly 30% lower than the national figure (24.08% compared to 29.65%).

Estimates based on the 2001 Census show that there are over 17,000 people (6.6% of the population) who are looking after or assisting someone who is sick or disabled in Wandsworth. In acknowledgement of the growing role of (and demands on) such carers, the Council has a strong commitment locally to supporting carers and has recently taken steps to reinforce and broaden the remit of the Wandsworth Carers' Strategy Group, which comprises carers, representatives of the Wandsworth Carers' Centre and voluntary organisations together with representatives of the Adult Social Services, Children's and Adult Social Services Departments and local NHS services. This will ensure that the Council is in a good position to respond to the emerging new national strategy.

The Council, Health and other services (including the third sector) work closely together to ensure that services are effectively commissioned and delivered. Formal partnership agreements are in place with local NHS Trusts on services for people with learning disabilities and mental health, Intermediate Care, Equipment and Substance Misuse services to underpin partnership working.

Adult Mental Health services in Wandsworth are commissioned by Wandsworth Primary Care Trust (WTPCT) and the London Borough of Wandsworth (the Council) jointly from South West London and St George's

Mental Health NHS Trust. The Learning Disability Service is a joint service with the WTPCT.

The Supporting People service funds supported housing, which provides for vulnerable people needing both housing and support. These include hostels, sheltered housing, group homes and support to people in their own homes. These services provide practical support to help people live more independently. Support work covers help with benefits, assistance in finding appropriate services in the area, regular planning meetings to address needs, and in temporary housing help to move on into your own home. The Supporting People Programme commenced on 1st April 2003. The Programme administers annual funding of £11.2m to 370 schemes operating in Wandsworth providing housing support to some 3,700 vulnerable people. The commissioning of Supporting People services is closely linked and co-ordinated with the commissioning of other social care and health services to ensure effective use of resources and the quality of delivery of services.

The Adult Social Services Department administers a separate funding programme for the voluntary sector. This is above any services that may be purchased from tendering processes but is closely tied in to commissioning strategies. In 2008/09 a total of 29 projects are being funded at a total annual value of almost £1.8 million. Examples of services include social day provision, care support and informal drop in services for mentally ill people that can complement other more mainstream provision.

WHAT DO OUR RESIDENTS THINK?

It was service users that helped to shape the Action for Ability Strategy and have continued to do this by being fully involved in the establishment of the Action for Ability conference in June 2007. Service users identified the key themes for the conference and were supported to organise and run it. The themes of the conference were improving access to employment, improving access to housing and building self-confidence. A report from the day was published in the Winter 2007/08 issue of Fulfilling Lives. These themes continue to underpin the work programme of the Action for Ability Strategy Group and the service user group supported by Wandsworth Care Alliance.

Access to transport is an ongoing issue in the Borough with general concern about the unreliable and often unavailable service provided by taxi card, and difficulties in using Dial a Ride. People want an unmarked taxi service that is available when they need it. Some service users in the Strategy Group are interested in the Government's proposed development of Centres for Independent Living (CILs) and in knowing what Wandsworth's plans are.

The Department of Health Best Value Survey in 2004 focused on people aged 18 to 64 years with physical disabilities and sensory needs using Adult Social Services. 74% said that they were satisfied, very satisfied or extremely satisfied with the help they receive from Social Services, and 55% said that their opinions and preferences were taken into account when decisions were taken about services provided to them.

A survey of users of the Wandsworth Integrated Community Equipment service took place during February and March 2008 and results will be available in the summer. The sensory needs service has also been working with people who are deaf to identify issues and concerns. The main feedback is about ensuring that all services across the Council are able to communicate with BSL users.

65% of Direct Payments users are adults (not older people) with disabilities. A Direct Payments service user group was established in 2006 and as a result of the priorities expressed by this group training for personal assistants is now available.

People with learning disabilities and their carers have contributed to the development of the Learning Disability Strategy and are fully engaged with the local Partnership Board. Putting people in control, having a good place to live, improving health and well-being and strengthening the voice of people and families are key themes. Work now is focused on supporting individuals to express how they want to live. Work has been ongoing in the "Better Days Forum" to improve access to day opportunities. Existing services are thought to be too big, people want more choice in what they do, support to travel, more opportunity to see friends, especially in the evening and at weekends. Work is continuing to help people to find out about the options that might be available to them so that they will be able to make more informed choices. Similar work has taken place over an extended period with residents of the Roehampton Hostel (which is scheduled for closure) to find out what people want from where they live. In addition the Dynamite project is helping 8 people in transition between Children and Adult services, supporting them to make individual choices about how they are supported.

For mental health services the social work service staff group is seconded by the Council to the management of South West London and St. Georges Mental Health Trust.. In 2007 the Trust surveyed service users of the Community Mental Health Teams (part of a national survey of service users). Generally the results were favourable. 57% said that the service was very good or excellent, 61% that they felt capable of working, compared to 49% in the previous survey and 48% nationally. 52% said that they were fully involved in decisions about their treatment, compared to 43% nationally and 60% said that the diagnosis had been fully explained compared to 46% nationally. One area in which the Trust did less well was the percentage of informal carers who felt that they had the information they needed about mental health problems. The Trust has helped to address this by establishing Pharmacy and Medicines support line in addition to the CRISIS line for urgent support.

The Council, in partnership with the Wandsworth Teaching Primary Care Trust, commissions the Wandsworth Care Alliance to represent the views of users in matters relating to service developments and change. A more recent initiative has been the Community Partners scheme under which service users are trained and supported to be directly involved in the decision making

machinery. Examples include the assessment of tenders and staff appointments.

HOW WELL ARE WE PERFORMING?

The Commission for Social Care Inspection routinely monitors adult Social Care services. The latest assessment of the Council's performance in adult social services was carried out in 2007. The assessment looks in detail at services and outcomes for the main client groups. It also looks at broader themes such as health and well-being, and independence and choice. The Council received an overall two star rating out of a maximum of three. Within this overall score the Council was judged 'good' at delivering outcomes with a 'promising' capacity to improve.

The assessment highlighted a range of key strengths such as the timely identification of individual needs and switching on of new care arrangements. It also praised the council's work with carers which included more training and support and a better understanding of their needs. It noted that partnership working with the local NHS was strong and a single improvement plan for mental health services was being monitored jointly by the chief executives from all three organisations concerned.

Nevertheless the assessment highlighted several important areas for improvement which are being taken forward in detailed action plans: for example, increasing the take up of Direct payments (which give service users greater control over their choice of care), improving performance on the speed of delivery of equipment and supporting more people with learning disabilities in residential care to more independent living. All of these improvement areas are incorporated within the Adult Social Services Business Plans with specific and measurable targets for improvement. Significant improvements have been achieved in 2007/8. Examples include the number of people getting Direct Payments increasing from 139 to 194 and the proportion of equipment delivered in 7 days rising from 73% to 89%. The percentage of services to support carers has also grown from 10% to 13%.

A major review of Services for People with Learning Disabilities (PLD) was completed by the Paradigm consultancy during 2006. It was concluded that PLD services are adequately resourced in Wandsworth, but significant service gaps remain and will be addressed primarily by service redesign. These include professional advocacy, person-centred planning, day and transport services and the need to replace out-of-borough placements with supported living and other arrangements within the borough. A major development programme is now in place to address the outcome of the review.

A national joint review of community mental health services was carried out in 2006. The Wandsworth Local Implementation team (LIT), which coordinates and plans mental health services for the area, was assessed as being at Level 1 out of 4 (4 being "excellent" and 1 being "weak"). Since then significant improvements have been achieved including improvements to the involvement of service users and carers in the planning, commissioning and monitoring of services, to the accommodation and environment in which

services are delivered and to performance against some important targets within the community teams. The introduction of employment specialists into the community teams has provided a focus on helping service users back to work and the introduction of community development workers has provided better links with those in the ethnic communities that are harder to engage in mainstream services.

