



Community Engagement July 2026

Our approach to community engagement will be resident-led, evidence-based and inclusive. We will use the engagement process to build a shared understanding of local strengths and assets, priorities and barriers, and to turn this into a clear Pride in Place plan for Paulsgrove by November 2026. The work will be the responsibility of the Community Connector, under the strategic direction of the neighbourhood board and working with other partners as the Board determines. We will also draw on particular expertise within the Board. It will recognise Paulsgrove's strong local identity and existing community infrastructure, while also responding to local evidence on deprivation, health, education, access to services and community safety. Portsmouth's local deprivation analysis shows that Paulsgrove includes neighbourhoods among the most deprived in England, so engagement will be designed to reach residents who are least likely to participate through formal consultation routes.

We will begin with a community mapping exercise to identify assets, trusted relationships and gaps in provision across the neighbourhood. This will include collating information and insight from other sources and engaging with residents in local community venues, schools, faith groups, youth provision, health and family support, local businesses, voluntary and community sector organisations, resident-led groups and informal networks. Key local routes for engagement will include local schools including Beacon View Primary Academy, The Victory Primary School and Castle View Academy, St Michael's and All Angels Church, Paulsgrove Baptist Church, local youth provision, and other voluntary, community and social enterprise partners active in the area.

Engagement will use a mix of methods so residents can take part in ways that suit their circumstances. This will include drop in conversations at community venues and pop up stalls such as, but not limited to the Paulsgrove Carnival, HAF events, school fayres, regular group meetings; and facilitated discussions with local service providers. We will avoid relying only on meetings, as these can exclude people with caring responsibilities, work commitments, low confidence, digital exclusion or previous negative experiences of public services. Engagement will be held at different times of day, including evenings and school holiday periods where helpful, and will be promoted through a variety of media.

To develop an evidenced plan, resident feedback will be combined with local data and partner intelligence. We will review evidence and insight from a range of sources including school and family support and voluntary sector knowledge. Residents will be asked what is working well and what they are proud of, and what they would like to see

more of / what would improve the local area, where investment would have the greatest impact. Findings will be grouped into themes.

We will make specific efforts to engage under-represented communities. This includes children and young people, families with young children, older residents, disabled residents, unpaid carers, people experiencing poverty or poor health, residents with low literacy or limited digital access, social housing tenants, people who are isolated, residents who do not usually attend public meetings, and communities who may lack trust in statutory organisations. The Community Connector will work through trusted intermediaries, including schools, faith leaders, voluntary groups, housing and neighbourhood teams, health partners and local community champions.

The engagement process will be under the direction of the neighbourhood board, with regular reporting on who has been reached, what has been heard and which gaps remain. We will monitor participation by geography, age group and community of interest where it is appropriate and proportionate to do so, using this information to adapt the engagement plan during delivery. We will produce accessible summaries of what residents have told us and explain how this has shaped decisions. This “you said, we did” approach will help build trust, demonstrate accountability and ensure the Pride in Place plan for Paulsgrove is rooted in local lived experience as well as robust evidence.