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**Annual Report 2020-21**

**Battersea Alliance**

(supported by Big Local SW11, Winstanley & York Gardens Joint Venture and other generous supporters)

**Thank you for your support**

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This is a short report about the work of the Battersea Alliance and its partners over the last year 2020/21.

1. **Background about the Battersea Alliance**

The Battersea Alliance has been formed by the Big Local SW11 (which is an independent, resident led group that has been awarded £1m to invest in projects that improve opportunities for local people and strengthen our community) to help delivery its own strategy for the local community.

The Alliance is a partnership with the Big Local SW11, working together with five local long-standing, trusted and passionate organisations, with deep community roots and social relations that span many generations, working together to build a stronger Battersea.

To fulfil its objectives and strategy the Battersea Alliance works in partnership with local community delivery partners. Visit: [www.blsw11alliance.org](http://www.blsw11alliance.org)

1. **Battersea Alliance’s work during the pandemic**

Since the Alliance’s first strategy was produced in 2019, we have been confronted by the Covid-19 pandemic. It has had a disastrous impact on the lives of our communities, leaving in its wake devastating job losses and financial hardship, increases in isolation and the exacerbation of mental health concerns for a significant number of local people.

We reviewed and adjusted our strategy and plan to support more local residents through the crisis. We met weekly on zoom through the first lockdown.

**Highlights over the last year include:**

* Supported thousands of Battersea residents and community organisations through the pandemic.
* Secured and distributed £100,000 through a Battersea Covid Support Fund, in partnership with BLSW11. 29 community organisations supported over 3,500+ local residents.
* Established ‘Battersea Youth Voice’: a youth-driven community development programme for Battersea.
* Established ‘Battersea Volunteers’: a volunteer development programme for Battersea.
* Held successful in-person events to reconnect local people and organisations after the Pandemic e.g. ‘Celebration of Community Volunteering’ and ‘Battersea Together’ in autumn 2021.
* Co-produced, with BLSW11, a comprehensive evidence-based ‘Community Needs Assessment’ for Battersea.
* Invested £30,000 in BLSW11’s Community & Belonging Forum

1. **Work Programme 2020/21**

We have developed an annual work plan that focuses on the Battersea Alliance’s 4 ways of working.

1. Own Work
2. Joint Work
3. Hosted Work
4. Wider Partnership Work

The team meets monthly to progress its work. What follows is more detail into each of the 4 areas of work:

**A. Own Work** (each organisation’s themed work)

We recognise that each Alliance member has its own specialism e.g. Arts & Culture, Elders & Organisational Support, Families, Criminal Justice and Mentoring, Education & Technology. This coming year we are developing this further with our local community delivery partners, so together we can offer a more comprehensive offer within the local community.

**B. Joint Work** (shared activities)

* **On-going referrals/signposting, casework support, counselling** to local residents – we continue to work collaboratively each month supporting local residents.
* **Organisational development** – we continue to support one another to strengthen our own organisations and other local community groups with, for example, fundraising, governance and communications.
* **Communications** – we’ve developed a new website to help promote the work of the Alliance and its partners. Visit: [www.blsw11alliance.org](http://www.blsw11alliance.org). As well as used social media to connect, share and promote work with local residents.
* **Summer 2020 and 2021** – Due to Covid restrictions and safety we were not able to run a joint programme of activities for people during the summer holidays. However, we we’re able to take part in the Battersea Come Dine With Me, Battersea Bake Off, and run some trips together.
* **Events** – events are an excellent way of bringing local people together. However, Covid has reduced our ability to run what we had planned for this year. Saying that we did run:
  + A **‘Celebration of Community Volunteering’**on 10th September 2021, included a Battersea Volunteers Fair with 14 local organisations; and a Volunteers Award evening attending by the Mayor of Wandsworth, celebrating 21 inspiring examples of volunteering in Battersea.
  + Our fourth **Battersea Together** event was held on 8th October 2021 looking at a post-Covid Battersea. The local MP, Marsha de Cordova, joined us, along with 70+ local residents and community organisations. Five follow-up events, over the next five months, have been organised to continue the community conversations and develop more collaborative partnerships.
* **New Service 1: Mental Health support for young people, staff and volunteers** (new) – we are developing this as a new and specific thread of our work. We will be fundraising in the autumn, and hope to start work on this in 2022. We are also co-funding and an active member of BLSW11 Community & Belonging Forum, of which a number of projects are addressing mental health issues in Battersea.
* **New Service 2: Befriending Across Battersea Partnership** (new) – we are developing a new befriending service for local people in partnership with Battersea Angels, Battersea Befrienders Network and KLS. We’re currently fundraising for this at the moment.
* **Community & Belonging Forum (CBF)** – we invested £30,000 to support project designed to tackle loneliness, isolation and mental health challenges; specifically the Falcon Estate Community Engagement Project; Guy’s Room (a safe space for men to meet , discuss and share their concerns); the Maysoule Road Community Group and Maysoule Road Street Party; the JCT Mentoring project and more.