The introduction of more rigorous performance management allowed performance to be monitored more closely. In 2006/07 improvement was achieved against some important targets, most notably the improvement in the number of people seen within seven days of discharge from hospital, which increased from 53% to 95% and the caseload of the CMHTs, which has been reduced to the level recommended by national implementation guidance for the first time in several years. However, there are still several areas for continued improvement including current performance against targets for Early Intervention and Crisis and Home Treatment.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

The population of Wandsworth is projected to increase over the next 10 years. This is likely to mean an increase in the proportion of people requiring social care. In addition developments too in medical technology mean that an increasing number of babies with severe and complex needs are surviving into adulthood. Life expectancy is increasing amongst people with learning disabilities. Projections indicate a significant continuing increase in the number of people with learning disabilities who will require services. The same will be true for people with mental illness as the overall incidence of severe mental illness grows within the population.

There is also evidence that both social trends and service developments will have an impact on the number of carers available. Increased participation of women in the labour market is thought to be reducing the supply of women able to care. More women work full time and women are less likely to be a carer if they are in full time paid work. On the other hand, improved flexibility in working conditions is allowing people to combine employment with their caring responsibilities. The growth in the number of lone parents, changes in the patterns of marriage, the increase in the number of people living alone and increasing mobility amongst family members may result in people not having the sort of relationships that can result in informal caring. There is an increasing demand for care as people live longer but it is now more likely than in the past that women entering old age are still living with a spouse.

The increase in the proportion of people being looked after at home places demands on carers. Better rehabilitation following an illness or accident may reduce long-term care needs. On the other hand, medical advances, such as the ability to save the lives of very premature babies, may increase the numbers of people who need care.

The overall agenda for social care will change substantially in the future as the Council implements the provisions of the national policy 'Transforming Social Care'.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WANDSWORTH?

Vision

Every person requiring social care, irrespective of their illness or disability, will be supported to:

- Live independently
- Stay healthy and recover quickly from illness
- Exercise maximum control over their own lives
- Participate as active and equal citizens, both economically and socially
- Have the best possible quality of life, irrespective of illness or disability
- Retain maximum dignity and respect.

Priorities

- Implement the Transforming Social Care developments to achieve the personalisation of social care
- Work with other key players to improve the focus on early intervention and prevention
- Develop support for carers in maintaining their roles
- Continue to shift the focus of services away from institutional forms of care (residential and day care) into community and mainstream services.

Local Area Agreement Targets.

NI 135 Carers receiving needs assessment or review and specific carer's service, or advice and information

NI 150 Adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment

NI 146 Adults with learning disabilities in employment

NI 141 Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living

Longer term plans.

The direction for services is to make care and support personalised. This will involve a strategic shift of services to become more focused on early intervention and prevention rather than services of last resort. This will mean that every person requiring care and support will have choice and control over how, when and by whom that support is provided. Care and support will not necessarily have to be provided by traditional care organisations. The role of Adult Social Services will be to support individuals in making their own care arrangements and helping them to manage risks.

Future emphasis will be on evidencing that the services are delivering outcomes that improve people's quality of life and will require considerable work with provider organisations to achieve greater flexibility in how they deliver care and support. All of this will require fundamental changes in the role and skill mix of the social care workforce across all sectors. There will be continuing emphasis on the importance of person-centred planning and delivery, promoting independence and choice and also greater user

involvement. In addition, service users have increasing expectations that their needs can be met in mainstream and community settings.

The Council has agreed arrangements for implementing this change. A small programme team is to be set up to plan and help implement the delivery of the significant changes in terms of the systems, culture and skill mix required to achieve the implementation of the transformation of social care. In addition a review team will undertake the specific work to manage the progression of existing service users to individual budgets where possible and appropriate.

Adult Social Services is therefore about to embark upon a major shift in culture, systems, practice and financial management which is potentially more significant than the changes brought about by the NHS & Community Care Act 1990. The changes identified within the recent Local Authority Circular, Transforming Social Care LAC (DH) (2008)¹, will challenge, influence and, potentially impact on every aspect of the way in which the Adult Social Services commissions and procures care for the residents of Wandsworth. This will require a significant shift in how services are currently performance managed with much more emphasis on engaging users in the process.

UNDERPINNING STRATEGIES.

The Learning Disability Strategy

Housing and support plan for people with learning disabilities 2007-2010

PCT's Commissioning Strategy Plan

Strategy for Individual Budgets and Self Directed Support

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Corporate Business Plan

Drugs Action Plan

Wandsworth Teaching Primary Care Trust's Commissioning Strategy.

OLDER PEOPLE IN WANDSWORTH

Demographic picture of older residents in Wandsworth.

Wandsworth is atypical in its population structure both in comparison with the national picture but even when compared with London as a whole.

Wandsworth has smaller percentages of all age groups other than the 20-39 year old band which includes almost 50% of the local population, compared with around 35% in London and less than 30% nationally. Wandsworth's pensioners form only 12.6% of its population compared to 15.5% of London as a whole and 21.1% nationally.

This atypical population structure in Wandsworth is not new but has become more distinct since 1991. Between that year and 2006, the number of older people fell from around 45,000 to 35,000. When the population of older people is broken down further, it becomes clear that the most significant reductions since 1991 have occurred within the 60-74 (loss of some 7,000) and 75-84 year old populations (loss of around 3,000), with the size of the 85 years and older population remaining relatively static.

There is also a continuing shift in the ethnicity of the older population in Wandsworth. In 1991, 97% of those aged 75 or older were white whereas, in 2006, it is estimated that this proportion has reduced by 10%. A similar, but greater proportionate, reduction has also taken place for those aged between 60 and 74 years. The actual numbers of non-white older people in both age groups is increasing within an overall reducing population. This will have implications on the services required and delivered in the borough.

The numbers of people aged 50+ who are working or seeking work has decreased and there is an increasing proportion of the older population who are no longer working, particularly for those aged 50-64.

Pension Credit is claimed by 9,860 Wandsworth pensioners (36%), a higher proportion than in London as a whole (28%) and Incapacity Benefit is claimed by 12.45% of 55 to 64 year olds, greater than the London rate of 11.7%.

Health and Older People.

The long-term limiting illness question from the 2001 Census shows that, between 1991 and 2001, there has been a decrease in the numbers of younger pensioners and those aged 75-84 years with long-term limiting illness but a small increase in the number of those aged 85+ years. Rates of long term limiting ill health among those aged 65 and over were highest from people describing themselves as Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi, and particularly for women.

It is estimated that as many as 2000 people in Wandsworth over 65 years of age have dementia. The incidence of dementia increases with age to 1 in 5 in those aged 80 plus. In addition to dementia 10,000 older people in Wandsworth have problems maintaining their mental health and well-being. Three quarters of these people will experience significant depressive symptoms and will be supported by family, friends and if necessary their family doctor.

Housing for older people.

There has also been a noticeable shift in the tenure of pensioner households. Between 1991 and 2001, there has been a substantial decrease in the number of social rented households which include pensioners, a similar proportionate decrease in private rented pensioner households but the number of older owner occupiers is relatively unchanged and now forms around half of the total pensioner population.

The Wandsworth pensioner population has possibly become more asset-rich, with an increasing population owning their own home. It is, however, also possible that an increased proportion of pensioner households own their own home but are cash poor. This may have an impact on the uptake of a number of services traditionally provided by the Council, such as sheltered and extra care housing, which may be less attractive to home-owners

The picture for older people living alone reflects the shift in tenure. There has been a small increase between 1991 and 2001 in pensioner home owners who live alone but larger reductions in the numbers of both social and private renting pensioner tenants who live alone. Overall, there has been a decrease in the number of pensioners living alone from around 15,000 in 1991 to nearer 12,000 in 2001.

