**Building Local Community Partnerships in Croydon Central East**

**Minutes 8th September 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for joining the 4th **'Building Local Community Partnerships in Croydon Central East'**(incls: Woodside, Addiscombe East, Shirley North, Park Hill & Whitgift, Shirley South) last week. It was great hearing from you and making a start on how we can strengthen our connections. A record of all the valuable information shared is below.

**Localities update**Introducing localities working (Integrated Community Networks- ICN+), Local Community Partnerships (LCPs) and One Croydon’s Community Hubs model, please see attached graphic. Introducing Community Facilitators, based at Croydon Voluntary Action and Asian Resource Centre, acting as the bridge between our LCPs and the Multi-Disciplinary Teams in each of the six Croydon Localities.

Contact james.moore@cvalive.org.uk, 07943 382 193. Any questions on how to access support from the multidisciplinary team contact Lisa Connolly, lisa.connolly2@croydon.gov.uk.

**Terms of Reference** We also want to engage you in drafting some terms of reference for this Community Partnership. Please see our initial ideas attached and tell us what other aims and objectives you think we should be setting.

**Celebrating 10 years of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) in Croydon** We've put together a short film celebrating the many inspirational citizens and grassroots groups within Croydon North East: <https://youtu.be/xCyys1Wa3V0>. We’re looking to share stories from each locality so if you’d like to be involved or know someone who needs to be included in Croydon Central East let us know.

**Sharing information**following a suggestion from John Gilhoolly from Neighbourhood Watch, we are looking into setting up website pages for each locality to bring together existing local resources and enable more connection and engagement. Simply Connect will be searchable by locality and we will have a link to Croydon Council’s E-marketplace: Croydon Adult Support <https://adultsupport.croydon.gov.uk/> and other local engagement tools such as Next Door. As discussed, we're inviting all groups to promote their activities on: [Simply Connect Croydon - connecting you to your local community](https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/) If your activities are not here then complete this form to[register](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=i9wEh43LkkWuUb66zissjxbd6yjvd-BNtAGY3IPHZtlUQktEWkFFRU0yREwyRUE5WUFBTUFQWk1MRSQlQCN0PWcu) you can also advertise volunteer posts.

**METRO Charity**Our services support people living with HIV and their families, and young people - specifically the LGBTQ+ community - in Croydon. With the *Protect Croydon* project we are hoping to provide resources related to COVID - testing, vaccines, protective behaviours, shielding. Baseline survey <https://bit.ly/3Chq9BV>. Contact Haley Conyers, Community Engagement Lead, 020 8305 5000, extension 218 at hayley.conyers@metrocharity.org.uk.

*Metro Safer*: Croydon Hate Crime Service

<https://metrocharity.org.uk/community/metro-safer-croydon-hate-crime-service>, <https://twitter.com/CroydonHco>, mark.healey@metrocharity.org.uk

*National Hate Crime Awareness* Week 9th to 16th October,

Hate Crime Resources Packs (t-shirts, badges, reporting cards and leaflets) order from [https://www.nationalhcaw.uk](https://www.nationalhcaw.uk/). Service of Hope and Remembrance for those affected by hate crime at St Paul’s Cathedral 5.30 pm 10th October – register via website above.

**Croydon Youth Theatre Organisation** Croydon Youth Theatre Organisation (CYTO) has been bringing workshops in performance and production to the young people of Croydon for over 50 years. Located in Oakley Road, South Norwood, CYTO brings young people aged 6-21 together through drama, dance and music in a safe environment, encouraging personal development and confidence to produce excellent live theatre. Contact Mary Wolf admin@cyto.org.uk or 020 8655 1098.

**Croydon Mencap** We currently are running: Volunteering Buddies which aims at getting as many people with a learning disability into volunteering roles in the borough of Croydon supported by a buddy, we need more Buddies to get young people with learning disabilities active. Monday night and Saturday club for adults with a learning disability, Chill and Chat our under 5 groups for kids with a learning disability and their carers. We also have a huge carer support mechanism run by Sue and Lloyd and Strictly Come Walking is our weekend walking group set to start very soon! Contact Rona Ahmed, rona@croydonmencap.org.uk.

**Music Relief Foundation** we harness the power of music and the arts to address youth issues and encourage young people to explore their natural talents, creativity, curiosity and confidence. We have an event coming up on 30th September on Youth Empowerment. Contact Maithreyi and Crystal [CONTACT US - Music Relief (music-relief.org)](https://music-relief.org/contact-us-2/), 0208-683-2922.

**St. Christopher's Hospice Croydon Community Project** We are keen to support and build capacity of organisations and individuals through training, peer learning and ongoing support to manage challenges you face around end of life, death, dying and loss. Keen to provide bespoke support and share our learning across the borough. Contact: [a.ash@st.christophers.org.uk]a.ash@st.christophers.org.uk.

**Floating Counselling**We are still running our 3 main projects: Weekly food parcels on Thursday's, Free and low-cost counselling to people on low income and supporting parents and young people. Our main audience and residents we support are Black people with no access to public funds. Registration and more information on: [www.floatingcounselling.co.uk/covid19](http://www.floatingcounselling.co.uk/covid19) Contact Celestina, [info@floatingcounselling.co.uk]info@floatingcounselling.co.uk.

