**Local Community Partnership in Croydon Central East**

**Meeting Notes - 11 July 2023**

Dear Croydon Central East Colleagues

It was wonderful to meet with you and hear from partners from Woodside, Shirley, Addiscombe East and Park Hill. A massive thank you to Woodside Baptist Church for hosting us and our co- chairs Lynda and Celestina. For more information about the venue for hire/ activities, [here.](https://woodsidechurch.org.uk/about-us/the-week/)

Don’t forget to check out ‘What’s On’ on our locality webpages, there you will find all the information on local activities, notes from previous meetings, and community plans for each [locality](https://cvalive.org.uk/empowering-the-community/networks/local-community-partnerships/croydon-central-west-local-c/). It's also an invitation for you to keep us informed of what you are up too. 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.

*Please find a record of our meeting below.*

Since we last met, we have reasons to celebrate what we have achieved together. We had updates on the following 4 areas; new Locality Commissioning Model, Community Spotlight Event, Learning Disability Carnival, and Community Lottery.

**Locality Commissioning Model**

Age UK Croydon with Croydon Voluntary Action as part of the Healthy Communities Together programme is shifting the approach to funding. We are aiming to achieve a local commissioning model that is fair, accessible and locally owned. The focus is on prevention initiatives that directly impact those living with health inequalities in each locality. This funding is to maximize independence, create connections into community led support and through social engagement and interaction to have a positive impact on overall quality of life. Each bid must demonstrate the direct impact that their proposed work will have on the health of individual lives. Resulting in locally owned health initiatives that put the power and impact of health back into the hands of those most affected. We encourage action groups from each locality to apply for the funding to further the priorities identified in the local community partnership meetings. We welcome larger delivery groups and smaller community groups to apply, as one member of the action group is part of a constituted group or organisation to hold the funding should your bid be successful, all are welcome to apply. Detailed guidance, application form and budget template are [uploaded here](https://cvalive.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2997e36d9b6764383e6a870fc&id=aae921ab85&e=3794b430c1). If you need support in your application, please contact Sarah.burns@cvalive.org.uk. The deadline for applications is 17.00 on Monday 17th July 2023.

We will have a lot to update on the next time we meet.

**Community Spotlight Event:**

Something to celebrate, the Community Spotlight event which took place on the 23rd of June in the heart of the Centrale shopping centre, see attached report. Never have the shopping centre or Croydon held such a successful event showcasing organisations and opportunities that exist to support all facets of community life. With 42 organisations taking part, it was an opportunity to network and work towards new and local working partnerships. The event was hugely supported by Simply Connect and Croydon College.

The event was a testament to collaboration and partnership from its origins. Centrale shopping centre who hosted the event, have bought into the partnership approach to community and after its success have shown interest in holding future events. It’s fantastic that we can look to the support of Centrale to help us bring the community together. Other successes from the day included a young and freshly trained Personal Trainer who held sessions in the activity's hub on the day, resulting in running sessions for refugees to improve wellbeing and create a sense of belonging moving forward.

A Ukrainian music group performed on the day. A lady from Ukraine was singing along to their music and when asked how she knew the words, she said she was Ukrainian and had come over because of the war and didn’t even know there was a Ukrainian group in Croydon. After being on her own for some time she is now connected!

**Community Lottery**

An opportunity to sustain a small and steady stream of funding. Grass roots organisations, community groups and good causes alike register to raise funds through the lottery. For each ticket bought for one pound, 60% goes directly to that good cause and 20% goes to a central fund which devolves to more good causes. The remainder goes towards prizes. [Here](https://cvalive.org.uk/news/2022-news-items/croydon-community-lottery-gets/) for more information.

**Resident Voice Action Plan**

The Central East locality has identified five key local priorities that they would like to address under one super bid for the Local Commissioning Model fund. The five areas they are wanting impact on are: Mental Health, Transport, Heating and Eating, Digital Inclusion and the Community Hub/ Pop-In. The proposed approach to this is for a hub to be established and to run across the road from the ‘Pop-In’ at St Luke’s. It is at the hub that the support for those identified areas and the partnership work will take place having a greater impact on residents when it comes to those local priorities.