For older people sheltered housing, which is a cluster of dwellings occupied by older people with support provided by a Sheltered Housing Officer or Warden, is an important option for housing in later life. As of March 2007 there were 2,113 units of sheltered housing in Wandsworth, including the units predicted to be available once 5 council sheltered housing schemes temporarily closed for refurbishment are re-opened. 51% of the 2,113 units are Council owned. The majority of Council sheltered tenants are housed in West Putney, Roehampton or Latchmere wards.

The majority RSL sheltered properties are found in Northcote, Roehampton and Bedford wards. The supply of sheltered housing owned by RSLs includes three schemes, for Asian older people, two schemes for Polish older people and one scheme for Christian Scientists. The Council also has nomination rights to five units in a scheme for older Afro-Caribbean people in Merton. There are also two private leasehold sheltered schemes in the Borough. Cedars Court, Clarence Lane SW15 (Roehampton), which is managed by Richmond Churches Housing Trust, and Doulton Place, Macmillan Way SW17 (Bedford), which is managed by Johnson Cooper Ltd.

A major purpose built extra care housing scheme, Chestnut House, is scheduled to open in 2008 Extra care housing supports older residents to live independently within their own home, whilst receiving support and care from staff are on-site 24 hours a day.

Overall the number of Council Tax and Housing Benefit claimants has been relatively stable over the past few years. The figures suggest that there are

some 4,500 older person claimants at any time who are tenants, largely Council or RSL, and who claim housing benefit and Council Tax.

Care and support for older people.

There has been a decrease in the number of residents in residential care services from over 600 in 1999 to around 400 in 2007. This reflects the move to supporting more residents, who would previously have been considered for residential care, in their own homes using intensive home care packages. A similar picture is shown by the pattern of admissions to Care Homes with nursing.

In the 2001 census 3,882 people aged 60 plus identified themselves as an informal carer. The Wandsworth Carers Centre has 600 carers aged 60 plus on their data base. Support is also provided as part of housing provision through sheltered housing officers both by the Council and by Residential Social Landlords (RSL). A Government grant Supporting People channelled through the Council supports more than 1,000 older people in RSL and Council properties across the Borough.

Adult Social Services contributes to the cost of care at home for 94:1,000 people aged 65 plus. In addition community equipment costing less than £1,000, such as chair raisers and bath seats, is provided free of charge, as are small adaptations such as grab rails. The Council has been piloting a programme of reablement with people leaving hospital or needing an increase in home care services. This programme has provided a rehabilitation service to help as many people as possible improve their abilities so that they can manage with less care. The scheme has been very successful and all new users of the service will soon be able to benefit from this approach. Some people need intensive levels of support to help them remain living at home and 24.5:1,000 are supported in this way (all adults) which is higher than London as a whole (18.4:1,000). Care workers work very closely with health care workers to ensure a seamless provision of care, particularly with the Intermediate Care Team which is jointly funded with the Wandsworth Primary Care Trust to help to support people to remain at home rather than to go into hospital and to help people to come home rather than stay in hospital when they do not need to be there.

Supporting older people to lead independent and active lives.

A significant number of services have been put in place for older residents in Wandsworth to support them to live independent, active lives.

Council services offer arts, library and adult education services to people of all ages. Some services are particularly targeted at older residents such as ICT classes and Silver Circle reading group offered by libraries. The Arts Service runs popular tea dances and offers small grants to senior citizen clubs for entertainment. The Council also fund the successful 'Active Days' programme, hosted by Age Concern that promotes locally based activity through three stakeholder local development groups, it enables relatively small groups of older people to develop interest groups close to their homes.

The community alarm service, WATCH Lifeline, Telecare and housing support officers make a significant contribution to maintaining the wellbeing of single pensioner residents. Additionally befriending services, such as offered by Age Concern, and outreach such as provided by the Library service, Furzedown project and the Regenerate Rise project (Roehampton) help support older residents who live alone.

Leisure Centres in Wandsworth provide a wide range of sport and physical activity programmes for people aged 50+ at specific sessions that include swimming, gym, aerobics, badminton and table tennis and free centre membership/admission for over 60s. The Wandsworth Active Days programme also provides a range of social, educational and recreational activities for older people.

A “No Cold Calling Zone” was set up on the Doverhouse Road estate in West Putney in 2006 to reduce distraction burglary and related crimes in an area with a high concentration of older people. Linked with the distraction burglary initiative, the Council, Police and Victim Support are also offering a weekly presence at the Safe and Secure desk based in the Age Concern Wandsworth office. This service is designed to offer community safety assistance and advice to older people in an environment outside of a police station

A full range of services for older people in Wandsworth can be found on the webpage developed specifically for older people:
<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/Home/CommunityServices/OlderPeople/default.htm>.

WHAT DO OUR RESIDENTS THINK?

A review of a number of different surveys conducted over the past three years shows that residents aged 65+ are much more likely to be very satisfied with Wandsworth as a place to live than either the 55-64 years group or the population, generally. This is true both of all residents and also of Council tenants.

Asked what was important in making somewhere a good place to live, older people aged 65+ attached greatest weight to health services and clean streets. Older people aged 55-64 saw both of these as important but attached greatest to the level of crime. All groups attached a fairly high weight to the level of crime as important in making somewhere a good place to live but significantly more of those aged 55-64 saw it as important than of those aged 65+. Older people in both age groups see road and pavement repairs as much more important than do the population generally but, this time, more of those aged 65+ see it as important than those aged 55-64.

Asked what most needs improving almost 60% of those aged 65+ saw health services as most important but only 10% felt they most needed improvement. Clean streets and the level of crime were both seen as important by around 50% of those aged 65+ and, in each case around 35% felt they most needed improvement. Although only 30% of those aged 65+ saw road and pavement repairs as important, almost 50% felt they most needed improvement. The

picture was even more marked for traffic congestion, seen as important by only some 20% of people aged 65+ but seen as most needing improvement by around 50%.

Residents were asked to select from a list of issues which they saw as a problem locally. Older people, agreed with residents as whole, that parents not taking responsibility for their children and teenagers hanging round the streets were issues locally. The other two issues receiving high scores from all age groups were rubbish and litter lying around and people not treating other people with respect and consideration. Those aged 65+ were significantly more likely to see rubbish and litter as a problem than the general population and those aged 55-64 were significantly more likely to see people not showing respect and consideration as a local problem.

Comparatively high percentages of Borough respondents (47%) agreed that people could influence decisions in their local area, a score that was second highest of all single tier/counties nationally. Older residents were more positive (53%) in their responses to this question although the difference was not significant. What was significant was that 24% of respondents aged 65+ answered "No" to the question as to whether they wanted greater involvement in local decisions compared to only 12% of the whole respondent population. Overall, significantly more older people feel that the Council keeps them informed than the population generally. 74% of respondents aged 65+ said they felt fairly or very well informed; 66% of those aged 55-64 expressed the same view compared to 56% of all respondents.

Following consultation undertaken through the Older Peoples Network in Wandsworth during 2007 it was clearly stated that whilst the 'younger' older people population demands a more preventative approach to maintaining future independence and well-being, often through opportunities provided across different generations the older age range will equally wish to access similar programmes and also more intensive service provision with a greater percentage wishing to access tailored programmes dedicated to 'older peoples' preferences.

HOW WELL ARE WE PERFORMING?

