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Community Engagement (LCBB4002)
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Essay on community engagement

Enfield council

Community engagement is a vital aspect of community development because it encourages active participation, collaboration, and communication among community members and organisations in order to address local issues and achieve common goals. It is a useful tactic for promoting social and economic development, healthcare, and community stability. The purpose of this essay is to identify social issues which are happening within the community; procedures of consultation for stakeholder and evaluate the communication within the community with strategic feedback. I will explore also the importance of community engagement and its benefits for individuals using research from relevant resources.

According to WHO (2020), they identify community engagement as the process of developing relationships impacting stakeholders to bonding and create bridges between them so they can work together. Some disadvantages which a local authority may face in the community engagement is that may be a stepwise process and community expectations may rise up too high and can be hard for the authority to satisfy those needs. However, there are an benefits which are opportunity for community members to research and take part on project, and being part of its development. It also enhances comprehension of objectives and procedures withing the local authority (Research Gate, n.d.). Togetherness brings positive health impact and results. It changes behaviours, environments policies etc. that is why Enfield London Borough Council is one of the 35 major centres in Greater London. Furthering this idea, Enfield Council (n.d.) is 12 miles from central London and cover over 31 square miles e.g., 82.2 square kilometres, 8219 hectares. Enfield is a council for an estimated population of 333,587 in 2020, with a large population of 0-14s and older people compared to the rest of London. It is a diverse community that has welcomed people from all over the world but mostly Turkish, Greek, and Cypriot population. Statistics of Varbes (2022) shows that till 2022 the population in Enfield fell to 332,000.

Like every council Enfield also faces lots of social issues which impact the lives of the people in the community. One of the biggest issues which the council has to deal with is the poverty and inequality. According to report by Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission (2020), about 22% of children in Enfield are living in poverty with differences in educational outcomes and life expectancy. Due to the COVID-19 the council has been influenced of it which led to job losses and economic strain for many residents. Another very serious issue which the council is trying to deal with is the housing. Due to the rapid on and off population which Enfield is examine, there is high demand for affordable and social housing. Enfield council (2021) reports that approximately 13,000 families are on the waiting list for social housing benefits. Many of these families are residing in overcrowded and inappropriate conditions which has put additional strain on local services such as healthcare and education, which has made a contribution to the rising levels of homelessness. More reports show that the council has a limited amount of land available for development and their green land is protected by national policy (Enfield Council, 2018). Enfield council has launched a number of initiatives to address the borough's housing crisis. This includes the

construction of new social housing developments as well as the provision of affordable housing through partnerships with housing associations. The council has also implemented measures to improve the quality of private rented housing, such as mandatory licencing for landlords and the incorporation of minimum housing conditions (Enfield Council, 2021). The council is using a very good strategy which brings to the community high proportion of accommodation for each household. To address these issues, the council has launched a number of initiatives, including the provision of affordable housing and improvements to private rented housing. More work, but even so, is required to ensure that all residents have direct connections to safe and suitable housing, as well as that homelessness and harsh resting are managed effectively in the borough (Enfield Housing Strategy Borough, 2019).

Enfield council is also working to address crime and community safety concerns. In recent years, the borough has seen an increase in violent crime, with deep concerns about knife crime and gang activity. To address these issues, Enfield Council has implemented a number of initiatives, including investing in community-led projects, increasing police presence in high-risk areas, and partnering with local schools and youth groups to promote positive outcomes for young people. Reports of Metropolitan Police explains that Enfield has common crimes of violence and sexual offences about 9,669 offences during 2022 and crime rate of 29. This is 1.9% higher than 2021 with numbers of 9486 offences and difference of 0.55 of 2021 crime rate of 28 (Crime rate, n.d.). As I mentioned the council has lots of initiatives to promote community safety in the borough which include neighbourhood watch groups – a lot of people can raise awareness in the social media; trading standards which protects residents of scams and unsafe products; community safety partnership which means that the council is working with lots of authorities for the safety of its residents such as police, health services and other organisations who promote safety and reduce crimes. The partnership, for example, has applied a "total place" approach, which includes pooling resources from various agencies to address particular challenges in a specific area (Enfield Council, n.d.). In addition, the partnership has established a community safety board, which brings together various stakeholders to discuss crime and safety issues and develop collaborative solutions (Enfield Council, n.d.).

