



# Greenwich Voice and Influence Programme

## **December 2024 Greenwich Hub for Influence, Voice, and Engagement Voice and Influence Conference Report**

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Published

6 March 2025



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## Workshop Details

Date: 12 December 2024

Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: METRO Woolwich

### Conference Facilitators:

- Mark Delacour – Director of External Affairs, METRO GAVS
- Anna Ritchie – Head of Greenwich Giving, METRO GAVS
- Andrew Kerr – Voice and Influence Programme Manager, METRO GAVS
- Emily Nowell – Project Manager, METRO GAVS
- Roy Gopaul – Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator and Development Officer, METRO GAVS
- Colin Giordmaina – Programme Support Officer, METRO GAVS
- Tony Wong – CEO, METRO Charity
- Harvey Kennedy-Pitt – Global Public Health Consultant and Health Equity Strategist, Unstukk Ltd
- Julia Slay – Senior Associate, Innovation Unit

### Groups and Organisations in Attendance:

- Advocacy in Greenwich (AIG)
- Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice (GBCH)
- Groundwork London
- Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust
- Lioness Within Community CiC
- Metropolitan Police Service
- Morning Dew Foundation (MDF)
- Peabody Community Trust (Previously Trust Thamesmead)
- Royal Borough of Greenwich – Public Health
- Somali Teaching Group
- South East London Integrated Care Board
- South East London Mind
- South London Counselling and Support Services (SLCSS)
- University of Greenwich



## Aim, Objectives, and Approach

The December 2024 Greenwich Voice and Influence Conference was the second conference in the second phase of the Greenwich Voice and Influence Programme, which began in September 2022. It was the third dedicated voice and influence conference hosted by METRO GAVS since the Greenwich Voice and Influence Programme was launched in July 2021.

The first aim of the event was to review G-HIVE's progress during Phase 2 Year 2 (December 2023 to December 2024). This was achieved through a presentation by Andrew Kerr in the first half of the event, which included opportunities for attendees to ask questions about the progress achieved to date, and the priorities for the remainder of Phase 2. The second aim of the event was to capture the impact which G-HIVE has had within the Royal Borough of Greenwich. This was achieved through an evaluation exercise during the second half of the event which was led by Julia Slay. The final aim of the event was to continue building professional relationships and networks between the Statutory and Voluntary Sectors within the Health and Social Care System in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. This was achieved through informal networking opportunities throughout the event in between each of the planned presentations and activities. It was also achieved through a presentation from Tony Wong about the priorities and direction which METRO Charity will be taken in under his leadership, and Anna Ritchie around the progress and priorities for Greenwich Giving.

Building upon previous G-HIVE conferences, the December 2024 G-HIVE Networking Event incorporated a mixture of activities and presentations. The presentations included:

- Welcome speech from Tony Wong as the new CEO of METRO Charity
- Keynote speech from Harvey Kennedy-Pitt entitled *"Optimal" ... not Perfect*
- G-HIVE Progress Report from Andrew Kerr
- Greenwich Giving Progress Report from Anna Ritchie

Additionally, the activities included capturing G-HIVE's impact in the borough, as well as informal networking opportunities. By METRO GAVS continuing to adopt this methodology and approach within G-HIVE, there is a role model for culture change across the system which G-HIVE is working to support and facilitate.

## Presentation 1: Welcome from Tony Wong

Tony Wong started at METRO Charity's new CEO in late-2024 and, as part of his introduction to the organisation, has been getting to know different stakeholders from across the boroughs and counties which METRO deliver in. With METRO GAVS being a very place-based organisation within the Royal Borough of Greenwich, it was a good opportunity for Tony to meet with a range of stakeholders from across the Health and Social Care System, and outline his plans, priorities, and direction for the organisation. This is especially true for METRO GAVS, and G-HIVE, but also the other areas of the organisation which deliver within the borough (i.e. Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV, Mental Health and Wellbeing, and Youth). Tony's presentation also allowed an opportunity for



attendees to ask questions of him, and for him to receive feedback on METRO's wider delivery within the borough by stakeholders who work with the different parts of the organisation.

## **Presentation 2: Keynote Speech - “Optimal” ... not Perfect**

Harvey Kennedy-Pitt gave the keynote speech of the conference, which was entitled “Optimal” ... not Perfect. The presentation explored health inequalities with a focus on the Optimal Health Model with the model being situated and applied within the UK and Greenwich contexts. Moreover, the presentation provided an overview of the demographic makeup of the UK and Greenwich, context to which health inequalities are being overcome within Greenwich specifically, and the key questions which should be considered when trying to address health inequalities through the Optimal Health Model.

