**Local Community Partnership notes NW 27.11.2024 Norbury Baptist Church**

Dear Friends and Colleagues of the North West Partnership.

Thank you for joining us for the last LCP of the year for this locality. We were glad to be able to show you the asset that is Norbury Baptist Church that have a plethora of rooms for hire and are very much community facing and open to partnership working. To see what’s on and to hire Norbury Baptist Church click [here.](https://norburybaptistchurch.org.uk/)

Before we dive into the depth of the meeting we wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the untimely passing of Manuel Papilson earlier this month. Many of us will have come to know Manuel as a friendly and deeply compassionate member of the Harlow Hall Hub. He was always looking for ways to support others and was heavily involved in supporting an Orphanage in Paris and those with Mental Health diagnoses. We are truly saddened to learn that Manuel took his own life earlier this month age 23.

Mental health has been a key issue of importance as well as young people for this locality; it’s this current reality that sheds light in it in all magnitude the desperate need to serve better, those who are struggling. Suicide is a particularly complex area of mental health, one we can not afford to judge with othering due to lack of understanding. When Caroline Flack died a fellow celebrity observed that ‘We need to stop looking at suicide as a type of person. It is not that there are or aren’t suicidal people, it’s a line that exists inside of all of us and really is a matter of how close do you get to the line? Like addiction or homelessness, we are all a series of unfortunate circumstances away from these realities so we cannot afford to judge them’. Most of us will have experience of knowing or being related to someone who has died by suicide, we held a moment of remembrance to remember those beautiful people we knew, with their gifts, talents and values. These are people and not statistics to be recorded. Manuels family started a gofund me page to cover the funeral costs, please [click here](https://www.gofundme.com/f/manuel-papilson) if you want to contribute. Any finance left from the funeral costs will be given to charities that Manuel invested his time and passion into. It’s his families’ wishes to celebrate Manuel’s life, to join in that celebration and learn of his good work [click here.](https://www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/heartbreaking-final-message-intelligent-loving-30351805)

Manuel’s funeral will be on the 13th December. We are aware this is triggering content to read/ hear and we know that Christmas is a difficult time to navigate being sad in a season of imposed expectations of joy. If you or someone you know is struggling I will be collating some resources and sending them out as a standalone communication to be forwarded to your community and shared.

**Local Community Partnership the journey so far**

Local Community Partnerships (LCP) that works to address local issues in Croydon. LCP focuses on empowering residents and grassroots organizations to take the lead in solving problems. Croydon has been divided into six localities to better address specific local needs. LCP emphasizes an asset-based approach, focusing on the strengths and resources of the community rather than its deficits. This approach has led to strong partnerships and a bottom-up approach to decision-making. LCP has also been involved in developing community plans that address local issues and have been incorporated into the borough-wide Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

**Local Commissioning Model Funding- An Intergenerational Youth Worker**

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. This localities approach to tackling many of the themes and issue of importance was to employ the role of an Intergenerational youth worker for a year. This role was given to Taylia from Reaching Higher.

The focus was to bring the importance of later life support, engaging the communities elders and Youth provisions, upskilling and mental health together through shared activities of mutual interest, respect and skill swapping to become mutually beneficial.

Taylia’s role came through Reaching Higher a key partner to supporting young people borough wide. Through out her time in post. She was able to get young people to take over a digital drop in at Age UK Brigstock road in partnership with clear community web, which was well received by both parties and built relationships as well as the sharing of skills and intelligence. She was a key part in launching the boroughs first young people’s Careers fair In trundle gardens earlier on this year. This was a great success and opened non academic vocations/ work experiences through the Army and other civil services and awards such as the duke of Edinburgh. The young people have been regular supporters of the running of the foodbank at His Grace evangelical outreach and have seen paid work experience for young people over the summer. Some of her key learnings from being in post are as follows.

