Lambeth First
Borough Conference
2019 – event evaluation
20/11/2019

About this document

This document is an evaluation of the Lambeth First Borough Conference 2019. It aims to bring together feedback and insights about the event design, venue and organisation to evaluate the extent to which the conference achieved its objectives, inform the design of future events and identify immediate next steps. A detailed record of the content, analysis and recommendations in relation to the conference *content* is available in a separate report.

Sources of data
- Analysis of attendee information
- Social media engagement
- Conference participants provided feedback during the conference plenary session and through survey monkey after the event
- Presenters provided feedback on workshop sessions
- Politicians, leaders, organisers and volunteers provided feedback on event organisation and design

Contents

Conference headlines 1

- The 2019 Lambeth First Borough Conference took place on 16 October 2019, 1-5pm

- It was very well attended – 160 delegates

- There was a wide range of organisations represented, particularly VCS

- The conference was chaired by Cllr Jacqui Dyer, with plenary presentations from Cllr Jack Hopkins, Cllr Jim Dickson and Adam Lent, NLGN

- There were 20+ presenters

- There were 4 workshops based on borough plan goals hosted by cabinet members

Conference headlines 2

The conference met its stated aims and generated a range of learnings to build from in future conferences:

Highlights
- strong engagement with the conference's key message of partnership working
- high energy plenary presentations and discussion
- workshops hosted by cabinet members and showcasing a range of organisations
- connections made and networking ("fistful of business cards")
- interactive exhibition space including a mapping exercise led by Social Change Agency

Opportunities for next time
- maximising networking time
- inviting plenary speakers from the Lambeth community
- managing numbers of delegates in each workshop
- offering a mix of more traditional and more experiential workshops, with allowances made for different engagement styles and communication needs
- trying new approaches to reach a wider range of organisations and people
- conducting as much pre-conference engagement as possible to align design with interests and priorities

Next steps
- build future collaboration opportunities into borough plan implementation approach
- targeted engagement with underrepresented groups and sectors with the borough goals
- discussions with key decision makers to agree responses conference recommendations ("you said, we did")
- dissemination of reports
- take forwards workshop recommendations

Conference purpose & aims

The purpose of the conference was to launch the refreshed Borough Plan goals and build ideas and momentum around its implementation.

Conference aims:
The conference aims were developed in line with the four borough plan values, with an additional goal around sustainability.

1.	Collaboration	people make new connections and share local intelligence; people feel inspired and listened to
2.	Inequalities	the audience is reflective of the borough (of demographics, of organisations, of roles) and the 'quiet voices' are heard, including those of residents
3.	Value for money	the event is purposeful, people 'do real work' together and make concrete commitments
4.	Transparency	there are other opportunities for people who can't attend to engage, outputs are visible, and recommendations are responded to
5.	Sustainability	the event is sustainable

Aim #1: collaboration

Summary

The conference aimed to create spaces for people to make new connections and share local intelligence, as well as to feel inspired and listened to.

As in previous years, the conference provided a range of workshops, activities and speeches that enabled delegates to learn more about what was happening in the borough. Networking and sharing ideas were built into the conference design, and delegates were eager for more of these opportunities going forwards.

Highlights
- high energy 'open space' style session in final plenary where delegates heard about the other workshops and shared ideas
- visual mapping exercise led by Social Change Agency (see next page)
- exhibition area for presenters that included sign-up opportunities for various initiatives
- four workshops focused on collaboration around the borough goals
- pledges and offers made by delegates

“ I took away a fistful of business cards and agreements to meet to forge new partnerships and refresh old ones. *Presenter*

“ There was a lovely sense of openness in the room - everyone was encouraged to connect, share ideas and the senior team seemed to welcome new ideas. *Survey respondent*

“ The workshops needed to be much longer. There was only time to discuss a few topics and ideas. *Survey respondent*

Aim #1: collaboration

Learning for next time
- more time for networking and organised networking
- ask for permission when people register to share contact details so people can contact each-other post event
- increase the range of activities to have a mix of more traditional and more experiential workshops
- stricter management of numbers in each workshop to optimise workshop activities

Next steps
- build future collaboration opportunities into borough plan implementation

" I'd like to see more organised networking ie if you are interested in x, go to room y to meet others working in the field. *Survey respondent*

