**Community and Belonging (CB) – BLSW11 Legacy Projects**

This paper follows the Community and Belonging Proposal, previously circulated to and then considered by the Partnership Committee on the 16th July 2020 (which can be read here: <https://www.biglocalsw11.co.uk/research/>) that set out the rationale for establishing a new committee.

Here we consider what the new committee might achieve by facilitating and enabling others.

The main aim of our BLSW11 Strategy is to tackle Loneliness, Isolation Mental Health (Depression and Anxiety) in order to remove the barriers that prevent people from reaching their potential as workers, volunteers or members of our community.

The underlying rationale of our approach is that this will be achievable if we, together with others, work to strengthen **‘social capital’**[[1]](#footnote-1) in the BLSW11 and Battersea area.

The recent appointments of a Battersea Youth Voice (BYV) worker and Volunteer Coordinator (funded 50/50 by BLSW11 and the Alliance) is our first major step in building social capital.

Of our population of 17,355 it is estimated that 4,000 should be considered chronically lonely! (See Appendix 1)

The following CB ideas have emerged from consultations with local residents and organisations based in or working on the patch; several have been long standing aims of BLSW11 from its inception. It should be noted that many are also included in the BLSW11 Alliance Strategy, which may provide opportunities for match funding; some have been developed as a direct response to Covid-19.

A broad description of Inputs (Resources needs) Outputs (numbers involved, numbers benefitting and number of events and/or actions) Outcomes (Impact or Changes) per year is provided as a rough guide.

The viability of each of the ideas will depend on resources, including match funding, Partnerships, capacity and BLSW11 resident led support.

Where possible we will want to identify local groups/organisations as delivery partners.

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| **Project** | **Inputs** | **Outputs** | **Outcomes** | **£** |
| 1. **Men’s mental health** – to identify and work with men who might not feel able to approach conventional mental health services, to create a positive environment where personal issues and concerns can be discussed/addressed.
 | BLSW11 leadPC supportPublicityProject ManagementFunding activities | 20 x men a year | Increased confidenceBetter access to information and adviceImproved health | 10000 |
| 1. **Community Champions** – identify 4 people in the BLSW11 area that can act as the eyes and ears for their community, reporting back to the CB group on issues, ideas, project proposals.

The terms of reference for this work to include a particular attention to the most vulnerable including older people, people with disabilities and/or mental health issues.Particular focus given to areas on the patch that are less well served/represented (Plough Road, Maysoule Road, etc)The Champions could aim to engage with a set number of people in their area and perhaps encourage street events. (See section 6 below Community Together Events –CTE). | 4 x VolunteersExpensesCosts for EventsVolunteer Support and Coordination | 20 residents get involved4 x Events a Year | People feel more connectedPeople gain a voiceResidents in turn volunteer | 10000 |
| 1. **Community Guardians** – based on street pastors idea but more in keeping with the ‘culture’ of BLSW11; work with JCT to design and implement estate visibility and response team.

The key to this initiative is to provide a counter to the enticements offered to young people to get involved with gangs, by offering points of contact and referral to the range of alternatives available through (say) the Alliance. | 10 x Volunteers | 30 young people engaged each year10 young people join a youth club5 young people have a mentor5 young people join Battersea Youth Voice | Young people become aware of alternativesIncrease in aspirationsIncrease in confidence  | 20000 |
| 1. **Living Room** – based on SpaceMax but geared towards BLSW11; work with new Volunteer Coordinator to recruit, support and design a programme of decluttering and

home-space improvements to off-set some of the worst effects of overcrowding.The terms of reference for this work to include a particular attention to the most vulnerable including older people, people with disabilities and/or mental health issues.People living in overcrowded or difficult to manage living space will be offered the support of Volunteers with a range of skills, including interior design, architecture, construction and decoration.The volunteers will also be trained in providing advice and guidance and the ‘beneficiaries’ will, in turn, be encourage to participate in the life of their community | 15 x VolunteersSkills offered in Interior Design, Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical and IT servicesEquipmentStorage Training Room | 20 families in the BLSW11 area supported each year15 x referrals10 x participation in other BLSW11 initiatives15 volunteers receive training and support | Reduction in anxiety and stressIncrease in knowledge about support servicesSome beneficiaries become volunteers | 40000 |
| 1. **Adopt a ‘grandparent’** - mobilise volunteers to pick-up on contacts with isolated older people to establish regular engagement using a variety of methods (home visits, technology, and meeting in community settings).
 | 15 x Volunteers with appropriate clearances and legal complianceSupport from Volunteer Coordinator (additional costs) | 30 x older people a year | Reduction in feeling lonely and disconnectedOlder people participate in the life of the community | 5000 |
| 1. **Community Together Events** (CTE) – a programme of regular events (street parties, food clubs, arts, sports, cultural), that encourage the disparate parts of our community to come together.

