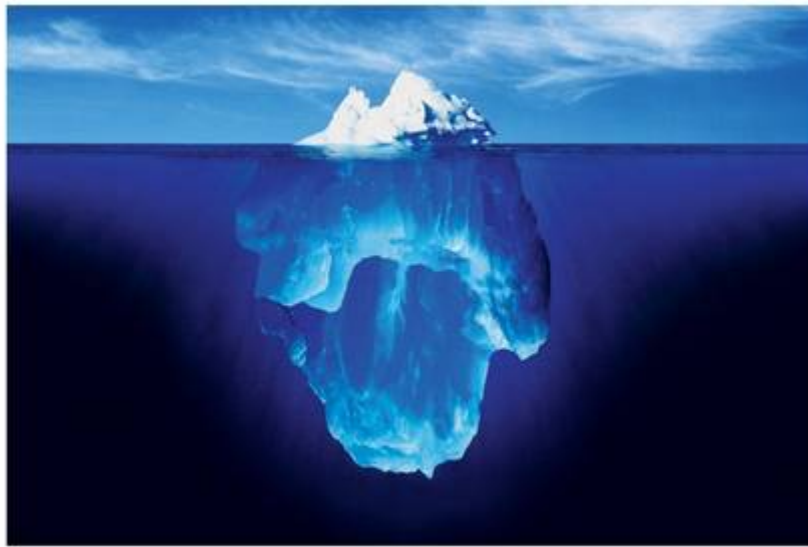


Neighbourhoods and their community groupings

A report by the Neighbourhoods sub group of the London Regional ChangeUp Consortium 2007, with conclusions and plans updated July 2008



“ The majority of the third sector’s relationships occur at the local level. This reflects the structure of the sector – nearly 90% of which are small neighbourhood based community organisations. These are often mutual aid or interest groups with no staff or physical assets, often with low levels of income and dependent on voluntary support. The best of such organisations have a strong connection to and understanding of local community interests.”¹



Section1

Introduction to Report

The Neighbourhoods sub-group² (NSG) was established as a sub-group of the London Regional ChangeUp Consortium (LRC) in September 2006. It was set up by key people from organisations involved with the community sector, to ensure that neighbourhoods' issues were represented within ChangeUp, and more widely.

A priority for the subgroup was to see what opportunities there were for neighbourhoods' issues to be recognised and acted upon. Funding from the ChangeUp programme through the London Regional Consortium – obtained before the sub group was set up, enabled the group to create a post to run a project to take this work forward, whilst also supporting the development of the subgroup.

Although the original focus of the project had been to look at community engagement with Local Area Agreements in all London boroughs, initial work scoping out the project concluded that gathering information from across London in this way was not the most effective way of taking forward the objectives. There is wide understanding that *where working relationships between the voluntary and community sector and the statutory sector is good, then new initiatives and new ways of working have a good chance of succeeding; whereas where relationships are not good, new structures and processes are unlikely to succeed*. Therefore, a project which merely found and then listed 'good examples' from good boroughs would be unlikely to contribute practically to a reduction in the inequalities across London.

The political environment has been changing rapidly with an unprecedented amount of government legislation and initiatives aimed at involving and/or promoting the interests of 'communities'. It was therefore decided it would be beneficial to refocus activity to a more strategic level: to look at the drivers behind what is happening; the wider political context and the strategic opportunities for effective engagement with this; and what levers, support and structures will help those working in London's neighbourhoods access these.

Consortia – strategies and plans

Since the funding for the project was allocated, ChangeUp consortia throughout England have been required to develop long term strategies and business plans. In order for the London plans to fully reflect the needs of each consortium's local voluntary and community sector, input/guidance was requested from each LRC sub-group about their area of interest/expertise – a task with which the NSG enthusiastically engaged.

As a partnership of members from local, regional and national organisations whose primary purpose is to empower neighbourhoods, the NSG aimed, in its

contribution to the plans, to promote the contribution of community and neighbourhood groups and advocate on their behalf.