**Some examples of our joint work**

* Counselling sessions with Caius attended by young people from Providence and Carney’s
* Battersea Come Dine With Me, Battersea Bake Off, a football tournament and lots of trips over the summer with Battersea Summer Scheme
* Fitness and health sessions with young people from Providence and Caius
* Jobcentre Plus at Caius and hosting some young people as Kickstarters
* Marsha de Cordova (MP for Battersea) held a discussion with young people from Carney’s and Caius about systemic racism
* Young people are getting bikes from Carney’s at Caius
* Carney’s and KLS are using Caius kitchen for food/cooking workshops
* Caius and KLS are working on a joint education programme
* Caius, Providence and Carney’s working together with the police
* Ana Popovici, Paul Martland and Cllr Sweet (Wandsworth Council Children’s Services) are setting up a regular meeting with local youth organisations (thanks Del)
* Providence working with St Peter’s and Glass Door Homeless project
* Carney’s, Caius and Providence working with YES young people
* Carney’s and Providence responding together to knife crime event to support families who’ve been victims of families bereft of knife crime death
* Providence and KLS young people making parcels for KLS elders

**C. Hosted Work** (new projects that are hosted by one Alliance partner but working across the patch) including Battersea Youth Voice, Battersea Volunteers and Youth Battersea.

**i. Battersea Youth Voice (BYV)**

We recruited Kebbah Jollah as the Alliance’s Battersea Youth Voice Officer. He started in September 2020. Over the last year he’s concentrated on developing four areas of work that have emerge through conversations with young people and partner organisations:

1. Community
2. Police and young people’s rights
3. Education
4. Mental Health

What follows is more detail of Kebbah’s work:

1. **Community**

* Built key relationships and networks with voluntary sector and Wandsworth Council departments to identify issues and barriers to working with hard to reach young people
* Ascertain key challenges for young people though information gathering, individual meetings and group sessions. Segment the key challenges and decide on most imminent needs and achievability
* Begin mentoring young people
* Established BYV brand, Social Media presence, begin awareness campaign
* Facilitated groups sessions around a variety of youth provisions to introduce the specialized BYV service and find out some of the key issues
* Facilitated a young men’s group over multiple sessions to gather insightful information on their areas of concern
* Supporting local groups e.g. Free2be Alliance to acquire funding to run Inclusion & LGBTQ training; and KLS’ Love to Learn education team to provide boxing sessions for their young people
* Took part in a project where young people who had experienced disproportionality fed back to key agencies (eg Council, police, local health board and education) on how it had impacted on them with regards to health, education, housing and criminal justice

1. **Police and young people’s rights**

* Creation of PAAYP group (Police Accountability & Advocacy for Young People)
  + Partnership with 3 young people to become PAAYP Ambassador
  + Partnership with Police from Wimbledon & Wandsworth for PAAYP
  + Partnership with JCT (Just Come Together) for PAAYP
  + Brought PAAYP Ambassadors to provide invaluable input in the Public Review Meeting for the Mayor’s Action Plan to improve trust and confidence and reduce the disproportionate use of policing powers within London's Black communities.
  + Currently working on infographics for PAAYP to be disseminated on social media, via phones, emails and posters to go up around youth provisions, schools, PRU’s, anywhere that YP frequent
  + PAAYP campaign will be presented in video form by YP in addition
* Joined IAG (Independent Advisory Group) as the young person’s representative
* Joined Wandsworth Knife Crime Forum
* Joined CMG (Community Monitoring Group – View and feedback on Body worn view quality encounter by Police. Advise on steps for improvement)
* Joined PEP (Police Encounter Panel – New initiative – first point of contact for extreme crime-related issues in the Battersea area)

