**North East LCP – 4.12.2024**

Dear Friends and colleagues of the North East,

Thank you for joining us for the last Local Community Partnership of this calendar year. It was great to come together to celebrate and see all the good work achieved in partnership over the year and see where we can connect and establish these works into sustainable solutions for 2025. It was great to be back in the Waterside centre at the lake’s café. To hire this venue for a community event please click [here.](https://cvalive.org.uk/venue-hire/waterside-centre/)

As always, we really want to thank key organisations that serve the community for attending including our colleagues the police. Thank you for who registered making the check in process smooth

**Local Community Partnerships – The Journey So Far**

The work of ‘Healthy Communities Together’, part of One Croydon Alliance, is about devolving power and resources to people and communities. Local Community Partnerships started in 2020 to provide a structure to integrate/join up with social care, primary care, wellbeing services, mental health, hospitals and all stakeholders serving the health and well-being of the borough. Instead of taking a one size fits all approach to health and well being across Croydon which is a large borough and by comparison as large as Leeds! We saw the need to address the specific issues of priority that emerged from each locality. To do this we split the borough into six geographical areas, which became our areas of operation and where we hold our meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to provide wrap around support for people close to home with prevention and self-management as key parts of the plan. This work is hosted and supported by Croydon Voluntary Action in relationship with One Croydon Alliance and Croydon Council using an asset-based community development (ABCD) approach. This focuses on the gifts and talents of the local residents and partner organisations, starting from a place of strength and value looking at what resources we already have among us instead of what resources we might need to compete for. For more on ABCD click [here.](https://www.nurturedevelopment.org/)

**Local Commissioning Model.**

This was a pot of funding that was made available through the Kings Fund to underpin preventative measures when it comes to health inequalities. After identifying hyper-locally through the LCP’s, the priorities to be addressed, each locality was asked to bid for the money available and form a partnership approach to tackle those primary issues. Successful bids arose in each locality addressing their key areas of focus. Further to securing that funding those successful bids are evidencing that devolving power and capital into the hands of people at the heart of the issues works. This is how we are taking the work forward with authenticity and transparency taking commissioners with us in a demonstrative way wider than lobbying the case for recommissioning the borough, which is a large piece of work. We have adopted a ‘You said -We did’ approach, and this not only builds social trust with organisations who work in community, but with residents too. This local intelligence feeds into a community plan which is specific to each locality and is being shaped each meeting to reflect in real time the needs, solutions and actions taken by the community. These community plans then are passed upwards to the council to shape the boroughwide strategy towards Health and Wellbeing which will govern the borough for the next five years. This is the bigger picture. To see the progression of this localities community plan and where it lives for future reference, click [here.](https://cvalive.org.uk/empowering-the-community/networks/local-community-partnerships/croydon-north-east-local-com/)

A reminder of why we have been working this way for the last four years

*‘We need to stop pulling people out of the river and find out why they are falling in, in the first place. - Desmond Tutu*

**UNAC- Upper Norwood Association of Community Care- Natalie**

UNAC – operates from the Waterside Centre. It is a lunch and social club for the over 50’s yet in reality most people between 50-70 are still working. Their cohort are realistically age 75 and over, residents who are dealing with loneliness and isolation, providing them a safe space daily. Here they are able to access a meal cooked fresh each day that takes into account dietary and cultural requirements. They have a weekly activity timetable that includes a variety of sessions from Yoga, Walking, Zumba and sessions with a Speech and Language therapist who is helping to exercise memory with word games. They also run a Men’s group to support older bereft men, and cater for older people with learning disabilities, teaching skills and running activities that make it inclusive for all. As well as supporting their own residents, they also cook for two other local groups, Addiscombe Neighborhood Care Association and APCMH. To achieve this, they take the food surplus from Neighbourly and Fairshare which is actively tackling food waste. The first time visit the activities are free to seeking members. After that, the activities are £4 pound per activity or £10 a day including a two-course, hot lunch and any activity. Although closed over Christmas, they do offer a ‘Keep in touch service’. To find out more about this local asset and how to get involved click [here.](http://unacc.org.uk/)

**Music Relief -Magdalene**

Music relief is an organisation founded by Magalene one of your co-chairs.

Although it is originally an organisation that serves the youth, they have started to creep across to serve adults and later in life taking an intergenerational span. It is Magdalene’s desire to push into that growing remit and showcase the power of music on wellbeing for all. We were very fortunate to see the fruits of that expansion through the golden age choir for over 55’s as they came and sang at our LCP celebration event in July, and more locally at this LCP meeting. Magdalene spoke with passion about the need for partnering with creative ventures to build a community that heals and sustains its wellbeing through various avenues of art. Through nurturing the creativity, we are encouraging innovation to lead to creative solutions, self-expression and self-development. To partner with Magdalene and join this emerging collective, email: magdalene@music-relief.org to find out more about music relief click [here.](https://music-relief.org/)

**Creative Health- A new role, a new approach to Public Health**

Creative Health is a new team to Public Health and sits under the Cultures Team in The Council. This is a team that has been commissioned for the next 18 months. During this time, Creative Health seeks to address health inequalities through a creative approaches that work preventatively and are established in communities. Parts of this role is to identify the gaps that exist in the community, to not duplicate work that exists, and to encourage partnership to establish and sustain new and existing creative initiatives that support health and wellbeing in community. So far, they have discovered some significant gaps in the areas of; homelessness, violence against women and girls, Child and Adolescent mental health provisions, and families. As a result of these findings, in January 2025 the Creative Health Team will be launching a network and varying funding opportunities from smaller to larger grants to support these creative approaches. More information on this will be distributed nearer the time. If you have ideas in the interim and want to speak to the Creative Health Team, you can email them on: Creativehealth@croydon.gov.uk .

