Central East LCP 11th September 2024

Dear friends and colleagues of the Central East,

Welcome back to the start of the autumn/winter Local community partnership meetings. We hope you had a wonderful summer and we are so glad to see so many of you in attendance, including new community groups and residents, welcome! The Co-chairs for this locality are Lynda and Celestina, who are not just passionate members of the community but do brilliant things weekly to support this locality. Celestina is the director of [Floating Counselling](https://www.floatingcounselling.co.uk/covid19) charity and Lynda is the founder of the [Woodside community pop in](https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/activities/f7f23400-bb75-11ee-953f-bd8960ac438b/woodside-community-pop-in-for-the-elderly-tuesday-morning) for the over 55’s which has been thriving for 6 years. Together they are the dynamic leads of the [woodside community hub](https://www.floatingcounselling.co.uk/wch) . Click the links to find out more about them in those capacities.

The themes of our meeting today covered, Youth provisions, an update on the community hub, the potential library closures and BINGO!

**Youth Provisions. Floating Counselling and Croydon Community leaders.**

We split the room in half and in our break out rooms we addressed the provisions that we would like to see in place to support the youth in this locality. Alongside nodding to those elements that are in place and working well. From the feedback we head the following suggestions.

* Intergenerational work- Sylvia spoke to the intergenerational story project she has started with Skibabble arts and how good she found that session.
* Adopt a Grandparent- pairing up an older person in the community with a younger person who may have lost their grandparent to mutual benefit both parties.
* Skill swaps- retired skilled workers teaching the younger people soft skills for the work place, negotiation, interview skills etc and the younger people teaching their social media/ tech skills in return.
* Financial support/ life lessons/ mortgages/ credit cards
* Creative opportunities.
* Liberty springboard spoke to the need to reach children to talk about the realities of substance misuse and the criminal justice system.
* Afterschool club where free tutoring is available, where life skills/ mentoring can happen.
* Reaching young people not in education or training or who are in pupil referral education to integrate them and understand their needs and disadvantages.
* Being non judgemental
* Taking the provisions to the young people.

Some great suggestions and networking happening that could take these brilliant suggestions forward and bed them in actions that serve the community. We made room for an action group on this subject that the work would be developed between now and the next LCP in November.

**Woodside Community Hub**

This hub was envisioned in 2022. It has changed shape and form to best meet the needs of the local residents and it takes place every Tuesday from 12:30-2.30pm. This is a space to get the support that you might need and or need help finding. A main element of the hub is to listen to the residents and guide from those strength-based conversations. Any one is welcome to drop into the hub weekly for and signposting. The hub follows the Woodside community Pop-in which Lynda has run for the last 6 years serving the over 55’s. If you attend the Pop-in you are known as a ‘Popper’ they dance, sing, eat and play bingo together. They go away for trips to the seaside, which is a gem and asset to the elderly of this locality.

An important issue for this locality is heating and eating for the winter especially with the recent slash to the winter fuel allowance. The hub has Croydon Healthy Homes coming to speak on energy saving to make sure you are saving where you can. Celestina mentioned If your water bill is more than 5% of your net income, you may be eligible for 50% off your water bill with Thames water and SSE, these are the kind of support offered at the Woodside Community Hub. Celestina’s food bank runs weekly Thursday 4pm, please see the flyer attached for more information and circulate to your contacts. And contact her if you want to volunteer/ drop off provisions.

info@floatingcounselling.org.uk

**Asset transfer- The library – an update and solution**

Shirley Library has been pegged as one of the four named to close to the public. The library consultation went out and has been extended. The view from the central libraries team is to take the provisions of the library services out to the community. This leaves the question of what will happen to the library or as we better worded it for our discussion. What can happen to our library?

Matthew a passionate resident who works in an architectural practice in the area of improving houses to be more energy efficient posed the statement. Why don’t we buy the library and let the community take charge of it as a hub/ community facility with library provisions. As a new resident to the local community partnership he spoke to the connections he had and the need to put a business proposal fourth for this to be presented to the council for consideration. If you are a community group/ passionate resident please get in touch with Matthew at earliest convenience to join the action group to take this work forward. You can email Matthew on: rvi@rviad.com

**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. 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

We rounded up the night with a game of BINGO! With a beautiful hamper as a gift to the winner Gordon Kay.

**Community news**

-Please say hello to our new Community Groups Liberty Springboard and Vibrations of a Goddess and don’t forget to check out the Croydon Community Leaders [Croydon Community Leaders website](https://www.croydoncommunityleaders.com/)

To join an action group concerning the Youth/ or to support the foodbank email Celestina - info@floatingcounselling.org.uk

and to join the library action group email Matthew - rvi@rviad.com. Thank you for joining us and we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on the 13th November at 10 am at Ashburton park, follow the link to book your FREE space. Warm wishes, Andrew, Lynda and Celestina.