1. **Education**

* Met with some key contacts in education and have some more meetings pending.
* Joined Children and Young People’s Network
* Currently working on recording docu-series detailing a YP’s journey to show the world from their perspective and to be shared via social media, YouTube etc.
* Next year project - Further development and investigation into the education system and the behavior issues and learning education needs. An accessible system to test for SEN to reduce permanent exclusions.

1. **Mental Health**

* Awarded funding for ‘Mental Health First Aid’ training, over 20 people trained
* Currently working on training for YP to become Mental Health Champions in each youth provision
* Joined WCEN mental health group (Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network – Mental Health focused)

The information gathered from Year 1 will help to inform the key areas of work for Year 2. A potential mentorship program is in development, where older young people can mentor younger children in key areas. In Year 2 BYV is looking at more partnerships and collaborative working, more young ambassadors, and raising more awareness of young people’s challenges.

Some of the challenges in Year 1 include limited movement due to covid restrictions and correspondence from key staff members and external organisations. The more BYV raises it’s awareness and becomes established, the less of a concern this will be.

**Member’s Story: Amber supported through the Covid pandemic**

Amber, aged 22, has a number of social challenges, social anxiety being the biggest. She has attended Caius House for a number of years. With support from her youth workers she has slowly come out of her shell. She’s become comfortable enough to commute to and from the Caius independently, learned how to run her own music studio sessions and come and ask for help.

Amber found it really difficult when Council staff were transferred out of Caius in 2020; and then lockdown hit. During these times, Amber and Kebbah (Battersea Youth Voice worker) kept in contact via the phone. Kebbah convinced her to come back into Caius to use the music studio. She has and was able to talk about how lost she is, and her desire to work out her next step. Kebbah had a few in-depth discussions and encouraged her to try a counseling service at Caius. Amber has completed her first counseling sessions and is now looking ahead to addressing other aspects of her life. Amber is beginning to blossom.

**ii. Battersea Volunteers**

We recruited Diana Hardman as the Alliance’s Volunteer Development Officer. She started on 7th September 2020. Over the last year she’s concentrated on developing four areas of work:

1. Building local knowledge and contacts with people
2. Developing volunteer training and resources
3. Establishing a volunteer brokerage service
4. Raising profile about volunteering in Battersea

What follows is more detail of Diana’s work:

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

* Built a **contact list** of 95 local organisations in Battersea.
  + We reached 79 through email; and met and got to know 48 local organisations in Battersea.
* Created a **Baseline Survey**: to gain a picture of what support organisations need.
  + We had a good response to the survey and the questionnaire produced rich data.
  + Published a research report: [A needs assessment of community organisations working with volunteers in Battersea Research Report 1](https://cf71780f-9eb7-4d1b-8da1-957c2e5cde7f.filesusr.com/ugd/004ede_9da6727615124674a299a191ac469b57.pdf).
  + It’s publically available on the [Alliance website](https://www.blsw11alliance.org/volunteer) and we disseminated the information, culminating in a launch event on 24th March 2021.

1. **Volunteer training and resources**

* Included a [‘Battersea Volunteers’](https://www.blsw11alliance.org/volunteer) section on the Alliance website.
* Written and **shared information on best practices in volunteer management**, with examples and templates of policies and procedures. There are links of useful resources and opportunities for organisations to go through a ‘Volunteer Management Health Check’ themselves for further information on best practice.
* Created **training modules** around various aspects of volunteering e.g. recruitment, volunteer management
* Delivered **bite-size training for groups**, on subjects including: managing difficult situations with volunteers, supervision, writing role descriptions and where to advertise.
* Established a **Volunteer Managers Network**, which meets quarterly. We’ve run 3 online network meetings so far. It’s a great way of coming together and sharing information, experiences and collaboration, networking and learning about volunteering.  As well as, peer support, problem solving, showcasing good practice  and running bite-size training around common themes.