Some of the challenges we discussed were; how to engage residents and potential fire souls to attend the LCP meetings to network and further work up partnership initiatives. We spoke about better advertising the LCP meetings to residents, perhaps with testimonial videos that capture stories of change, to inspire people to be a part of the change. We have spoken before about going with residents, accompanying them to their first visit to the hubs or Pop-in, to take a more person-centred approach. It was noted that a potential barrier to resident engagement, is that it is assumed that the LCP meetings are political. How do we better communicate that they are not political spaces.

It was suggested that we reach out to the local Tennant Resident Associations to advertise these meetings. Aspra, Echo and Home chase were mentioned. It was suggested that the Community Builders go along to community events/ lunch clubs and speak about their role and advertise the LCP meeting. Lastly, we spoke about linking into the faith organisations that have a wider access to residents to invite engagement in this wonderful approach to changing commissioning and achieving greater impact in partnership.

**Community Hub update**

The Pop-In a community space for residents over 50 continues to take place and go from strength to strength every Tuesday from 10-12 at Woodside. Lynda has done a brilliant job of creating this space, with light refreshments, music and movement. This has built a strong sense of community and has led to weekend trips to Eastbourne with other trips in mind in the not-too-distant future. The success of the Pop-In has given access to the resident voice and highlighted the need for the hub to help address local priorities. The Pop-In are working with Clear Community Web to address digital inclusion when it comes to using the NHS App and My Care portal for residents to be upskilled. Celestina continues the great work with Floating Counselling support, a community approach to mental health for more information, [here.](https://www.floatingcounselling.co.uk/)

Nasreen and Mariah updated us on the Hubs that are currently up and running and successful such as [His Grace](https://www.hisgrace-evangelicaloutreach.co.uk/). They spoke about how they plan to advertise the St Luke’s hub on the One Croydon and Asian Resource Centre Website.

**What’s Strong instead of what’s wrong- how to have a strength-based conversation?**

With traditional system led approaches we have seen how most often those who come to engage with services, are ticking boxes that are service centred, not person centred. We have seen the need and the value in changing that along with other transformations such as commissioning, we want to put people in the centre of borough wide and personal change. This means we need to change the way we speak and engage. This training is all about the art of asking good questions and discovering what a person's strengths, gifts and values are. This is free training led by Andrew Slegg and Sarah Burns and will run as stand-alone workshops through till March 2024.

Everyone and anyone can benefit from this training and be a part of the change. [Here](https://cvalive.org.uk/calendar/item/48404894) for more information.

**Working up Initiatives**

Central East locality is submitting a super bid with four partners to establish the St Luke’s hub which will best address the local priorities that surfaced from previous meetings. We discussed how these five areas of initial impact do not cover all the issues that exist in the community but are a good place to start. Once impact has been demonstrated with those areas, it creates space for other priorities to be addresses and partnership work to form around other areas such as young people and employment.

**Community notices:**

**Shirley Neighbourhood Care Association:**

Would like your support with their current application of an asset transfer to better serve the brilliant work that they do.

Please email: robert.lines@croydon.gov.uk to support them.

**Welderlies:**Have an event themed on better connection with others. 25 July, 11 am - 1pm at the CVA Resource Centre on London Road CR0 2TB. Call 07375824615 for more information.

**Mental Health First Aider Training:**FREE Mental Health First Aider training is available via Croydon Councils public health department. Please see poster attached and [here](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/mental-health-and-wellbeing/could-you-be-mental-health-first-aider) for more information.

Thank you for attending our meeting, we wish you a very wonderful summer. We look forward to updating you and celebrating the good work in progress when we next meet on **Thursday, 2November.**[Book Here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/local-community-partnerships-croydon-central-east-tickets-603549341327)

**Please don’t forget to book onto the event via Eventbrite to support us with the facilitation of future meetings.**

Warm wishes Celestina, Lynda, Andrew and Sarah

With thanks to Chloe for our notes

c/o Sarah Burns

Director of Communities

Mob: 07540 720106

Email: sarah.burns@cvalive.org.uk