Local Community Partnerships in Croydon South East

Minutes 9th February 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Many thanks to all who joined the 5th session and contributed to the emerging Community Action Plans for the Croydon South East locality (which includes: New Addington, Fieldway, Addington Village, Forestdale, Monks Hill and Selsdon communities). With special thanks to The Family Centre Fieldway as our hosts for this event, please find a record of our meeting below:

A graphic of the One Croydon locality model is attached and our emerging Local Community Action Plans will link into borough wide plans. We invite Expressions of Interest from this Local Community Partnership to stand as Co-Chairs, please find attached the Role Profile and process chart for selecting our Chairs. Further information on this to follow.

This session is focused on initiating an Action Plan in this locality, see key actions from this meeting highlighted below. Our solution-orientated activity will provide insight for Commissioners and enable more transparent, joined up and effective commissioning in localities.

We want to recognise, respect and build on the fine work that is already being done by three existing forums in the Croydon South East locality:

* Supporting Our Community, New Addington and Fieldway
* ReNew Addington
* The Sanderstead and Selsdon Rotary Community Forum

**Community Hubs:**Croydon Voluntary Action**(**CVA) provided an update on bringing Health and Social Care Staff into interconnected Community Hubs in this locality and the emerging community hubs in:

* New Addington Pathfinders
* Selsdon Contact
* Selsdon Baptist Church

Many thanks to all who are embracing this new way of working. The plan is to start with a trial in Pathfinders with Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations being joined by Health and Social Care staff for a few hours each Wednesday morning. A date is yet to be agreed but we anticipate starting the trial in the next month. Contact James Moore, Community Facilitator, James.Moore@cvalive.org.uk

Three questions were then used to start our Community Plans on the key priority theme of ‘Later Life’ in this locality:

***Question1.*What are your experiences of supporting people in their Later Life in the South- East Croydon locality? How have you used your assets, your strengths, your skills, knowledge and expertise to support Older People? What do you or your organisation do to help Older People to find better mental health, well-being and happiness? What other local assets have you used to support Older People in this locality?**

Older people need support around 1) the increased cost of living, 2) the impact of the energy crisis

We need education and support around people that are experiencing poverty, ‘**She does’**, ‘**Walk with me’** and **‘Christians Against Poverty’** are useful local resources.

There is a need in the community for bereavement and food poverty support, and also a need to support people with both their physical and mental health needs holistically.

Important to ask older people what they want directly e.g. by going into care homes etc.

**ClearCommunityWeb**Digital support for older people, vulnerable adults and carers. We help residents be safer online and also provide friendly advice via support, community campaigns and social events (Tea and Tech)**.**We provide 2 x weekly COMMUNITY TECH SUPPORT drop-in sessions in the north of the borough, TUESDAYS 1.30 - 3.30 at Age UK Croydon Brigstock Road and FRIDAYS 10 - 12 at Upper Norwood Library Hub.

We are looking to bring our programme to New Addington over the course of the year**.**Here are are some videos from Age Uk Croydon;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLZ6JOuiuO7x2PwROfMF8oJenAsEZ1PrGv&v=G4npnv_99w8>

Contact Caspar Kennerdale, info@clearcommunityweb.co.uk

**Disability Croydon** Eliminate barriers and empower people living with disabilities to fully participate in society. Contact Sedley Wilson, Chair, dcsupport@disabilitycroydon.org.uk

**Friends of King’s Wood Conservation** work on anti-social behaviour (ASB) in all parks and open spaces in Croydon. What can be done? Contact Pamela, previously Manager at Croydon Community Mediation and currently CVA rep on ASB Enviro Crime Board. pamelaflouch@hotmail.com 07849155240.