Enfield Council collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders to deliver services and meet the needs of its community members. Some of the stakeholders involved in the council's operations include the Enfield Safer Communities Partnership, local businesses, residents, and government. This Enfield Community Safety partnership is one of the stakeholders of this council. Another key stakeholder is the local business community. These local businesses are highly supported by Enfield council so they can create job opportunities together for its residents and create a economic development accompanying with business rates, licensing and planning services for the new businesses. The council also provides businesses support and advice so they can expand and grow. On the other hand, the residents are also a key stakeholder for Enfield but critical. The council is trying to provide them range of services such as housing, management of waste, health care, leisure etc. The Enfield council is working closely and carefully with its residents so they can understand their expectation and needs. It creates consultations and decision-making event to they can make sure that their voices will be heard which will create a strong relationship (Enfield council, n.d.). Enfield Council collaborates closely with other local governments and government agencies to provide services. For example, the council works with the Greater London Authority, the Department for Transport, and the National Health Service to address issues such as shipping, health, and ecological sustainability (Enfield Council, n.d.). Such

collaborations are critical in ensuring that Enfield council meets its residents' needs and provides quality services.

The planning consultation is one of the consultations offered by Enfield Council. Residents, businesses, and community groups are encouraged to provide feedback on proposed activities and planning policies. The consultation allows stakeholders to express their opinions and impacts the council's judgements on considerations. The budget consultation is another service provided by Enfield council. The council encourages stakeholders to provide input on its proposed budget and priorities. The consultation allows stakeholders to express their opinions on how the council should allocate its funds to deliver services and meet community needs. Enfield Council also affords consultations on a variety of services, such as waste management, recreation, and cultural services. The council invites stakeholders to provide feedback on its services and suggestions for how they can be improved. The consultations allow stakeholders to express their opinions on the standard and availability of the organisation's services. Enfield Council conducts strategic consultations on issues such as the Local Plan, Climate Change Action Plan, and Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The council inspires the relevant parties to provide reviews on these objectives and approaches, as well as suggestions for tackling the community's challenges. The consultations allow stakeholders to participate in the creation of the council's plans and strategies, ensuring that they reflect the community's desires and requirements. In order to involve stakeholders in decision-making processes and make sure that the council's services are meeting community requirements, Enfield Council offers a variety of consultations. Some of the consultations that Enfield council offers to stakeholders include planning consultations, budget consultations, service consultations, and strategic consultations. Through all of this stakeholder consultations, the council can get information which can show a bigger understanding of residents' needs and preferences which are more efficient and relevant to the community. All different collaborations which are going around the stakeholders are leading to the development of a common goal and the initiative to provide support to the community. Building trust between the council and the community can be accomplished through the resolution of social concerns and stakeholder consultation. The council demonstrates its dedication to upholding the interests of the community by acting to address social issues and including stakeholders in decision-making processes (Enfield Council, n.d.). This could encourage larger community engagement and support for the council's activities by increasing trust between the council and the locals. Finding solution on social issues and stakeholders' consultations which influence those issues has only positive impact in Enfield community.

Community relations assist in developing social stability. People in a community are more likely to assist one another and cooperate to solve problems when they have good ties with one another. A sense of community and social connectivity fostered through supportive relationships within a community can promote mental health and wellness. Increased social capital, which is the resources accessible to people and organisations through their social networks, can result from good interactions within a community. Community relationships helps in the growth of social transformation. People are more inclined to collaborate to solve social inequalities and advance social change when they have healthy relationships in their community. A community's strong relationships can inspire the creation of projects and goals that advance social justice and equity.

In conclusion to my essay, I can say that Enfield Council is essential in protecting the community's safety and well-being. In order to make sure that its services satisfy the requirements of the community, the council interacts with stakeholders. One of the major stakeholders, the Enfield Safer Communities Partnership, seeks to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the suburb. The council's efforts to address social concerns, involve interested parties in decision-making, and foster cooperation and community cohesiveness can significantly improve the community. The Enfield community gains from enhanced community trust and engagement, responsive services, increased safety and welfare, and cooperative projects that foster cooperation and support. Enfield Council is a crucial partner in resolving the issues the authority is experiencing because of its dedication to serve the community's interests. Positive interpersonal interactions within a community can promote a sense of community, social integration, and social status, continuing to improve mental health and wellbeing, boosting resilience to shared difficulties, and promoting the invention of campaigns and objectives that enhance social justice and fairness.

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