Local Community Partnership Central West 7th Nov

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Central West Partnership,

We were thrilled to have you join us for our last face to face meeting of the year! We held to an action-packed agenda at yet another gem of a location Praise House. A big Thank you to Praise House for hosting us. For the full scope of the activities and initiatives that are hosted by Praise House Click [here.](https://praisehouse.org.uk/)

Local Community Partnerships, from its inception has been about holding space for local residents, grass roots and organizations to discuss and work up solutions through hyperlocal support. This has been in an effort to create resident centred sustainable change by keeping the resident voice on local issues at the 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 lack and what’s wrong or missing among us. We have found we don’t even 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 plans have then been fed to place based decision makers who are tasked with creating strategies that will serve the borough as a whole, when it comes to health and wellbeing. We are thrilled that our local voices have been heard and the borough wide health and wellbeing strategy that was in the process of being refreshed to govern for the next five years is being finalised and reflects key issues of importance that we have raised locally. This is a real win for partnership working. The community plans which are being updated as this good work progresses can be viewed on the [CVA Website.](https://cvalive.org.uk/empowering-the-community/networks/local-community-partnerships/croydon-central-west-local-c/)

**Local Commissioning Model**

The local commissioning model was a pot of funding which each locality could bid for to address in partnership some of those key issues identified. Successful bids then became partnering leads on specific areas for their localities. The issues that are still of importance but yet to be addressed will be tackled by passionate local residents in action groups.

**OUR SPACE-** Our successful local commissioning model winner spoke to the good work they have been doing. Our space occupies what used to be the old millets building on the corner of surrey street market. James Keller the lead there is heavily involved in Disability Croydon an organization that seeks to support adults with disabilities with employability, social and recreational engagement. Through the pandemic they received an increase in calls concerning mental health support loneliness and isolation. This huge space remains open and available to all groups in community providing you align with the user needs/ purpose. Our Space defines itself as a partner of the public, private and charity sector. It’s stakeholder relationships in these areas allow it to be an asset to the community. It currently hosts 12 local groups weekly varying from later life support, mental health and neurodiversity, healthy homes services and survivors of domestic abuse as well as seeing 1500 unique attendees. They most recently have started a refugee service supporting those who have been displaced with IT and language support through CALAT. The needs are great and they welcome new partnership opportunities to serve the localities most vulnerable.

**Libraries Update**

As we know the council have gone ahead and closed four libraries across Croydon. Broad Green one of the closed libraries happens to be in our locality and is a life line to its surrounding communities. Passionate resident Leonie Osbourne has started a local whatsapp group called ‘Friends of Broad Green Library’ in an attempt to apply for the lease of running the library on behalf of community in partnership with the voluntary sector through CVA. This has happened before and been successful in other areas like Upper Norwood library. There is a call to action to complete the ‘Expression of interest’ paper work by the 13th Dec. Powerful realities form when there is a consortium of local leadership in place and not an organizational lead alone. Some of the activities that the library could support are as follows:

* Digital support workshops
* Family and children centred activities
* Compassionate chats
* Employability support

Backing onto Canterbury road rec where the green space transformation work has begun with the planting of trees, could also link to outdoor activities for residents and the local children of the primary school and nursery that neighbour that space. St Christopher’s hospice took a walnut tree planted in that space to create a ‘Living memory tree’ where messages for loved ones are written on ribbons and tied to the tree. This has been hugely popular in Canterbury road and other areas in the borough. It also links back to the century old Walnut Tree fairs that used to happen in Croydon. To join the conversation and become a Friend of Broad Green Library please email Leonie : mhealth1@aol.com

**Community Hubs**

These are spaces where residents can gather consistently and get better connected to each other, where local intelligence is shared and relational signposting can happen. The strength of these spaces is that although they are guided by a community facilitator they are not dominated by a service led approach. This is where sustainable change happens, initiatives are born and people thrive through being better connected. Community Facilitator James Moore sends out weekly hub updates for the hubs in the south of the borough to connect to james please email: james.moore@cvalive.org.uk

**Creative Health –**

We meet the new side of the public health team who have visited the LCPs before, this time they were speaking to the Creative people and places joint bid currently in the process of being tendered for.

