**Local Community Partnership in Croydon Central West**

**Meeting Notes - 29 March 2023**

Dear Croydon Central West Colleagues,

It was wonderful to meet with you all and hear from people across Broad Green, Fairfield, Addiscombe West, Selhurst, Waddon & South Croydon. Special thanks to our wonderful host John Adams and the team at [Home - Emmanuel CROYDON](https://www.emmanuelcroydon.org.uk/).

Our partnership event was Chaired by Odette Battarel and Alison Johnson. For more information on our Co-Chairs see here: [New Co-Chairs for the Local Community Partnership in Croydon Central West (mailchi.mp)](https://mailchi.mp/cvalive.org.uk/meetnewcochairslcpcroydoncentralwest1159667-1159715).

Please find a record of our meeting below

**Croydon Council 'Resetting the relationship between Croydon Council & the VCS'** minutes and updates will be sent through CVA's newsletter. [**Subscribe**](http://cvalive.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=2997e36d9b6764383e6a870fc&id=19ebc20bab) to receive these directly to your inbox.

**Re-cap on The King's Fund 'Healthy Communities Together' programme, join up with borough wide strategies and the new Local Commissioning Model** Age UK Croydon is now holding Localities funding for the Voluntary and Community Sector and working with CVA to devolve funds for partnership initiatives, our priority setting and action groups will provide the recommendations for how this funding is best used. As well as using the Local Community

Partnership’s extensive knowledge and expertise to fund key local opportunities and sources of support, by demonstrating that this this an effective way of commissioning, there will be greater confidence in allocating further, larger amounts of funding in this way

**Community Hub in Croydon Central West Central West**Whist St Andrew's are unable to accommodate the Community Hub during the winter months, CVA’s Community Facilitator has been working with residents across the Central West locality supporting the work of other community hubs.

**OURSPACE** run by Disability Croydon, hosts the Learning Disability Alliance which is approaching its one year anniversary and has started working with Walk With Me UK and the Royal Mencap Society. There has been a continued flow of parents of children with learning disabilities and autism who are seeking support around activities and statutory provision. We promote Our Space as a safe space for parents who feel isolated and we want to celebrate these parents for their strengths, skills and stories.

**Emmanuel Church** has a vibrant community space and is being well utilised and offering a range of activities incl. after school clubs, parent and toddlers, language groups and a welcoming warm space.

**Elmwood School** Once a month Elmwood School brings together parents of the children at the school with their staff, CVA’s Community Builder and Mencap’s Community Partner. Our time is there to meet with parents and find out what is happening in the local community and what is important to local people.

**Carer’s Support Centre** have been re-visited and still interested in being a future Community Hub.

**Well Being Space** The BME Forum has asked to be considered as a Community Hub again.

**St Mildred’s Church** suggested as another vibrant community space in this locality for our Community Facilitator to visit.

Contact: CVA’s Community Facilitator, James.Moore@cvalive.org.uk.

**Updates from action groups:**

**Community Spot Light event:**Following our last LCP meeting, we’re planning an event on Friday, **23rd June,** to showcase our community strengths at Centrale Shopping Centre (CVA have approached Whitgift too). The event co-insides with the London Mayor’s Community Weekend. We hope to have 2 x performance spaces and invite groups to perform. If you would like to have a stall at this spotlight event, we will be sending out application forms shortly with more information.

**Croydon Community Lottery:**CVA is launching a Community Lottery online on **28th April.**The lottery is a chance for constituted groups and charities to raise funds from their supporters. If you'd like to be listed, you'll be asked to complete a simple form, and 60% of lottery ticket revenue will go to your cause. For more information and to register for the launch, see our latest bulletin: [Be part of the new Croydon Community Lottery (mailchi.mp)](https://mailchi.mp/cvalive.org.uk/croydoncommunitylotterylaunch?e=3794b430c1)

[Register](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/croydon-community-lottery-the-launch-tickets-595870543837) to attend this event to find out more.

**Community Champions:**isa partnership initiative designed to work with established groups not to replace anything that’s there already. Equally it’s desirable that the work isn't part of traditional establishment organisations. The action group is coordinating:

* Working in pairs
* DBS Checks
* Other safety/risk elements, (including ID badges)
* What can champions offer residents?
* The ‘Script’
* Recruiting volunteers
* Links with the Police’s Community Safety Team – Safer Neighbourhood Team
* Training for volunteers

**Next Steps** starting with 3 areas, and connecting to existing community hubs, South Croydon, Kenley and Woodside. Celestina, Floating Counselling Support, will run a 'kick off' workshop and then short briefing sessions starting at Emmanuel Church to get them going. The plan is to formalise the session into a workbook that could be given to each group to use at their kick off session.

Contact Ben.Taylor@cvalive.org.uk.

**Other key priorities:**

**Early Years:**Children don’t have a voice and must be included in our community plans. Community Champions to link with Education Champions and link with Family Hubs. Leanne to follow up and link with Sarah (CVA)

**Domestic Abuse**is a pandemic in the UK and our services are not joining up, example of good practice in Leeds where schools are informed of domestic abuse incidents.

**Circle of Women** meets with women Police Officers in Croydon. Contact Pastor Alison

**Voices of Hope**are passionate about seeing hope restored to people who are facing the harshest of life's battles that steal their hope away. It may be recovering from violence and abuse, dealing with long-term mental and physical health challenges, finding a home and being re-established into community or breaking the destructive cycle of isolation and social anxiety. See attached flyers.

Action group to include: Ada, Leanne, Rachel and Julia. If you’d like to be involved, contact Sarah.Burns@cvalive.org.uk.

**Transport:**Age UK Croydon PIC experienced accessible transport as an issue. Croham Hurst Good Neighbours use Croydon Accessible Transport and volunteers use their own vehicles, they encourage, those that can, to use Dial a Ride.

**Challenges raised:**Funding & capacity building support. [**Subscribe**](http://cvalive.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=2997e36d9b6764383e6a870fc&id=19ebc20bab) to CVA’s newsletter for training, funding opportunities and support.

**'What's On'**notes from previous events and your Community Plan: [Croydon Central West - Local Community Partnership - Croydon Voluntary Action (cvalive.org.uk)](https://cvalive.org.uk/empowering-the-community/networks/local-community-partnerships/croydon-central-west-local-c/).

[**Simply Connect Croydon - connecting you to your local community services**](https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/activities?post_code=Croydon&page=1&limit=20&sort=)brings together information on activities and services across Croydon that is accessible to the public, charities, Social Prescribers, health and social care professionals etc. There are currently 884 listings by 756 organisations. 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. Contact Karen.Chillman@cvalive.org.uk.

Many thanks to each of you for your valuable contributions, please spread the word on our Local Community Partnership events. The next event is on **Thursday 6th July 2023** please Book [Here](https://cvalive.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2997e36d9b6764383e6a870fc&id=47f13b542e&e=3794b430c1)

With warm wishes- Odette, Alison, Andrew and Sarah