**Reaching Higher- Jordan**

 As you know, young people are the focus of the North localities, their well being and safety has been a primary focus and direction of travel for solutions. Reaching Higher are a key partner of Northwest and Easts approaches to youth work, as well as being a core partner in the My Ends project to end serious youth violence. We heard how Reaching Higher facilitated the first ever Contextual Youth Work and Safeguarding Children’s Conference in Croydon,, with over 100 delegates in attendance and a cross sector of stakeholders. The purpose of this initiative was to champion young people to be leaders of change. It was such a success that there are plans for a follow up conference next year.

What do we mean by Contextualised Youth Work? With a borough comparably the same size as Leeds, we cannot achieve hyper local support with a one size fits all approach. We need to localise the needs and the offer of support. This feeds into the data that we capture. Behind every statistic is a story, data shapes funding structures, yet incorrect generalised data sets young people up to fail. A key example : There were no teenage murders for a year in Croydon, yet knife crime incidences were on the rise. This doesn’t accurately convey the complexity of the issue and isn’t an accurate read on the data captured.

To hold ourselves to account, with transparency and ethics, we need to capture accurate data. A key to achieving this is to onboard young people to support in capturing that data. As part of the conference held, two of the sessions were youth lead, and these sessions were the most engaged with, with the most positive impact. To summarise, three keys to furthering this work are as follows:

* To take a contextual approach
* Getting better data capture and methodologies to better analyse and read that data.
* Strengthen communication lines.

**Noo Thinking – Upskilling a community to maintain employees from young to old**

Noo Thinking is a local consultancy run by Nicole your other Co-chair. It focuses on helping people to be the best versions of themselves (they want to be) in the workplace, as well as supporting young people to be work ready. There are many provisions that are supporting young people to get work-ready, but not many are upskilled to stay in a work role or have the skills that go with that. Noo Thinking helps people invest into staying in a work position whether that be employee or employer. 80% of people leave a work position due to a personal or structural grievance not being resolved. Some of the offers and workstreams of Noo Thinking are as follows.

* Tailored training based on feedback
* Managers training- building sustainability and a positive team
* Young people- skills to stay, communication skills for the work place.
* Employers- how to bring out the best in your staff.
* How to speak up in the work place.

Through experience it has been observed that young people take one of two of the following approaches when it comes to school.

1. If you know what you want to do as a career or vocation you see school as a valuable means to an end, a stepping stone that brings you closer to your goal.
2. If you don’t know what you want to do as a career, it is more likely that you will struggle to see the value in your education.

The Royal Air Force, don’t contract any of their services out to other providers, providing job creation inhouse from cleaners, marketers and pilots. For more on the offers and services of Noo Thinking [click here.](https://www.noothinking.co.uk/)

**Young People and their relationship to the police**

It has been a longstanding need to improve the relationship young people have with the police this has been communicated multiple times through our journey of the LCP’s. As we had three of our colleagues from the local police in the room we felt the best solution was to break into three breakout rooms with a police officer in each to co-author some solutions.

After twenty minutes of discussion we fed back three main solutions.

* The need for the police to go into schools, family/parent events both in and out of uniform.
* Officers to attend cadets and engage in a fuller expression of community events to show their support and for the residents to see where the police are.
* To encourage young people to join the police, get more engaged in cadets, Could a cadets be started in the Northeast?
* Barriers to engagement were discussed including uniform, the need for police to outreach and contact organisations themselves. The idea of Co-creating safe spaces with young people as well as workshopping with young people about how to best to engage with the police. See a fuller breakdown of potential solutions, see the photo attached.
* Communication between the police and community to be improved, mention of bringing community flyers to the LCP to assist the police in knowing what’s upcoming in the community. Sharing of the SNT newsletter?
* Organisations to welcome police attendance at their events and work to build relationships themselves

Community News

* Active Minds- Every Tuesday 12-1 pm at South Norwood library is the drop in to come and talk to Pauline from mind about your mental health.
* Stanley Arts Panto- starts on the 14th Dec, [here](https://stanleyarts.org/) for more information.
* See the Time Table of [The Reader attached](https://www.thereader.org.uk/) to get familiar with their activites.
* Tiah from Khulisa a youth charity working in schools in Brixton but are branching into working in Croydon. Click [here](https://khulisa.co.uk/what-we-do/#:~:text=We%20provide%20services%20for%20young,Our%20intensive%20young%20people's%20programme) for more on what they do.
* Academy 21 -online life lessons for young people working with 11 different school’s online education. For more on what they do click [here.](https://academy21.co.uk/)

Thank you for a productive meeting and thank you for registering beforehand and streamlining the check in process!

As we can see, there is much work to celebrate and continue to work up in the following year. Thank you for supporting this good work, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a restful new year.

Until then warm wishes

Nicole, Magdalene, Andrew and Sarah