

North East Local Community Partnership (NE-LCP)

Deeper Dive: Young People Group - focusing on violence among young people


Meeting

Tuesday 8th November 2022, 12:30 – 15:30

The Waterside Centre, 26 Avenue Road, South Norwood, SE25 4DX

Name	Organisation	Role
Magdalene Adenaïke	North East - Local Community Partnership	Co-Chair
	Music Relief Foundation	CEO
Annette Ahmad	One Croydon Alliance	Healthy Communities Together Project Manager
Maria Ako	Crystal Palace Community Trust	
Oyeyinka Faponle	Healthwatch Croydon	
Sian Fitzpatrick	Reaching Higher	
Nicole "Nicky" Godetz	North East - Local Community Partnership	Co-Chair
	Noo Thinking Ltd	CEO
Aracelly Idowu	Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA)	ABCD Community builder
Gordon Kay	Healthwatch Croydon	Manager
Enid Mollyneaux	Croydon Council	Shadow Cabinet Member for Community Safety
Fiona Reynolds		
Dawn Richardson	One Croydon Alliance	Healthy Communities Together Programme Manager
Nasreen Syeda	Asian Resource Centre Croydon	Community Facilitator
Paul Voden	Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association (CBNWA)	Chair
Tanya Wallis	Croydon Drop In	Counsellor/ Co-Ordinator Care for Croydon Collective
James Watkins	Mainz World	
Martin Allen	Metropolitan Police	Met Young Engagement
Shaun Culvert	Metropolitan Police	Neighbourhood Met Officer
James Weston	Metropolitan Police	Neighbourhood Met Officer
James Minors	Metropolitan Police	Neighbourhood Met Officer

1	Welcome and introductions	
	<p>North East Local Community Partnership (NE-LCP) Co-Chairs Magdalene Adenaïke (MA) and Nicky Godetz (NG) introduced themselves and welcomed attendees.</p> <p>They explained that the "Deep Dive" event was being held because the NE-LCP, which involves grass-roots organisations, had decided to focus their efforts on supporting</p>	

	<p>young people. (Other areas e.g., mental health, older people, are being worked on too but the focus is young people.) The next full NE-LCP meeting will be held on the 30th of November 2022.</p> <p>MA outlined her background of having established, and run for many years, the Music Relief Foundation which works with young people by providing a wide range of out-of-school provision. She is also a Chair of Governors for a local primary school and a Governor at a local secondary school.</p> <p>NG outlined her background being a Head Teacher for many years and now runs Noo Thinking Ltd, a consultancy focusing on on-boarding young people successfully, providing training, coaching and working at getting people to work together well.</p> <p>Useful contacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nasreen Syeda (NS), Community Facilitator, was introduced to the group. Her role is to bridge the gap between Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and statutory services including social care. She outlined how there are to be Community Hubs in each locality in Croydon. E.g., Brigstock Road Community Hub which has regular sessions where residents can access help with housing, benefits advice and advice from Mencap, St Christopher Hospice. People from other organisations attending today were invited to make contact with Nasreen. There are 20 organisations already linked in and the more collaboration with other organisations, the better. <p>Brigstock Road Community Hub (Every Monday 10.00am 1.00pm) Scratchley Hall, 81 Brigstock road, Thornton Heath CR7 7JH (opposite Thornton Heath Library).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aracelly Idowu (AI), Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Community builder, was introduced to the group. AI discovers local assets, venues and people and engages and connects people. She supports and connects people to training, activities for their health and wellbeing. 	
2	North-East Community Plan – youth extract	
2.1	<p>Extracts of the North-East Community Plan that were specific to Supporting Young People was shared with the group.</p>  <p>Extracts%20of%20The%20Northeast%20</p> <p>NG explained that the Croydon Model of Youth Provision is a Croydon Voluntary Action initiative to create a database of accredited youth services provision. Schools will be able to use this to identify the local support services they need and can trust.</p>	
2.2	<p>Developing the plan</p> <p>Attendees were asked to look at the Extracts of the North-East Community Plan that were specific to Supporting Young People, to consider if it had the most important areas and then develop these priority areas in further depth. Attendees split into three groups for this.</p>	

