

# Forest Gate Community Garden

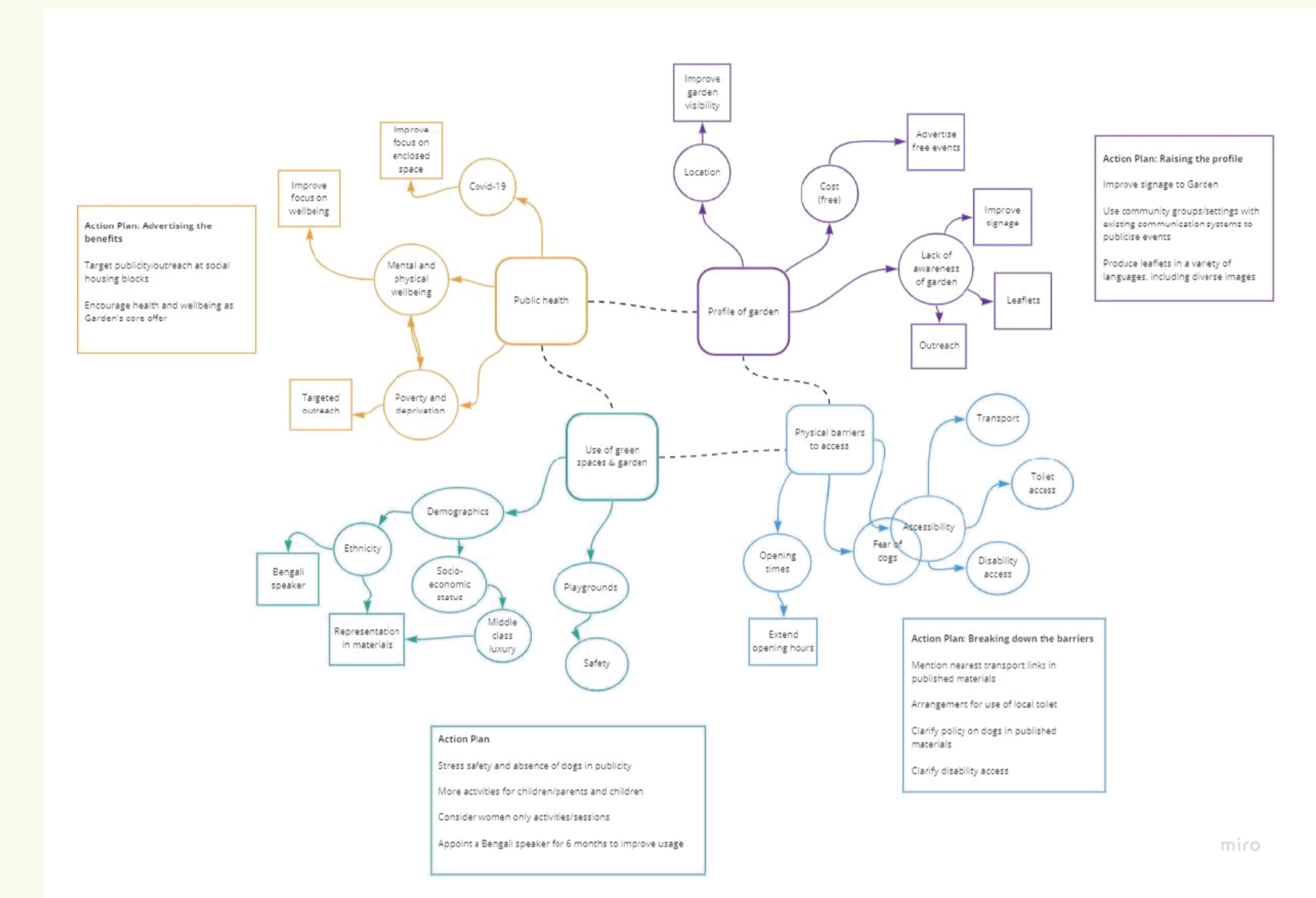


Forest Gate Community Garden, in an economically deprived area of east London, is a haven for wildlife and residents. It welcomes local voluntary and school groups, runs workshops and holds community events. Over 40 local residents volunteer with the garden.



## What happened through the collaboration?

Forest Gate Community Garden wants the ethnic diversity of people engaging with the garden to reflect that of the local population. The team sought to understand which sections of the community are underrepresented and to identify potential strategies for increasing the diversity of users. They did this by reviewing relevant literature, surveying other London community gardens, talking to parents and interviewing community leaders.



Thematic analysis of information collected

## What is the legacy for the organisation?

Insights from the evaluation shaped an action plan to engage wider community members.

## What is the legacy for students and researchers involved?

We have gained an appreciation of the complex network that exists between community organisations and their communities and the mechanisms which can be used to strengthen them; and we can see the value of gaining an external perspective on issues.

We value the appreciation from the garden of our commitment to the project, and we are confident in the knowledge that the time spent together has been valuable and useful for all involved, and that lasting connections have been made.

### Students and researchers

**Will Dawson**  
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**David Harrison**  
 Research Fellow, Medical Education

**Simon Vakeva-Baird**  
 PhD student, Environmental Design and Engineering

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 Masters student, Environment, Politics and Society