" People got to have their say. *Survey respondent*

The Integrate Agency CIC
@IntegrateUK
Follow

Plotting the myriad groups and relationships in Lambeth can be a tricky affair...! We've been busy making those links today at #LF2019 - Lambeth First Borough Conference
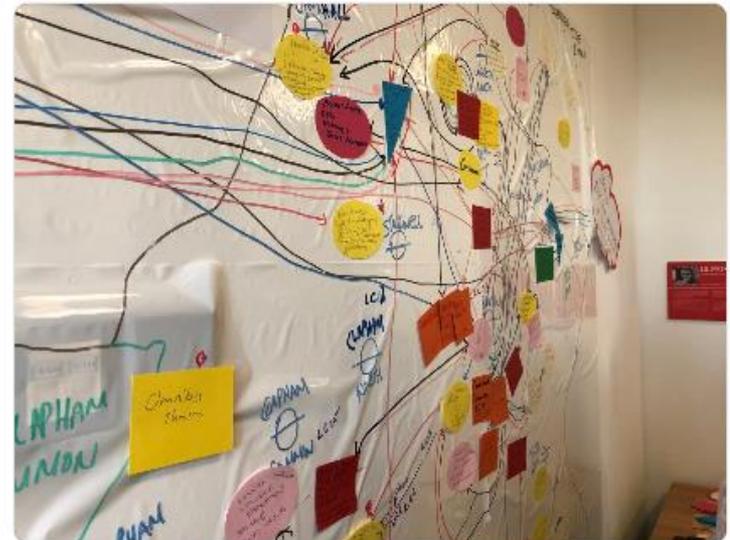
8:48 am - 16 Oct 2019

Aim #2: advancing equalities

Summary

To support the goal of advancing equalities, the conference aimed to have an audience that was reflective of the borough (of demographics, of organisations, of roles) and bring to the fore the 'quiet voices', including those of vulnerable residents.

In developing the conference design, attention was paid to bringing the voice of residents into the room and this was broadly successful, with opportunities to continue to develop this. There were also deliberate efforts to expand the range of delegates who attended. This should continue to be a deliberate focus in future years.

Highlights
- people with lived experience presented in the workshops including a young person with Iconic Steps, and mental health connector with Project Smith
- a short film – Voices of Lambeth – was commissioned and shown at the start of the conference to ground the event in the voices of people who live in the borough

" My big takeaway was learning about the high and disproportionate levels of mental ill health among BAME groups in the borough and the lack of BAME people at professional service delivery. *Presenter*

Healthwatch Lambeth @HWLambeth · 16 oct.
Natalie, director of @BlackThrive talks about the wider determinants of health & #MentalHealth 🎗, the inequalities black people face, and how Black Thrive takes a systematic approach & data to reduce inequalities in #Lambeth. #LF2019
Learn more about this at blackthrive.org.uk

💬   🔁 6   ♡ 15

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Aim #2: advancing equalities

> My highlight from the conference: the range of people there.
> *Survey respondent*

> Small groups discussions worked well as everyone could contribute.
> *Presenter*

> More young people need to be present in these events to be in the discussion. *Survey respondent*

Highlights (cont.)
- a range of organisations were represented both as delegates and presenters
- each workshop introduced a perspective on inequalities to the theme (personas in the climate change and young people's workshop; focus on mental health inequalities in the mental health workshop; and exploration of housing's impact on community in the housing workshop)
- highly accessible venue and delegates were invited to contact organisers with accessibility requirements

Learning for next time
- increase diversity of the audience and of plenary speakers – demographics and organisations
- some workshops were dominated by a small number of voices which made it harder for all delegates to participate
- whilst attention was paid to ensuring the accessibility of the event, there were some reported hearing challenges in the workshop spaces where rooms were crowded. This should be taken account of in workshop design.

Next steps
- targeted engagement with underrepresented groups and sectors with the borough goals

Aim #3: value for money

Summary

For the event to achieve 'value for money', the aim was for it to be as purposeful as possible, with people 'doing real work' together, making commitments and taking on the overarching message of partnership. The message of positive partnerships was present throughout the day and championed by delegates through a number of feedback channels.