Performance against national indicators

In 2006/07 94 older people for every 1000 adults aged 65 or over in the borough were helped to live at home. This ranks Wandsworth 17th out of the 32 London boroughs. For the same period the number of households receiving intensive home care for more than 10 contact hours and 6 or more visits for every 1000 adults aged 65 or over was 24.49. This placed Wandsworth 8th out of the 32 London boroughs.

95.7% of older clients received services within 4 weeks, which placed Wandsworth 1st out of the London boroughs. However, 83.1% of new clients aged 65 years or over received their assessment within time. Although this shows an improvement on 2005/06 it places Wandsworth 26th out of the London boroughs.

The number of adults under 65 whom the Council helped to live at home in 2006/07, out of every 1000 adults under 65 in the borough, was 3.4 for older residents with physical disabilities, 3.3 for older residents with learning disabilities and 3.6 for older residents with mental health problems. This is an increase, for all groups, on 2005/06.

45% of residents surveyed aged 55+ said that they undertake at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport or active recreation on three or more days each week. This shows good progress against the 2009/10 target of 52.8%. Supporting older residents to live independent lives.

Up until the end of October 2007, 67 Telecare installations had been made together with two stand alone systems, benefiting 72 people directly and supporting their carers. The actual length of time at home with Telecare, or before the system is removed, has been monitored and compared to the estimated time at home without Telecare. The difference of the two is the estimate of the "Additional Weeks" potentially attributable to Telecare. The average "Additional Weeks" of independence is 16.1 per person starting on the scheme, 565 weeks (10.9 years) in total. However, some service users experienced over 70 "additional weeks" of independence. By the end of June 2007, 236 people have benefited from the reablement service. Five of these people would otherwise have been admitted to residential care, and a further two (of the 236 total) were discharged home from residential care with support from the service. For 233 service users completing their reablement programme there was a reduction in dependency levels of approximately 70% and, when followed up at 3, 6 and 9 month periods following reablement, the dependency levels had improved further by approximately 10%.

In 2006/07, the Council supported 2,584 people aged 65+ through homecare services, providing an average of 11.5 hours of assistance per week and delivering an average of 508 meals every day. 673 older people received an intensive service at home (more than 10 hours or six visits a week). In 2006/07 almost one quarter of all adult learner enrolments were from people aged 55 years and older. During 2006/07, there were 2,970 older person enrolments out of the 12,483 total. The majority of these older people enrolled on courses for people of all ages but there are a number of courses which are targeted directly at older people which are very popular and there were 915 enrolments on 34 courses.

Casual attendances by people aged 50+ at leisure centres in Wandsworth increased from 17,262 to 23,256 (34% increase) between 2005/06 and 2006/07. Active Days currently involves more than 400 regular older people in groups established through the scheme.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Between 2006 and 2013 it is predicted that there will be fluctuations but no overall increase in the number of 60 to 70 year olds, although a steady increase is expected longer term. A significant reduction of 7% is expected in those aged 75 years and above (resulting in a 3% fall over all those aged 60

plus), but then stabilising longer term. The size of the population 85 plus is expected to remain relatively unchanged for the foreseeable future. A key question is also whether today's people aged under 75 will become like today's people aged 75+, e.g. less active, more likely to want to participate in activities only with older people, or whether they will retain their current attitudes. Population projections suggest that key characteristics of the older population will change (with increasing proportions of men and non-white residents, for example) so it seems likely that the views and expectations of tomorrow's people aged 75+ will be rather different from those of today and therefore services will need to be developed to meet this change in requirements.

Residents' expectations of quality and capacity of health and social care services are continually increasing at a rate that outstrips any projected increase in financial resources. Addressing this locally will mean promoting and supporting approaches which both maximise the individual's ability to sustain their health and well-being into later life and potentially delivers longer-term financial affordability.

With moves nationally to review the Fair Access to Care Services eligibility criteria, there will continue to be a need to develop support and signposting to those not directly eligible for social care services and will seek to identify dedicated resources and work with partners to this end and in accordance with national policy on "Transforming Social Care".

Whilst the Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership has an important role to play in promoting the preventative agenda there are many organisations, particularly in the voluntary and community sector, who deliver and are often better placed to provide these services effectively. The approach to the future commissioning of services will need to reflect this and provide support to the Third Sector to deliver efficiently services that people want.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WANDSWORTH?

Vision.

The vision of the Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership is for Wandsworth to be a borough where older People will be able to realise their potential for physical, social and mental well-being throughout their later years and remain as independent as possible, in control of their own lives and living with dignity, in safety and security, and when they need help, with the care they need.

Priorities

Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership will achieve its vision for older people by:

- Ensuring services are personalised and individually tailored to user and client needs;
- Ensuring all service users and clients are dealt with in a fully caring manner, preserving their dignity;
- Maintaining the independence of older people via development of preventative and supportive services, including services which support informal carers;

- Supporting NHS Trusts to meet the NSF for Older People and their commissioning plans via joint commissioning and maximum help from complementary services;
- Ensuring all assessments, procedures and interfaces with health service partners are made as simple and seamless as possible;
- Maximising the contribution of the voluntary and community sector to the range and quality of services for Older People;
- Contributing to the healthy ageing of residents via programmes for health promotion, exercise, active days and similar activities;
- Protection of Older People both in the community and in care settings and ensuring the vulnerable are safeguarded;
- Improving safety for older people e.g. reducing distraction burglary.

Local Area Agreement Targets

NI 135 Carers receiving needs assessment or review and specific carer's service, or advice and information

NI 141 Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living

Long term plans.

The current locations of courses targeted at older residents are, to some extent, driven by the locations of the organisations organising or teaching the courses. It is proposed to identify some areas of the borough which are currently less well served with older person's courses and identify whether there are possible locations which could be brought into use to give a better geographical spread.

Phase 3 of the refurbishment works to the Council's sheltered stock is due to be completed by 2010. When works are completed the Council's supply of sheltered housing will provisionally (depending on the feasibility of achieving the desired number and type of units from the schemes being refurbished) consist of 1,084 units (266 bedsits, 781 one bed units and 25 two bed units) across 26 schemes. At this stage the Council will consider if a further stage is required to address further issues such as the possible re-modelling of Olive Haines Lodge (East Putney ward) as extra care housing, accessibility of schemes and options for converting the remaining bedsit accommodation should these prove hard to let.

To develop social care services in line with the national policy – Transforming Social Care; especially to develop choice and self directed support

UNDERPINNING PLANS

Older People's Housing Strategy

Older Person's Strategy

Older Person's Strategy Position Statement

Second Thoughts on an Older People's Strategy for Wandsworth, 2008

MEETING HOUSING NEEDS

HOUSING IN WANDSWORTH

There is a wide range of housing in Wandsworth. At the end of 2006/07 there were 128,842 dwellings in the Borough, an increase of 2,414 on the previous year, and an estimated 124,931 households. Approximately a third of land use in Wandsworth is residential.

The 2001 Census showed that the majority of household spaces in the Borough were purpose built flats (40%) followed by terraced properties (25%) and converted/shared houses (22%). The majority of households in the Borough (51%) were either owned outright or owned with a mortgage or a loan. 22% of households rented privately, while 23% rented from the Council or from a Housing Association (sometimes known as a Registered Social Landlord (RSL)).

Wandsworth has a reputation as an attractive place to live if you are young or have a young family as such it has several distinctive characteristics which impact on the mix of housing required locally. Just under 50% of the resident population is aged 20-39, this is above the London and national averages. As outlined in the demography story of place there is a high level of migration both in and out of the Borough. It is estimated that some 18,000 dwellings (15% of the total housing stock) currently change hands each year. Of these more than half (9,800 dwellings) are estimated to go to existing Wandsworth residents and the rest to in-migrants.