3	Discussion on important areas, in further depth	
3.1	<p>Group 2 Discussion notes (note-taker in this group)</p> <p>This group considered the most important areas to be young people aged 9-26. They considered violence to be an end stage following MH needs and various factors contributing to the MH need.</p> <p><u>Young people and mental health</u></p> <p>Young people not being able to get access to MH support and not being diagnosed for years is an issue. It was noted that a diagnosis does not always help.</p> <p>Social Media education was thought to be crucial as ideas and information stem from this.</p> <p>It was noted that some young people self-diagnose. They have their own coping mechanisms to outside news. They may be “silent listeners” to anxiety-creating news.</p> <p>Mental Health was thought to sometimes be a buzzword. In that children know that issues may be attributed to MH.</p> <p>Trauma was thought to be significant. An increase in Youth MH First Aid is needed to deal with the increase in suicide ideation.</p> <p>Learned MH issues – It was put forward that “anxiety issues” are sometimes learnt from parents.</p> <p>Key issues are Trauma, compounded by social media.</p> <p>(Trauma-informed course was said to be good.)</p> <p><u>Schools and mentoring</u></p> <p>It was stated that school and community work don’t align. Schools are driven by grades not health and wellbeing.</p> <p>It was said that schools cannot manage diversity. Support provision in schools for children is not enough.</p> <p>Experience of an exclusion panel showed that the school involved had not provide the support it said it did. Also, the parents had no idea of any support for the child.</p> <p>Schools need to provide support and they need to engage with parents and inform them. However, it seems they cannot be relied upon to do.</p> <p><u>Quality Mentoring</u></p> <p>Schools have been ridged in allowing release from lessons for mentoring, may not provide a room that is convenient, mentoring session may be too short in duration say, 20mins, long enough to re-traumatise, not long enough for positive work. Conversely, then, effective mentoring seems to require sufficient time (length of sessions and duration of support), school and teacher buy-in and support from the school and follow-up support (and funding). This is being tested by a Reaching Higher 360 Pastoral Care mentoring programme where they go into six schools and mentor six children. This is LGA-funded for three years.</p> <p>Q: Could the NHS fund mentoring, if they can see the value?</p>	

	<p><u>Parents</u></p> <p>It was stated that mentoring doesn't work if after the sessions, the children return to a bad situation with peers or parents. Parents need to be involved and supported too.</p> <p>It is not possible to support a child without parental consent. A family approach is needed.</p> <p>Parents may not know what to do or who to turn to and may feel stigmatised.</p> <p>There are a lack of places for parents to seek support if they have troubled children.</p> <p>A solution could be Family hubs Where stigma is removed Parents can get together Supportive space What would they look like? Non-institutional</p> <p>Ask parents from the school what should it look like, what should it feel like, what kind of people... Short survey with only a few key demographics</p> <p>Questionnaire for parents. Questionnaire for children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's an issue for you • What do you need <p>GK informed that Healthwatch had once worked with a school to incentivise questionnaire response by offering a prize drawer for replies.</p> <p>SF informed that they've had people with iPads outside school asking for questionnaire replies. Also used TikTok, created by the kids themselves and this also helps the funder.</p> <p>Activities Reaching Higher podcast created by kids and Youth club.</p> <p>Other issues mentioned Gambling</p> <p><u>Data-sharing misunderstanding</u> Data-sharing was raised as an issue. At safeguarding meetings information was wrongly not shared as the GDPR regulations were misunderstood to not allow for data-sharing whereas it can be if it is shared safely and with a legitimate reason to do so (the risk of a more harmful outcome is higher).</p>	
3.2	<p>Group 1 feedback to the wider group</p> <p>Support information for parents Parents need sign-post support information to support child. There is an issue knowing what support is available.</p>	

	<p>Police/GPs don't know what services there are between them.</p> <p>GPs have Patient Participation Group (PPG) – if they wish to work on this, parents to connect with each other. Parent's-net, like Mum's net.</p> <p>Police will pop into Brigstock Road Community Hub (to be available themselves and to be aware of the support available there).</p> <p>LVN app – useful for knowing local services</p> <p><u>Information sources and what information is needed</u></p> <p>There was a discussion about Information sources and what information is needed. Information on available services, if in person, needs to include the geographical location.</p> <p>It also needs to easily give information on the referral process and waiting times and what people can do in the meantime. One organisation may have capacity issues and long waiting times but some, lesser-known organisations may have capacity.</p> <p>Organisations must not work in silos and are not hold on to “their” client if they can refer on and the person be helped sooner.</p> <p>Single Point of Access (SPA) was discussed. It cannot manage the number of referrals it receives. How do SPA and Community Hub relate?</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch representative PV said their model of operation has 350 coordinators across the borough each looking after 50-100 people. They visit their watch twice a year and communicate by a monthly newsletter.</p> <p>In the discussion that followed, it was suggested that Parents could be empowered to start their own groups.</p>	
<p>3.3</p>	<p>Group 3 feed back to the wider group</p> <p>A Met. Police representative said the neighbourhood police only really learn what is available by attending meetings. The CVA Friday meetings are great for this; for learning about local services, building relationships and for feeling the pulse of the community. He can then direct his officers accordingly.</p> <p>It was highlighted that Croydon has a high proportion of young people. They said it was rare for young people to be at CVA. They have just started a Youth Panel and this should be key.</p> <p>MA put forward that Youth Clubs don't work and suggested they be called “Family Clubs”. Places where people can come so they don't feel pressured.</p> <p>MA was challenged that this sounds like it would be for very young children and responded that they could have a family approach – pre-birth to first 1000 days.</p> <p>We need to work out how do we create trust for parents to say there is an issue with health and wellbeing. Prevention is better than cure.</p>	