**Age UK Croydon** Falls Prevention, Healthier Lifestyles, re-opened Memory Tree Café for people living with dementia and an Information & Advice Helpline, and Personal Independence Coordinator (PIC) service - Over 50s borough wide, <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/croydon/our-services/>.

*The PIC service* works with people over 50 (typically 8-16 weeks) to help them identify their own personal goals so they can regain their independence. As part of Integrated Community Networks Plus ICN+, we provide a link between formal health and social care services and the wider community support networks, helping people feel more in control of their own health and wellbeing, visiting people in their homes. Contact us on croydonpic@nhs.net or 020 3701 3271, Abbi Greene, Personal Independence Coordinators (PIC) Service Manager, abeline.greene@ageukcroydon.org.uk, 07387 105 063

*Our Information and Advice service* gives you access to free, high-quality, independent information and advice – helping you make informed decisions about issues you are facing. Our helpline is open Monday – Friday, from 10am - 4pm, Call us on 020 8686 0066, Email us: asc@adviceservicescroydon.org.uk.

**Social Prescribing Link Worker** Information on Croydon’s Social Prescribing is at: [Social Prescribing - Croydon Voluntary Action (cvalive.org.uk)](https://cvalive.org.uk/abcd/social-prescribing/) Contact Aarti Acharya, Surrey Physio, aarti.acharya@nhs.net.

**Croydon Neighbourhood Care Association (CNCA)** the Umbrella for 40/50 groups across the borough. Most in existence for many years, providing lunch clubs, shopping buses, exercise classes, befrienders, drivers to medical appointments etc. [CNCA - Croydon Neighbourhood Care Association](https://www.cnca.org.uk/). Contact Norman Till (Chair) info@cnca.org.uk, 020 8662 1000

**Addiscombe Neighbourhood Care Association**providing practical help, advice, support and community activities to the people of Addiscombe and its immediate environs. Lunch Club back at St Mildred’s.Still helping shopping etc. Fighting to get Dial-a-Ride shopping bus service running again. [Home (anca.org.uk)](http://www.anca.org.uk/) Contact Suzy (who sent apologies), info@anca.org.uk, 020 8654 5062.

**Shirley Neighbourhood Care** We help our local elders to avoid loneliness and isolation through a range of services.  Shirley has a greater percentage of people aged over 85 than the rest of Croydon and we provide activities to help our older residents live independently for as long as possible. In July 2021 we are extending our neighbourhood to include elderly residents from West Wickham. [Shirley Neighbourhood Care – Just another WordPress site](http://www.shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk/). Contact info@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk, 020 8662 9599.

**Strengthening our partnership working:** We’re keen to deepen our connections and understand how we can better work together locally. Following discussion at our previous meetings we’ll start to base our conversations around key themes as identified by this group, starting with **Later Life** so that we can explore how we can strengthen our connections, agree collective actions and start the foundations of a community plan. We will, of course, join local plans up with borough wide plans on these key themes.

**Later Lives:**Need tohear from the many groups working on this key issue in Croydon Central East. Alongside the organisations we’ve heard about above we recognised that Woodside Bereavement should be involved in this conversation. Metro Charity shared that many people feel they have to hide their identity in later life services and suggested inviting pan-London groups working with LGBT people in later life to input into locality plans:

* Opening Doors London <https://www.openingdoorslondon.org.uk/>
* Metro 50 plus group (Woolwich area but people travel from across London) <https://metrocharity.org.uk/community/metro-50-plus>
* ELOP based in Tower Hamlets run a 50+ LGBT group (currently meets online on Mondays between 1-2.30 pm) <https://www.consortium.lgbt/member-directory/elop/>

Mary - as someone in later life, said she wasn’t clear where to go to for services/ support when she gets to a stage that she might need it. Discussion about how best to get the messages out there about preventative support and where people can access support locally.

**Mental Health Alliance:**Starting with the borough-wide picture,Mind in Croydon, Croydon Drop In and Off the Record started a conversation about the need for a Croydon Mental Health Alliance. On 2nd August, 25 groups met and unanimously agreed to set up a Mental Health Alliance and Terms of Reference are being drafted. The key purpose is for networking/knowing what everyone else does, sharing info. on all that’s going on, aiding commissioning transparency and to broker delivery partnerships. All groups working with emotional health and wellbeing are invited to be part of this borough wide alliance. Cllr Janet Campbell, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and Sir Norman Lamb, former Health Minister and Chair of SLAM, have agreed to support the launch. Further info. including an invite will be shared shortly. We’ll return to the local community plans for mental health in Croydon Central East once the borough-wide platform takes shape.

Many thanks for all your valuable contributions. Please save a date for the next meeting on **Wednesday 8th December 10.00 - 11.30**. We agreed that, if possible, the next event will be face-to-face. Andrew and Sarah to confirm arrangements. Again, if you know of local groups or active citizens that would like to be a part of this partnership please do invite them along.

Please contact us if you have any thoughts or suggestions. Warm wishes - Sarah and Andrew (Council)

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[Click here to see how we supported the voluntary sector this year](https://create.piktochart.com/output/41344451-cva-annual-review-2018-19)