Local Community Partnership- North East 22.05.2.24

Dear colleagues of the North East,

Thank you for coming to the first evening meeting of our Local Community Partnership. It was wonderful to come together and be encouraged by the updates and talents of music in the room. There was great community spirit, stories and much work to celebrate. Thank you to the South Norwood Community Kitchen for hosting us. To learn more about the activities and venue hire of South Norwood Community Kitchen check [here.](https://www.southnorwoodcommunitykitchen.co.uk/)

**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/)

**Your Local Partnership and their work so far.**

The key issues identified by this locality are Young People, Mental Health and Later Life. The co-chairs, through their personal experiences and relationships with local organizations, decided to focus the bulk of their work on Young People. As the successful partnership bid for this locality. They are teaming up with Reaching Higher 360 to provide wrap around support for young people at home, in community and school. His Grace Evangelical church now provide a chill zone for Young people on a Saturday from 11 am as well as their local drop in on a Tuesday 12-2pm. The Tuesday drop in includes wider support such as meeting food poverty, social issues and housing support. From a Survey aimed at Young People and led by reaching higher the following insights were discovered.

* The need and want for more streetlights and police stations, to increase the feeling of safety in Community for Young people.
* A change in narrative around the Police, wanting Police engagement but not just for them to show up when something is wrong. Initiatives such as *Cuppa with a Copper* Aim to build an alternative relationship with the local Police.

South Norwood Community Kitchen are also a key partner in the work with Young People. In collaboration with Reaching Higher, SNCK provide a Youth Cafe as well as Cooking classes for young people. For more information [here.](https://www.southnorwoodcommunitykitchen.co.uk/about-us)

The work of Reaching Higher has been strengthened as their staff are now receiving supervision and additional safeguarding training in response to the growing safeguarding issues that need addressing. Further to this Music Relief are holding a safe space for young girls who maybe experiencing any form of violence against women and girls.

We heard from the amazing Golden Age Choir, a part of Music Relief, who sang songs that lifted our spirits and connected us to the celebration and momentum of the good works happening. We thank them for sharing their gifts, experiences, insights and stories with us. For more on the works of Music Relief click [here](https://music-relief.org/about-us/).

**Hubs and Community Resources.**

If you are new to these meetings, you might not be aware of the community spaces that exist in your area. Below is a list of active hubs that you might want to get involved in.

* [His Grace Evangelical church.](https://www.hisgrace-evangelicaloutreach.co.uk/)
* [St John the Evangelist](https://www.sjun.org.uk/)
* [Waterside Centre](https://cvalive.org.uk/venue-hire/waterside-centre/)
* [The Victory Club](https://www.thevictoryclub.co.uk/)
* [Church of the Good Shepherd](https://www.tgschurch.com/)

There is much to celebrate with the increased spaces and touch points for young people to engage in, with thanks to the partners of this locality working together. Through food, music, mentorship and increased connections to the Police and Safer Neighborhoods team the work continues to progress. We haven’t forgotten the other priorities we mentioned, Mental health is organically being tackled with the work around young people and there is more work to be done. Together we looked at the area of Later Life.

**What local organizations are addressing Later Life?**

* [CNCA](https://www.cnca.org.uk/)
* [Stanley Arts](https://stanleyarts.org/community-arts/dementia-action-week-coffee-morning-at-stanley-arts/) – Dementia Friendly Cafe
* [BME forum-](https://www.cbmeforum.org/) various programs
* [Age Uk Croydon](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/croydon/)
* [Croydon Alms Houses](http://www.croydonalmshouses.org.uk/)
* Croydon Council- social care – Older peoples Team
* [Music Relief Golden Age Choir. 55+](https://music-relief.org/)
* [Croydon Healthy Homes energy advice](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/environment/sustainable-development/energy/croydon-healthy-homes)
* [Aski](https://www.aski.org.uk/contact-us/)
* [Brigstock road hub](https://cvalive.org.uk/news/2022-news-items/new-community-hub-in-croydon-n/)
* [ARCC coffee morning at CVA](https://www.arccltd.com/coffee-morning)

These are a few of the resources we were able to identify between us. We then broke into groups to work up the gaps we have identified as important areas to address regarding Later Life provisions.

**Later Life Provisions- Mind the Gap!**

We were able to capture the following insights from our brilliant group work last night. Please see the themes identified in bullet point form.

* Digital inclusion- an understanding of social media and online safety around scams. Suggested from within own family units or intergenerational approach.
* Safer Access to public toilets.
* Financial Support and advice but from within our own communities and cultures to build on the trust that already exists.
* Big Talks- to support those in the Learning Disability communities to present and gain understanding of subjects that might be a barrier to access and support.
* Diversity Activities- to connect culture and passion, increasing celebration.
* Cultural Stories from Older People to Young people a passing on of heritage.
* The role of a Pardoner to get pensioners out of debt.
* An Open mic night for spoken word and arts to locally be accessed.
* An Acting Group
* Chair based exercise/ walking group/ cooking club
* Access to work, breaking ageism.
* Better transport links
* South Norwood Library as a Hub.
* Reliable Neighbours and sole traders to support home care.
* Multiple forms of communication.
* Park bathing to use green spaces and improve MH.
* No cost activities and spaces to come and be
* Peer support groups for men
* Gardening/ growing group with Socca Cheta as the host?
* Afternoon teas with the Elderly
* Linking primary schools with care homes a reminicence project.
* Visitation days once a month where community experiences can be shared in schools.
* Cinema and social trips accessible for those with mobility issues.
* Social night for older people
* Intergenerational mentoring ( old to young partnership. )
* More Music.
* More awareness support for Drug and Alcohol users.
* Family support / access to mediation and counselling in relational breakdowns.
* Befriending services,
* Coffee with a Copper
* Post trauma support.
* Dance
* Recycled and accessible electrical goods to reduce digital isolation.
* Improved housing conditions.
* Home improvement grants.
* Smoother roads for mobility.
* Leisure centered social activities.
* Park activities / holistic self-care and physical prevention

This is rich intelligence which we can develop and act on. Part of the work in between the Local Community Partnership meetings is to dive deeper into these other key topics and to lead the way to change. We will keep you updated on how to join an action group when we come to that point.

**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/)

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**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. Organizations 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 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. 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)

**Community News.**

**Asian Resource Centre ARCC-**

Have a piece of work on Community Health and Wellbeing worker that focuses on two estates. The worker will go door to door to see where they can support households. This aims to empower residents with their HealthCare link to organizations and link better to the work of GP practices. For more information please contact: [info@arccltd.com](mailto:info@arccltd.com)

Thank you again for joining us for our evening meeting. We look forward to seeing you again at our next LCP meeting 25th Sept, booking information to follow.

Warm wishes, Andrew, Sarah, Magdalene and Nicole.