The 2001 Census also showed that Wandsworth has the largest number of working households with 20-39 year old residents in London, more households with at least one employed person and within this a higher proportion having two or more employed people. This should be considered when considering the affordability of homes in the Borough.

The majority of Wandsworth households also appear to be entirely self reliant in meeting their housing needs without any involvement or on-going assistance from the Partnership. This is demonstrated by the numbers accessing assistance with their housing. Looking within the tenure groupings, 23,000 households (roughly 20% of the total) used housing benefit to help pay their housing costs and, of these claimant households, 19,000 were socially renting households (72% of those socially renting). These figures demonstrate that only a minority of households (less than one in four) receive ongoing assistance with their housing needs through "property-based" subsidies and that an even smaller proportion (one in five) received ongoing support through the housing benefit system.

Social Housing.

The Council is the largest provider of social rented housing in the borough. As of March 2007 the Council owned 16,127 properties, excluding sheltered properties, which were either rented or in the process of being relet. 85% of these are flats or maisonettes, 34% are ground floor properties and 20% are on the fifth floor or above. Wandsworth has the third highest number of tower blocks anywhere in the UK with 102 blocks of 10 or more storeys. 67% of the properties have 2 or less bedrooms. 7% have 4 or more bedrooms, a large

number of these larger properties are located with the boundaries of the Earlsfield Ward on the Henry Prince and Magdalen Park Estates.

As of March 2007 the Council also had 15,898 leasehold properties, including 99 shared equity properties. These properties potentially provide a ready market for first time buyers. They also provide a rental market as highlighted by figures from the Council's Finance Department, which show that service charge bills are sent to away addresses for over 4,000 of the leasehold properties. As of March 2007 the Council had also sold the freehold of over 7,000 properties. This shows that in terms of general needs housing the Council has been successful in promoting home ownership and in creating mixed communities on the Borough's estates.

There are council tenants and leaseholders in every ward in the Borough. The majority of the Council stock, social rented and leasehold, is located in Latchmere, Roehampton, Queenstown and West Hill.

As at 31st March 2007, there were 18,756 council tenants living in 15,986 non-sheltered properties. There are more tenants than properties as some tenants have joint tenancies. . 63% of these tenants were women, 40% were aged 55 or over and only 4% were under 25. At least 34% of non-sheltered tenants were from non-white ethnic minority communities, although this figure is likely to be understated as ethnic origin is unknown for 17% of non-sheltered tenants.

Registered Social Landlords (RSL) have 8,575 properties, excluding sheltered properties, in the Borough. 78% of these properties have 2 or less bedrooms. 4% have 4 or more bedrooms. The geographical spread of the RSL stock is different to the geographical spread of the Council stock as Shaftesbury and Fairfield have the highest number of RSL properties. Queenstown is the only ward which features in the 'top 6 wards' for both number of Council properties and number of RSL properties.

Historically, inner London boroughs including Wandsworth had far higher proportions of social housing than did outer London boroughs or those areas bordering London. This had an important impact on local neighbourhoods, with high levels of deprivation being observed in the inner-city areas where social housing was concentrated. This issue has been addressed by encouraging mixed tenure. Over the ten years between 1991 and 2001, the proportion of the Borough's households in social housing reduced from 27% to 23%. This is now below the average for London as a whole (26%) This has achieved both a reduction in the levels of deprivation and an improvement in social cohesion-seen in the avoidance of "no-go" areas on estates. The proportion of the Borough's households in social housing is still significantly higher than the outer London borough average of 18% or the national average of 19%.

Under-occupancy.

The lifelong security offered by social housing tenancies reduces the incentive for households to move to smaller dwellings when their families have grown. As new families in social housing grow and need larger accommodation, this is unavailable because it is still occupied by households who no longer require

it. The result of this is significant levels of under-occupation in social housing stock alongside a similar number of overcrowded households.

The 2001 Census provided an insight into the impact of under-occupation and over-crowding in Council rented accommodation. This showed, for example, that in Latchmere ward there were over 600 households who were overcrowded by at least one person and over 600 households that were under-occupied by at least one person. It is now estimated that up to 55% of tenants of four-bedroom or larger properties under-occupy their property by two or more bedrooms. A further 22% may under-occupy by one bedroom.

A survey of 638 tenants of 4 bedroom or larger accommodation was conducted in 2007/08. This found that cash incentives were only one aspect in encouraging under-occupiers to move and was of lesser importance than location, condition or type of accommodation offered or the level of practical assistance with moving available.

Private Rented Housing.

The Census 2001 found some 29,000 private sector rented properties in the Borough and it is estimated that more than 8,000 of these are let to new tenants in each year. The socio-economic breakdown of this market is less clear. At the current time, some 15% of households in private sector rented accommodation are claiming housing benefit. This percentage has risen slightly during recent years but it is possible that this is due to changes in the way benefits are administered.

Home Ownership.

Wandsworth continues to have the highest number of house sales within the South West region. In 2006 9,063 sales were recorded in Wandsworth in comparison to 7,862 in Croydon, 6,348 in Lambeth and 5,270 in Richmond. The Sunday Times also recently identified Wandsworth as the 5th most recession proof borough in London.

Average property prices have generally increased since the beginning of 2004 from £335,088 to £409,920. The house price/earnings ratio in Wandsworth averaged at 8.4 during 2006. This compares with 7.7 for London as a whole. The house price/earnings ratio in Wandsworth has followed a similar trend to London over the past few years, although it increased at a slightly faster rate in 2006.

In Wandsworth, there continues to be a significant number of flats coming on the market, which sell for prices below that of some flats within “affordable” schemes. Figures from the Land Registry show that, of the 9,063 properties sold in Wandsworth during 2006, some 380 cost less than £150,000 and these figures do not include shared ownership sales. Many of these properties are thought to be ex-Council dwellings, which tend to change hands at prices substantially below the average for the area.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to the London Plan describes “intermediate” housing as being affordable to households with gross incomes of £16,900-52,500 (at February 2007 prices). Using a simple multiplier of 3.5x annual income, SPG indicates an upper limit of £183,750 for a property to be affordable. It should be noted that there were approximately 750 sales in

Wandsworth below that price in 2006. As they were not specified “affordable housing products” they are considered “low cost” market housing for planning purposes even though they may have been cheaper to purchase than the defined “products”.

There have been suggestions that the new residential developments are largely at the high price end of the market. Figures for new Council tax registrations during 2006/07 suggest that this is not entirely so. Some 326 (26%) of the 1,234 new registrations for Council Tax are at Band D or below with 43% of these (140) falling in Bands A-C. These results show that there is a continuing growth in registrations in the lower priced end of the housing market.

In popular housing areas, there may be concerns that wealthy newcomers push up the prices and make it difficult for existing residents to purchase locally. There is some evidence to suggest that, in Wandsworth, this does not occur to the extent that it may elsewhere. The 2001 census shows that just over 16,500 people had moved within the Borough in the previous year. This was by far the greatest level of intra-borough movement in inner London, 29% more than in the next borough, and, across London as a whole, was exceeded only in Croydon. Figures from the Land Registry also show that, of the 9,296 properties purchased in the Borough in 2006, 380 cost less than £150,000. These pieces of information, taken together, indicate that local people can and do purchase properties within the Borough.

Decent Homes.

Social Housing

The physical condition and “fitness” of a property is measured by the Decent Homes Standard. The Council has an excellent record in ensuring its stock meets the Decent Homes Standard with a reducing level of homes which do not meet the Standard and an on-going programme of capital works to ensure that the Decent Homes Standard is not just achieved but maintained. The improvements programme include the offer of central heating installations where previously refused. Housing Associations are also working to the Decent Homes Standard. Social Housing is expected to be compliant with the Standard by 2010 in line with the Government’s timescale.