* The need for young people to be seen as having skills to teach and not just be the ones to be ‘taught’.
* The need for more shared learnings, joint discussions and creative activities.
* Activities with mutual enjoyment and reciprocity
* Facilitating areas of common interest when it comes to intergenerational.
* To be aware that when we take intergenerational approaches to work around school hours for young people / half term holidays.

It was great to hear a change story from an older person who attended the digital take over from Reaching higher at Age Uk Scratchley Hall. They described their appreciation of a mutually beneficial session that they found deeply ‘Humanizing’ and expressed the need for more opportunities of this kind.

We want to thank Taylia for her good work while in post and stress that even though she is soon not to be in position anymore, this doesn’t mean that intergenerational work stops. If you have ideas of intergenerational initiatives and want to pick up with her before she leaves us or to pass on those good ideas to the team at Reaching Higher for further discussion please email: [taylia@reachinghigher.org.uk](mailto:taylia@reachinghigher.org.uk) or the Chairs of this locality Janet or Caspar.

[Janet.campbell@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Janet.campbell@croydon.gov.uk) or [Caspar@clearcommunityweb.org.uk](mailto:Caspar@clearcommunityweb.org.uk)

**Digital Ambassador-** Exciting opportunity for someone you may know.

Are you under 24 years old? Are you passionate about people and stories? Are you looking to build work experience and skills in digital/ marketing/ storytelling, have you got 4-6 hours a week to give and want to earn a bit of wonga then this could be for you. As part of evidencing the good work we have done and continue to do as part of the LCP and to dive deeper into the intergenerational approach we are looking for a Digital Ambassador. Whilst learning new skills the main focus will be to capture change stories of individuals and content around the LCP to support it’s promotion in your locality. The job description will be shared with this locality independently, if you want more information in the interim, please email Caspar.

In the vein of hearing change stories, Samuel Knight from CALAT shared with us how he partnered with Croydon Healthy Homes service to create an intergenerational family learning workshop that was accessible for all the family including children as young as 3 to 14 and SEN children. This was in Thornton Heath library and was very well received, it was suggested that maybe be we can repeat it.

**Cassandra Centre – Jennifer Mcdermott**

We had Jennifer from the Cassandra Centre join us. The Cassandra Centre have been around for a long time and started out as a violence against women and girls organization. This was an organization that was born out of experiencing personal tragedy due to domestic abuse as Jennifer rightly addressed. To retell your story can be retraumatising. Despite the challenging inception of the Cassandra Centre, Jennifer shared with us that in 2019 the Elderly community and their needs became of key importance due to the pandemic. The Cassandra Centre along with Love Norbury saw a vast number of elders were not aware of services in the borough that existed and had no clue in how to access them. On a small but growing scale they started to address the gaps they were seeing. On Thursdays from 11-3pm the if you are over 50 you can come to St Pauls church Thornton Heath for a lunch club they currently have around35 regular attenders. This was something that had overflowed from the distribution of food and hot meals during the pandemic. In addition to the lunch club they find that they are doing day trips, and exercise classes to get the older community moving. From the simplicity of sharing a meal the residents are able to elf identify what needs they have and the staff at the Cassandra Centre are a able to arrange that support to meet with them. They have their own transport so can support the elders with access to this provision. The Cassandra Centre go into schools and teach workshops on violence against women and girls. This week they have been invited to take some of their elders for tea and cake to a local school to share their lived experiences and stories with the children there. This is such an example of the how without setting out to be they have become intergenerational in their approaches and access taking the whole community with them. To volunteer or to connect to the good work The Cassandra Centre are doing. Click here.

**Action Groups-**

LCPs meet face to face four times a year and as of 2025 that will be moving to 3 times a year. There is much work to do so we need to do it together, outside of the successful bids from the Locality Commissioning model that each locality has, to deal with immediate issues of importance. The approach we have taken is to splinter into theme focused action groups. These groups meet regularly, in-between the ‘main’ LCP meetings and are doing great things to address local issues. To start or join an action group, please contact your chairs Caspar / Janet.