The group was aware that the demands on each consortium in London are great and diverse. Community groups and neighbourhood organisations are not necessarily represented on local consortia, and their very nature can limit to what extent consultation with them is possible.

In addition, there is often a tension between the voluntary sector and community sector worlds. Voluntary organisations often have to focus on the demands of contractual arrangements with local authority and other public sector funders while community groups do not usually have either the wish or capacity to meet such demands.

There is also the real or perceived tension of 'voluntary organisations' seen as the big players by small(er) groups – taking funding from 'grassroots' groups. Meanwhile there is often some sort of "competition" being played out as to which organisation or group has the closest links with local communities.

This is, of course, a caricature, but we need to acknowledge that community groups would cease to be 'what they are' if they were to be forced to become bigger or more organised just to gain recognition for the contribution they make.

There will be little or no real social cohesion if the wider voluntary and public sectors do not engage with neighbourhoods; regeneration will not be realised without the input and implementation by those groups; health gain will not materialise without 'health messages' being given credence by trusted members of our communities; and the impact of financial and other resources will not be made to their full extent if services do not reach the people for whom they were destined.

Groups and organisations are wary of becoming involved in partnerships. It is possible, but it takes time, skill, empathy and understanding. Government and public sector funding initiatives often require evidence of 'community involvement' but that is only truly possible where confidence in each other exists.

This report sets out what the sub-group, with the support of the LAA worker, has done to progress this agenda for the LRC. It also outlines plans and aims for continuing that work to the benefit to neighbourhoods. The primary research and the body of the report has been steered and supported by the Neighbourhood Sub Group. Future work and plans are identified in Section 7.

The body of the report was written by the project worker, Jenny Wilmott, (part-time LAA Community Engagement Worker) from January to November 2007. This introduction and the conclusion were written, following an "awayday" and further discussion, in consultation with the sub-group, in July 2008.

Section 2

Neighbourhoods and context

What are neighbourhoods

An individual defines their neighbourhood, and this understanding of their neighbourhood is what is likely to motivate people to get involved in doing things communally there.

'Neighbourhoods' are small, locally recognised and understood areas; there may be many in a borough, and some cross borough boundaries. Overlaying this geographic base there is layering of communities of interest, ethnicity and identity, who may organise themselves in community groups or groupings. These may be: small; without paid staff; not formally constituted. They may involve people/groups not plugged into conventional infrastructure support, or experienced in formal 'political' involvement. Neighbourhoods and their groupings may not have clear geographic boundaries, or may go across statutory boundaries, and they may evolve/change quite quickly.

Why do neighbourhoods matter?

"The majority of the third sector's relationships occur at the local level. This reflects the structure of the sector – nearly 90% of which are small neighbourhood based community organisations. These are often mutual aid or interest groups with no staff or physical assets, often with low levels of income and dependent on voluntary support. The best of such organisations have a strong connection to and understanding of local community interests."¹

Neighbourhood groupings are a channel whereby the skills, energies and talents of local people are realised. Neighbourhood working brings a sense of 'ownership' of place and activities. Neighbourhood groupings can provide vital 'voice' about what is actually happening or not happening 'on the ground', and, as neighbourhoods are constantly evolving, can continually provide intelligence on the changing human assets and needs in communities. Recognition of, and appropriate working with, neighbourhoods is an essential part of achieving the public policy vision of 'community empowerment', as well as being an important part of helping neighbourhoods realise their own visions and ambitions. Whilst people engaged in neighbourhood activities may not know or care about jargon, their activities – often bridging divides of age, ethnicity, culture etc. - are likely to be contributing to increased social cohesion and social capital, important national and local political objectives.

Working at the neighbourhood level is particularly important in London as it is such a diverse city. Local areas differ from each other even though they may be only metres away from each other.

An understanding of the dynamics of Neighbourhoods can be an important element in understanding aspects of equalities, and what consequently what can assist in addressing local needs attached to particular groups.

For example, newer communities tending to live in the same areas, BAME groups concentrated in the most deprived areas.