The keynote speech presentation slide deck [can be found here](#).

## **Presentation 3: G-HIVE Progress Report (December 2023 to December 2024)**

Overall, G-HIVE continues to make good progress towards its establishment within the Royal Borough of Greenwich. This includes towards the specific activities which G-HIVE's success is being measured on by the National Lottery Community Fund, the programme's current funder. Although the programme was delayed by three months in Phase 2 Year 1 due to unforeseen circumstances, the G-HIVE Programme Team have made up this time during Phase 2 Year 2, with Year 3 on track to deliver as planned and in line with the current funding timescales.

The G-HIVE Progress Report (December 2023 to December 2024) [can be found here](#).

## **Presentation 4: Greenwich Giving Progress and Priorities**

METRO GAVS started to incubate Greenwich Giving within the Royal Borough of Greenwich in Summer 2024, with it formally being launched in December 2024. As new local, place-based giving scheme within the borough, Greenwich Giving continues to make good progress towards its establishment, with support from wider stakeholders within the borough. This includes the development and launching of its first giving campaign around mental wellness, social connection and isolation, and loneliness.

The Greenwich Giving Progress and Priorities presentation [can be found here](#).

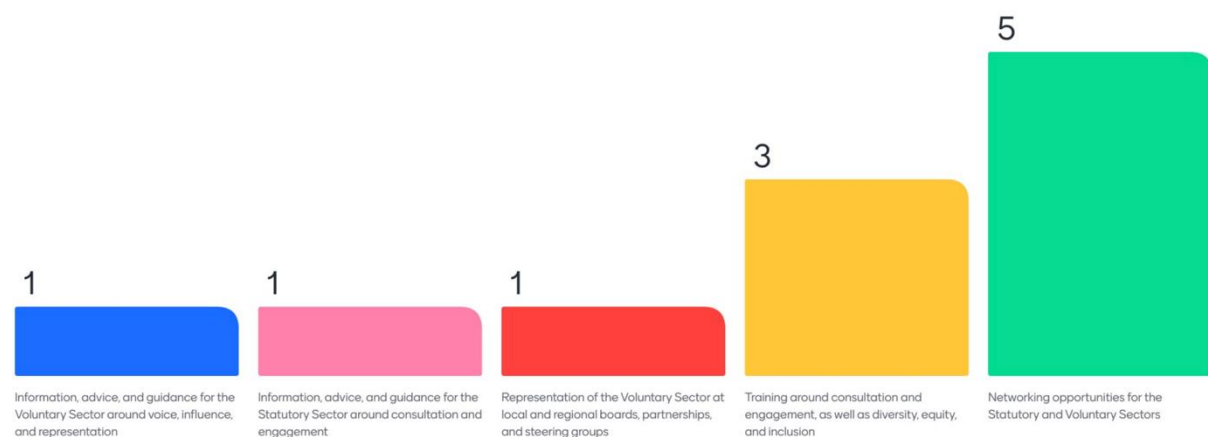
## **Activity 1: Capturing G-HIVE's Impact**

With G-HIVE currently in its third and final year of delivery as part of Phase 2, the G-HIVE Programme Team are keen to capture the impact which the programme is having within the borough. As part of

this, they have been working with the Innovation Unit to ensure this is completed through a variety of methods. One of these methods was to engage with attendees at the G-HIVE Voice and Influence Conference about the benefits of G-HIVE within the borough, their experiences of the programme, and if G-HIVE could support them in other ways.

An exercise, lead by Julia Slay and Andrew Kerr, was conducted using Mentimetre, where a series of questions were put to attendees, following by a short discussion after each one. This generated a range of responses, with were as follows:

Select which of the following you have accessed, or felt the benefits from in your work this year.



