

HCLF Frequently ASKED Questions

What does the HCLF do?

The HCLF seeks to:

- Engage voluntary and community sector representation at the strategic, decision making levels.
- Influence local policy development and service provision
- Galvanise the ‘voice’ of the wider VCS in Haringey on key local developments
- Raise awareness of key initiatives
- Share information with the wider VCS
- Increase inclusion of communities considered as ‘hard to reach’ on key initiatives

Differences between the HCLF and HAVCO:

HAVCO is the Council of Voluntary Service (CVS) in Haringey. It is the umbrella body representing the VCS in Haringey. The organisation’s main purpose is to provide a range of support to the VCS to enable them to be sustainable and strong. Services include, capacity building and development, fundraising advice, promoting volunteering, training and skills development, quality assurance advice and training, community accountancy support, networking and partnership. Additionally the Volunteer Centre for the borough is managed by HAVCO. HAVCO also manages community engagement via the HCLF which is the ‘forum of forums’ in Haringey. The HCLF has 24 seats across the HSP structure.

The HCLF has been introduced as an overarching forum, enabling community engagement and representation at the borough’s highest level of decision making.

How is the HCLF Structured?

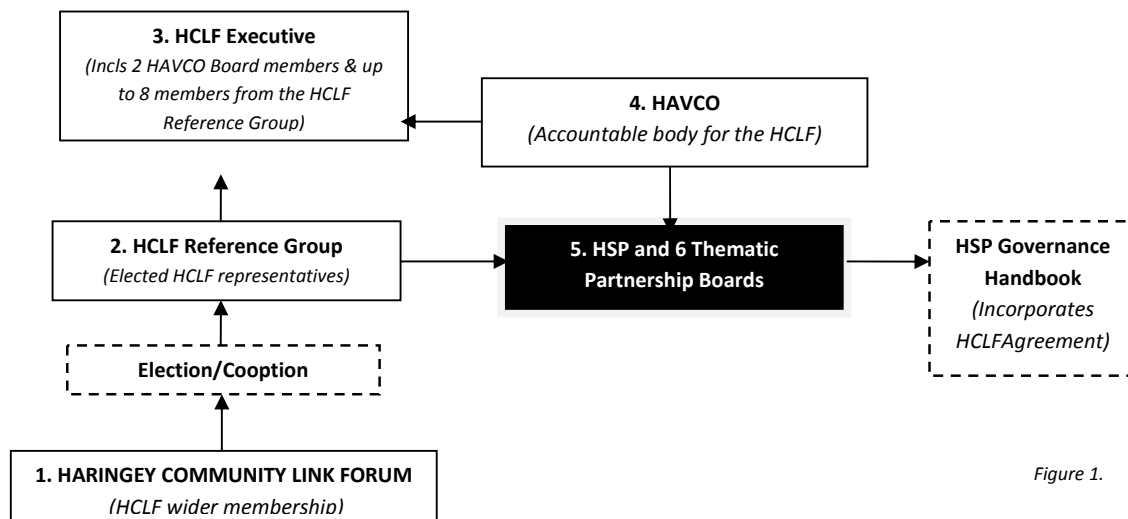
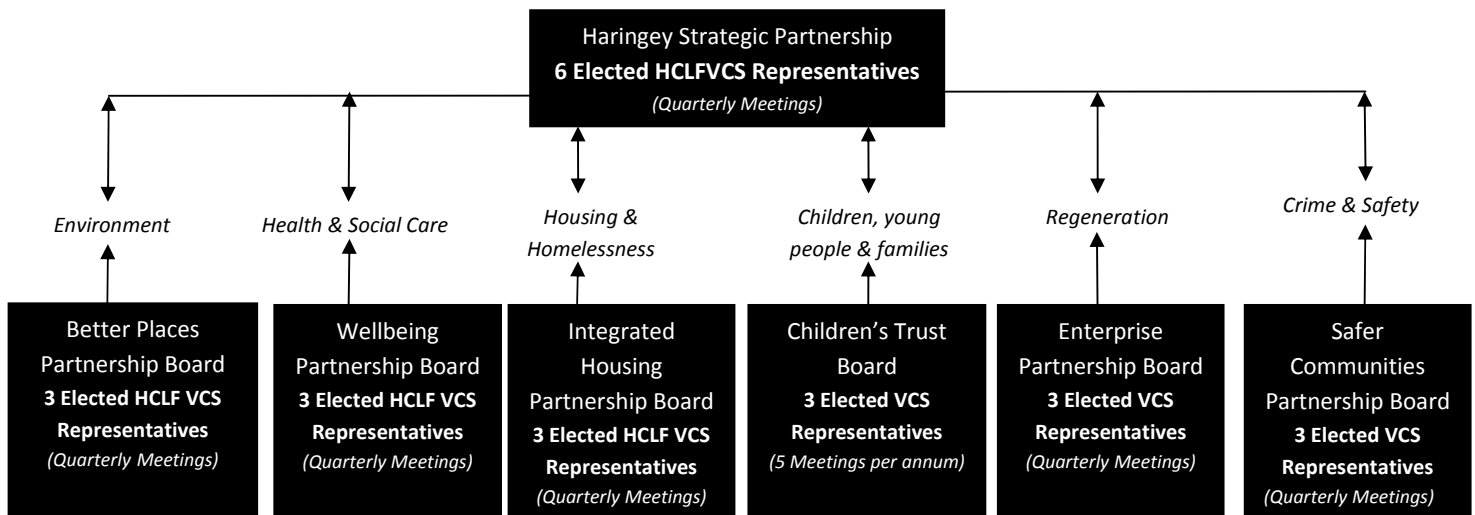


Figure 1.