The terms of reference for this work to include a particular attention to the most vulnerable including older people, people with disabilities and/or mental health issues.Building on the knowledge and experience of Kambala Care which has delivered inclusive community events (Street parties, Food Clubs, Outings) – linked with Community Champions and Guardians | 12 x Community activists CoordinationCost for running events, including food, materials, publicity  | 300 people a year participate in CTE’s12 x VolunteersDiverse groups meet to share | Developing understandingBuilding joint projectsCommunity CohesionIncrease in Volunteering | 30000 |
| 1. **New Comers Welcome to Battersea!** – Develop a welcome pack, advice and support system for those that are new to the area and design projects that encourage their participation in the life of our community (linked with CTE).
 | Costs for design and distribution of materials including Video, Leaflets, Social Media | 200 ‘new comers’ identified each year20 participate in CB events or activities | People feel welcome and want to get involved in their community | 5000 |
| 1. **Forum of Neighbourhood Associations** (FONA) – networking and partnership development work across RA’s and other neighbourhood initiatives in BLSW11.

This will provide networking for those engaged in formal and less formal groups associated with building blocks, flats, and/or streets, building on the extensive WhatsApp networks established during Covid-19; particular attention given to parts of the patch (Maysoule Road, Plough Road) that have little representationAwareness raising and communication about what’s happening in the area and opportunities to work together (festival, coordinated events, etc). | Networking events linked to CTE’s, Community Champions and Guardians but semi-autonomous | 12 associations become part of FONA15 volunteers are active4 x events a year100 residents benefit | Increased knowledge and awareness of issues affecting our communities | 5000 |
| 1. **Digital Inclusion** – a key finding from Covid-19 is that many residents do not have access to Broadband, IT equipment or lack the skills needed to fully exploit the opportunities that better communication can bring.
 | Research into the ‘digital divide’Interagency coordination (BLSW11 partners) | X people needing supportX people benefittingX people developing new skills | Improved knowledgeIncreased participationRelief of anxiety and depressionReduction in feelings of isolation and loneliness. | 30000 |
| 1. **Intergenerational** – working with Battersea Youth Voice, Volunteer Coordinator and Partner organisations to develop a strategic approach to bridge the generational divide that aims to identify positive outcomes from all those involved (taking a social health approach).

Consider older people, refugees, single parents, and people with disabilities and or mental health concerns. | 12 volunteersCosts of materials and suppliesCosts for outings and events | 100 isolated people contacted20 people regularly engaged 12 volunteers receive training and support | People who feel disconnected have an increased sense of belongingThose benefitting from the project also contribute to its development | 20000 |
| 1. **Mental Health Awareness** – to develop knowledge and responses to mental health issues in BLSW11 and beyond for local groups organisations and individuals

Challenge pre-conceptions and stereotypes and develop local skills in recognition of and engagement with mental health concerns. | PublicityEventsVolunteersProfessionals | 4 X events a year (linked to CTE’s)100 people achieve mental health first aid20 organisations gain certificate of mental health awareness | Reduction in the stigma of mental healthPeople become aware of and use a supportive community | 15000 |
| 1. **Mediation** – develop a process for identifying and managing conflict within and between community members, groups and organisations.

Some parts of our community do not connect or engage with each other (for historic, cultural or faith reasons).  | Development of a community mediation programme (in conjunction with Wandsworth Mediation Service) | 5 organisations participate20 x people benefit4 joint projects emerge | More people feel that Battersea is, or has potential to be, their communityStronger, more positive relations between different parts of our community | 15000 |
| 1. **Arts & Culture** – a thematic approach to Youth engagement, Intergenerational, CTE and Men’s mental health through the development of and arts and culture ‘hub’ that promotes diversity and inclusion.