## How would you describe your experience of G-HIVE

No experience	Friendly staff, interesting training, useful networking opportunities	Helpful connections with vol sector organisations. Good networking opportunities.	This is my first experience of G-Hive. So no experience
The trainings have been very helpful. For my organisation	Very good experience really valued the training sessions as it let me learn on an individual level and also let me take the knowledge back to my organisation, for example the disability training	I've learned about different organisations and services that exist in Greenwich.	A few trainings that were beneficial and provided opportunities to network.
I have met some great people that could potentially lead to great collaboration next year	Very informative, staff members are very friendly information and supportive. Lots of information around funding and personnel introduction to professional	Useful connector and way into voluntary organisations in the borough	Stronger funding application



What have you been able to do as a result of the support you have accessed through G-HIVE (e.g. funding gained, new relationships made)

Reach out to organisations supporting homeless people to organise a pop up vaccine clinic

Network with other organisations and see how they are doing things differently to my organisation also the training gave me more insight on how to tackle certain situations such as talking to funders

Networking resulted in providing support to organisations to access funding

Stronger funding applications

Extended own network and awareness of local groups

Apply some of the ideas to future applications

Connect with voluntary organisations to do our own engagement

Think latterly

New contact

Meet like minded people

I haven't used G-Hive for anything yet

Great connections for 2025

Built relationships and in the process of being supported with funding

Great support from Andrew

Connect with people and discuss working together

Send important health messaging out to voluntary organisations to spread in their communities

Brainstorming with colleagues help understand your own goals and understand your own work

Communications with staff is great

How could G-HIVE support you in other ways that would help increase your impact?

Personalised guidance for organisational governance	More training opportunities	Database of community organisations etc with really good search function and details on what that organisation does	Data base of all organisations and their sectors where it is easy for everyone to reach and search, instead of having to come to physical meetings to network
More trainings around disability and inclusion	Co-run networking events to promote our funding programme and maximise outreach	Support with the hard to reach groups	Help form partnerships with organisations and get more funding.
Digital networking platform to support one another	Grassroots organisations are doing the work but lack the funds to support them so personalised support is essential	Engagement and raising community voices	Funding support
Hand holding for new organisations	Community accountant	Help around governance	Expanding knowledge

What do you want to celebrate from the work of this group / community?

Being together	Being able to reach vol orgs	Networking	The support and guidance they provide to small businesses
Their ability to bring organisations together and their willingness to strive for improvements, always looking to help and do better while also tackling relevant problems	Comaraderie	The future of the project	

From the responses which were received, it is clear the current stakeholders resonate and benefit from the learning, development, training, and networking opportunities which G-HIVE provides.





There is also a strong sense that G-HIVE has been successful in help to development some partnerships and relationships across the Health and Social Care System. Going forward, the G-HIVE Programme Team will use the results from this activity to improve communications in relation to the programme. For example, some attendees reported wanting support from G-HIVE in areas outside of the programme's remit but is within the remit of other parts of METRO GAVS (i.e. the Capacity Building and Infrastructure Support Service). Moreover, some attendees also reported wanting G-HIVE to development digital infrastructures which map out the Voluntary Sector within the borough, which the G-HIVE Programme Team already developed and launched in 2024. Additionally, the G-HIVE Programme Team will work with the Innovation Unit to build on the results of this activity and explore methods to capture more in-depth insight in 2025.

## Next Steps

The December 2024 G-HIVE Voice and Influence Conference was the second of two conferences planned for G-HIVE Phase 2 Year 2. The G-HIVE Programme Team will be continuing to facilitate a series of trainings on consultation and engagement as part of the Learning, Development, and Training Support Package in 2025, as well as two more networking events in April and September 2025.

For further information, please contact the following:

- [Andrew Kerr – Voice and Influence Programme Manager](#)
- [Roy Gopaul – Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator](#)
- [Loic Marcon – Programme Support Officer](#)



## **Appendix 1: Suggested Future Focuses Outside of G-HIVE's Remit**

- Community events for hard-to-reach communities
- Signposting with a focus on peer support

Whilst these are good suggestions for the G-HIVE Programme Team to consider as a future focus of G-HIVE, they are, unfortunately, outside of the delivery of G-HIVE's remit within the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

## **Appendix 2: Suggested Changes to Improve G-HIVE's Delivery**

- Bridging the gap between grassroots groups and organisations and funding from the Royal Borough of Greenwich
- Increased methods to disseminate funding opportunities beyond the weekly e-bulletin (i.e. METRO GAVS Info Update) and improved ability to access funding opportunities
- Connecting smaller groups and organisations with larger organisations around support with funding bids

Whilst these are good suggestions for the G-HIVE Programme Team to consider in improving G-HIVE's delivery, they are more closely aligned to the delivery of Greenwich Giving and the Infrastructure Support and Capacity Building Service within METRO GAVS.