Private Sector

The Council, in partnership with other housing bodies in the South-West London sub-region commissioned the Building Research Establishment (BRE) to provide updated estimates of stock condition in 2005. The BRE updated the model in early 2007 using a refined process. This found that in Wandsworth that 17,656 dwellings had category 1 hazards, 26,158 dwellings did not meet the energy efficiency standard, 12,264 dwellings were estimated to be in disrepair and 6,577 dwellings were estimated to have non-modern facilities. The total number of non-decent private sector dwellings was 38,654 dwellings equates to 41% of the private stock and compares with an average for England of 37% and for South-west London of 39%. As an inner London borough, Wandsworth has a higher proportion of older stock and its relative level of non-decent dwellings compares well with other inner London boroughs.

Stock Improvements in Council Residential Stock

There is an ongoing programme of stock improvements as part of the Council's capital programme with particular reference to:

- Decency Plus work which deals with works outside of the Decent Homes Standard such as environmental and security works.
- Sheltered Housing through the Sheltered Housing Strategy which is changing non-self contained units into self contained and installing lifts for improved access where possible.
- Improvements which self contain temporary accommodation property.

WHAT DO OUR RESIDENTS THINK?

In the 2002 residents' survey residents were asked what they saw as being the key issues in the short term (2-3 years) and longer term (5-15 years) in Wandsworth. The condition of housing was seen as a priority in the short term by 10% of residents and as a priority in the long term by 8% of residents. The availability of housing was seen as a priority in the short term by 8% of residents and as a longer term priority by 9% of residents. This means that residents ranked availability of housing and the condition of housing as equally as important in the short and longer term as traffic congestion and the quality of the local environment and less of a priority than tackling crime and vandalism.

In the 2005 and 2007 residents' surveys the question was amended to ask if residents saw an issue as a slight or big problem and the condition of housing and affordability of housing were linked under "affordable decent housing". In 2005 8% of residents said that "affordable decent housing" was a big problem. This decreased to 7% in 2007. However, the percentage of residents who said that "affordable, decent housing" was a slight problem increased from 16% in 2005 to 23% in 2007. The proportion of residents seeing "affordable decent housing" as a serious problem does not vary markedly across income groups, by age or by employment status but non-white residents do seem more concerned (9% seeing it as serious compared with 6% of others).

In the residents' survey respondents were also asked if they thought they were likely to move home within the next two years. 83% of respondents said that they had no intention of moving and did not want to in the next 2 years. When this question was analysed by household tenure 83% of Council tenants said that they had no intention of moving and did not want to in the next 2 years, 89% of owner occupiers said the same, with the percentage falling to 68% for private renters.

The 2007 residents' survey also showed that Council tenants were twice as likely as owner-occupiers (14% v 7%) to see anti-social behaviour as a serious problem.

In December 2006 the Housing Department held a one day conference, which was attended by 150 representatives from residents' organisations, RSLs, voluntary organisations and local statutory organisations. Attendees were asked to feedback on a number of issues using electronic voting. 85% felt that Wandsworth would not get its fair allocation of resources under the Government's plan to fund the development of large "Strategic Sites" in East

London. Under the new Housing Health and Safety Rating System, attendees felt that priority should be given to tackling fire safety (27%), dealing with excess cold (26%), damp and mould (18%) and crowding and space (15%).

HOW WELL ARE WE PERFORMING?

The Council's Housing Department received a score of 3 (Performing well – consistently above minimum standards) for the second year in a row in 2007.

Social Housing

Supply

Almost half the new council homes completed in London last year were built by Wandsworth Council. Government figures for 2006 show that councils built just 98 new homes for renting to local people in need. Of these, 47 were in Wandsworth. All the Wandsworth properties have been funded through the council's innovative 'hidden homes' programme. This takes disused space on estates and converts it into good quality social housing. Through the Hidden Homes initiative, the Council has already provided 144 council properties from the council's Hidden Homes Initiative and up to 70 more will be developed for Notting Hill Housing Association over the next few years with funding from the Housing Corporation. The current programme could eventually provide up to 300 new homes.

In addition to this a substantial number of new affordable homes (approximately 2,000) are planned or in construction in the Borough the vast majority of which are through partnership arrangements between Housing Associations and developers.

Demand

In 2006/07 the Council housed 910 households in non-sheltered properties either through its own resources or those of partner organisations but excluding private sector properties: of these 710 were housed in Council properties and 200 in RSL properties. 58% were housed from the Council's homeless queue.

The average time (in days) it takes to get a tenant into a newly vacant Council property in 2006/07 was 24 days, a decrease of two days on 2005/06.

RSLs are also developing additional social rented housing, with 5 schemes on site, which will provide 75 new units, and 3 in the pipeline, with planning permission, that will provide a further 116 units.

The Supporting People Programme commenced in Wandsworth on 1st April 2003. The Programme administers annual funding of £11.2m to 370 schemes operating in the Borough providing housing support to some 3,700 vulnerable people who may have long or short-term support needs and who are living in their own homes. Examples of schemes supported in 2006/07 include a rent deposit scheme for people with a history of drug use and offending, support for people with learning disabilities through the funding of a one year resettlement worker to assist those able to move from care homes or needing to move from home into supported housing and also a service for women escaping domestic violence.

Homelessness.

Preventing homelessness has been a major priority both locally and nationally. The Council's Housing Department reorganised its service in 2003 to enable an increased focus on prevention by establishing a new Homelessness Prevention Team. This increased focus on homelessness prevention has had a pronounced effect on Homeless acceptances.

The numbers of households presenting as homeless has fallen significantly in recent years with 2006/07 seeing the lowest number of presentations (1,399) since 1997/98. Acceptances have fallen in line with this reaching in 2006/07 their lowest level since 1998/99. However a decrease in the overall availability of resources has, in recent years resulted in an increase in the proportion of those resources allocated to homeless households from 28% in 2000/01 to 41% in 2006/07 (across all resources).

Together with the large reduction in admissions, this resulted in a significant reduction in the use of temporary accommodation. At the end of March 2007, the number of households in temporary accommodation had fallen by 14% to 1,183 from 1,383, 1,639 and 1,662 in the three previous years.

In 2006/07 the Council also helped 157 households who were threatened with homelessness obtain private sector tenancies through the Private Sector Housing Initiative and 39 households obtain accommodation out of the borough through the Out of London scheme. A further 25 homeless applicants facing domestic violence had the security of their homes improved by the council through the Staying Put Staying Safe scheme, allowing them to remain in or return to their home rather than having to move to alternative accommodation.

In terms of performance against national performance indicators Wandsworth achieved the following:

- 0% family households with dependent children (inclusive of pregnant women) in B&B accommodation for more than six weeks;
- The average length of stay in bed and breakfast accommodation which include dependent children or a pregnant women and which are unintentionally homeless and in priority need was 3.2 weeks, a slight increase on 2005/06.
- The average length of stay in hostel accommodation of households which include dependent children or a pregnant woman and which are unintentionally homeless and in priority need (weeks) was 37.5 weeks, an increase on 2005/06. In June 2007, the Council approved plans for over £1 million of capital investment in its two main hostels to provide self contained units for over 100 homeless households. These works are expected to be completed in early 2009.
- The percentage change in the average no. families, which include dependent children or a pregnant woman, placed in temporary accommodation under the homelessness legislation compared with the average from the previous year was -11.97%.

Under occupancy

A range of incentives have been in place since 2000 and these initially proved very successful; 120 under occupation transfers were achieved in 2000/01. Numbers then stabilised (68 in 2002/03, 84 in 2003/04 and 81 in 2004/05) but fell to 56 in 2005/06 before rising to 65 in 2006/07. The 219 under-occupation cases on the transfer and sheltered queues at the end of March 2007, virtually unchanged over the past three years, suggest that a high level of interest is being maintained.