Yet much voluntary sector infrastructure support is inaccessible to, or inappropriate for the small neighbourhood based community organisations carrying out so much of the activity of the sector, much infrastructure is more likely to meet the needs of formal voluntary organisations.

Political and social context of relevance to neighbourhoods

Government policies to improve service delivery to and outcomes in neighbourhoods/communities are moving from a top down approach, e.g. through Area Based Initiatives, to a more sustainable, long-term, 'bottom up' approach to working with neighbourhoods and communities. This can be seen in elements of:

- ❖ Local Government White Paper 2007 – devolution to local communities;
- ❖ Lyons Report – 'place shaping';
- ❖ Egan report – sustainability;
- ❖ Commission on Cohesion and Integration – community development, leadership and engagement;
- ❖ Quirk Report – community assets, especially development of 'Community Anchors'.
- ❖ Third Sector Strategy for Communities and Local Government - partnership working especially 'how we (DCLG) can respond to the challenges facing community organisations'
- ❖ Safer Neighbourhoods – setting physical safety in a broad context of improving localities – safer, cleaner, greener.

All these initiatives are aimed at improving public sector service delivery and shaping public services, and are also aimed at assisting people to participate in ways that strengthen communities. The vision is to develop Citizen Engagement, Social Cohesion and Social Capital and Safer Neighbourhoods in ways that contribute to sustainable, safe, cohesive neighbourhoods, where people are able to realise their full potential as individuals and as part of communities.

However, there are very different understandings of community. National government uses it in a very wide sense, local government may understand community engagement or community development as a function of local government. In the context of so much legislation and projects which, although aimed at 'community' may be devised and monitored at national levels, it is essential that there are bodies and groupings that can engage with this agenda and explain and demonstrate a bottom up understanding of community and neighbourhoods and what constitutes genuine and therefore potentially more sustainable community empowerment and development.

Section 3

The Neighbourhoods sub group

The need for a body to advocate for neighbourhoods

There are currently unprecedented opportunities for taking forward neighbourhoods issues, as set out in the next section, but neighbourhood/community groupings are unlikely to be able to have influence outside their immediate neighbourhoods unless they come together with other groups, and/or have a grouping to take forward their ideas and experiences. This was the spur to a range of organisations coming together in a grouping now called the Neighbourhoods sub group.

Neighbourhoods subgroup activities in 2007

MARCH

The sub-group is overseeing a Local Area Agreement Community Engagement project, and took part in recruiting a worker to carry forward this project and support the development of the sub-group.

Members of the sub-group participated in the GOL Community Engagement Working Group, inputting a community perspective on the working group's initial work of clarifying the remit of the group, thinking about how the working group might look at the third sector's role in LAAs, and local authorities role in relation to the third sector.

Members of the sub group input views to the Cabinet Office about the on-the-ground infrastructure needs of community organisations, re decisions on the £80 million that the government is committed to allocate to the Grassroots Grants funds for small grants and endowment match challenge over the next few years.

Members of the neighbourhoods sub-group started to exchange information about the overall objectives of, and current work relevant to 'neighbourhood' and ChangeUp, of the different organisations comprising the sub-group to see what 'added value' working as a group can contribute to common objectives.

MAY

The sub-group started looking at how best to:

- input into the LRC sub-sectoral review, ensuring that the community/neighbourhoods perspective is considered
- look at how the needs of communities/neighbourhoods can be included in borough and sub-regional plans.
- plan joint work with the WorkForce and Performance Improvement sub-group on community development/learning/qualifications
- see whether there is potential for a regional project on the role of neighbourhoods in the anticipated 2008-11 ChangeUp funding round

SEPTEMBER

Sub-group members attended a seminar looking at the Third Sector Strategy for Communities and Local Government. Subgroup members have met with GOL for discussions which included looking at how community groups/organisations might assist local and national government in understanding the third sector, and in enabling the community 'voice' to be heard.

The Chair of the sub-group took part in a meeting with the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) about community anchors and about the on-the-ground infrastructure needs of community organisations re allocation decisions on the prospective £80 million for the Grassroots Grants programme.