**MENT4, PARENTAL ARMY**Specialist one to one mentoring for Croydon teenagers with trauma and vulnerability. Contact Peter Stanley info@ment4.org

**Croydon Libraries** Oversee recruitment for volunteers for all 13 libraries in the borough as well as supporting other library projects. Contact Siobhan Endean, Volunteer Coordinator, siobhan.endean@croydon.gov.uk

**Active Citizen/ Fire Soul** Marilyn, a resident from Fieldway, attends a lot of Croydon Council Boards supporting resident voices being heard, marilyn-smithies@virginmedia.com

**Croydon Communities Consortium (CCC)**Volunteer-led and covers the borough.Find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram at @CroydonNbrhoods, [www.croydoncc.wordpress.com](http://www.croydoncc.wordpress.com/) and Eventbrite:  [http://croydoncc.eventbrite.co.uk](http://croydoncc.eventbrite.co.uk/) Contact Elizabeth Ash, Chair, 07864 676 088 CroydonNeighbourhoods@gmail.com

**S42 Safeguarding Team**, Croydon Council. Contact Rehma Abdullah, student Social Worker, rehma.abdullah@croydon.gov.uk

**Croydon Neighbourhood Care** We offer a befriending service for the residents of Croydon. Our criteria is over 65's, Live alone with no support from family or friends, Housebound, Feel isolated, vulnerable and lonely. We also run a DBS service, [www.cnca.org.uk](http://www.cnca.org.uk/) and send out regular newsletters. Contact Margaret, 020 8662 1000, info@cnca.org.uk

**Win creative Croydon LSBU** (under London South Bank University) we are recruiting young people and adults who are out of work and education and are interested in developing a career in the creative industry (music/ Fashion/ digital content / theatre (acting)**.**Contact Laura Davis, davisl12@lsb.ac.uk

**Pathfinders**Peer/social group being run at New Addington Pathfinders called ‘The Squirell Club’ every Tuesday from 11am till 1pm (come along!) and this is where we see residents pop in and have chats. We hope to add value to this wonderful local resources through strengthen based conversation through the community hubs. Contact: Marion and Kirsty at n.a.pathfinders@hotmail.co.uk

**Making a Difference** is a free Employability programme for Croydon residents. We can support them with creating CV, Interview skills, Labour market information and more. Contact Luchiyalbuyuklieva@educationdevelopmenttrust  07747234573.

**Metro Charity** Older LGBT+ may experience barriers accessing services where they fear they may not be recognised/accepted because of their sexuality/identity. There have been cases of LGBT+ people returning to the closet/hiding their sexuality as they access care services. I have encountered people who have had issues with their carers. Where local services are not available - ensuring that we explore pan-London provision and work in partnership with other areas/boroughs. For example there is an over 50s LGBT group in Tower Hamlets. Need to do some mapping of these services.

Starting to collate info here: <https://rainbowboroughsproject.wordpress.com/campaigns/networking/lgbt-50-2/>. Contact Mark Healey, mark.healey@metrocharity.org.uk.

**Police Encounter Panels** South Area Police are looking for members of the public to form a panel on each of the three boroughs – Sutton, Bromley and Croydon.  The panels are being created to give communities the opportunity to feedback on policing encounters from their own neighbourhoods, by watching Body Worn video (BWV) footage and offering their views on what went well or what the Met can improve. If you are over 18 and live, work, in education or have other strong links to the boroughs and would like to get involved or simply hear more, please email the dedicated mailbox at  PolicingEncounters.SouthArea@met.police.uk, circulated by PC Maxine CLEE 3303SN. Mark Healey, Metro Charity.

**Croydon Council’s New Addington and Selsdon (Croydon South-East Locality) Older People’s Locality Team**Contact Catherine Ashforth, Social Worker, 020 8726 6000 ext 63251.

**Energetic and Wise** was a community group bringing young and older folks together around each other’s skills and knowledge (i.e sharing knowledge on technology and the world). This group no longer runs due to funding and lack of volunteers

**Q2. What are the outcomes that we believe people Older People would like to achieve in Croydon North East?**

Intergenerational methods are key for breaking down stereotypes, and it’s useful to consider how different generations can teach and learn from one another. Pre-pandemic, young children visiting care homes, sharing art projects etc. worked really well…emphasis that focusing on ‘older people’ as a category may separate them and make it difficult to ‘connect’ with them – and we are missing out on a wealth of knowledge if we don’t connect with this generation effectively.

