**Proposal for the Data Expedition**

The GLA is working in partnership with the Advice Service Alliance to host a Advice Sector Data Expedition. A data expedition is an event that brings together those that might hold data, policy makers and data scientists to gain insight and develop hypothesis on a chosen topic or theme.

We believe that civil society has significant potential to inform public policy and that data can be used to support organisations in reflective practice. The data expedition is an opportunity to highlight the potential of data, share insight and build partnerships. We hope to achieve the following outcomes:

* Encourage the development of an understanding of how data can be used more broadly.
* Build new data skills and capacity in the sector and improve data maturity.
* To answer key questions the Advice Sector has and fill the gaps in knowledge with pooled data and resource.
* To create data outputs such as visualisations, data needs or stories and share the findings and learnings with a wider group.

Working with the Advice Services Alliance, the aim is for this data expedition to focus on understanding the size and shape of the advice sector in a specific(s) borough, to explore the specialist advice needs in that borough and to understand if through aggregating key datasets, social policy issues within these areas can be identified.

We will work closely with organisations who choose to take part, to ensure data is secure and service users are not compromised. All events will be designed to build the capacity of the sector and improve data maturity.

ASA will engage with colleagues across London boroughs to identify a borough in which the advice sector are open to engaging and taking part in the Advice Sector Data Expedition. The GLA will identify the data analysts who will be able to facilitate the exploration on the day.

For the data expedition we will seek volunteers from across the Advice Sector’s frontline services and networks. We will also invite funders and GLA Policy teams as well as looking for volunteers with key data analytical skills.

After the expedition we will be looking to share key findings and consider how these can be used to inform further research or practice in the sector.