Sub-group members took part in an LVSC coordinated Openspace event looking at the LRC sub-sectoral review, and ensured that the community/neighbourhoods perspective was considered.

The sub-group made detailed suggestions to those preparing borough and sub-regional ChangeUp plans, showing what sort of local infrastructure could assist individuals and small groups to have a voice and be active.

Sub group members are trying to ensure that there is follow up action to the ChangeUp report on Community Development skills, in conjunction with the Workforce Development sub-group.

The sub-group carried out a self assessment as part of the ChangeUp consortium development process. This was helpful in identifying areas for future action.

DECEMBER

Sub-group members:

- are active in the development of the London section of the new National Empowerment Partnership, and looking at what work will be done under the new 'Voice' hub of ChangeUp.
- are looking at work being done on developing a London region Community Development Exchange (CDX) Forum.
- contributed ideas on how best community organisations, including sub-group member organisations, can contribute to the programme for training public sector commissioners in how to work better with the voluntary sector.
- are active in developing the London Community Reassurance group.

The subgroup provided written input into the 4 December 2007 Consultation on the London Regional Infrastructure, Business and Strategic plans 08-11

(all from reports of neighbourhoods sub group to the London Regional Consortium)

Importance of having dedicated support for the work of the subgroup

As the first stage of the LAA project the project worker visited all members of the sub group to talk to them about their organisations, their understanding of neighbourhoods and what they thought could be achieved by the neighbourhoods sub group. This helped to ensure that the future direction of work of the sub group was formed and informed by member's direct experiences and ideas.

Members have identified – for example in the self assessment exercise - access to relevant information as being key to them getting involved in wider more strategic neighbourhoods activities and in knowing about opportunities for their own organisations to get involved in different issues and activities. The most important channels for this have been the information exchange at the regular sub group meetings, and the filtering and dissemination of information sent out to members by the LAA project worker. This has been made possible by having a worker with the time to scan, filter and disseminate relevant information, and the time to service regular meetings, including writing up detailed meeting notes and action points, as a reminder to those who were present and to inform those who were not there. Members regularly pass on information from these to their networks.

Having a support worker has enabled the sub group to submit timely input to the ChangeUp agenda, for example the self assessment exercise and input to the Borough, sub regional and Regional ChangeUp plans. The support worker has also briefed members before their attendance at strategic meetings, for example with the Government Office for London.

Section 4

Opportunities for Neighbourhoods

[references to the Neighbourhoods subgroup (NSG) apply also to any successor body]

General

The national political context provides the basis for negotiating locally about what is needed in neighbourhoods to achieve the involvement, empowerment and scrutiny that the government says it wants.

Involvement with specific structures such as LSPs and LAAs can be a very useful tool for getting neighbourhood issues on agendas, if these are backed up with practical support such as assistance to participate effectively, or to compete within commissioning processes.

Recent initiatives such as the Community Call for Action, Ward petitions and individual councillors budgets offer avenues for very local interventions.

Within ChangeUp (CU), a role for advocating on behalf of neighbourhoods and scrutinising CU work from a neighbourhoods perspective

The NSG has set out proposals for what each CU consortia needs to consider in their infrastructure development plans. NSG as a group has an understanding of CU, and what can practically be achieved through this, as well as a detailed understanding of specific communities, some London wide, some borough specific. Through this it can make an important and unique contribution to what infrastructure is needed locally. NSG can apply a 'neighbourhoods' filter to the work of CU, it can cross-refer, pull together the borough plans, and take a snapshot of what is in the boroughs and what is missing, and what is the impact – or not – on the ground. An analysis of what structures and mechanisms are available to support the work of neighbourhood and community groupings is likely to be a good indicator of the sector's ability to engage effectively with a range of opportunities, including LSPs and LAAs.

The NSG to be seen as a forum to be involved in advocacy, scrutiny, training and consultation on community issues.

