South East LCP 28.11.2024

Dear friends and colleagues of the South East,

Thank you for coming out to the last LCP for this locality of the year. It was great to be in the Family Centre again it’s a real asset and gem to the community, with many rooms for hire and activities. For more about the family centre and how to get involved, [Click here.](http://www.thefamilycentre.org.uk/)

**Local Community Partnerships**

From its inception, the LCP has been about holding space for local residents, grassroots organisations, and other groups to discuss and work up solutions through hyperlocal support to local issues. This has been in an effort to create resident-centred sustainable change by keeping the resident voice on local issues at heart. We had to split Croydon into six localities to ring-fence and address those local issues. Croydon Voluntary Action has always approached community service from a place of strength and what we already possess among us opposed to what’s wrong or missing among us. We have found we don’t know what we need until we know what we have. This asset-based approach has enabled us to work strongly in partnership at a local level acting on issues from the bottom up instead of top down and that aligns with how we are attempting to re-commission the borough, from the bottom up instead of top down. This transfer of wealth and local intelligence has come with transparency and accountability that can only positively impact social trust. We have looked to take a ‘You Said, We Did’ approach to our work, that invites going together on a journey of change. A huge part of this work has been scaling up the community plans that work on those localised issues. These community plans are regularly updated from the growing insights and feedback from the local community partnership work. To view the community plans as they are [click here.](https://cvalive.org.uk/empowering-the-community/networks/local-community-partnerships/croydon-south-east-local-com/)

**Mental Health Action Group Update**

The Mental Health action group is meeting regularly to address the gaps in provision left by local cutbacks in mental health service provision. The loss of community spaces like the Kingfisher have been felt far and wide by this community and with nothing yet to replace that, the action group have been working up local solutions . The group's first meeting focused on the gifts and skills that members could bring to the table, sometimes we are not aware what the real need is until we assess what we already have. The needs can be really overwhelming but when we look at our collective power and resource we realise the need is not as vast as we first thought. The second meeting discussed how these gifts could be used to address the issues at hand. The third meeting reflected on community initiatives organically occupying this space such as Mo's writing project, which has become a valuable therapeutic intervention for local residents. Additionally, Pauline from Active Minds has started a weekly drop-in session in New Addington, offering yoga and peer support. This is a geographical extension of a provision that was previously unavailable to the area. Natalie's art wellness group provides a quieter space for those who find traditional mental health services too overwhelming. The group also organizes community events like the summer family fun day. All of this work is being done by volunteers and residents, demonstrating the power of community-led initiatives. Thanks to Pauline from Active minds and Ayeshea from Mind in Croydon who have been instrumental in providing accessible mental health support for the south east locality and joining up residents with services.

**Creative Health Team in Croydon Council.**

This is a new team funded by public health and sit under the culture measures team. They are Identifying the gaps and wanting to partner for creative ways to improve health inequalities. One of their approaches in 2025 will be to distribute grants of varying sizes for health and wellbeing projects such as the  earlier Croydon Loves You grant scheme. These grants will help the running of new initiatives, will help the continuation of some good work that is already happening in this area as well as an opportunity to partner with public health for specific targeted programs. This is an exciting time to see the arts impact wellbeing and to foster greater community-led resources which in and of itself is preventative. Although their posts are only 18 months long, a key part of their strategy is to allocate funds to enable the good work that happens in the next 18 months to continue, creating sustainable change.

If you have ideas or want to see where we can partner, reach out to us on

 email. Creativehealth@croydon.gov.uk

**ReNA update**

ReNA is a community initiative started by Mobo winning music artist Still Shadey. ReNA works with the local community in Fieldway and New Addington to tackle various local issues, keeping the residents at the heart of their work.

This October; some of the ReNA members in partnership with Surrey Cricket ran a 5-day holiday activity youth program, There were two different sessions each day, one for the younger youths aged 8 – 12 and the afternoon session was for the over 12’s. Lots of enriching activities took place such as; African drumming, Football, Rugby, Cricket, First Aid training, a music workshop with Still Shadey, and then seeing the week end with a silent Disco.

Good Food Matters catered for the week, which gave the young people access to a healthy meal each day. This was such a well-received provision for the young people in the community, there is an absolute appetite for this to happen again. It highlights the strength of intergenerational working through teaching crafts, games and skills which are mutually beneficial.

A lovely highlight was an autistic young man who ate little and didn’t really communicate with others whose mum was worried about him. By the end of those four days, he had lunch with the group and connected with friends which was a huge breakthrough for him socially and personally. His mother cried having never seen that kind of involvement from him. Good food matters catered for the residential and made sure the children were fed healthy food, while the facilitators ensured that they were off of their devices and engaging socially which they surprisingly, found beneficial and not too much of a hardship.. To get a flavour of the full success of the residential watch this [video.](https://youtu.be/8lIvAHVt-zw)

**Update from the Chairs.**

Firstly a massive thank you to Michael Myles who is known and appreciated for his incredible dedication to his community. Not only is he part of the welcoming party weekly at Pathfinders. He delivered 1000 leaflets on foot to promote the LCP. Well done Michael.

The Chairs of for this locality have served strong and unwaveringly over the last two years, not only are they LCP chairs bringing all that good partnership together. They are also leading in their own spheres impacting the community with their knowledge and expertise. We want to thank you for your hard work as we appreciate most of this good community work if not all is in a voluntary capacity and speaks volumes of the passion you have towards where you live.

We heard from the chairs that they took on this role initially for the 2 year guideline in which the posts have been set at. They have come to the end of the two years in service. As these are voluntary posts and we wouldn’t turn away someone wishing to extend their service. We have heard it expressed from both Julia and Marion that it is their desire to step down, this is not with immediate effect, they will give the partnership time to find another Co- Chair. Roy Simpson is happy to stay on. The positive of this decision is that Julia and marion will still be leading in their areas of expertise in the borough and will be a great ally and support to whoever steps into their shoes. So, sthis leaves us to ask the question do you think you could be a co-chair?

**Co-Chair role and job description.**

We are now inviting partners to stand for election to Co-Chair the Local Community Partnership in Croydon South East.

Please see the Co-Chair Role Profile attached. We ask that candidates stand for election by emailing Sarah.Burns@cvalive.org.uk

* 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.

**Community News**

* 22nd Dec- Father Christmas will come back to New Addington on a sleigh and will visit the entire estate.
* 12th Dec Talent show at Meridian high as a fundraiser for the Family Centre at 6pm

* Sat 30th -  11-4 pm is the Christmas bizarre at Better leisure centre.

* A merging project from Play place- Parent Champions- supporting parents to support other parents. For more information email: Chris.hennis@playplace.org

We would like to thank you all for attending, joining action groups, bringing that resident voice and leading on key initiatives throughout the year in your locality. We wish you a merry Christmas and a very restful New Year, we look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Kind regards

Sarah, Andrew, Marion, Roy and Julia.