The Housing Department will launch in 2008/09 a pilot aimed at increasing the number of under-occupancy transfers achieved. The pilot will include giving under-occupying tenants priority for the allocation of new build, general needs social rented housing developed by RSLs and adopting a flexible case by case approach in terms of support offered to move. An early "test" of the proposal has resulted in just over half of the units (11) in a recently completed development being let to those under occupying social rented property thus freeing up the resultant vacancies for allocation.

Home ownership.

In the 10 year period 1997 to 2006 9,847 net dwellings (60% of the London Plan target for Wandsworth) were completed, an annual average of 985 dwellings. Since 2001/02 6,308 (net) additional homes have been completed, an average of 1,051 a year.

In 2006/07 there were 1,280 net dwelling completions of which 239 (16%) were affordable. This is compared to 10% in 2005/06. Between 2002 and 2006 916 (net) affordable homes were completed as compared to a target of 1,000.

More than four in ten of the new homes currently being built on major sites in the borough will provide lower cost housing for local people. Of 1365 dwellings under construction 604 are affordable – equivalent to more than 44 per cent of the total output.

The Council has also been successful in promoting home ownership by helping council tenants to move out of their council properties and buy elsewhere through schemes such as the House Purchase Grant and Homebuy. As of March 2007 there were 3,120 applicants, including 777 Council and Registered Social Landlord tenants on the Combined Sales Register. In 2006/07 there were 54 Right to Buy Sales, 31 House Purchase Grants were awarded, 85 Shared Ownership Nominations scheme (SONS) and 48 Open Market Homebuys.

Decent Homes.

Social Housing

In terms of the Decent Homes Standard the Council had, at the end of 2006/07, only 2% of its stock as non-decent; the majority of non-decent homes are due to tenants refusing improvement works the majority of which were refusals of central heating installations. On the basis of the most recent guidance and the new national indicator set the Council has achieved its target of 0% non decent homes during 2007/08, well ahead of the Government deadline of 2010.

At the end of 2006/07 the SAP rating of Council owned dwellings was 72, an increase from 58 in 2004/05. . 99 % urgent repairs to Council homes were completed within Government time limits. The average time taken to complete non-urgent responsive repairs was 7 days, a decrease on 2005/06.

Housing Associations in the Borough are also on target to meet the Decent Homes Standard by 2010 in line with the Government timescales.

Private Sector

In response to new Government legislation in 2002, the Council, from July 2003, introduced a series of measures to assist householders and others to renovate older private housing. Previously, much of the help that had been given was in the form of grant but, with the Government cutting subsidy levels for all but disabled facilities grants, the Council has developed a new package of assistance. This includes some grants of up to £6,000 in value for low income elderly applicants (aged 70 and over).

The Houseproud scheme was established in London in partnership with other boroughs and the Home Improvement Trust. Assistance includes paying a small grant to cover the cost of set-up fees for the equity release loan as well as handling applications, arranging and supervising building work, all through the Council's Home Improvement Agency. In 2006/07, the Houseproud scheme resulted in loans of £94,000.

During 2006/07, the Council continued to benefit from successful joint bids with other boroughs in south west London which covered both empty properties grants and Decent Homes. The sums spent in Wandsworth during last year were £211,000 for empty property grants and £392,000 for energy grants, both substantial increases on the previous year (£150,000 and £174,000 respectively).

The Council's action on empty properties brings back into use privately owned property which is frequently in poor repair and unsuitable for occupation in its present condition. During 2006/07, 163 dwellings were brought back into use following Council intervention.

Improving energy efficiency is the cheapest of the Decent Homes components to remedy and, during 2006/07, a total of 155 private sector dwellings (up from 90 in 2005/06) had improvements made to their energy efficiency as a direct result of Council grant aid. A further 126 were improved through other funding sources levered-in as part of the Coldbuster grants programme, including Warm Front and EEC funds.

Sustainability

In the Council residential stock programmes are in place to improve thermal efficiency and to install energy efficient components where possible and this has clearly had an effect on increases in the SAP rating. Between 2005/06 and 2006/07 some 1,007 new boilers were installed and some 1,220 single glazed units replaced by double glazed units. This work is running in parallel with ongoing programmes to install thermally efficient components, upgrading of central heating installations and overcladding where possible.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Household projections indicate that by 2016 there will be 133,381 households in Wandsworth, rising to 141,423 by 2026. There is therefore be a clear need for additional housing, of a variety of sizes and tenures, to meet the increased housing need this population growth will create.

The alterations made to the London Plan, published in December 2006, set out new housing provision targets for London boroughs from 2007/08 to 2016/17. The new 10 year target for Wandsworth is 7,450 additional homes, with an annual monitoring target of 745 additional homes. This target will only increase the housing stock in the Borough by 6%. It is therefore crucial that the range and dwelling sizes available in existing stock is maintained, particularly family housing with gardens. It is also important to promote a reduction in the under occupation of large dwellings in the public sector, to encourage new developments that will facilitate this, to maximise the use of existing housing resources through programmes such as Hidden Homes and other conversion schemes and to bring empty properties back into use.

The current trends in reducing homelessness and the use of temporary accommodation need to be maintained and accelerated. The Council has agreed challenging targets with GOL around levels of temporary accommodation for homeless families up to 2010 and has local targets beyond then.

The Council's housing stock needs to be maintained at the Decent Homes Standard and further work needs to be undertaken to increase levels of decency in the private sector market.

The Council recognises the contribution it can make to sustainability within both the local area, London and further afield and the challenges this presents. It has taken steps within its own residential stock to improve thermal efficiency and to encourage sustainability within the private sector through the award of grants and the promotion of energy efficiency schemes. It recognises the need to encourage a more "eco friendly" and sustainable approach to both the development of new housing and the improvement of existing stock.

The Mayor's draft Housing Strategy contains several policy changes, which if implemented, without changes, will have an impact on housing in the Borough.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WANDSWORTH?

Vision.

The vision of the WLSP is to maintain Wandsworth's reputation as a great place to live through supporting the provision of Decent Homes, new homes and, a mix of housing for the Borough's growing population covering a range of needs but within a context of sustainability.

Priorities

To meet housing needs by:

- Maintaining and improving the Borough's housing stock

- Maintaining and improving the supply of affordable housing to own and rent
- Promoting a range of housing options for a range of housing needs including those of older people and those with more specialised housing needs
- Maintaining and improving community safety and the protection of the environment
- Encouraging resident and stakeholder involvement and participation in the delivery of a quality housing service

Local Area Agreement Targets.

NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)

Long term plans.

The LDF Core Strategy states that at least one in three homes in developments of 10 or more units should be affordable and a higher level will be encouraged where viable. A mix of intermediate and social rented accommodation will be sought, particularly on larger sites with some social rented units being made available to those under-occupying Council residential stock.

Wandsworth town centre will also be the focus of intensive regeneration activity. This will include redevelopment of the Young's site to create a new residential quarter with new open spaces and access to the River Wandle.

Clapham Junction is also set for a new wave of investment. This could see a mix of new housing, shops and offices in the area around the station, which will strengthen the whole town centre. New development here could include taller buildings, which have been championed by the Mayor of London.

A capital programme of more than £70m over next 3 years in major repairs and improvements to Council properties is planned, with an average of 10,000 properties per year benefiting.

UNDERPINNING PLANS

Housing Strategy (2003)

Housing Strategic Objectives (updated 2006)

LDF Core Strategy

2007 Housing Needs Assessment

Corporate Business Plan.

COMMUNITY COHESION AND EQUALITY.