*Creative, People and Places is a funding opportunity from Arts Council England that gives local areas a grant of around £1million over three years to support communities to commission cultural activity that is of interest and relevant to them. It is particularly focused at getting people who don’t regularly engage with organised culture involved. We would love to bring this funding into the borough to help support culture, and so a consortium of Stanley Arts, Culture Croydon (the local culture sector network), the council and community organisations are hoping to put in a bid later this year. We are looking for advice and involvement from the local community in two ways:*

* *We need as many residents as possible to complete a short survey about what sorts of arts and cultural activity they enjoy, if they already engage with arts/culture in the area, why not if they don’t, and whether/how they would like to be involved with the grant if we were successful. This will help demonstrate the appetite for the grant in our borough.*
* *We would also love to hear from any community or grassroots organisations who would be interested in joining the consortium, which will be a chance to help drive the design and delivery model if we are successful. Organisations who are not part of the consortium will still be vey welcome to take part in and bid to deliver activity, but we need a strong, representative team of organisations to hold the budget and programme together centrally, to ensure it is used in the most effective way.*

From the above information it would be greatly received if you could support this work by providing your views and taking this short survey. Link below. <https://forms.gle/1BRaUxms2Y6uMMA68>

**My Ends 2.0**

We heard from program manager Shalina on the progression of the My ends work. When we last heard from Shalina we were bidding for the contract to further this work and have since won that contract. This second phase of My ends serious youth violence reduction program is focussing on the geographical blueprint of Croydon Town Centre and identifying young people who are most at risk and intervening with their core partners taking a tri-approach. A lot of the work is providing structure and safety around activities to engage young people in the evening through out the year. Alongside this is a grant pot of up to £50 thousand for groups whose work aligns with the initiatives of My ends that aren’t currently being reached by core program partners. We will share further information concerning this when we receive it. A simplified breakdown of the My ends two program approach below.

**Tertiary level-** Our partners Be inspired previously known as Gloves not Guns, CVA and Young council Justice are working with children in schools.

**Secondary level-** Reaching Higher are being supported by PY4E to identify and engage the young people that may be at risk of being recruited/ recipients of serious youth violence. These two organizations are working cohesively to provide wrap-around support.

**Primary Level –** Palace for life foundation supported by Play Place are providing outreach, activity support and have even resurrected a youth club on Hancroft estate to provide a safe place for young people to socialise without threat.

This is a further reaching offer of prevention and support that is supporting our young people with a deeper and intentional capacity. To find out more about My Ends please pop into reception at the CVA resource Centre 82 London road to hear the latest from Shalina directly.

**Call to Action – VAWG**

As mentioned this work is carried forward by passionate people coming together, dreaming up and embedding local solutions. Community Builder Chloe Smith for Central West has been working with survivors of Domestic Abuse and community interest companies who have lived experience to better stand in the gap of provisions that surround this work. This is an open call to residents and groups who are working with survivors or are just passionate about bringing change. We warmly welcome the voices of the police, charity sector, family justice centre and other key strategists to join a joint up holistic approach to ending gender-based violence. No experience needed just passion for change. Email chloe about joining the action group: chloe.smith@cvalive.org.uk.

**Community News**

* Craig Dyer from Croydon Martial arts invites you to get in touch with him concerning partnership opportunities. Reach him on : 077119611581 or email on craigdyer87@gmail.com

Until January 2025 where this good work continues we welcome you to stay in touch and update us on your good work you are getting up to this yuletide. Why not join the [‘ Croydon Central West Local Community Partnership’](https://www.facebook.com/people/Croydon-Central-West-Local-Community-Partnership/61565378041719/) Facebook page?

Until then warm wishes.

Sarah, Andrew, Carol and James.