

Healthier Greenwich Partnership Public Forum Report

Forum date 21 October 2022



This event was the first Healthier Greenwich Partnership (HGP) Public Forum. The Public Forums were established to try and find more meaningful ways for members of the public to engage with HGP work and to try to reach beyond the people who often attend our meetings.

The event was held as a hybrid with members of the public joining in person at the Woolwich Centre and online via Zoom between 5pm and 7pm.

This first session was originally scheduled for Wednesday 14 September 6-8pm. It was postponed due to the national period of mourning. Going forward the intention is that these are held quarterly and roughly a fortnight before the HGP meeting in public. This will enable us to formally report back to HGP.

We were joined by 18 members of the public online and 11 in person. We were happy with this turnout as it was the first event, we had had to postpone and as we weren't able to promote it as much as we would have liked due to the national period of mourning. Also, many of the participants were new to our health and care meetings and we had some rich conversations with some fresh perspectives.

During the session participants were initially given an introduction to the Healthier Greenwich Partnership and its role within the South East London Integrated Care System. Then there was a lengthy discussion about proposals for changes to services at Eltham Community Hospital. This was the main topic for the Public Forum. This was followed by an opportunity for participants to ask general questions or raise any issues.

The discussion about the main topic is reported within the [Eltham Community Hospital Engagement Report](#).

Other questions were asked about HGP's work to develop neighbourhoods, winter vaccinations, prevention and access to primary care. It was agreed that access to primary care would be a good main topic for discussion at a future HGP Public Forum.

The format seemed to work well having a main theme and then an opportunity for general questions. Also doing the event as a hybrid worked well and feedback from people who attended online confirmed that they were able to see and hear the people in the room. There was a real appetite from participants for further engagement and involvement work. People also asked if we would be willing to go to their community and talk to them.

A survey was sent to participants asking for feedback and suggestions for future topics. Feedback is very positive although it should be noted that this has only been completed by a few participants. There was also a suggestion that future Public Forums are in different venues in the community.

Following verbal feedback and discussion at the Healthier Greenwich Partnership meeting in Public on 28/09/22 it was agreed that the next Public Forum will be in a similar format roughly two weeks before the next meeting. The date and venue will be confirmed but we are exploring how we can deliver a hybrid format in a community setting, rather than Council headquarters.