Highlights

- pre-engagement with conference participants and key council stakeholders to understand their priorities and inform workshop design
- alignment of core message of partnership through all key speakers and within workshops
- commitments and pledges made by participants
- concrete, purposeful recommendations emerging from the workshops

Learning for next time

- more energy in pre-conference engagement to ensure content is as meaningful as possible

Next steps

- discussions with key decision makers to agree responses conference recommendations ("you said, we did")

" The tone of the conference worked really well – that change, improvement and renewal are in everybody's hands, especially through partnership working. *Presenter*

"

London Funders
@LondonFunders

"I hope that everybody comes out of today with at least one commitment in mind. @lambeth_council has made sure it has the right capacity for partnerships, and it will be consistent in its focus on delivering". @atravers60 #LF2019

08:25 – 16 oct. 2019

We need to maintain momentum and stick to this agenda. Let's be brave and take risks.

Final plenary discussion

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Aim #4: transparency

Summary

For the event to be transparent, it was important to provide opportunities for people who couldn't attend to engage with conference materials, for the outputs to be visible, and to have meaningful responses to recommendations. The conference website has been available for people unable to attend with videos of the plenary speeches.

Highlights

- workshops hosted by cabinet members meant people felt that their comments were being taken seriously
- details of next steps were shared by workshop hosts
- feedback on progress since the borough plan launch in 2016 was published on the website
- the website containing all conference information was available to participants and hosts videos/ reports from the conference
- feedback was requested from all participants and incorporated into this report

Learning for next time

- explore ways to capture workshop discussions that can't be published online

(NB. It is too early to assess the follow up activity)

Next steps

- dissemination of reports

“ I hope to see the administration identify key commitments arising from the discussions, comments and responses from participants.
Survey respondent
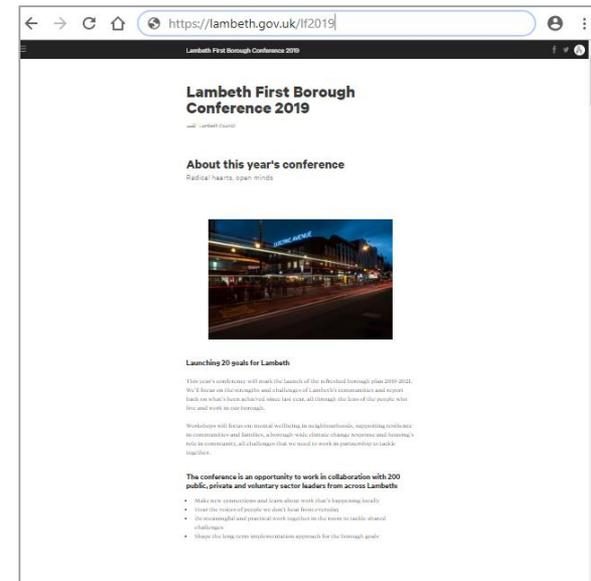
Conference website

Aim #5: sustainability

Summary

To achieve aims around sustainability, efforts were made to ensure the conference had a low environmental impact and to platform environmental issues in the workshop sessions.

Where we achieved this
- using a venue with strong environmental credentials
- using digital tools where possible such as a conference website instead of printed agendas
- one of the four conference workshops focused on climate change

Learning for next time
- publicising the event as environmentally friendly to raise awareness of key issues
- measuring environment impact of the event
- more visibility and exploration of sustainability issues within all workshop themes (housing, resilience and mental health)

Next steps
- take forwards climate change workshop recommendations

“

It was inspiring hearing about what the Kings College London Sustainability Team are doing to be carbon neutral as quickly as possible. It sounded as though the 2025 deadline, in their case, was viable and achievable.

Survey respondent

APPENDIX

Conference agenda

Lambeth Borough Conference 2019	
Welcome	Councillor Jacqui Dyer, Conference Chair
Plenary – Key speech: Our Borough Plan	Councillor Jack Hopkins, Leader of Lambeth Council
Voices of Lambeth – short film	
Plenary – Building new relationships in our communities	Adam Lent, New Local Government Network
Workshops x 4	Workshop hosts, facilitators, presenters
Plenary – Working together for Lambeth	Andrew Travers, Chief Executive, Lambeth Council
Plenary – Share ideas, identify barriers and make pledges	Councillor Jacqui Dyer, Conference Chair
Thank you and Close	Councillor Jim Dickson, Lambeth First Chair

Full delegate analysis

Breakdown of the type of organisation represented:

- Voluntary Sector   60 delegates
- Lambeth Council   45 delegates
- Individuals   28 delegates
- Statutory organisations   18 delegates
- Private sector organisations   9 delegates

Total   160 delegates