NSG should be one of the 'voices' to be involved in issues that affect neighbourhoods. (Similar to role of HEAR, the Humanities, Equality and Rights sub-group of LRC) For example, the current government 'National programme for Third Sector Commissioning' has a number of actions aiming to train and support public sector commissioners in working better with the Third Sector – including placements for 2000 commissioners in voluntary sector organisations. The NSG could give important guidance as to what should be in that training programme to ensure that the needs of small neighbourhoods/communities are taken on board.

Voice and empowerment

The NSG can contribute to a neighbourhoods perspective and understanding of voice and empowerment, for example through participating in the work of the London part of the National Empowerment Partnership. This could include demonstrating that civic engagement and citizen empowerment should go beyond engagement in the formal 'civic' processes, and go beyond 'individual voice' to supporting processes that will assist people/communities in coming together to develop a 'voice' to advocate on behalf of their communities, and, where desired, have an input to policy making.

Community Development

Community Development work is at the core of much of the work done in relation to neighbourhoods. There is a need for a strategic review of what is needed in general in this area, also what sort of skills, infrastructure and support is needed to enable communities to function well. The NSG should continue to develop relationships with other organisations promoting Community Development Work – standards and practice - in London.

Helping develop and define the role of Community Anchors

Community Anchors are independent community led organisations. They are multipurpose and supportive of the growth and development of community groups and may provide a focus for services and activities meeting local need.

If Community Anchors are to become a focus for public resources to be put into the community sector, as set out in the Quirk report³, it is important to work out and agree a definition of an anchor that is meaningful for London and neighbourhoods. The NSG can have a role in this, and also a scrutiny role arising from local knowledge of how things are working on the ground. There is a role in identifying what resources are needed to enable a community anchor to be effective, then advocating that these resources are made available. There is a role for identifying what skills are needed to manage a multi-purpose resource centre and what appropriate training will support people in doing this.

Education and Learning

The NSG could have a role in: educating people who commission services; educating GOL officers who work on borough Local Area Agreements; educating local borough officers and councillors in how to acknowledge needs of neighbourhoods; assisting neighbourhood groups to see the relevance of getting involved in LSPs, LAAs etc, and where they can get assistance in doing this most effectively.

Section 5 'Manifesto for Neighbourhoods'

In developing its guidance to the ChangeUp consortia on what's needed if neighbourhoods and communities are to thrive, the NSG defined what's needed at three levels (boroughs/sub regions/London region), promoting a 'Neighbourhoods Manifesto':

Regional (London-wide)

- Establish a regional function to link up existing neighbourhoods groupings, make the best use of work they are doing, and to represent the work of, and advocate for, neighbourhoods in key decision making bodies at regional and national level.

Sub regional

- Establish a sub-regional body, and link in with other sub-regional structures, to scrutinise borough plans (see below) to see that the key issues are being worked on in boroughs, with the aim of reducing the inequalities between neighbourhoods across London.
- Ensure that sub-regional plans consider the location of infrastructure across London providing for the needs of disparate groupings which may

go across boroughs – e.g. emerging refugee groupings or faith or equalities groupings.

Borough

In every borough demonstrable plans towards achieving:

- Borough wide organisations, e.g. CVSs / CENs, supporting disparate neighbourhood groupings to interact at appropriate levels, e.g. assistance with ICT; use of office or meeting space, and information provision.
- Encouragement to local and national public bodies to understand the value of the neighbourhood perspective on what is really happening ‘on the ground’ by proactively:
 - gathering, analysing and making available public spending information and qualitative impact assessments from very small geographic areas – postcode and ward;
 - capitalising on local human assets by involving neighbourhood groupings in the design, participation, evaluation and impact assessment of community engagement/ community cohesion processes, and public policy involvement processes
- Anchor organisations in every neighbourhood, networked and with appropriate local infrastructure support, intelligence sharing, and joint functions.
- Encouragement and support for neighbourhood groupings to develop and express their ‘voice’ about where they live, including through appropriate involvement in LSPs and ChangeUp consortia.
- Adequate resources for supporting community development work, including fora to link up people using CD methodology in any setting
- Small grants and support available for community initiatives, with the scheme accountable to local communities

Section 6

What sort of infrastructures/organisations can help take this work forward?

