

MD3408 Appendix 1

Community Engagement and Participation programmes

The Greater London Authority (GLA) envisions a fairer, more inclusive London where:

- Londoners are treated fairly and with dignity.
- Londoners' incomes meet their everyday needs.
- Londoners can have a say in the running of the city.
- Londoners live in a city that supports their mental and physical health.
- Londoners have access to a health and care system that supports them when they need it.

The Community Engagement and Participation programmes sit under the Reducing Inequalities programme.

Inequality in London is deep-rooted and multifaceted, driven by poverty, discrimination, unequal access to public services, and limited opportunities. These inequalities—economic, educational, health-related, and more—are interconnected and reinforce each other across generations.

London has the widest income gap in the UK, with the richest earning nine times more than the poorest. After housing costs, the poorest Londoners have 33% less income than their counterparts elsewhere in the UK. Despite being the wealthiest city, London also has the highest poverty rate, with 26% of residents living in poverty in 2024.

Health disparities are stark, with London seeing the highest rise in premature deaths in 2020, especially in deprived communities. While the Greater London Authority (GLA) aims to address these issues, many key policy levers lie with the national government. As such, progress depends on both local action and broader policy shifts. The Mayor will work across London to bring together key partners delivering for Young Londoners – and directly commission key programmes to work on meeting the most acute of these gaps.

The goal is to make London the fairest city in the world, where everyone is respected and valued. This delivery plan builds on the progress of the past eight years and focuses on reducing all forms of inequality through three core pillars:

- Tackling inequalities
- Leading by example
- Direct interventions

The Community Engagement and Participation programmes are mapped across these pillars, as below:

- **Direct engagement and partnership with London's communities** – Work will bridge the gaps between Londoners and City Hall. This includes stakeholder forums, outreach and relationship building with a core set of groups that organise at a pan London level, the Mayor of London community newsletter, support for groups to navigate policy teams and mechanisms to share insight from communities across the GLA.
- **Tackling inequalities in partnership with equity-led civil society orgs** - Work with Public Health team and health leaders to strengthen the role of equity led orgs in reducing inequalities, including through the London Anti-Racism Collaboration for Health to reduce racial inequities in maternal health.

- **Strengthening the Role of Faith Organisations in Supporting Londoners** – We will establish robust mechanisms for engagement with the faith sector to address the barriers these communities face in policymaking, and to strengthen the role of faith led civil society organisations in targeting inequalities.
- **Leading by example - Improving Engagement Practice** - The Improving Engagement Practice programme seeks to work across GLA policy teams to support the improvement of community engagement practice, improving the impact of the GLA's work and addressing inequality.
- **Direct interventions - Civic and democratic participation** - Delivering pan-London activity to increase democratic and civic participation. This will include working with a broad coalition of partners, including professional and statutory bodies and civil society organisations to increase voter registration rates.

Supporting the Civil Society Sector programmes are mapped across these pillars, as below:

- **Tackling inequalities in partnership – working with London's communities** - London Plus is the infrastructure organisation covering London's councils for voluntary service, volunteer centres, social prescribing provider. Work with London Plus will further strengthen relationships and opportunities for collaboration with the VCSE sector, City Hall and the wider pan-London policy making infrastructure to reduce inequalities in volunteering and health.
- **Direct interventions – Influencing London's collaborative funding model to support the mayor's priorities** - London Funders is the sole membership network for London's funders and social investors. The corporate GLA membership allows engagement by teams across the GLA and GLA Group including Culture, Children and Young Londoners, Health, Communities and Social Policy, MOPAC and Civil Society and Sport. London Funders coordinates Propel and the Collaboration Circle- a 10-year collaborative funding partnership, seeking to support equity-led civil society groups to drive systemic change and tackle structural inequalities in London; and learn from this to influence wider funding practice.