**LCP Autumn winter Central West 5th Sept 6-8 pm**

Dear Friends and Colleagues of Central West,

Welcome back after summer and thank you for joining us at the first evening meeting of this wave of local community partnerships. Thank you to Merky FC / Selsdon Sports Arena for hosting us. For more information/ insight to the provisions and activities they provide for young people across our borough [here.](https://www.merkyfchq.com/) Football sessions, dance and singing classes, a refugee program is a flavour of some of the FREE activities they run weekly. If you didn’t attend, check them out.

Our meeting addressed, the local communication strategy, a green led initiative, youth provisions and hearing of up and coming local events.

**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/)

Central West Locality is formed by Broad Green, Fairfield, Addiscomb West, Selhurst, Waddon and South Croydon. From our meetings we have taken the information given to us from resident voice and worked them up into community plans which are then taken to statutory boards to inform boroughwide strategy concerning health and well-being. To recap the main priorities identified for Central West are; mental health, later life, young people, environment and domestic abuse. Our Space which is a community resource run by disability Croydon have absorbed addressing these priorities to an extend but more work is to be done. More information on Our Space [here.](https://www.disabilitycroydon.org.uk/)

**Communication strategy update – Carol and James**

 Each locality was given a budget to work on a communication strategy to best communicate what was happening in their locality to the residents. After a setback, we are proud to announce we have a communications person in post supporting this work. Thank you to Carol and James who have been busy holding meetings on this. Resulting in a closed Facebook group for this locality where we can safely network, up and coming events and good news stories. To join please click [here.](https://www.facebook.com/people/Croydon-Central-West-Local-Community-Partnership/61565378041719/)

As part of signing in we asked with your permission to have your contact number to invite you to join an announcement only WhatsApp group which will be run by the chairs. This is the safest approach to WhatsApp communication. See [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGCOg8xRm0k) for more on how that works. These are good places to start and get connected to what’s happening in this 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

**A Greener Approach to Health- Chloe and Leonie**

 We heard from active resident Leonie and Community builder for Central West Chloe on the work they have done and desire to do concerning the environment and particularly green spaces in the broad green area. In January Trees for Croydon, a project that brought Trees for cities, Croydon Voluntary Action and Croydon Climate Change together saw the planting of 35 new trees in Canterbury road rec. Hundreds of volunteers flocked in to help plant the trees. This was a great start to regenerating the space but much more is to be done. That part of Croydon is red when it comes to its climate status. Leonie is passionate about seeing this change and for the community to have a green space that they co-own and look after that serve’s multiple purposes. One of the ways she is taking us with her is inviting us to join a walk of the area on the 12th October. The walk will bring people together, connect them to another green asset and provide a forum to exchange vision ideas with residents and the council alike. To join the walk email leonie : mhealth1@aol.com

Another key part to change for the residents in that area, is the potential closure of Broad Green library which is under consultation. We have heard in the past from the central library teams that the functions of the library might be outsourced but the view was still to have that space as a community resource. Taking them at their word we broke into groups to discuss as local people what provisions we would want in place should the library be used as a community hub of sorts and what we would like to see in the outdoor Canterbury road green space next door to it. Your suggestions below.

**Suggestions for the library as a Community hub:**

* **Costa Del Croydon style performance.**
* **Cultural themed ‘Meet and Greet’ by local residents celebrating the different cultures of the local community.**
* **Cuppa with a Copper sessions**
* **Volunteering, information and guidance for all people including women who have come out of prison, integrating back into community.**
* **Pop-up café, place o share lived experiences.**
* **Intergenerational work, groups for older people to be social and swap stories.**
* **Homework club for children.**
* **Human library- take a person out and hear their life story.**
* **Information and digital tech skills to be taught to the community.**
* **Mentoring and counselling DV support.**
* **Workshop space for theatre/ martial arts creative arts.**
* **Intergenerational business mentoring- young people with business entrepreneurs to show them how to run a business.**
* **Repair Café, men sheds, swap shops, toy swaps. Bike swaps.**
* **Community food stop.**