The NSG is the only body currently that brings together a broad section of neighbourhood groupings to focus on London-wide issues. It has evolved over the first year of its existence, and widened its membership, so it is well placed to form the nucleus of a grouping to take forward this work:

- All its member organisations are involved in different ways with neighbourhoods and communities, and deal with a range of issues.
- Members have very strong connections with people on the ground, and also good relationships with people in positions senior enough to deliver actions or resources.
- Through this 'feet on the ground' and strategic awareness and strategic contacts the NSG can act as a conduit for conveying what is happening on the ground upwards to policy makers. This provides a link between 'doers' and the policy strategic context that few groupings have.
- The diversity of the NSG organisations reflects different sets of relationships with the ground, and the NSG provides a forum where these organisations can come together and work collectively on neighbourhood/community issues, bringing a synergy to this not available anywhere else.

Any grouping formed to take forward this work will comprise people with expertise, ideas and good contacts and networking in their areas but, no doubt, with very little time and many issues to focus on. It is very unlikely that regional community sector organisations or front-line organisations will have spare capacity to carry out the range of activities necessary to take this work forward in a sustained way in addition to their everyday work. **If additional support through a dedicated post is not available this will restrict what the group can achieve.** (see final para of Section 3)

Section 7

Conclusion and plans, July 2008

The sub-group has enabled identification of a range of opportunities for involvement in work that could assist recognition of the value of groups and activity at neighbourhood level, and therefore their right to infrastructure support. The employment of a dedicated worker was critical to the progress made. The NSG's bid for continuation funding (March 08) was not successful, thus limiting the range of activities the group can achieve until dedicated time to support this work can be procured.

The ChangeUp London Infrastructure Development Plan (LIDP) 2008, in section 5 *Ambition for 2014*, sets out the strategy for 2008 – 2014 (p 17) and the LRC's long-term aspirations for Third Sector infrastructure support in each of the priority areas identified through consultation and research.

For **Neighbourhoods** (section 5.6, p 19), the context and LRC ambition is stated as follows:

Almost 90% of the Third Sector is comprised of small neighbourhood-based community organisations, often with very low income and no physical assets. Their strength lies in their strong connections to local

people and communities, so appropriate and accessible infrastructure is needed to support such organisations in making a real difference to people’s lives, where they live.

Neighbourhoods do not always respect political boundaries – and within geographical areas there may be distinct communities of interest, ethnicity and identity. Local Infrastructure Organisations (LIO) of all kinds have a role in supporting all of these locally-based communities to come together and thrive, linking in with other LIOs to support communities that transcend geographical boundaries.

By 2014 the LRC hopes to see:

- The development of infrastructure organisations at neighbourhood levels – providing enabling information, signposting and the physical and mental space to foster genuine community development
- Accessible infrastructure that supports the development of grass roots groups and movements and promotes local accountability
- Regular networking between ‘community anchor’ and other infrastructure organisations, providing better intelligence and engagement between disparate neighbourhood groups
- Access to better neighbourhood data and evidence, with neighbourhoods featured strategically in regional plans

The LIDP (p 30) gives the following Key Three Year Targets for the LRC’s strategic work on Neighbourhoods:

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
To continually consider neighbourhood level infrastructure needs, monitor neighbourhood level activity and share best practice, develop intelligence to support LIOs and advocate for neighbourhoods at the regional level, in both strategic and practical terms.	To continually consider neighbourhood level infrastructure needs, monitor neighbourhood level activity and share best practice, develop intelligence to support LIOs and advocate for neighbourhoods at the regional level, in both strategic and practical terms.	To continually consider neighbourhood level infrastructure needs, monitor neighbourhood level activity and share best practice, develop intelligence to support LIOs and advocate for neighbourhoods at the regional level, in both strategic and practical terms.