Dotted lines in Figure 1 indicates a process or document and the numbers in each box denote each numbered explanation below.)

1. **Haringey Community Link Forum** – Is the ‘forum of forums’ for the borough and hosts up to 4 events/workshops per year to enable the wider VCS to have their say on policy and service developments. Information is regularly disseminated to members and the Forum has its own webpage on HAVCO’s website.
2. **HCLF Reference Group** - includes all the representatives that have been elected to sit across the HSP structure. Reference Group meetings convene bi-monthly and enables the elected representatives to meet collectively, share developments across the different boards and have direct dialogue with key officials – be it local, regional or national – who are responsible for developing policies, strategies etc that affect the VCS or the way that local people live.
3. **HCLF Executive** – the Reference Group selects a chairperson who convenes Executive meetings with up to seven other HCLF members who organise the direction of the Forum. The Executive includes up to eight HCLF Reference Group members. (See next item)
4. **HAVCO** – manages the HCLF therefore up to two Trustees also sit on the HCLF Executive. The HCLF Agreement, which is also available online, has been incorporated into the HSP Governance Handbook.
5. **HSP/Thematic Partnership Boards** - The HCLF has negotiated the following seats across the HSP structure. (See following structure information)

HCLF (HSP) Structure - Showing the number of HCLF Seats



Outline of main priorities for each Partnership Board

- **Haringey Strategic Partnership:** The HSP has a Sustainable Community Strategy which sets out the long-term vision for the ambitions of the borough based on the things that residents said matters to them and what we know about Haringey. The HSP takes account of the key challenges and opportunities facing the borough and is centred on the following six outcomes: ‘people at the heart of change,’ ‘an environmentally sustainable future,’ ‘economic vitality and prosperity shared by all,’ ‘safer for all,’ ‘healthier people with a better quality of life,’ and ‘people and customer focused.’

- **Enterprise Thematic Partnership Board:** The Enterprise Board is responsible for publishing a commissioning prospectus which highlights the key interventions the Board wants to see in place to support Haringey's residents, communities and businesses. The Board also works to deliver the borough's Regeneration Strategy which puts People, Places and Prosperity at the heart of all regeneration activities in the borough.
- **Integrated Housing Thematic Partnership Board:** The vision of this Board is to create neighbourhoods that people choose to live in, with a balance of different types of homes which offer quality, affordability and sustainability for current and future generations. The vision is achieved via the following outcomes: meeting housing need through mixed communities which provide opportunities for residents, ensuring housing is well managed, of high quality and sustainable, provide residents with the support they need, make all homes a part of neighbourhoods of choice, and contribute to the creation of a 'greenest borough.'
- **Better Places Thematic Partnership Board:** This Board aims to deliver a cleaner, safer, greener and sustainable Haringey. The Board works to improve the condition, facilities and quality of parks, open spaces, the public realm and built environment, ensuring that Haringey is a place where people want to live, work, study and spend time.
- **Children's Trust:** The Trust aims to improve outcomes for children and young people who live in, use local services and visit Haringey through closer planning and working relationships between all relevant stakeholders across the diverse community.
- **Safer Communities Thematic Partnership:** This Board is the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for the borough. They are responsible for the oversight and delivery of the key community safety outcomes in Haringey, which include: violent crime, domestic violence, street crime, youth crime, anti-social behaviour, drugs, vice and alcohol, burglary and vehicle related crime.
- **Wellbeing Thematic Partnership:** The Board's aim is to promote a healthier Haringey by improving well-being and tackling inequalities

Getting Involved with the HCLF?

Voluntary and community organisations can apply to join the HCLF. Members will invited to HCLF events and can feed in your organisation's views on service provision in the borough directly to HCLF representatives. With prior notification, HCLF Reference Group meetings are open for members to observe. In the near future we hope to establish an online network to enable members to discuss and organise themselves around key issues.

Why groups should join the HCLF?

Voluntary and Community organisations that are members of the HCLF can:

- Help influence the way decisions are made on issues that affect the way local people live
- Help influence local service provision within Haringey

- Find out about local initiatives and events
- Network and share ideas with other organisations
- Nominate someone from their organisation to become a HCLF representative

Responsibilities of HCLF Representatives

- HCLF Representatives will be expected to conform to the HCLF Code of Conduct and policies of the HCLF which are available at: www.havcohariney.org.uk.
- Before taking up a HSP/Thematic Board seat, a HCLF Representative must attend the 3- day **Community Leadership Training** which will be spread across May 2010.
- HCLF Representatives must attend a minimum of 3 Partnership Board Meetings per year
- HCLF Representatives must attend a minimum of 4 HCLF Reference Group Meetings per year
- Failure to attend these meetings or send a substitute could lead to dismissal as a HCLF Representative. **IMPORTANT: 80% of HCLF Executive and Reference Group meetings are held in the day, 80% of Partnership Boards are held after 6pm.**
- Following each Partnership Board meeting a HCLF Representative will be expected to complete a feedback form of key items discussed at the Partnership Board meeting. This information will be compiled and uploaded onto the HCLF web page.
- **IMPORTANT:** HCLF representation is about ***influencing change for the greater good***. HCLF Representatives will be involved in discussions about policy, consultations and service developments. Positions are voluntary; however Representatives can be reimbursed for 'out of pocket' expenses such as travel costs to meetings. The HCLF staff team will provide ongoing FREE training and support to individual HCLF representatives where necessary.

Length of HCLF Representation

Elections for HCLF reps are managed every two years. The municipal year for the HSP commences in June each year and ends July of the following year.

How is the performance of the HCLF monitored?

The HCLF is funded via the Area Based Grant which is disseminated via the HSP and quarterly performance reports are submitted to the HSP via the Council's Corporate Voluntary Sector Team.