**Local Community Partnerships, Croydon North-East**

**14 June 2023 – Meeting Notes**

Dear LCP in Croydon North-East Colleagues,

It was wonderful to meet with you all and hear from partners across Crystal Palace South, Upper Norwood, Thornton Heath and South Norwood. Special thanks to our wonderful host Lakes Café at the Waterside Centre. What a wonderful venue and local asset. Here for more information about hiring this [venue](https://cvalive.org.uk/venue-hire/waterside-centre/) or the many activities they facilitate [Simply Connect Croydon - Croydon Voluntary Action - Waterside Centre](https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/providers/ec04e150-6479-11ed-bbd7-33249ec83d44/croydon-voluntary-action-waterside-centre)

Our partnership event was Chaired by Sarah Burns and Andrew Slegg and co-chaired by Magdalene from Music Relief and Nicole from Noo Thinking a Consultancy. Click here [New co-chairs for the Local Community Partnership (mailchi.mp)](https://mailchi.mp/cvalive.org.uk/meetnewcochairslcpcroydonnortheast) for more information.

*Please find a record of our meeting below.*

***Local updates***

As per our agenda we heard updates on the following 4 key items:

**Locality Commissioning model:** We recapped the purpose of how and why we are approaching these local community partnership meetings with a grass root approach. We want to transparently and inclusively partner together to devolve funds to grass root organisations and community groups to address and greatly impact key areas of interest. The devolving of these funds into local hands is in effect a new way of commissioning which encourages local leadership, ownership and solutions to hyper local issues. More information and a borough wide view of the Local community partnerships can be found [here.](https://cvalive.org.uk/empowering-the-community/networks/local-community-partnerships/) There is £500,000 funding to be devolved over a two-year period. Detailed guidance, application form and budget template are [uploaded here](https://cvalive.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2997e36d9b6764383e6a870fc&id=aae921ab85&e=3794b430c1).

**We also highlighted:**

* **Community Spotlight Event – Centrale Shopping Centre 23rd June**

A local community partnership initiative to show case the many avenues of local partnership working including; Activities, Stalls, Workshops, Taster Sessions and Performances.

* **Croydon Community Lottery.** An innovative approach to fund raising. Good causes 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 and see attached flyer.
* **Community Builder Network –** Community Builders/ Connectors meet monthly to update and support each other in their work. An upcoming initiative and yet another demonstration of brilliant partnership work is the Learning Disability Alliance Carnival on the 1st of July. This is a partnership approach with Community Builders from different spheres co-producing a carnival that showcases the assets Croydon borough has to offer those with a learning disability. we are very proud of this way or working and would love your engagement to support us. For more information, please see the attached flyer.
* **His Grace Community Hub in Croydon North East-** See attached flyer

**Community Updates focusing on effective engagement of Young People.**

We were pleased to hear about the youth services from Croydon councils' perspective delivered by Boris Rupnik. To summarise the youth service is currently operating in 3 ways.

1. Clip referrals from GPs as a preventative measure
2. School ‘issue based’ workshops tackling issues prevalent to young people
3. Youth Voice via Croydon Youth Assembly- a space where a young person can come and address councillors on matters important to them. This places greater value on the ‘Youth voice’ and encourages partnerships with young people and to promotes events aimed at engaging them.

After looking at the LCP co-produced survey to capture the youth voice on pertinent issues. We split into groups to workshop two main aspects.

1. our reaction to the survey, were we surprised at the issues most effecting young people in the borough?
2. what will be our action/ commitment to maximise the engagement in completing this survey once it goes live?

**Reactions to the survey**

Overall, we were not surprised by the issues most affecting young people however, two main elements caught our attention.

* The number of young carers in the borough who are from overcrowded single parent homes where the older siblings are relied on for co-parenting duties or a primary care giver is sick, also raises issues of the pressures of the rising cost of living/ food poverty.
* Home- we were surprised at the number of young people who preferred outside of education to spend most of their time at home. We felt this was linked to the after effect of the pandemic, more parents working from home, a cut to youth services and lack of physical places/ spaces they can go outside of home. We have raised the question of how we best engage ‘home’ more effectively to capture the household view
* The necessity to engage the young people with no fixed abode and challenging behaviour who are not in mainstream school. We need to be engaging with hostels and temporary accommodation, services such as Evolve [Simply Connect Croydon - Evolve Housing + Support](https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/providers/a4016090-4d2a-11ea-9d59-c7877ad7cbbc/evolve-housing-support) and CAYSH [Simply Connect Croydon - CAYSH](https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/providers/d8eb39c0-bb2d-11ea-84de-99c4f2873f1b/caysh) to create an unbiased narrative coming from young people.
* The utilisation of digital space for example, young boys talking to their friends online whilst gaming, how can we occupy that space to hear the ‘youth voice online.’
* The need for services to integrate the youth voice and follow up with support.

**Actions/ commitments to maximise capturing an honest view of the ‘Youth Voice’**

* To actively get the survey to those who are seldom heard. We will engage with key workers and services that support young people, including primary school children in completing the survey to get a varied spectrum of the youth voice
* Increase the numbers of participants engaging with the survey with 94,000 young people in the borough we want to hear from as many as we can
* Distribute the survey to the ‘heart of gaming’ and see how we can reach young people online
* Mini roadshow of services that can best address the issues facing young people to visit schools after hours to take the services / survey to young people
* Transparency with young people on the purpose of the survey
* Need for children's nurses to attend the LCP, nurses working with young people to present the survey in their practices.
* Palace for Life Foundation to share the survey with the many groups of young people they work with
* Get the survey into newsletters that go out from schools
* Circulate the survey among Head teacher’s network and through that build relationship to get into schools
* Met police will share the survey with the school's team/ youth services
* Faith’s Together in Croydon Network to circulate the survey
* CVA- to promote the survey through Community Builders and VCS Youth groups

We are aiming for the survey to launch on the 1st July with 14 days to complete it.

**Helpful Links/ trainings**

* [Simply Connect Croydon](https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/activities?keyword=his%20grace%20church&post_code=Croydon&page=1&limit=20&sort=&type_id%255B%255D=2) the database that houses all services/ groups and activities across the borough. For signposting this is a simple and effective platform.
* **Strong not Wrong** How to have a strength-based conversation, the art of good questions when taking a person-centered approach, this series will be continuing until March 2024. [Here](https://cvalive.org.uk/calendar/item/48404865) to know more.

Finally, we intend to be as visible and accessible across the locality as possible, to do this it helps to be host meetings in a variety of Community spaces. If you could host one of the upcoming partnership meetings, then please email: kay.rhodes@cvalive.org.uk to discuss further.

Many thanks to each of you for your valuable contributions, please spread the word on our Local Community Partnership events and bring along a few plus ones from your community.

Save the date for the next meeting on the **4 October 2023.** Book [Here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/local-community-partnerships-croydon-north-east-tickets-603777654217?aff=oddtdtcreator)

With warm wishes- Andrew, Sarah, Magdalene and Nicole.