Dear Colleagues and friends of the North West,

It was wonderful to see such a turn out of all members that make up community. To come together, sharing food, information and local gifts and talents. Thank you to Thornton Heath Library for hosting us. For more information about Thornton Heath Library and their activities, click [here.](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-culture/libraries/find-your-library/thornton-heath-library)

**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/)

Since the inception of this work, we have been inviting residents who live, work, and study in the area to come and identify local issues of priority and then be a part of the solution. We know community is best placed to create change and we look to do that together. North West have identified that they want to address Young people and their safety and mental health but also the older members of the community bringing them together through intergenerational work. In partnership with Reaching Higher, they have created the role of an Intergenerational Youth Worker to best link this work in their locality.

**Intergenerational Youth Worker Update**

Taylia from Reaching Higher is the Intergenerational Youth Worker for this locality. She brought three young people with her who were telling us about the benefit of the activities they are involved in. The Youth Café is one of those activities in partnership with South Norwood Community Kitchen on a Monday. The chefs at the kitchen teach the young people to cook, through this skill they are then connected to the older community. We heard a beautiful spoken word piece and were informed of the good connections the young people have with the Community Builder Norman.

**Career's Fair- 16th August**

With Norman the young people from Reaching Higher have co-created the flyer for the Careers Fair that is taking place on the 16th August from 11-3 at Trundle Gardens. This is a space for young people to explore coaching and mentoring as well as, career and apprenticeship opportunities and evening activities that they can get involved in such as the Duke of Edinburgh, scouts or cadets. The Careers Fair in collaboration with LCP, Reaching Higher, Thornton Heath Community Action Team, Friends of Trumble Gardens, and Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch.

**Key Community Players**

We got to sample the food from **Little Mouse Cheese Shop** in South Norwood. A space that was taken on and developed by a local resident Justina who wanted to bring something different to the high street, bringing people together through food. She secured a grant from Heritage England to restore the original 1910 Edwardian shop front.

We also ate and sampled the food grown in the Wellbeing Garden on the library’s premises. Perpetua, a passionate local resident inspired to do something about the cost of living crisis, decided to start the garden. The purpose was to grow healthy food available to the community for a donation. The Wellbeing Garden is about coming together and growing together, they have volunteers from all parts of community including those living with disability. If you want to get involved, please contact Perpetua to join the WhatsApp group on: 07963 581 937

The Wellbeing Graden is linked to the other community growing projects in the borough such as Good Food Matters and in this locality,

**Holmesdale Community Gardens** – *‘By the Community, For the Community’*. Make the most of your local, community garden. Visit the gardens at 108 Holmesdale Road, Selhurst SE25 6JF to experience tranquillity, the joys of nature and good company - 3 minute’s walk from Crystal Palace Football Ground at Selhurst Park. Groups also welcome. Time on your hands? Can you spare some time to .. paint, sand, seed, plant, pickle, preserve, hobby share, chat, chill, drink tea? Open 12-3pm on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. For more information and all enquiries, contact Ian: Email hcgse25@gmail.com, Text - 07721 966 6387.

It’s National Volunteers Week, to get involved as a volunteer or if in need of volunteers then check out Simply Connect below, which is run by CVA’s volunteer centre.

**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 organisation 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/Mary. Karen.chillman@cvalive.org.uk  or mary.lawrence@cvalive.org.uk

**Why are we here?**

We are effectively changing the way that community work is approached by inviting residents and commissioners on a journey of change. That change puts residents back in the centre of their change. The strength of this work invites every person to share their gifts and talents to form stronger active communities through new partnerships. With shared goals and ambitions, with the support of the intergenerational youth worker, community builder and most importantly active residents we are able to focus our energies on the change that is wanted and needed such as Mental Health, Young people, later life and the Cost of Living Crisis. We have taken Your views and to inform an action plan/ strategy which we call the Community plan for each locality. We are then taking that higher with our partners in the council and Healthy Communities Together to inform borough wide strategy which will better serve the residents of your locality. To see the community plan for this locality, click [here.](https://cvalive.org.uk/empowering-the-community/networks/local-community-partnerships/croydon-north-west-local-com/)

**Our views, Our Actions -**This way of working that seeks to put people at the center of change is only possible if we capture your views. Your views not only shape the strategies locally but are worked up with statutory partners to influence borough plans. If you didn’t get a chance to fill out the survey, please click the [link](https://app.upshot.org.uk/survey/68921d53/5966/0762ced1/) , your feedback is vital.

**Networking and further works**

* Marie a local resident who started a knitting group 12 years ago, which has developed and now takes place on a Tuesday 11-1 pm at Scratchley Hall, Age Uk Croydon. Stop in if you want to be involved or other projects Marie helps run
* Croydon Vision have offered to support the Wellbeing Garden at Thornton Heath Library
* Pauline from Active Minds and Sonia from the Croydon Drop In are looking at a potential talk bus partnership.
* We heard how Alice has been tidying up South Norwood lake
* Dave told us about the Alzheimer’s Dementia Café that is operating at Woodside Baptist Church on a Tuesday between 2-4 pm
* Learning Disability Carnival - 6th of July

**Clear Community Web, Your local digital support.**

We heard some really impactful change stories that came from  residents who have been engaging with Clear Community Web. Ann told us of how she found support to assist her in publishing her book, which articulates her struggle with depression. Sherrie was given a computer and mobile phone to practice on as technology was overwhelming and scary for her. Her confidence has grown and now she can send a voice note on WhatsApp. These sessions are growing from strength to strength upskilling the older and other digitally isolated persons in the borough. Age UK Croydon had 35 attendees in their recent session. For the time table on the sessions that Clear Community Web run and where click [here.](https://clearcommunityweb.co.uk/digital-drop-ins/) The work that they do is completely FREE and worth tapping into.

Thank you for joining us and celebrating the good work with us. We look forward to hearing the updates and connections that come from the furthering of our meeting. Thank you to Norman, your Community Builder, for incredible energy.

Join us again at our next meeting on the **Wednesday 2nd October**, booking information to follow. Have a wonderful summer.

*With thanks to Chloe for the notes.*

Warmest wishes- Janet and Paul

06.06