1. **Volunteer Brokerage**

* Worked with Wandsworth Care Alliance to research and create [a **Volunteer Brokerage Platform**](https://volunteer.wandsworthcarealliance.org.uk/index-classic) for the Borough of Wandsworth. We manage the Battersea section.
* **Advertised** the ‘Battersea Volunteers’ Brokerage Service on local websites, social and media and printed flyers/leaflets.
* Held **one-to-one meetings** with local residents to support them into volunteering.

1. **Raising the profile of volunteering in Battersea**

* Created a **‘Battersea Volunteers’ logo** to increase brand awareness about the project
* Written **blogs and news items** around the project. These have been picked up and promoted by other local groups including [KLS News](https://www.klsettlement.org.uk/kls-blog/?catid=138&catname=News); SWSJ charity (local funder) have posted a link for the service on [their website](http://www.swsjcharity.org.uk/news/useful-links/).
* **Advertise ‘Battersea Volunteers’** service on local online noticeboards e.g. Nappy Valley, Next Door. We’ve distributed flyers to the Council for dissemination to Battersea neighborhoods.
* Write and circulate a **quarterly newsletter** about Battersea Volunteers. It goes out to 42 contacts, and is shared on social media.
* Established a **social media presence**. Set up a Twitter account [@BatterseaVolun1](https://twitter.com/BatterseaVolun1) and regularly tweet about volunteering, news, updates, as well as highlight local volunteering opportunities.  We have 125 followers.
* Celebrated national **Volunteers Week** **2021** (June’21). We collected and shared volunteer’s stories and video interviewed organisations about their work with volunteers. 12 case studies were shared on social media to promote ‘Battersea Volunteers’ and the power of volunteering during Volunteers Week.
  + View these on [the Alliance website](https://www.blsw11alliance.org/copy-of-volunteer-management) and [Battersea Volunteers YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCqLlwS296zPG1dGcY2RuUg) channel.
* Organised a **‘Celebration of Community Volunteering’** event on 10th September 2021. We held a Volunteer Fair with 14 local organisations; and Award Ceremony – the Mayor of Wandsworth presented 21 volunteer award certificates. We secured good coverage on social media.

*“Thanks for session this morning Diana, I got a lot from it. The Celebration of Community Volunteering had an excellent turn out of the stalls and the event went smoothly. It was great to meet everyone in person and people really enjoyed this. The volunteer brokerage site is working well and organisations are signing up to it.”*

Jo Collis, Little Village charity

**D. Wider Partnership Work** (new partnerships with other local organisations in Battersea)

* **BLSW11 & Battersea Alliance Covid-19 Battersea Community Support Fund** – Together we’ve secured and distributed £100,000 to 29 community groups, who supported 3,500+ local residents during the pandemic.
* **BLSW11’s Community & Belonging** **Forum** – The Alliance invested £30,000 into Big Local SW11’s CBF work.
* **BLSW11 plan review** – The Alliance has fed into the plan review process.
* **BID Clapham Junction** – We’re supporting the local BID develop Clapham Junction with £20,000 feasibility funding from GLA.
* **Campaigning/Lobbying** – The Alliance has worked with Wandsworth Council councillors and officers, as well as local community organisations, to bring about policy change. E.g. helped shape the Council’s Holidays and Activities Fund (HAF) to benefit local children and young people.

1. **Finances for Year 1 (2020/21)**

We raised £150,000 and spent all of this on our work programme. Including match funding from Big Local SW11, Winstanley & York Gardens Joint Venture, National Lottery Community Fund – thank you for your support.

1. **Plans for the year ahead**

We plan to continue delivering our strategy and work plan to work with more local residents in Battersea. With an emphasis on helping local people to reconnect and recover from the pandemic.

TheAlliance is on track with its current budget; and we are actively fundraising to secure further investment for the community. For example, this year we are producing a Battersea Community Investment Prospectus, to encourage more businesses, statutory agencies and independent funders to invest into the area. In the longer term we plan to develop a Community Investment Strategy for 2024, to help extend the legacy of the Big Local SW11.

Your support on this journey would be much appreciated.