**ACTION:** Need to link up localities at a Croydon-wide level and share learning from individual localities, feeding this learning back into all localities’ initiatives.

Social Isolation is a problem (especially as people are tentative about going outside/meeting with friends after the pandemic) – having accessible activities to reduce social isolation and support re-integration with the community is key.

**Active Citizen/Fire Soul** Marilyn: we need to ensure that those already doing this work take precedence, how can we add to their wonderful work. Ken Constantine at Croydon Council organised an intergenerational project a few years ago, his experience would be key.

**Q3 How can we use and strengthen the locally available assets/ what is working well for older people to help them achieve these outcomes?**

**What new opportunities would also help them to achieve these outcomes?**

Important to support older people to:

1) access activities/opportunities/support out in the community to reduce isolation if they are able, but also

2) to be supported to enjoy life within their home and engage with activities there if they are unable to mobilise or leave their home environment. As a Social Worker, Catherine noted that many older people she visits are depressed, and/or have significant mobility issues which impede their ability to access activities/opportunities/support outside of the home.

Having a purpose in life is key to older people’s (and everyone’s) well-being.

**ACTION:** Good, person-centred and strengths-based conversations of a relaxed and informal nature will help older people to talk about the things that are important to them and that they enjoy doing. What things do give older people in the locality purpose in life? Opportunities to hold these conversations need to be provided by as many members of the Local Community Partnership as possible, so a plan on how this could be done as widely and often as possible should be developed. Group members could share their experience and tips about the best ways of gathering this key information. Ways of then using what is learnt to help people have opportunities to do the things they want to do can then also be explored, i.e. how can information be turned into positive action to improve lives? Small group to work this up further.

**Action:**Group members would like the development of a list of trusted people that older people can call on for odd jobs/support. Where, if they are charged, it’s a reasonable amount and not extortionate.

Greater awareness of mental health is key – especially considering the effects of the pandemic on Mental Health. Prevention-related strategies are key here.

Mental Health First Aid is a good resource for understand mental health conditions, and supporting the local community.

**ACTION:** Invite our active citizens and Community Leaders to attend Mental Health First Aid Training: [Could you be a Mental Health First Aider? | Croydon Council](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/mental-health-and-dementia/mental-health-and-wellbeing/could-you-be-mental-health-first-aider)

Food bank use is increasing – and specific community needs are also increasing. Members noted that libraries are providing boxes of veg. Good Food Matters is a fantastic local resource.

**Croydon Covid-19 Mutual Aid (CCMA)** Organisation was created to support residents during Covid lockdown. CCMA is now evolving from an emergency response initiative. How can we empower local residents to be more knowledgeable about these activities and services?

Contact Contact Ben Taylor, croydoncovid19ma@gmail.com.

**ACTION:** CVA & CCMA to invite the local Mutual Aid organisers to use their WhatsApp groups to share local information on activity/support available. Ben & Sarah to follow up by drafting a specification for Mutual Aid groups so they know what’s needed.

**One Croydon Locality Updates:  Community Builders** - Through the Kings Fund, One Croydon has secured funding for two new Community Builders to work in two of Croydon’s six localities and work with their Local Community Partnerships. There is a strong case to make that these Community Builders are based in the South-West and North-West Localities as it is widely recognised that these localities have not had such support available in the past. The decision will be made at One Croydon’s Local Voluntary Partnerships (LVP) Board. The timescale for this is that the Community Builders are in post by the third quarter of this year. (James Moore is the **Community Facilitator** working in this Croydon South-East Locality. This is a different role from a *Community Builder* – please see the attached document that explains the difference between the two roles)

**FEEDBACK/ACTION:** We need to use a microphone in these LCP meetings with people joining both in person and online.

Many thanks to each of you for inputting into these emerging Community Action Plans. Please do save the date for our next partnership meeting **Wednesday 18th May 2022**which will be held in person. Local venue to be confirmed (suggestions most welcome). Please do spread the word and invite others to join the Local Community Partnership in Croydon South-East.

Warm wishes- Sarah, Andrew and James

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James Moore- James.Moore@cvalive.org.uk