**Outdoor space suggestions.**

* **Allotment area, growing space.**
* **Walk and talk with the police**
* **Shed project**
* **Outdoor nature gallery, art work made with natural materials/ items of litter.**
* **Skateboarding / BMX track.**
* **Pond/ fountains**
* **Wine bottle wall that could hold messages in a bottle.**
* **Outdoor cinema**
* **Mushroom farm**
* **Forest school**
* **Biodiversity/ bug hotels**
* **Aurelia art studios commissions**
* **Gig in the garden**
* **Steel warriors**
* **Dancing, yoga meditation/ park bathing.**

Brilliant ideas and suggestions that Leonie will take to the Scrutiny meeting and we will include in our community plan feedback to the council to seek change. Do contact Leonie to be linked to this work.

**Youth services an update and provisions where are the gaps?**

We heard from our chair James Watkins the CEO of Mainz World a group that works directly with young people, [here](https://mainzworld.com/) for more information on what they do. James spoke to a break down of activities that Merky FC provide weekly, as we were being hosted in their building link to that at the beginning of notes.

We heard about how My Ends 2 will be launching on the 17th Sept. My Ends is an initiative that has run for four years prior in our borough bringing the Greater London Authority, Voluntary Sector, Police, families and young people involved in gang culture in Croydon together. To catch upt o speed with all things my ends [here](https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/communities-and-social-justice/londons-violence-reduction-unit-vru/our-programmes/my-ends-programme).

My ENDS 2 has been commissioned to focus on intervention working with those who are at highest risk of gang recruitment. The approach of detached outreach work supported by the violence reduction unit means the focus is meeting the young people where they are instead of asking them to come to the support resources which could be a barrier to engagement. Another local ally in this work is the Croydon Youth Consortium for more on what they are doing in the borough [here.](https://ypftrust.org.uk/news-events/entry/young-hammersmith-fulham-foundations-illuminate-podcast) Despite the community groups and charities that are working with young people in Croydon, the provisions are lacking and we want that to change. After hearing what is available we broke into groups to talk about what we would like to see and where we could offer our skills and talents to support the young people and establish those changes we have spoken about.

**The suggestions made are as follows**

* **Uniformed approach across the borough**
* **school travel safety – safe haven project to be rolled out across borough.**
* **Skibabble and Pow open mic afternoon for young people to teach poetry as non violent communication.**
* **Youth voice in council and decision making boards/ sports provisions.**
* **Gym membership/ buddy scheme. Outdoor free sessions with personal Trainor.**
* **Communication- how to communicate whats happening for young people, social media.**
* **Musical instruments/ boxing alternative skill training.**
* **Utilising the local scout and guide huts and provisions that have been around for 100 years.**

These ideas will be collected and shared with those that work with young people to be discussed and worked up further. We look forward to hearing an update on this in future meetings.

It was lovely to have some newer partners such as Liberty Spring board and continuing community care with us get in touch to find out more.Thank you to our colleagues from the local safer neighbourhood teams and DWP for attending our shared intelligence strengthens the resources and approaches to local issues.

**Community News**

* Neighbourhood watch have their Crime Prevention day on the12th October [here](https://www.cbnwa.com/) for more information.
* Leonie’s Broad Green Dreaming walk is also on the 12th October email her to attend. 7
* Healthwatch Croydon\*\* have been commissioned by the One Croydon Alliance to survey and interview local voluntary, community and faith sector leaders.
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* We would be very grateful if you could take just 5 minutes of your valuable time to complete the survey:
* Link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/VSCFCroydon2024/>
* QR code:
* ****
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* All the responses you give will be anonymous, so we welcome you to be frank about your experience of managing a community organisation and what you want to see.

Thank you again for joining us and we will see you at our next meeting on Thursday the 7th Nov at 10am-12.30 [here t](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/local-community-partnerships-croydon-central-west-tickets-946103911267?aff=oddtdtcreator)o book your free place.

See you there, warm wishes

Sarah Andrew Carol and James.