

OUR RESEARCH CHARTER

We believe research in Lambeth should be:

✓ **COMMUNITY BASED** - grounded in the needs, issues, and concerns of communities and the community-based organisations that serve them.

Research undertaken by the network will always focus on issues that local communities have identified as areas of concern and where positive social action can be potentially taken to respond to these challenges. This focus will be ensured by an annual review of research priorities with local organisations and community members and by enabling peer researchers from specific communities of interest to develop research questions for individual pieces of research. We will judge our success on whether communities feel ownership of research undertaken and trust the findings that are being presented. The needs and voice of community members must be at the core of every research project.

✓ **PARTICIPATORY** - directly engaging communities and community knowledge in the research process and its outcomes.

The Lambeth Community Research Network will always advocate for community members to have true and full participation in research wherever possible. In practical terms this means that community members have a role in setting both the ethical framework for research and the area of inquiry, have a meaningful role in the data collection and analysis of data and have control over how findings are presented and used.

Research should not be extractive. That means that community members should benefit both from taking part in the research in the following ways:

- Pay recognition – peer/community researchers need to be appropriately financially compensated for their time.
- Individual development - peer researchers and community members need to be able to develop new skills and confidence through engaging with the research process.
- A sense of belonging – the group dynamic of peer researchers is important and this needs to be fostered throughout the research process wherever possible.
- Empowered to act – peer/community researchers need to be given the opportunity to respond to the research findings and to take positive action wherever possible.

✓ **ACTION ORIENTED** - supporting and/or enhancing the strategic action that leads to community transformation and social change.

In practical terms, this means that all research undertaken by the network should contribute to action that improves conditions for individuals and communities in Lambeth. This must be thought about before research takes place and reassessed throughout the research process, meaning that research is never undertaken without a clear basis for action.

The social action taken following research could be:

- Social action projects led by research participants that practically respond to research finding e.g., development of new tools and resources, campaigns, participatory budgeting activities, community projects. We will support the formation of organising groups that want to build collective power and use research for change.
- Changes in community/service provision or delivery of new services by local organisations or partnerships responding to a need identified by community research.

✓ **INFLUENTIAL** – influencing policy change that benefits Lambeth communities.

We believe that research undertaken should influence policy changes at local, regional, and national levels – that lead to new funding or services becoming available that meet community needs identified through research. To achieve this, the network will:

- Ensure that key research findings are published and shared with relevant stakeholders.
- Ensure research undertaken provides a clear evidence base for services needed by communities in Lambeth.
- Bring together network members seeking to build influence through research in specific policy areas.