North West LCP Notes – 1st October.

Dear Friends and Colleagues of the North West,

Welcome back after summer to the first evening local community partnership meeting of autumn winter 2024. It was great to be hosted by Age Uk Croydon at scratchley hall where one of our hubs in the north run weekly. For more information about the activity of Age Uk Croydon and the hub click [here.](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/croydon/activities-and-events/techsupport/)

We want to take a moment to honour and thank our long-standing chair Paul Voden for all the brilliant work he has contributed to this locality. Outside of being a chair for this locality, Paul is an active member of the neighbourhood watch, organizing and supporting many community events. His passion will continue to bear fruit in these streams as he has made the decision to step down as a co-chair for this locality. We are deeply appreciative of his time and talents in this area and will look forward to hearing and seeing his good work continue locally. Thank you, Paul.

**Could you be a Co-Chair?**

We are now inviting partners to stand for election to Co-Chair the Local Community Partnership in Croydon North West alongside Janet Campbell, [New Co-Chairs for the Local Community Partnership in Croydon North West (mailchi.mp)](https://mailchi.mp/cvalive.org.uk/meetnewcochairslcpcroydonnorthwest?e=3794b430c1)

Please see the Co-Chair Role Profile attached. We ask that candidates stand for election by emailing [Sarah.Burns@cvalive.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Burns@cvalive.org.uk) by 17.00 on **Wednesday 23rd October** with the following:

* Photograph- head and shoulders
* Brief biography outlining your suitability to represent Croydon North West stating: why you are standing and what experience/skills you would bring to the role

Once all applicants have confirmed we will conduct an online ballot, if required, and announce the result as outlined in the attached Co-Chair election process chart.

A brief recap and summary of this good work moving forward for those who are new to these meetings and way of working. A warm welcome to you!

**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/Mary. [Karen.chillman@cvalive.org.uk](mailto:Karen.chillman@cvalive.org.uk)  or [mary.lawrence@cvalive.org.uk](mailto:mary.lawrence@cvalive.org.uk)

For the North West locality the partnership decided that among many of the commonplace issues of the community plan that need addressing such as Later Life, Mental Health, homelessness and heating and eating. They decided as a locality they would put the bulk of their efforts into working with young people and driving intergenerational approaches to create links across the span of community. This looked like the role of an ‘Intergenerational Youth worker’ who was employed by reaching higher to carry this good work forward.

**Intergenerational Youth Worker- update.**

With a new role of it’s kind, the first step was to understand what we mean by intergenerational and to do that reaching higher conducted a survey. The findings showed that this wasn’t just showing up in older / younger person dominated spaces. The further identified need was to support with jobs, work experience and career advice. There is a space for the older community to pass on / share intelligence and skills with the younger generation. We saw an outworking of this with the Young peoples careers fair in August. The need for paid work experience placements has been identified and some young people were able to engage with that over the summer.

Another valued outworking of this intergenerational work has been the young people’s summer support with Clear Community Web. They took some young people along to their digital drop in sessions to support with the running of these sessions and to experience the intergenerational approach. This was a mutually beneficial experience for all. It was a proactive way to break down barriers, improve communication and the sharing of lived experiences. One of the valued insights from the young people in working this way was the need for patience when teaching how to navigate daily technology that they take for granted.

**Community Connections.**

The strength in this way of working is always who is in the room. Through community building Norman who has been the community builder for this locality met John and Tamu two local Croydon musicians who attended and performed for us. Thank you John and Tamu for sharing your gift with us.

**How can I get more involved?**

Your views are vital in shaping this work. If you have a passion or ideas concerning the following elements of the community plan for this locality.

* Later Life
* Mental health
* Homelessness
* Heating and eating

Then we would love to hear from you and put you with likeminded others to work up those good solutions. Please get in touch with co-chair Janet Campbell to show your interest, email: [janet.campbell@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:janet.campbell@croydon.gov.uk)

**Last but certainly not least.**

We want to say a massive thank you to Norman Mine, the Community Builder for North West who has worked closely with the co-chairs and partnership supporting their events. His work on the Young people’s careers fair, LCP meetings, Hub, Learning disability carnival and other creative likes is deeply appreciated. Although he is stepping away from his role as a community builder. We will still see him in the borough as he is open to partnership working and collaborations as an independent artistic freelancer and a founding member of [Norwood junk action](https://norwoodjunkaction.co.uk/). Thank you for bringing your creative brilliance, connections and energy to celebrate the good work of this locality.

**Community news**

* The Hub is at Scratchley hall weekly on Tuesdays 2-4 pm
* [The Croydon Harvest and Walnut fair](https://www.culturecroydon.com/event/croydonharvest/)

Thank you again for coming together and celebrating with us. Our next meeting will be on 27th November at the day time hours of 10-12 pm at Norbury Baptist church [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/local-community-partnerships-croydon-north-west-tickets-946105786877) to book your free space.

Warm wishes,

Sarah, Andrew and Janet