Dear Friends and Colleagues of the South West,

Thank you all for coming out to the first evening meeting of the Local Community Partnership. We were thrilled to see so many active residents and volunteers who support the community in attendance. A big thank you to Old Lodge Lane for hosting us. It’s evident that the many great activities being held there such as; The Food Stop, Boxing, Yoga and Mindfulness are supporting the community to stay well. For more information on what’s on offer at Old Lodge Lane click [here.](https://ollbc.org.uk/)

Dawn, South West Community Builder, and your Co Chairs would also love to hear more about the organisations that you are part of or activities that you would like to grow in your local community. Please get in touch with Dawn, Dawn.bennett@ollbc.org.uk Patti patti@biglovefoundation.org.uk or Ben ben.taylor@cvalive.org.uk and let them know what's happening or what you would like to see, communities grow from the people that are within them.

**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. Local Community Partnerships are how we collectively work on our local priorities and create our Community Plan.

One Croydon created six geographical areas to provide wrap around support for people close to home with prevention and self-management a key part of the plan. Using Asset Based Community Development our partnership is focused on ‘*what’s strong instead of what’s wrong’*, we start with the gifts and talents we have, inviting people to co-create local solutions. For more on ABCD click [here.](https://www.nurturedevelopment.org/)

**How do I find out what’s going on in my area?**

*Simply Connect Croydon* is the Google of up-to-date activities. You simply search by keywords the activity you are looking for. Organisations and groups can have their own profile where their organization will be listed and details of their services/activities. Groups/orgs can sign up to Simply Connect Croydon directly by using the link [here](https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/auth/register/provider) which will provide them with the opportunity to take referrals to their services. Alternatively, to have the information listed on simply connect you can complete a registration form [here](https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/auth/register/provider) .For trouble shooting concerning Simply Connect or 1-2-1 training sessions please email Karen or Mary.

Karen.chillman@cvalive.org.uk or mary.lawrence@cvalive.org.uk

The Local Community Partnerships are ultimately a space to devolve power and funds into the hands of the residents. Each locality over time has identified key issues to address. They have formed a partnership and bid for funding to tackle those issues. For this locality the successful partnership bid was Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church and Coulsdon Community Partnership.

**Mental Health Action Group- Update**

Aside from the successful partnership bids for each locality we continue to work up other key priorities that need addressing. Using what we already possess to bridge the gap and make improvements. This work we have developed in ‘Action Groups’ that center around an area of concern. These groups meet between LCPs to bring together strategy and resources which they in turn update us with at the next partnership meeting. An active Action Group for the South West is on Mental Health.

After some very successful speed networking last night we heard back from the Mental Health Action Group on the spreadsheet of resources they have discovered. Up to 95 mental health services were grouped under different categories. In groups we were asked to review the resources and highlight any gaps in those provisions. An important distinction to make concerning the activities and services listed is that they are available to local residents but not necessarily local to residents, requiring travel cost and time. The South West locality are passionate about serving and providing for their communities mental health needs locally.

**Gaps in the provision- Feedback**

· Bring the swimming pool back and Park runs to assist MH

· Informal support and basic education on what we can do to improve our MH

· Bring back the bowling alley and the cinema for young people

· More out of hours social activities for young people

· A young person support group for those facing cancer diagnosis

· Betsmead, utilizing that green space and organizing day trips

· The elderly to be included in MH provisions to break down loneliness

· A cultural community space to celebrate and use music and art

· Health advice and end of life support

· Social Prescribing links

· Inclusion of the LGBT+ in MH and wellbeing initiatives

· Talking therapies to be locally accessible

· Pop up markets like the one in Coulsdon to sell art and crafts and generate income

· Intergenerational work, the skills of the elderly being passed onto the Young people with perhaps the support of Career advice and pathways into apprenticeships for those who are not academic

· Repair Cafes, Man Sheds to foster practical skills in community

· Variety of groups for women

· Improvement on waiting list times and accessibility to MH services

This feedback will be discussed in the follow up meeting of the Mental Health Action group and we will be updated at the next partnership meeting. To join in and support the work of the Mental Health action group, please contact Dawn for more information.

**Your views and your Say.**

Your feedback and views are vital in shaping the Community Plans for each locality that center on what you deem to be important issues to address to improve health and wellbeing. These plans are submitted to place based decision boards and help to shape the wider plans pertaining to health and wellbeing across the borough. These meetings are solution focused and we can’t make changes without you. If you didn’t take a moment to fill out the LCP Survey please do so by clicking the [link](https://app.upshot.org.uk/survey/68921d53/5966/0762ced1/).

Thank you for coming to the Local Community Partnership and we hope you will join us for the next one on the **12th September** booking information to follow.

Warm wishes Ben, Patti and Nick

*With thanks to Chloe Smith for the notes.*