Develop skills in production, design, publishing, social media, etc.  | Identify local delivery partners(BAC, Arts Lacuna, Colleges, etc)  | 10 X Volunteers30 X beneficiaries2 X Social Enterprises2 X Events a year | Building local capacityIncreasing confidenceReducing anxietyImproving Mental Health | 15000 |
| 1. **Fitness** – a thematic approach to wellbeing projects connected to CTE, developing a community fitness programme in partnership with others to develop a well-being ‘hub’.

Aim to reduce obesity and numbers with cardiovascular problems. | Identify local delivery partners, | 5 X Volunteers20 X Beneficiaries2 X events a year | Reduction in depressionIncreasing self-awarenessImproving health outcomes | 15000 |
| 1. **Building Futures** – based on the successful BLSW11 pilot; creating pathways to volunteering, work, community involvement through 1-on-1 support, guidance and advice for those that might not feel comfortable approaching traditional service providers.

 The key to the pilot’s success lay in the non-judgemental approach and accessibility of the advisor who would meet people, sometimes over several sessions in a location that suited them.The terms of reference for this work to include a particular attention to the most vulnerable including older people, people with disabilities and/or mental health issues. | Professional advice and guidance service located in different areas within BLSW11  | 24 local people access the service each year10 x people into training and/or support programmes5 people gain employment5 people become volunteers | Reduction in people with anxiety and/or depressionIncrease in confidenceLess dependence on health services | 20000 |
| 1. **Transitional** – easing the journey from nursery to primary school, to secondary school, to college/university, to employment, from home to independent living

Network with local schools and colleges to provide ‘feeder’ access to support from local youth and community centres. | Identify local delivery partners (Youth centres, Churches, etc) | 40 X people involved  | Improved attainment Reduction in stress and anxiety | 10000 |
| 1. **Mentoring** – identifying volunteers to take on long term support for young people to build trusting relationships and offer guidance and advice
 | 10 x volunteersTrainingSupervision | 10 X young people engaged5 X take up training2 X Apprentices2 X Work experience | Increased confidenceImproved knowledge Increased Opportunities | 5000 |
| 1. **Community Development -** training and research skills, linked with Community Champions and Community Guardians

The principles of Community Development include working wherever possible on the basis of evidence; striving for inclusion, celebrating diversity.Specific skills include Research, Evaluation, Project Management and fund raising.  | Training support and materialLink to qualified CD practitioners and Local Trust support | 10 x training sessions a year20 participants | 4 people gain qualifications4 people progress to become actively involved in the community | 5000 |
| 1. **Environmental** - Air Pollution (Tunnel); Solar Energy etc....

A communications and Public relations campaign to raise awareness about environmental concerns in BLSW11 and to lobby for appropriate responses from Statutory authorities and corporate sector | Design and production of literature to promote awareness of the issues | Number of solar panels installedIncrease in charging point for electric cars and scooters | Increase in action taken to reduce pollution and reduce carbon footprint | 2000 |
| 1. **Community Assets** (e.g., Safe House) – to assess the availability of underused or vacant properties in the BLSW11 area with potential to be developed into a safe environment for those threatened with, homelessness or in need of a refuge. (Platform One, Empty Shops/Flats?)

Develop options for a variety of community uses including the provision of a base for BLSW11 and the Alliance | Work with JV to identify potential community assetsScope costs of acquiring use | 1 x Building developed for community use12 people a year assess the serviceThree organisations share the premises | Increase in people feeling that they are listened toMore people feel safer in their communityReduction in people needing medical interventions | 40000 |
| 1. **Community Infrastructure Support** - provision of advice, guidance and support for local groups and organisations on governance, finance and fund raising
 | Identify local delivery partners | 20 X Groups are supported2 X funding applications submitted2 X events a year | Building resilienceIncreasing capacitySustainability | 5000 |
| **Totals** | 74 volunteers £322k12 Organisations involved  | 800 people benefit50 people gain new skills | Substantial increase in sense of community and Belonging | 322000 |

