**‘Battersea Volunteers’**

**Monitoring Report 1 to The Alliance, Big Local SW11 and Winstanley Joint Venture (and other funders)**

**26 October 2020**

**Monitoring Report:** Battersea Volunteers

**Period:** Year 1 – Report 1 (Sept-Oct 2020)

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1. **About The Alliance**

The Alliance has been formed by the Big Local SW11 (which is an independent, resident-led group that has been awarded £1m over 10 years to invest in projects that improve opportunities for local people and strengthen our community) to help deliver its own strategy of building a stronger, more self-reliant Battersea. Visit: [www.biglocalsw11.co.uk](http://www.biglocalsw11.co.uk)

A partnership of six local long-standing, trusted and passionate organisations (Big Local SW11, Caius House, Carney’s Community, Katherine Low Settlement, Providence House, St Peter’s Church). We have deep community roots and social relations that span many generations. We are working together, alongside 30+ other local community delivery partners, to rebuild the social fabric of Battersea.

1. **Battersea Volunteers**

Volunteering has been widely evidenced to provide a wide range of benefits improving confidence, health, sense of purpose, community belonging, expanding social networks, gaining skills and moving towards employment. This new Alliance project, Battersea Volunteers, is about enabling, empowering and mobilising local residents to volunteer and get more involved with the local community here in Battersea.

There are 55+ local charities and community organisation’s working in Battersea. They depend on volunteers to help provide their services and govern their organisations. To meet the growing demand for these services and make the biggest difference we can with our resources, the Alliance aims to expand the number of people volunteering across Battersea with the support of a new post: Volunteer Development Officer.

The new Volunteer Development Officer will:

* Enable community organisations to expand the number of people volunteering in Battersea over the next three years (ensuring they have a good experience volunteering), which in turn will increase frontline service capacity.
* Build community organisation’s skills, capacity and standards to support more volunteers in Battersea.
* Recognise and celebrate the importance of volunteers in Battersea.
* Train local organisations to improve the way they work with volunteers, building their capacity to address issues that cannot be fully tackled by the statutory sector
* Direct volunteers towards projects and programmes that address Big Local SW11 priorities.

**Note:** Please read the full Battersea Volunteers background paper – attached.

1. **New Volunteer Development Officer**

Diana Hardman was recruited through an open recruitment process during lockdown. She started in post on 7th September 2020.

Diana is working for The Alliance across Battersea. She is based with Katherine Low Settlement, who are providing line management, payroll and support. As Kebbah Jalloh, the new Alliance ‘Battersea Youth Voice’ worker, is working for The Alliance but based with Caius House.

She has completed her induction.

1. **Starting point**

Diana is starting her work with a ‘Volunteer Needs Assessment’ to:

* Map existing volunteering in the patch.
* Build a picture of assets and concerns of community organisations in relation to how they work with volunteers (e.g. recruitment, training, supervision, retention).
* Build relationships and networks with local community partners – the foundation for success of all future work.

1. **Diana’s report**

I have had a warm welcome and good start to the project. I had a good induction to get to know the area and meet some of the key people/organisations in it. Aaron has made introductions to enable me to start to get to know the local sector. As well as meeting charities and community groups, I am introducing myself to funders as they will fund the sector and can link them in with me for support. I have regular meet ups with Aaron Barbour, my line manager, and also Kebbah Jallhoh, the new ‘Battersea Youth Voice’ worker.

1. **Building local knowledge and contacts with people**

* I have built a **contact list of about 95 local organisations**. I’ve sought information from searching through google, looking at individual charity and community group’s website, Aaron, Alliance members and anyone interested in who I should meet.
* I’ve **met with 36 local organisations** in Battersea, with a further 8 lined up over the next few weeks. I’m awaiting responses from 25 and in the process to contact more.
* I’ve met with Annabel (KLS community partnerships manager) exploring potential volunteers and partnership work with local businesses. I’ve already met with local business, UK Watson Group.
* I’ve met with Wandsworth Care Alliance’s Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Coordination Service, as they are developing a new Volunteer Support programme for the borough that we should tie in with. It will be a great resource for the local community. I’ve also been introduced to Melanie Nock, their new Organisational Development Worker. She can help Battersea organisations with fundraising, governance, strategy etc. again another great resource for our local community.

1. **Volunteer training and resources**

* I’ve prepared and am sharing the following written resources that local organisations can use:
  + Recruiting volunteers
  + Managing volunteers
  + Volunteer policies and procedures etc. e.g.
    - Foundation level - of the Volunteering health check
    - Full version - Volunteer Management health check for a greater insight
    - Volunteer Health Check Action plan
* Spoken with InIt-live to discuss using their online brokerage system. It’s not for us but it’s good to look at these opportunities for the local community. I will keep exploring these.

1. **Baseline Survey**

* I’ve created a ‘Battersea Volunteers’ survey. I ran it past Aaron, David Stone and the Alliance to check its content. This is ‘google forms’. This will enable me to collect information systematically and build a picture of what’s going on in the local area.
* After meeting organisations I am asking them to complete the questionnaire. I am finding ones that are confident in what they do are completing it, ones that are less so are not doing it, though they agree to at first. I will give them a call and gather the information verbally.
* 9 responses to the survey so far: Battersea Befriending network, St Peters Battersea. David Stone – Big Local SW11, Free2B Alliance, Providence House, SWLLC, Homestart Wandsworth, Sen Talk CIC, Carney’s Community.

1. **Communications**

* I wrote an initial blog to introduce myself and the project: <https://www.klsettlement.org.uk/kls-blog/news/welcome-diana-hardman-batterseas-new-volunteer-development-officer/>
* SWSJ charity (local funder) have posted a link for the service on their website: <http://www.swsjcharity.org.uk/news/useful-links/>
* A communications plan for the Battersea Volunteers project is in development and will be shared shortly.

1. **And finally,**

On 19th October Diana fell over and broke her thumb and has a suspected fracture of the Scaphoid bone. She is taking a few days off to recover.

1. **Further information**

If you would like further information about Battersea Volunteers and this monitoring report then please get in touch with Diana Hardman on [diana@klsettlement.org.uk](mailto:diana@klsettlement.org.uk)

Thank you for your on-going support.