**Local Community Partnership in Croydon Central East**

**19 April 2023 Notes**

Dear Croydon Central East Colleagues,

It was wonderful to meet with you all and hear from people across the locality and different areas of assets and influence across sectors, ranging from mental health, housing, social work, council colleagues and local resident voices. A big thank you to Linda and Celestina for co-chairing the session and Pastor Steve Calder at [Woodside Baptist Church](https://woodsidechurch.org.uk/) for hosting us.

Our partnership event was Chaired by Linda and Celestina [New Co-Chairs for the Local Community Partnership in Croydon Central East (mailchi.mp)](https://mailchi.mp/cvalive.org.uk/meetnewcochairslcpcroydoncentraleast-1159655)

Please find a record of our meeting below:

**Re-cap on The King's Fund 'Healthy Communities Together' programme, join up with borough wide strategies and the new Local Commissioning Model** Age UK Croydon is now holding Localities funding for the Voluntary and Community Sector and working with CVA to devolve funds for partnership initiatives, our priority setting and action groups will provide the recommendations for how this funding is best used. As well as using the Local Community

Partnership’s extensive knowledge and expertise to fund key local opportunities and sources of support, by demonstrating that this this an effective way of commissioning, there will be greater confidence in allocating further, larger amounts of funding in this way. The funding for 'Healthy Communities together' has been secured with the predicted amount to be in the range of £20-45,000. At present we are working together on a new commissioning model/ process with the aim to have a Big impact on one area, through identified community priorities.

**Community Hub in Croydon Central East**We continue to strengthen the connections and partnerships across localities and community groups, identifying the specific locality needs to ensure the availability of wrap-around support. The 'Pop-in' transition into a community hub has been paused for the time being we are awaiting sign off but we are in a strong position with clinical teams and surgeries onboard. We are ready to go and hope to have the green light at earliest opportunity. Meanwhile if you are seeking support concerning community hubs please do get in touch with the Community Facilitators from the Asian Resource Centre [here.](https://www.arccltd.com/community-hub)

**Updates from action groups, dates to save for future meetings:**

**Community Spot Light event:**Following our last LCP meeting, we’re planning an event on Friday, **23rd June,** to showcase our community strengths at Centrale Shopping Centre (CVA have approached Whitgift too). The event co-insides with the London Mayor’s Community Weekend. We hope to have 2 x performance spaces and invite groups to perform. If you would like to have a stall at this spotlight event, please complete the form by 18th May. We will contact you the week of 22nd May to confirm your stall: <https://forms.office.com/e/TFH9KSTTKY>

**Croydon Community Lottery:**The lottery is a chance for constituted groups and charities to raise funds from their supporters. If you'd like to be listed, you'll be asked to complete a simple form, and 60% of lottery ticket revenue will go to your cause. [The form](https://cvalive.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2997e36d9b6764383e6a870fc&id=5cdc4d4405&e=3794b430c1) takes minutes to fill in. Check out the Further questions page for more information [https://www.croydoncommunitylottery.co.uk/good-causes/faq](https://cvalive.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2997e36d9b6764383e6a870fc&id=b8db537646&e=3794b430c1)

**Other key priorities:**

**Resident Voice**the need for local insight, feedback and engagement remains a hot topic across all localities. Amidst the rising cost of living and asking for volunteer's time, we have raised and continue to raise the subject of incentives to encourage the engagement of more local residents. In this meeting, there was a show of hand that over half of the attendees was local residents and the other half are professionals directly supporting the locality which was a good sign. Discussion of if each person would come with 1 more resident in the next meeting was discussed. We will be looking to action this further and raise it at the One Croydon Boards, we will provide feedback at the next event. Flyers and banners were discussed too. Lynda, has been speaking to Parent and Teachers Association (PTA) league members to include heads of year along with the PTA league members to get this information into the schools. Lynda's Tuesday session for the elderly was also mentioned as a great way to connect with residents. For further information on this please contact [Lynda lynda.graham2@nhs.net](http://Lynda%20lynda.graham2@nhs.net/) and/or Celestina [info@floatingcounselling.co.uk](mailto:info@floatingcounselling.co.uk)

**Transport:**Moving towards a solution, the option of having DBS volunteers checked to assist with transport is being looked into, along with the need for ULEZ exemptions for volunteer community drivers. Celestina has researched with neighbourhood care groups and explored the option of buying a second-hand car to support and increase accessibility to transport. Discussions of where eligible, please do encourage the uptake of the Dial-a-Ride service, which is free for over 85's and accessible to those younger with known mobility issues. Group discussion also found some other ways to support residents in this locality by looking into using school minibuses to meet the demand. Croydon Vision has kindly offered to share their van with the community if it is booked 2 weeks in advance. For further information on van hire please email: [info@croydonvision.org.uk](mailto:info@croydonvision.org.uk).