	<p>A Met Police representative suggested utilising libraries. Noting setting up something that young people want is difficult as is sustaining it. Young people are the voice needed. Best to target those on the fringe of criminality as well as others to prevent them going there.</p> <p>My Ends was discussed. It employs unique, targeted interventions. Youth Clubs are generic. Tailor-made is hard (but better for some). Libraries won't target those that need help.</p> <p>Staff turnover was raised as an issue in that relationships need to be regularly rebuilt with turnover of staff.</p>	
4	Next steps	
	<p>MA/NG explained that the intention is for LCP to work out a plan and seek funding for approximately £30K to put it into action. There are limitations on what it can be used on, but it needs to originate from the LCP Plan.</p> <p>MA noted that the large audience is at school. At one point all youths were all in a school.</p> <p>MA noted that faith groups are to be included. The Police could visit them. Churches meet at CVA and schools.</p> <p>It was concluded that the Questionnaire to parents and young people, targeting NE Locality, together with an incentive to participate in the questionnaire would be the way forward.</p>	
5	Close	
	<p>MA/NG thanked all for attending and for their input.</p> <p>People were reminded to reach out to Community Facilitator Nasreen and to be aware of the Brigstock Road Community Hub, every Monday, 10am – 1pm.</p> <p>The next NE-LCP Event will be on 30th November 2022. Details to be sent.</p>	

<p>A</p>	<p>Group notes from the discussion on important areas, in further depth</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 20px; text-align: center;"> </div>	
	<p>Group 2</p> <p>Age range? 9 – 26 years</p> <p>Understanding Mental Health (MH)/Wellbeing of young people in Croydon Data</p> <p>Risk of social media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - snowball effect of social media - Issue of self-diagnosis due to poor access to services - Mental Health = buzzword? Excuse? <p>Role of trauma/anxiety</p> <p>Connection of mentoring – role it can play</p> <p>Gap between community and schools</p> <p>Role of poverty – link to social media but also actual ?</p> <p>Adverse childhood experiences – trauma management</p> <p>*Wellbeing provision in schools</p> <p>*Role of the family – mentoring</p> <p>*Role of school in identifying</p> <p>Community to support</p> <p>Pastoral mentoring</p> <p>Schools only judge by grades, not outcomes on wellbeing.</p> <p>Not enough time for mentoring</p> <p>Need dedicated times and space for mentoring</p> <p>What if NHS funded mentoring?</p> <p>Role of parents – working with parents</p> <p>Role of peers – peer-to-peer</p> <p>Lack of engagement due to lack of TRUST</p>	

Parents' own MH/Wellbeing/View of Trust

Communication

Family approach – Trust

How do we create trust for families to be open about this?

Lack of communication = improve data sharing agreement

Communication Relationship

Issues of kids having kids and inherited challenges

Parent-infant worry family days

Role of family

Ask parents Don't use the MH word, use "support and wellbeing"

Ask young people

List of services available

1. What is an issue for you? What is an issue concerning young people?
2. What support would you like to see?
3. Where would you like this to be? School/community centre/legacy

Increase staff engagement

Issues:

- social media
- Gambling

Group 3

Peers influence vs background

- Good background
- Nice area
- , family
- How family work together?

What support is available for parents to help their children away from culture – where can they get advice?

Parents unaware of what child/ren are doing

How are children targeted? – Vulnerability

Schools: parents need education – awareness – streetwise for kids

- Dark world we don't know about

Parents to network with other parents

"Raising awareness"





- Safe haven in Croydon – sticker in window, places where children can feel safe.
Works well in New Addington

- - deterrent
- Cafes seem the best haven
- How to create safe haven?

Can Croydon Model of Youth be extended beyond schools

- Need to observe cultural background
- How to best engage with parents
- Create army of parents – Use PPG
- Community taking responsibility
- Police need help sign-posting
- Drop in for cuppa at Community Hub
- Have social media (similar to Mum’s net)

B Info on some of the organisations mentioned during the meeting

	LVN - Local Village Network	https://www.lvn.org.uk/signpost/portfolio_category/croydon/	Pan-London, Includes Croydon
	XLP - 'The eXcel Project'	https://www.xlp.org.uk/	London not Croydon
	Reaching Higher	https://www.reachinghigher.org.uk/	Croydon-based
	My Ends	https://cbmeforum.org/my-ends/	Croydon-based