**Local Community Partnerships in Croydon North West**

**Meeting Notes 27th April 2022**

Dear Colleagues,

Many thanks to all who joined the 6th session and contributed to the emerging Community Action Plans for Croydon North West locality (which includes Norbury, Pollards Hill, West Thornton Heath & Bensham Manor communities) held at CVA’s Resource Centre, please find a record of our meeting below:

A graphic of the One Croydon Locality Model is attached, along with a One Croydon Locality Profile map.

This session is focused on initiating a Community Action Plan by and for 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 existing partnerships in Croydon North West.  Our emerging Local Community Action Plans will link into borough-wide plans.

**Introducing Co-Chairs**

Our Local Community Partnership needs to be locally owned and represented so we will soon be inviting Expressions of Interest from the partnership to stand as Co-Chairs in Croydon North West. Please see attached Role Description and Selection process.

**Community Hub**

We are looking to invite Expressions of Interest from Voluntary and Community Organisations within this locality to be a ‘Community Hub’. We are aware that there are a number of active community spaces in this locality and have previously mentioned: Queens Community Centre, St Jude with St Aidan, Croydon Mencap, Westbury Community Centre, Acorn to Oaks and Norbury Library, let us know if there are others we should invite to consider this opportunity. Please see information attached on what’s involved and contact One Croydon’s Community Facilitators, employed by Asian Resource Centre Croydon, [nasreen.syeda@arccltd.com](mailto:nasreen.syeda@arccltd.com) and [natalie.appiah@arccltd.com](mailto:natalie.appiah@arccltd.com) to express interest in becoming a Community Hub in Croydon North West by **Wednesday 25th May at 17.00**.

**Hosting a Community Builder**

We will soon be inviting Expressions of Interest from Voluntary and Community Organisations within this locality to host a Community Builder. More information will be circulated on this soon as the plan is to have a Community Builder for Croydon North West in post and reporting to this Local Community Partnership by July 2022.

**Communication** - we are sharing what support and activities are available on [Simply Connect Croydon - local services for local people](https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/about-us). By*registering as a member with CVA you can advertise your services and activities; recruit volunteers and receive weekly newsletters about the amazing work across Croydon's Voluntary and Community Sector.  Complete this form to*[*register*](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=i9wEh43LkkWuUb66zissjxbd6yjvd-BNtAGY3IPHZtlUQktEWkFFRU0yREwyRUE5WUFBTUFQWk1MRSQlQCN0PWcu)*and our team of volunteers will do the rest.*

We started our Community Plan on the key priority theme of **‘Later Life'** as identified at our last meeting. Using 3 questions to structure our discussion we started to identify key areas for actions:

***Question 1.*What are your experiences of supporting older people in Croydon North West (in addition to those previously noted)?**

**Croydon Neighbourhood Watch (CNW)** we need to improve our communications as a partnership. Locality webpages, (private) WhatsApp group for this locality.

**CVA**As part of the Kings Fund’s Healthy Communities Together, One Croydon has agreed the development of locality webpages which was an idea that came from this partnership (thanks to John Gilhooly). We are not duplicate existing engagement tools but sharing what already exists to help coordinate local support and activity. Community Facilitators will provide administrative support so please let [nasreen.syeda@arccltd.com](mailto:nasreen.syeda@arccltd.com) and [natalie.appiah@arccltd.com](mailto:natalie.appiah@arccltd.com) have local engagement activities and tools so they can help populate the pages.

**Association of Pastoral Care in Mental Health (APCMH)** Some social media is used for bullying so need to avoid that

**Adult Social Care (Council)** Many of our most vulnerable aren’t digitally literate.

**CNW** We can make use of existing communications like CNW booklet which is hand delivered through 15,000 doors in Croydon by a Street Coordinator who share their contact info., are locally known and have an ID badge. We have shared information on how to avoid scams aimed at people without IT.

**CVA**Door knock using existing groups (incl. CNW and Mutual Aid) with known, local residents is something we could collectively organise to reduce isolation and be pro-active by connecting people into their community

**APCMH** All ages, mental health, activities include: creative writing on Tuesday afternoons, Coombe woods walks. We are struggling as a result of Croydon Council’s financial crisis. Need free space to run activities. Connection made with libraries. [﻿​﻿﻿Mental Health Support | APCMH Croydon | England](https://www.apcmhcroydon.co.uk/)

**Empowering Tamil Families**We run classes in Broad Green area on Positive Parenting, improving English and IT skills, Yoga, meditation, coffee mornings and celebrations.

**Thornton Heath Community Action Team** Maintain planting boxes around assets in this locality. Organise monthly walks with local counsellors, litter picking, anti-social behaviour initiatives.

**CVA’s Resource Centre** how do we book space? *CVA have converted to an online booking system, please visit*[*bookings@cvalive.org.uk*](mailto:bookings@cvalive.org.uk)

**Re-engage**Befriending Charity addressing loneliness and hosting tea party groups. Inclusive social groups in community venues and people's homes, incl: The Rainbow Companion which matches volunteers with older LGBT people,[www.reengage.org.uk](http://www.reengage.org.uk/) Contact Hannah [hannah.ali@reengage.org.uk](mailto:hannah.ali@reengage.org.uk)

**Question 2. What are the outcomes that older people would like to achieve?**

* Improved health, well-being and happiness through **being better connected and less isolated**
* Improved health, well-being and happiness **by having access to a wider range of opportunities through better funding**
* Improved health, well-being and happiness **by having a greater sense of meaning and purpose in life** - be ‘doing with’ and not ‘done to’ – not being seen as a ‘service user’, but seen as a valuable and valued contributor in society, actively involved in the community

**Question 3. How can we use our assets to meet the outcomes older people would like to achieve?**

* Better communication on what support and activities people can access locally

* Collectively organise to reach out to people through known local people to pro-actively connect people into their community

* Improve our communications as a partnership, initiate Locality webpages, WhatsApp groups. One Croydon Community Facilitators to support better communications

* Valued community activity needs to be sustained. Access to local funding for trusted groups that do so much with small amounts of public money

* Volunteers supported to help get people out and into community life

Many thanks to each of you for contributing to these emerging Community Action Plans. An excellent start has been made and we are keen to build on this, using local knowledge and expertise to develop detailed Community Plans for the North West Locality. So, please save the date for our next quarterly partnership meeting on **Wednesday 13th July 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 North West.

Warm wishes - Sarah and Andrew

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