September 2020

**Appendix 1: Community and Belonging Evidence Base**

**BLSW11 Local Insight January 2019**

Population 17,355 (Risen 26% between 2001-2017)

Children Living in Poverty = 28% (London = 19%)

Lone Parent Families = 43.5% (London = 27.6%)

**Workless Benefit Claimants Aged 16-24 and 16-64**

**Working People Receiving Personal Independence Payments (PIP)**



**Deprived Neighbourhoods**

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| Number of people in living in the most deprived 20% of areas of England by Indices of Deprivation (ID) 2015 domain |
| Index of Multiple Deprivation |  | Income domain |  | Employment domain |  | Education domain |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |   |  |   |  |   |
| Health domain |  | Barriers to Housing and Services domain |  | Living Environment domain |  | Crime domain |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |   |  |   |  |   |
| Source: Communities and Local Government (Indices of Deprivation 2015) |

**Child Poverty – Out of Work Households, Lone Parents, Children in Poverty**

**Pensioner Deprivation (No Transport, Single Household, Pension Credits)**

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| Private pensioner households with no car or van (Census 2011) |  | Households of one pensioner (Census 2011) |  | Pension credit claimant (Department for Work and Pensions: May-18) |
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**Overcrowding**



**Mortality**



**Neighbourhood Satisfaction and Participation**

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| “People from different backgrounds get on well together in the local area” |  | People who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood |  | People who are satisfied with local area as a place to live |  | Aged 65+ "satisfied with both home and neighbourhood" |
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| People involved in decisions that affect the local area in the past 12 months |  | People who believe they can influence decisions in their local area |  | People who have given unpaid help at least once per month over the last 12 months |  | Active charities |
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**Satisfaction and Belonging**



**Loneliness[[2]](#footnote-2)**

Over 9 million people in the UK – almost a fifth of the population – say they are always or often lonely, but almost two thirds feel uncomfortable admitting to it (British Red Cross and Co-Op, 2016)[[3]](#footnote-3)

**The Economic Costs of Loneliness (May 2019)[[4]](#footnote-4)**

Estimated number of Lonely People = 23% (UK)[[5]](#footnote-5)

Direct Costs = £12000 per person over 15 years = £800 per year per person.

BLSW11 population is 17,355 @ 23% = 4000; 4000 X 800 = £3,200,000 a year; over five years = £16,000,000

**Appendix 2: Social Capital**

The term social capital describes the characteristics of the relationships between people in communities.

Some areas are ‘rich’ in social capital with multiple forms of interaction between people through neighbourhood associations, clubs, community groups, trusts, charities and strong kinships; others are ‘poorer’, with few opportunities for people to come together with shared common purposes.

Communities with strong social capital are better placed to deal with threats and take advantage of opportunities than those where social capital is weak.

There are generally three types of social capital:

* Bonding – among family members, extended families and ethnic groups
* Bridging – across ethnic groups
* Linking – between different social classes

In terms of building a cohesive and inclusive community social capital can have positive or negative effects. Where people have shared values and strive to be inclusive, social capital can bring people together. Where people tend to be insular or exclusive, social capital can be a barrier, defending sectional interests.

Social capital can be measured in a variety of ways including (but not limited to):

* The number of community groups/associations in an area
* The types of associations (Trusts, Civic Groups, Ethnic Groups, Environmental Groups, Disability Groups, Sexual Orientation, Mental health)
* The range and types of infrastructure organisations that support groups and people
* Levels of volunteering

Social capital is essentially about how people interact and relate to each other.

1. Social Capital describes the relationships between people in communities, their common interests, ties and shared values (see Appendix 2 for a fuller description). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Loneliness comes in many different forms, Elderly, Widows, Single Parents, Unemployed, Disability, Mental Health, Young disconnected, Refugees, Migrants, etc. It is also experienced at different times and for different durations. All the figures used here must be regarded with some caution. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/loneliness-research/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333319538_The_economic_costs_of_loneliness_a_review_of_cost-of-illness_and_economic_evaluation_studies> The Study focussed mainly on health costs amongst older people. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/neilhowe/2019/05/03/millennials-and-the-loneliness-epidemic/#25338b7a7676> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)