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
To work with the sub-regions in supporting the networking, accountability and accessibility of LIOs locally.	To work with the sub-regions in supporting the networking, accountability and accessibility of LIOs locally.	To work with the sub-regions in supporting the networking, accountability and accessibility of LIOs locally.
To make the case for more use of hard and soft data from ward/postcode level within all statutory and Third Sector policy development.	To make the case for more use of hard and soft data from ward/postcode level within all statutory and Third Sector policy development.	To make the case for more use of hard and soft data from ward/postcode level within all statutory and Third Sector policy development.
To ensure all neighbourhoods in London have access to local information, signposting and support – through an LIO or other appropriate channels.	To ensure all neighbourhoods in London have access to local information, signposting and support – through an LIO or other appropriate channels.	To ensure all neighbourhoods in London have access to local information, signposting and support – through an LIO or other appropriate channels.
To support LIOs to develop accountable neighbourhood ‘voices’ and increase/improve engagement between such voices and other local partnerships.	To support LIOs to develop accountable neighbourhood ‘voices’ and increase/improve engagement between such voices and other local partnerships.	To support LIOs to develop accountable neighbourhood ‘voices’ and increase/improve engagement between such voices and other local partnerships.

In order to support these targets, the sub-group intends to:

- continue and further develop strong links with existing regional groupings/sun groups operating under the auspices of the London Regional Consortium to ensure that they are informed by the experience of neighbourhood and community groups and are directly applicable to them

- represent the work of, and advocate for, neighbourhoods in key bodies including GOL, LDA, London Councils, London Voluntary Services Council, London Empowerment Partnership
- represent the work of, and advocate for neighbourhoods with key infrastructure bodies at sub regional level to ensure that local and sub regional plans include infrastructure support for neighbourhoods at a local level
- seek resources to commission and disseminate research to build the business case for involvement of neighbourhoods and the community sector
- seek resources to collate and analyse intelligence gained through its wider membership to create position statements and lobbying points on behalf of neighbourhoods and community organisations
- support the development of communication conduits at local level between neighbourhoods and local authorities
- evaluate models of effective neighbourhood involvement to influence strategic funding and planning and continue to be involved in promoting the availability of good Community Development learning opportunities in London.
- consider developing its position to become a strategic body concerned with community development e.g. becoming the London Section of the Community Sector Coalition

The group intends to look for resources to develop the full potential of the work outlined above. In the short-term, by sharing their own organisations' resources, the members intend to hold an event to widen the group's membership, promote its work and create ownership for an action plan. Areas for discussion at such an event could include:

- Andy Gregg's paper and the blog on "Community"
- The implementation of the Grassroots Grants scheme
- Impact of Local Area Agreements/Commissioning on neighbourhoods/communities
- Implications of the ending of NRF
- Community Engagement/Empowerment
- Single issue funding
- The potential of the Quirk Report

An appendix, with notes of meetings etc, is available as a separate document.

Footnotes

¹ 'Third Sector Strategy for Communities and Local Government'. Communities and Local Government June 2007 discussion paper, p10.

² Membership of NSG at Dec 2007:

Bolaji Bank-Anthony
 Director Black Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration Network
 Devon Carney
 Lambeth Active Citizenship and Volunteering
 Housing and Regeneration Division
 Billy Dann
 National Programmes Manager
 Church Urban Fund
 Burger Edwards
 Cambridge House
 Dr. Theo Gavrielides
 Head of Policy
 Race On The Agenda
 Despina Johnson
 Chief Executive
 FinFuture Ltd
 Carole Macqueen
 London Development Manager
 bassac
 Dorothy Newton (chair)
 Regional Director, London
 The Scarman Trust
 Matthew Scott
 Director
 Lewisham Community Empowerment Network

Also members
 London Civic Forum

The sub-group was serviced (January – November 2007) by Jenny Wilmott, LAA Community Engagement Worker, the Scarman Trust.

³ 'Making Assets work: the Quirk Review of community management and ownership of public assets' Communities and Local Government May 2007