

# **Sustaining Vibrant Communities in London**



Community Summit  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
10am – 4pm

# WELCOME

Despite a runaway London housing market not everyone in the capital is living the dream.

1 in 4 London neighbourhoods are among the 10% poorest in the Country. In response to this inequality, scores of dynamic community anchor organisations have emerged in London over the last century enabling change from within.

Paddington Development Trust (PDT) is facilitating an event with and for inner London's most dynamic neighbourhood organisations to explore existing and new responses to tackle the burning cross-cutting issues of:

- **Affording to live in London**
- **Jobs and economic security**
- **Support for Young People**
- **Healthy communities & self-help networking**

Coming in the wake of a general election and with a forthcoming London Mayoral election this event is a timely opportunity to help set out what policies are needed to help communities thrive.

The event aims to capture some of the more progressive and creative thinking and practice emerging from communities across London. It aims to trigger a lasting cooperation between neighbourhood organisations, and to publish the findings and disseminate them in the sector.

The report will go to London policy makers, think tanks and funders demanding a strategic response that delivers solutions for the million or so Londoners living in neighbourhoods deemed among the most in-need in the country.

I hope you will join in the action,

  
Prof Drew Stevenson OBE  
Chair PDT



# What's hindering vibrant communities in London?

**HOUSING AFFORDABILITY:** People are being priced-out of the City. From the definition of 'affordable' to the debate raging over right-to-buy, the question of how to solve the housing affordability crisis for an entire generation of Londoners has become a burning issue.

**JOBS AND ECONOMIC INSECURITY:** A Living Wage and secure employment contracts are fundamental to supporting economic stability and independence. Bar the most privileged, young adults across the socio-economic scale face mounting difficulty in securing a stable rewarding livelihood. Disposable income for many Londoners has suffered as the cost of housing and transport in the Capital has increased as a proportion of income.

**UNDER-VALUING YOUNG PEOPLE:** Young people are underrepresented in politics and misrepresented in the press. Criminalisation of many young people for minor misdemeanours continues while Youth Services and Early Intervention budgets shrink. With housing and good jobs apparently out of reach, the aspiration and creative potential of a generation are being quashed.

**STRESSED COMMUNITY NETWORKS:** Local networks of friends and family fragment, and with this the sense of belonging, ownership and civic participation diminishes. Despite the superficial hustle and bustle of the city, isolation, loneliness, anxiety and depression are deepening. Poor health within families and wider communities weakens resilience and compounds disadvantage.

## Sustaining what works

Community anchor organisations in inner London have an increasingly important role to play in understanding social and economic pressures and the conditions required to nurture community resilience - and helping to provide solutions.

Londoners have a proud tradition of community self-help and the city continues to generate new creative organisations. Together, our human-centred perspective supports an understanding of the 'whole system' and the interrelated nature of measures required to reverse social dysfunction.

By pooling our collective expertise we can lend a practice-based perspective to the policy debate affecting community and neighbourhoods in London.

The Community Summit gives our organisations and funders a collective platform from which to persuade policy makers of the value of human-scale local relationship-building in creating vibrant communities.

# Outcomes to Summit

## 1. Framing the Discussion

What are the key messages (4-6) we need to get across to the media, policy makers and local communities? What needs to change if we are to sustain vibrant communities in London?

## 2. Working Together

How is the voluntary and community sector going to improve joint working in order to impact on the interrelated nature of the issues that need to be addressed to effect real change? What processes structures and actions are required to make progress? What is our developing role in securing the changes identified?

## 3. Impacting

To whom are we trying to get our messages across and how? How do we engage with the community itself and seek to facilitate active citizenship?



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10am – 4pm

Paddington Arts  
32 Woodfield Road  
London W9 2BE

Map: <https://goo.gl/LBKpVo>

## **About PDT**

Paddington Development Trust is a community anchor organisation working to reduce inequality of opportunity for the citizens of North Paddington, Westminster.

Since it was established by local residents and groups in 1998 to secure investment in North Westminster it has levered more than £100m into local social and economic development.

Its emphasis has been on improving health and wellbeing, developing the sharing economy, sustaining employment and enterprise, long-term youth development, community-building, social reform and sustainable governance.

Winner of the 2015 **City of London** 'Sustainable Cities' award for Sustainable Communities.

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