Local Community Partnerships in Croydon North East

Notes 23rd February 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Many thanks to all who joined the 6th session and contributed to the emerging Community Action Plans for the Croydon North East locality (which includes communities in:  Thornton Heath, South Norwood, Upper Norwood and part of Norbury). With special thanks to Pastor Alison as our host at ‘The New Community Space’ in South Norwood 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. This session is focused on initiating a Community 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 existing networks in Croydon North East.

**Introducing your Co-Chairs**

Our local partnership needs to be locally owned and represented so at our last meeting we invited Expressions of Interest from the partnership to stand as Chair in Croydon North East. I’m delighted that both Nicole Godetz and Magdalene Adenaike are now in post as your Co-Chairs, both bringing a wealth of expertise, experience and connections.

Breaking out into 3 workshops we started our Community Plan on the key priority themes identified at our last meeting of:

1. **Tackling and recruiting violence against young people**
2. **People in their later life**
3. **People struggling to maintain positive mental wellbeing**

The following questions were then used as a framework for our conversation and planning

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

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

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

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

**Tackling and recruiting violence against young people**

Q1 Housing: families are having to move lot and poor housing stock. Many property owners will not take families

*Health sector: need to learn how to refer clients need to know what is out there*

*VCS: lots of provision-*Knocking at doors but school are not opening up

*“By the time someone comes to me in my professional role because of knife or gang-related crime, a significant interval of time has often lapsed since the incident and I am being presented with anger, anxiety, low mood, post-traumatic stress and related symptoms of ill health.” Dr Anna Clarke, GP Auckland Surgery*

Q2 We need a whole wrap around approach, cannot focus on one issue. We need to work together, everyone understanding the whole picture.

Police want to be part of narrative. They know that there is lack of trust, want to change narrative, how can we do this?

A sanctuary or network of sanctuaries which provide consistent physical, safe spaces in which to take a break from violence and access help:*Youth centres, Libraries, Cafes , Clubs, Barber shops, Sports facilities, Shopping centres*

Increased access to mentoring – formal and informal.

Support for parents and extended households to help create home environments in which people can feel caring and cared for

Safe routes to school and out of school activities.

Q3. We could achieve these outcomes by: Understanding the working similarities and differences between organisations and activities, to enable

further collaboration for common purpose and play to the strengths of each person or group

Acknowledge all the work that already occurs to support young people through a diverse range of community-based activities.

Hold information on activities in one place, for easy access when needing to signpost/refer – digital platform (Simply Connect?)

“Knocking on school doors”- Approach head teachers’ forum and ask to plan ways of linking in with school programme.

Operate as a collective to work with schools. Link with *My Ends*

**People in their later life**

*“We’ve found it really welcoming this morning, like home” Joyce (Active resident, older person and Fire Soul)*

*Impact of covid has created new issues on vulnerability and new vulnerable people.*

*Activities for people in later life in this area include:*

The Prince George Pub in Thornton Heath High Street host a coffee morning every week, 10.00- 12.00 everyone is welcome, [The Prince George - Pub (business.site)](https://the-prince-george.business.site/).

Age UK Croydon have online and activities in person at Brigstock Road in Thornton Heath. Host an IT clinic with Clear Community Web, chair based exercise classes, games, knit and natter, memory tree all starting up again, [Home | Age UK Croydon](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/croydon/).

Digital Town Hubs in association with Croydon Council-

<https://wp.croydon.gov.uk/newsroom/apps-launched-to-share-the-love-and-shop-local-in-south-norwood-purley-and-thornton-heath/>. We’re a Croydon based company and we’re keen to find ways in which these hubs could be useful to the local community. They offer features which can support community use alongside trade for local businesses.

The New Community Space in South Norwood, looking to create intergenerational activities. Working with CALAT and young people from local schools. Many don’t have access to older people.

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 would like to do something in South Norwood too. Here are are some of Clear Community Web’s videos from our work with Age Uk Croydon;

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

Contact Caspar Kennerdale, [info@clearcommunityweb.co.uk](mailto:info@clearcommunityweb.co.uk)

Sustainable Thornton Heath event on 26th March and monthly events in Salvation Army Hall, Thornton Heath High Street, [Sustainable Thornton Heath – A group promoting sustainability in Thornton Heath (wordpress.com)](https://sustaintheath.wordpress.com/). Looking for volunteers for the following roles: A host to be ‘front-of-house’ for the Restart Repair hub, Repairer of electrical & electronic items, Sewing repairer (who have their own machine), Communications Lead and Tech support

Stanley Arts (formally Halls) hosting free life drawing events, [Stanley Arts London - Formerly Stanley Halls](https://stanleyarts.org/).

Q2 Outcomes needed for older people include:

* feeling safe (including online safety- avoiding scams)
* tackling social isolation
* connecting with others- important to get people out again
* connecting those who are not going to get online (promote activities in supermarkets, libraries, local paper copies of newsletters incl: [Croydon Neighbourhood Watch (cbnwa.com)](https://www.cbnwa.com/), [www.thechronicle.website]www.thechronicle.website, [South Norwood Net Community Group](https://www.southnorwood.net/))
* reduce anxiety
* help to manage money

Q3 These outcomes could be achieved by:

Linking up and let people know what’s out there- distribute leaflets/posters etc

Community spaces/activities need to be welcoming  and enable social opportunities

**People struggling to maintain positive mental wellbeing**

Lots of great things happening locally but we need to network more and know what’s out there.

*“Local Community Partnership events are the best way to find out about what’s happening so that we can signpost into the community.” KevinO’Halloran, Disability Employment Advisor, Department of Work and Pensions*

Community spaces/activities need to have an open door and the welcome is really important- for many it’s a big step to be there.

Mental health and wellbeing VCS groups need to be part of the discussion to join up and provide integrated support to people.

**Online group**

*“Overwhelming pressure on Mental Health Services. Partnership working with the Voluntary and Community Sector has been a necessity.” CAHMS on working with Off The Record and Centre of Change*

In Upper Norwood, due to bordering neighbouring boroughs such as Bromley and Lambeth, there are people not receiving essential services or support.

A directory of services for people would be most essential, a way of navigating the barriers of borough-provision.

A Health and Wellbeing Community Fair facilitated at a location, inviting cross borough partners to share what they do and how they'd like to engage with residents. The Community Fair will be inviting local residents to share and learn to build community where institutions are not able too.

**One Croydon Locality Updates:** James Moore is CVA’s Community Facilitator and can be contacted on [James.Moore@cvalive.org.uk](mailto:James.Moore@cvalive.org.uk) to support the link-up between health and social care and the community. Asian Resource Centre Croydon is currently recruiting a Community Facilitator that will soon be able to support this locality.

Many thanks to each of you for inputting into these emerging Community Action Plans. We heard that quarterly meetings are not enough and the partnership wants single issues to be focused on before coming together quarterly. Please do save the date for our next quarterly partnership meeting **Wednesday 25th 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 North-East.

Warm wishes- Magdalene, Nicole, Sarah and Andrew

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