**Local Community Partnerships, Croydon South West**

**20 July 2023 Meeting Notes**

Dear Croydon South West Colleagues

It was wonderful to meet with you and hear from partners from Purley, Woodcote, Riddlesdown, Purley Oaks, Sanderstand, Kenley, Coulsdon and Old Coulsdon. A massive thank you to Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church for hosting us and our Co- Chairs Patti Boyle and Ben Taylor. For more information about the venues weekly activities including the food stop, [here.](https://ollbc.org.uk/about/#weeklyactivities)

With the summer break upon us it’s easy to lose track of days let alone what is going on in the community. Don’t forget to check out ‘What’s On’ on our CVA website, there you will find all the information, previous meeting minutes, and coming 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.

Since we last met we have updates on the following three areas. Locality Commissioning Model, Community Spotlight event, 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 maximise independence, create connections into community led support and through social engagement and interaction to have a positive impact on overall quality of life. The deadline for the applications was on the 17th July, successful bidders will be notified w/c 31.07, and projects will have some set up/development support before starting from September onwards. We shall share the latest updates on this when we next 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 supported by Simply Connect and Croydon College. Centrale shopping centre have seen the success of the event that increased the footfall and engagement of their facilities and are keen to host future events as a result.

The event was a testament to collaboration and partnership from its origins. The networking that took place has resulted in new avenues of work in the community and some heart felt stories of individual impact.

**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.

**Community Hub update – Lynda Graham, Community Builder for Croydon South West and James, Community Facilitator**

13th July saw the launch of the Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church Community Hub. The Hub was first used for the event The Kenley Big Splash which is part of the project Connecting Kenley, [here](https://news.croydon.gov.uk/big-splash-exhibition-to-showcase-the-connecting-kenley-programme/) for more information. On the same day at 6pm the hub was officially opened by Mayor Jason Perry. Since then, the hub has been holding space and in conversations with local partners to address local priorities such as upskilling the community in digital skills with Clear Community Web. Coming soon will be ESOL classes to support settling of refugee residents where English is not their first language. Sat 22nd July held a community fundraising event at Old Lodge Lane, despite the rain the community really turned out for a BBQ, Face Painting, raffles, and demonstrations from the local boxing club, performances from the local band and chats with St Christopher’s Hospice. It was a really engaging, inclusive community event.

James Moore spoke about his role as a Community Facilitator in Croydon South West. He touched on the importance of being connected, and of feeding back to decision making boards. He posed an important challenge- what would happen if we placed relationships above referrals?

James highlighted the importance of asking good questions when taking a person-centred approach. There has been growing support for ‘person-centred’ and ‘strength-based’ ways of working but no everyone knows how to apply it. So, Sarah Burns, and Andrew Slegg have devised a ‘how to’ training course.

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

This are a series of 3-hour standalone workshops that will be running through ‘till March 2024.It’s a space to explore where we are at with our understanding of this topic and how to improve on it. Included are clear definitions and role-plays demonstrated and safe space to practice. Further dates currently being set and will be promoted [here.](https://cvalive.org.uk/calendar/view?view=list&date=2023-08-24)

**Working up Partnership Initiatives**

We broke into smaller groups to workshop the main priorities of Youth Ambassadors, Mental Health and Communication, the feedback was as follows:

**Mental Health:**

·        Croydon Drop-in, the bus coming round for younger people

·        Neil from The Hatch spoke about getting young people outside, doing nature walks and mindfulness and the potential benefits of engaging in creative arts when you are mentally struggling

·        Wardens- understanding nature and getting involved with local wildlife walks and information sharing sessions

·        Making more of the University of the 3rd Age course and other connections especially to the Old Coulsdon Residents Association

·        Digital skills and strengthening those for the inclusion of housebound residents

**Communication:**

·        Social media, having a strong presence/ need for digital inclusion

·        What's App groups that are GDPR compliant and are broadcast only

·        Leafleting, hardcopies of what’s on in the local area

·        Community garden such as Dartnell Park

·        Local Tenant’s and Resident Associations, Libraries, GP Surgeries, free local publications such as Purley Pages

·        Directory in local partnership, with local news and a shared cost

·        Use of Simply Connect

·        Sharing each other’s digital presence

·        Great need for understanding and upskilling social media skills, we spoke about Super Highway Courses.

**Youth Ambassadors**

·        A need to engage Ola from the council to join up the work being done with young people across the borough

·        A need for male role models and support when it comes to mental health

·        Sexual health education to prevent very curable STI’s. Due to fear around diagnosis and the perception of that affecting rights e.g. rights to remain, people are being diagnosed with later stages of very curable STI’s

·        Sexual health has a drop in bus popping up in different localities across Croydon this summer, so make use of this and advertise it

·        Need for parents to be brought into the education around sex so that cultural barriers, race and class are not standing in the way of information that leads to prevention

·        We spoke about the potential use of Language Line a service that sits in GP surgeries

**Community Notices:**

**Mental Health First Aider Training:**FREE Mental Health First Aider training is available via Croydon Council’s 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.

**Donations:**of quality provisions that support ages 0-5 to please get in touch with Grow Baby email: [growbaby@gracevineyard.co.uk](mailto:growbaby@gracevineyard.co.uk)

Pre-loved Toys in good condition to please be donated to: [Patti@biglovefoundation.org.uk](mailto:Patti@biglovefoundation.org.uk)

**Sexual Health Summer**: See attached the leaflet for the sexual services bus on tour.

**Easy Green- Croydon healthy Homes**is a free independent energy advice service aimed at lower income and vulnerable Croydon residents.  Our advisors can provide bespoke advice to Croydon home owners and private renters about using their heating systems effectively as well as other energy advice. If you have any questions about the service please email [healthyhomes@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:healthyhomes@croydon.gov.uk). Information about our service including how to apply is available on our website [www.croydon.gov.uk/healthyhomes](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/healthyhomes) and our regular events are listed on [www.croydon.gov.uk/energyevents](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/energyevents)

Thank you for attending, we hope you have a wonderful summer and stay connected. We will share some exciting updates when we meet again on **Thursday 9th November 2023.**

Warmest Wishes Patti, Ben, Andrew and Sarah

With thanks to Chloe for our notes

c/o Sarah Burns

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