**Community Plans refreshed**

The community plans are refreshed and we are constantly tweaking and refining them as a result of meeting together. Not only, do these plans serve as a reminder to ourselves of the ambitious work we are doing, but they inform borough wide plans for health and wellbeing strategies as they are circulated to our colleagues in health and the council. From this locality we can see that we need to foster community connections through spaces like libraries, community centres, and cultural hubs. These spaces should cater to all ages, providing support for young people, the elderly, and those facing mental health challenges. Intergenerational work is crucial, and we should create opportunities for people of different ages to interact and learn from each other. Additionally, we need to address specific challenges like youth unemployment, poor housing, and dementia. By sharing success stories and collaborating with community plans, we can make a positive impact on individual lives and strengthen our community as a whole. To see the most current Community plan for your locality click [here.](https://cvalive.org.uk/empowering-the-community/networks/local-community-partnerships/croydon-north-west-local-com/)

**Creative Health Team in Croydon Council.**

This is a new team funded by public health and sit under the culture measures team. They are Identifying the gaps and wanting to partner for creative ways to improve health inequalities. One of their approaches in 2025 will be to distribute grants of varying sizes for health and wellbeing projects such as the earlier Croydon Loves You grant scheme. These grants will help the running of new initiatives, will help the continuation of some good work that is already happening in this area as well as an opportunity to partner with public health for specific targeted programs. This is an exciting time to see the arts impact wellbeing and to foster greater community-led resources which in and of itself is preventative. Although their posts are only 18 months long, a key part of their strategy is to allocate funds to enable to good work that happens in the next 18 months to continue, creating sustainable change.

If you have ideas or want to see where we can partner, reach out to us on

email. [Creativehealth@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Creativehealth@croydon.gov.uk)

**Community News**

* The Muslim community at the Baitus Subhan Mosque on St James’s Road is committed to supporting other charities and helping those in need. They have been fundraising for Humanity First for many years and have been organizing a community litter pick on December 1st for the past 25 years. They have also worked with Age UK to distribute food to the elderly and vulnerable in the community. The community is dedicated to fostering interfaith harmony and promoting peace and understanding. They believe that by working together, people of different faiths can break down barriers and build a stronger community. Please contact: Khaleel Ahmad Miyan at [Khaleel.miyan@gmx.co.uk](mailto:Khaleel.miyan@gmx.co.uk)
* The Hub Broad Green are alive and kicking and working with Big Local Broad Green. To get involved or to find out more about hire [click here.](https://www.biglocalbroadgreen.org/)
* Church of Scientology London- church is funding several foundations- including Drug free world working in East Croydon offering free drug education. To get involved or find out more email. [Stephane@cofsaoshuk.org](mailto:Stephane@cofsaoshuk.org)
* Croydon Healthy Homes – getting ready for winter week. [Contact the team](https://cvalive-my.sharepoint.com/personal/chloe_smith_cvalive_org_uk/Documents/Desktop/Agenda%20LCP%20NW%2027th%20Nov%202024%20(2).docx)
* Creative health networking event will be coming up in the new year explaining their grant process and supporting applications, watch out for communication on that.
* ClearCommunityWeb are able to provide 6 months of free data, minutes and texts to Croydon residents via the National Databank. Come and see us within our [Digital Drop-Ins](https://clearcommunityweb.co.uk/calendar/drop-in-support/) or [Online Services Support](https://clearcommunityweb.co.uk/online-services-support/) sessions or contact us directly at info@clearcommunityweb.co.uk

Thank you for attending and for a fantastic last meeting of 2024 for this locality. Thank you to the passionate residents and partners that make this good work happen. Thank you to our new Co-Chair Caspar for your first meeting as a chair!

We wish you a very restful Christmas season and we will see you refreshed in 2025.

Warm Wishes, Sarah, Andrew, Janet and Caspar.