Local Community Partnership Central East 13th November 2024

Dear Friends and Colleagues of the Central East Partnership.

Thank you for joining us for the last Local community partnership of 2024. Thank you for the good work delivered for this locality from our co-chairs Lynda Graham and Celestina Oniye-Thomas and the wider community. Thank you to our friends at Ashburton park for hiring and showcasing another community asset. For more on Ashburton Park, hires and the good work they do click [here](https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/croydon/ashburton-hall-park/facilities)

Local Community Partnerships, from its inception, has been about holding space for local residents, grassroots organisations, and other groups to discuss and work up solutions through hyperlocal support to local issues. This has been in an effort to create resident-centred sustainable change by keeping the resident voice on local issues at 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 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 [here.](https://cvalive.org.uk/assets/documents/community-plan-croydon-central)

**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.

**CrESNT- Lead by Floating Counselling Community,** has been the successful partner in delivering on local priorities for this locality. Floating Counselling wrote a winning bid and pulled together local grassroots organisations to deliver what the local residents say they need. CrESENT is made up of a number of partners, such as Woodside Community Pop-in, Floating Counselling Community, Male Man-dem Medley, Clear Community Web, and Welderlies. Between them, these partners are tackling

1. Food poverty, making sure every event CrESNT delivers, food is offered, as well as a food bank weekly on Thursday at woodside Memorial park.

2. 100 free mental health Psychotherapy 6-12 sessions to residents, as well as workshops

3. Later life and ageing well

4. Male wellbeing support group weekly on Wednesday

5. Internet inclusion support at Woodside Community Hub twice a month

For more information on CrESNT email Celestina / click [here](https://www.floatingcounselling.co.uk/events). The main point of connection for all these issues to be addressed is weekly between 12.30-2.30 every Tuesday at the Woodside Community Hub at Woodside Baptist Church, 27 Spring lane, SE25 5SP

**Lynda Graham**

It is with great gratitude we want to spotlight Co-Chair Lynda Graham who will be stepping down with immediate effect from today’s LCP. Lynda is a passionate local resident, NHS Social Prescriber, Local Community partnership ally and founder of the Woodside Community Pop-in which has been growing since 2016. Thank you Lynda! for your positive can-do approach and the passion you have poured out into this locality. Although we will miss you as a Co-Chair we look forward to seeing how the Woodside Community Pop-in continues to grow and the impact stories that come from that good work. To get involved in the Woodside Community Pop-in pay them a visit every Tuesday at Woodside Baptist Church Spring Lane between 9.30-12pm before the Woodside Hub at 12:30 – 2:30 pm. To fundraise, volunteer / support the Woodside Community Pop-in, in any way email: lynda.graham2@nhs.net

**Could you be a Co-Chair?**

We are now inviting partners to stand for election to Co-Chair the Local Community Partnership in Croydon Central East alongside Celestina Onyei Thomas

Please see the Co-Chair Role Profile attached. We ask that candidates stand for election by emailing Sarah.Burns@cvalive.org.uk

* Photograph- head and shoulders
* Brief biography outlining your suitability to represent Croydon North West stating: why you are standing and what experience/skills you would bring to the role

Once all applicants have confirmed we will conduct an online ballot, if required, and announce the result as outlined in the attached Co-Chair election process chart.

**Fire Souls**- is a term we in our asset based view of work is a term that we give to passionate residents who care enough to bring change to their local areas and local issues. It’s in that vein we want to thank our friend and colleague Norman Till for his hard work and the multiple agencies, groups and boards he has sat on to advice and support his local area and bring solutions to local issues. Thank you Norman, for the ways in which you have served and will continue to serve outside of ANCA the banner in which we have known you by in the community partnership work. A warm welcome to his colleagues Claudia and Katie, who we look forward to getting to know better.

**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>

**Action Groups**

Action Groups are where we capture and work on issues of importance that CrESNT is not currently funded for actioning for this locality. These are issues that have been raised as locally important. Previously this locality has highlighted Intergenerational work, Environment, Heating and Eating, Young People and Mental health. Email: Celestina to get involved in any of the above or to volunteer / Fundraise info@floatingcounselling.co.uk

**Environment**- We spoke about the area of the environment and issues surrounding that such as energy efficient homes, reducing fuel bills, reporting fly tipping and green spaces to improve mental health such as MHA the Wilderness. To join in the conversation and action on these areas please email Matthew to express your interest.: rvi@rviad.com

To further the conversation on any of the other Action Group topics mentioned above please contact your Co-chairs to express which theme you want to explore and action locally. It’s Important that we share that load and have representation from all who those issues directly affect email: lynda.graham2@nhs.net or Celestina on: info@floatingcounselling.org.uk

**Community News**

* + **Networks of Networks event 23rd of January save the date, we will be in touch with specifics nearer the time.**
	+ **26th November Winter Warmer Event at Woodside Community Hub – Registration - https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1076569441179**
	+ **28th January Cancer Awareness event at Woodside Community Hub – details to be circulated nearer the time.**

Thank you again for joining us and supporting the Local Community Partnership work. We wish you a very restful and reflective Yuletide season and we will see you in the New Year for a continuation of this good work.

Warm Wishes Sarah, Andrew, Celestina and Lynda.