**Local Community Partnership, Croydon South East**

**Meeting Notes - 22nd February 2024**

Dear South-East Colleagues,

Thank you for coming together for the first LCP of the year. It was great to have so many in attendance and some new faces and organisations represented too. Thank you to the Family Centre in Fieldway for hosting the meeting. We like to be hosted in a variety of locations to show off local assets. Thank you to our Co-chairs Julia, Marion and Roy for facilitating the meeting.

Our agenda items for the meeting covered the following areas; Local Community Partnership updates, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh and strengthening Community Plans.

**Local Community Partnership updates**

Health care in Croydon has changed. The need for a sustainable model based on the strength of partnership working, connecting the statutory and voluntary services has been heard. The focus is on prevention when it comes to adult social care and health and wellbeing initiatives. This looks like early intervention at a community level to support a greater sense of health and wellbeing and prevent crisis. One Croydon, GP’s Hospitals, the voluntary sector and Mental health services have come together through locality working to provide wrap around support. These local issues have shaped community plans and strategies reflecting borough-wide health priorities.

At the heart of this way of working is the sharing of local assets, gifts and talents to innovate and sustain necessary change. This has taken the form of partnerships across localities tackling local priorities with transparency and funding as well as action groups working up other key priorities. It has been recognized that we don’t always need something new to bring change but to build upon and sustain what is already working. We have secured seed funding to continue to support initiatives that are already bringing positive change to local communities. Through feedback, we heard the need to change these meetings' time to enable working residents to attend. Please note that the next meeting for this locality will be in the **evening**: **Thursday 16th May 6-8 pm**. Please don’t forget to [register](https://cvalive.org.uk/calendar/item/51092808) to reserve your Free space and to assist us in our facilitation.

**Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh**

We were joined by Shifa, our colleague in Public Health at the Council, who shared with us the Health and Wellbeing Strategy which is currently being refreshed to reflect the needs of those who live, work and study in Croydon. This refresh will inform the way we respond to health and the strategies that we put in place for the next five years. It’s vital that the plans are shaped by those who they directly will impact. We were thrilled to see that the priorities and key themes that we have identified in our Local Community Partnership’s Community Plan have been captured in the priorities suggested in the draft Strategy document

We looked at three key areas of the strategy: the vision, guiding principles and other priorities included in the final strategy. An insight to our response on the three areas can be seen below.

**Vision**- It was raised collectively, it is ambitious and begged the question of how this will be outworked in practice? It was noted that there was no mention of the need for trauma informed approaches/ support for health and families. The importance of community spaces to host community event’s initiatives of health and beyond.

**Guiding Principles -** Many of us agree with the guiding principles. It was noted that there was no mention of the effect of housing inequalities and it’s impact on health. The question of ‘What is it that makes us healthy?’ was raised and the need for clarity around that.

**Priorities -**We identified that Trauma-related help and support is a priority. A healthy environment, specifically green spaces and it’s positive impact on Mental Health and support for adults with autism and neurodivergence are priorities.

Our suggestions from the meeting have been captured in full by our Public Health colleagues and we will be updated on the progress of the strategy in early summer. Thank you for your valuable input.

**Strengthening Community Plans**

The ***Stronger Together*** Partnership comprised of New Addington Pathfinders, Good Food Matters, Centre for Change, Selsdon Contact Centre, and the Family Centre, Fieldway have brought their gifts together to target local issues. They are tackling poor mental health, social isolation and the cost-of-living crisis. They are addressing these issues by supporting the New Addington Good Samaritans ‘Pop-in’, a local asset that supports the elderly. They are strengthening their online presence as well as activities such as breakfast and afternoon tea. Centre for Change will provide mental health first aid training upskilling residents to support mental health needs. Selsdon Contact centre is supporting residents to make smaller more local trips by providing transport and supporting visits to Good Food Matters. Good Food Matters and the Family Centre are putting on six to seven new courses to support nutrition in the community and the cost of living including ‘Cooking on a Budget’ and cooking classes for people with a learning disability

**Mental Health – Community Key Priority**

The increasing number of adults presenting with drug and alcohol addictions at the Family Centre, residents presenting to GP’s with suicidal ideation and being sent to A and E highlights the importance of Mental Health. It has been heard in community the need for spaces where people struggling with their mental health can go and be with others or be heard. Services such as ‘Change Grow Live’ – [www.changegrowlive.org](http://www.changegrowlive.org/) - to be present in community spaces and hubs, alongside creative initiatives such as art workshops / therapy to support residents struggling with their mental health. The negative impact of the closure of community spaces such as The Kingfisher has been felt.

**ACTION** – Pauline, James, Mo, Amanda and Elizabeth to meet and look at where there are partnership opportunities to meet local mental health needs.

**Action Group lead**- James Moore: James.moore@cvalive.org.uk

**Community Notices**

-    Sexual Health Drop in starting at the Family Centre Hub on March 19th - ADDISON, Kerry (CROYDON HEALTH SERVICES NHS TRUST) kerry.addison3@nhs.net

-    Family Centre, Fieldway Community Hub is now every TUESDAY, 10am – 12.30pm - James.moore@cvalive.org.uk

-   Mencap and Good Food Matters- cooking course on a Tuesday for the next year 10am-2 pm. Refer by emailing Mencap : info@croydonmencap.org.uk

-    To collaborate or partner concerning energy-saving talks// events email Malcolm.bell@croydon.gov.uk

-    For Leisure Link and Gig buddies information check out [Club Soda](https://www.clubsoda.org.uk/)

-    20th March is International Happiness Day

-    RENA - meets 1st /3rd Monday of the month [here](https://www.facebook.com/groups/renewaddington/about) for more information.

New Addington Carnival – ‘The Big One’ - 8/9th June

**ACTION** - Sarah Burns to connect Vanessa Legister from Croydon Hearing re. the ‘GP Collaborative.’

-    **ACTION** - Save Croydon's Libraries - to join the fight against local library closures please email your co-chairs - Julia Weller familycentre.fieldway@virgin.net or Marion at New Addington Pathfinders n.a.pathfinders@hotmail.co.uk or Roy

We look forward to seeing you at the next Local Community Partnership evening meeting on **Thursday 16th May** at the different time of **6-8pm**at **Family Centre Fieldway**. Please join us in promoting the next event to maximize resident attendance and voice.

Warmest Wishes- Marion, Julia and Roy

*With thanks to Chloe Smith for the notes.*

c/o Sarah Burns

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