A DIVERSE COMMUNITY.

As detailed in the demography section Wandsworth has a diverse local population with large numbers of 20-39 years olds, a high rate of residents moving into and out of the Borough and, although on the whole a prosperous area, several wards with high levels of deprivation. These elements which give Wandsworth its unique character also pose potential challenges to community cohesion in the borough in terms of potential tensions between different communities, difference generations and areas of relative wealth and deprivation and also in terms of all residents actively engaging in their local area. However, despite the challenges community cohesion has remained strong in Wandsworth with residents continuing the borough's tradition of embracing change and new residents.

The Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership (WLSP), through its members, takes a leading role in promoting and ensuring community cohesion and in narrowing inequality gaps. The WLSP Equality Statement states that "The WLSP's approach to equality of opportunity will be demonstrated in its efforts to:-

- Build a commitment to equality into its strategic aims;
- Integrate the principles, strategies and practice of equal opportunity into its work;
- Ensure partners tackle discrimination and harassment in employment, service planning and provision;
- Ensure that all partners understand their duty to promote good relations, challenge stereotypes and promote equality of opportunity; and
- Encourage all WLSP partners to reflect these aims in the execution of all their functions, and via their own policies and strategies.

In practical terms the WLSP will:-

- Ensure the WLSP is inclusive either through direct representation or formal communication/consultation mechanisms.
- Work in partnership to plan for, establish, promote and disseminate fair and accessible services.
- Incorporate appropriate targets into its strategic plans, including the Local Area Agreement;
- Make best use of monitoring data available from all sources and partners to inform planning, decision-making and service provision.
- Use effective consultation to obtain the views of the whole community, with particular attention to traditionally hard to reach or marginalised groups.
- Ensure that the meetings and documents of the WLSP are publicly accessible and that requests for additional support to access meetings or papers are responded to appropriately;
- Request all partners to be proactive and positive in their promotion of equality. "

The public sector partners of the WLSP (the Council, Public Health and the Police) support the work of the WLSP to promote cohesion and reduce

inequalities through their equality action plans, programmes of Equality Impact Assessments and compliance with equality legislation.

Equality and promoting community cohesion are mainstreamed through the work of the WLSP and its members. For this reason inequalities and progress made in narrowing gaps are detailed across the stories of place.

Following the processes adhered to by public sector partners of the WLSP and best practice an Equality Impact Assessment will be conducted on the final Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement.

WHAT DO OUR RESIDENTS THINK?

Residents believe that Wandsworth is a cohesive community. In 2006, 83% of residents, 5% more than the Inner London average, said that Wandsworth is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. When this result was analysed by ethnicity no significant differences were found.

Only 47% of residents agreed with the suggestion that people not treating other people with respect and consideration is an issue for Wandsworth, 7% below the London average.

The results of these two survey questions support the findings of the bi-annual residents survey which showed that race relations continue to be low down the list of priorities for improvement for residents (14th out of 15). Although ethnic minority respondents were significantly more likely to cite the issue as in need of improvement, it is still seen as far less important than improvements in other areas.

In terms with satisfaction with the local area as a place to live although ethnic minority residents were less satisfied than white residents, 78% as compared to 88%, this was due to ethnic minority residents being more likely to say that they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. They were not significantly more likely to be dissatisfied.

In terms of priorities for improvement the only differences identified were that a higher percentage of BME residents identified health, facilities for young children, wage levels and local cost of living as priorities for improvement.

HOW WELL ARE WE PERFORMING?

In 2007 the WLSP conducted an audit of its activity against the community cohesion checklist. This exercise highlighted the focus WLSP members place on engaging with existing and newly arrived communities and residents of all ages and backgrounds, both in terms of service provision and starting to involve them in the planning of services. The checklist also highlighted the specific action plans that members have in place to ensure equality of opportunity and the training that is implemented to ensure that staff are understand the needs of local communities in Wandsworth.

In 2006/07 the WLSP pooled data on the local area in order to conduct a Priority Area Overview. This exercise identified the most deprived wards in Wandsworth and will be used to inform future development plans, such as the plans to regenerate the centre of Roehampton, and demonstrate to funders that areas that currently do not qualify for funding should be considered for additional support.

In March 2005 the Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership (WLSP) considered detailed information about pupil attainment and unemployment levels in Wandsworth for young people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. The data showed that at the time although boys of Caribbean heritage performed well in comparative terms at Key Stage 1 their performance dropped at each of the subsequent Key Stages. It also identified that unemployment appeared to be a particular problem for young men of Caribbean heritage. The WLSP decided that action to address these problems was a priority. It set up a high level group to look at these two issues in more depth. This group has met at least twice a year since its inception and has commissioned research into the views of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and local employers in terms of the potential barriers to young men of Caribbean heritage accessing employment. This research identified several key themes which have been used to improve the advice given to NEETs when looking for jobs and to develop a funding bid for targeted work with young men of Caribbean heritage.

The WLSP Multi-Faith Sub-group was set up following discussions with faith representatives in Wandsworth after September 11th 2001. They had their first meeting in February 2002 and continue to meet five times a year. All the main faiths in Wandsworth are represented on the membership of the Group. The group meets to share information, feedback to the WLSP on services and policies, discuss issues of potential tension and to raise awareness of the different faiths in Wandsworth and challenge stereotypes. In October 2007 the Group held its second annual multi-faith event for young people called Faith Direct. Faith Direct is based around a "speed dating" concept and allows groups of young people to spend 15 minutes with a representative of a faith in Wandsworth and ask them any questions they have. In 2007 60 young people from 7 of the Borough's secondary schools attended.

All members of the WLSP strive to reduce inequalities and promote community cohesion through their day to day work. The public sector partners of the WLSP document this activity and progress made through their published equality schemes. The Council, for example, updates its Corporate Equality Plan annually. This plan includes three year action plans for race, gender, disability and age. Examples of progress documented in the last update include:

- Wandsworth Interpreting Service took over management of sign language, lip speaking, deaf/blind interpreting and alternative communication methods. The service also suggested and facilitated a signing video on Council website that introduces the service provided;
- The Council and the Borough Police jointly presented to the MPA Race Hate Crime Forum. At the meeting Wandsworth was commended for the

- The Domestic Violence Forum, in partnership with Victim Support and the Metropolitan Police Community Safety Unit, made a successful bid for two domestic violence advocates. As a result Wandsworth Safety Net now provides a confidential advocacy service for anyone who has experienced or been affected by domestic violence, regardless of whether they are pursuing criminal charges.

The Wandsworth Primary Care Trust published their single equality scheme in 2007. This plan includes action plans for race, gender and disability and updates on progress made, which included:

- Holding a health awareness event for all PCT staff the key objective of which was to raise awareness of health issues facing BME communities, with discussions being held on sickle cell, drugs and alcohol, blood pressure, salt and obesity;
- Launching a Faith Literacy Training programme for staff; and
- The Patient and Public Involvement Manager set up a database of patients who want involvement in PCT activities and decision making. The diversity of the patients on the database was increased through the How Was It For You (WHIFY) exercise to capture patients' experience in using acute services in South West London

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

The forecast growth in the population in Wandsworth together with the on-going trend for a mobile population will continue to pose potential risks to community cohesion. Similarly, if the areas identified through the Priority Area Overview are not recognised nationally and allocated additional funding there is a risk that the gap between wards in Wandsworth will increase, which again will pose a potential risk to community cohesion.

UNDERPINNING PLANS

Priority Area Overview 2006 (Paper 07-140)

Paper B WLSP meeting July 12th 2007

Paper G WLSP meeting January 1st 2007

Wandsworth Council Corporate Equality Plan 2007-2010

Wandsworth PCT Single Equality Scheme