**Mental Health and Digital Inclusion:** We discussed the connectivity and joint impact of how mental health and digital inclusion or lack of, negatively affect local residents.

There continues to be an expressed need for a prevention approach to mental health in the community and not just treatment, better advocacy for what mental health is, patients when engaging with services and a need to normalise discussing mental wellbeing. How and where do we best communicate information of venues that offer wellbeing assets, core groups that can signpost and offer prevention pathways in partnership with Personal Independence Coordinators (PICs) and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector. CVA have put together [a directory](https://cvalive.org.uk/directories/) of mental health services in the borough, listing all the local organisations supporting residents, the [Simply connect](https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/activities?post_code=Croydon&category=f3c0eb60-4ebc-11ea-9745-a71038aa62d2&page=2&limit=5&sort=)website has mental health organisation. Mental health Alliance to be looked at, at financing the support needed.

Clear Community Web continue to do great work concerning digital support and upskilling particularly in the area of account recovery, such as recovering Universal Credit accounts. They also have partnerships that link to the national data bank, improving the issues of digital access for those who would otherwise struggle. 

**Community championship:**Celestina at Floating Counselling will be holding training shortly at Emmanuel Church for volunteers to be upskilled to visit homes and use this opportunity to support residents to signpost residents to who can support them, improving access and creating a multidisciplinary way of working across Croydon. This will also be an opportunity to share best practices.

**Cost of living Support:** How to save on gas and electricity bills remains a key concern. Celestina suggested some of the things floating Counselling have supported residents with that could be done on a bigger scale in the locality, like the option of having a community key available for residents to access and bleed out excess air in radiators, therefore, saving on heating, is being looked into, along with hot water bottles, a flask that keep water and drink hot for 7 hours and gloves ahead of October 2023. Local food banks like Floating Counselling at Woodside green every thursday and one-stop shops continue to be accessed by residents. *Giving Hands* in Croydon East offer simple signposting but their main focus is on food. The 15% increase in council tax was supposed to be balanced with applications to the Discretionary Support Fund (which is currently not live on the council website). Need for benefit and welfare advisors to be available to the community. Reed in Partnership are assisting with employability training and skills. Major Jason Perry's newsletter is a good source of local information as a base line solution but no real support to residents. *'Hear Us'* are able to support with benefit/ welfare concerns as an interim measure.

[Here](https://www.hear-us.org/surgeries/)for the 'Hear Us' welfare surgery that supports with the Cost of living and its impact on Mental Health

[Here](https://clearcommunityweb.co.uk/calendar/drop-in-support/) for the 'Clear Community Web' to access and for further information on how they can support with digital inclusion.

**'What's On'**notes from previous events and your Community Plan: [Croydon Central East - Local Community Partnership - Croydon Voluntary Action (cvalive.org.uk)](https://cvalive.org.uk/empowering-the-community/networks/local-community-partnerships/croydon-central-east/)

[**Simply Connect Croydon - connecting you to your local community services**](https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/activities?post_code=Croydon&page=1&limit=20&sort=)brings together information on activities and services across Croydon that is accessible to the public, charities, Social Prescribers, health and social care professionals etc. There are currently 884 listings by 756 organisations. If you want to list your activities and/or services, free of charge, please[register](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=i9wEh43LkkWuUb66zissjxbd6yjvd-BNtAGY3IPHZtlUQktEWkFFRU0yREwyRUE5WUFBTUFQWk1MRSQlQCN0PWcu) and once you have submitted your form, a volunteer will upload your information to the website. Contact Karen.Chillman@cvalive.org.uk.

Many thanks to each of you for your valuable contributions, please spread the word on our Local Community Partnership events.

The next event is on **Thursday 12th July 2023** please [Book Here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/local-community-partnerships-croydon-central-east-tickets-603543283207)

With warm wishes- Linda, Celestina, Sarah and Chloe

Sarah Burns

Director of Communities

Mob: 07540 720106

Email: sarah.burns@cvalive.org.uk

CVA Resource Centre

82 London Road, CR0 2TB