**Battersea Alliance**

(supported by Big Local SW11, Winstanley Joint Venture and others)

**Update report: 16April-1June’21**

**03June21**

1. **Background about the Battersea Alliance**

The 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 Alliance will work in partnership with other local community delivery partners.

1. **Work Programme 2021-22**

We have developed an annual work plan for 2021-22 that focuses on the Alliance’s 4 ways of working. The team meets monthly to progress its work.

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

We recognise that each Alliance member has its own specialism. We are developing this further so together we can offer a more comprehensive offer within the local community. An updated will be available in July.

**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, communications, flooded centres.
* **Summer Programme** – joint preparations are underway for a full programme of activities for people during the summer holidays 2021.
* **Mental Health support for young people, staff and volunteers** (new) – we’re running a planning session in June, so we can develop our plans, fundraise and start work on this later in the year.
* **Events** – events are an excellent way of bringing local people together. Future events planned this year are: YES (Providence), God Loves Battersea (St Peter’s), Arts Week (Providence), Young Black Minds Matter (Caius); we’re also planning a series of reception events in autumn 2021 (incl. **8th October – Battersea Together event** looking at a post Covid Battersea – the local MP, Marsha de Cordova is joining us) and joint events around Christmas.

**c. Hosted Work** (new projects that are hosted by 1 Alliance partner but working across the patch) including Battersea Youth Voice, Battersea Volunteers and Youth Battersea.

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

Since the last report Kebbah has been visiting local youth provisions to run focus groups with young people about what they would like to be available for them at a Youth Empowerment Day.

The **Youth Empowerment Day** is an idea of a day that brings our respective services together to provide an enriching experience for young people from Battersea. We are looking to host this day at Caius House, and we are aiming for the last week of summer, **potentially on Thursday 26th August**.

From the information gathered from young people, we have decided to include a PlayStation competition, a bike maintenance workshop, boxing demonstrations and workshops, career advice and guidance, mental health advice and guidance and young people with businesses will have stalls as vendors to sell their products.

BYV are hoping to partner with local agencies such as JobCentre Plus, A.I.M. high, The Agency (Battersea Arts Centre) and more.

We intend to use this day as an opportunity to gather the voice and opinions (data) from young people about their life experiences and services in Battersea, whilst providing opportunities for fun, education, networking and empowerment. Young people will be employed and paid to manage the event also.

BYV have recently been awarded some funding to facilitate x2 **mental health first aid courses** for 20 delegates aged 16+. Kebbah is currently organising this to ensure that it is available to the right people and beneficial to youth provisions in Battersea who work on the front line with the young people with poor mental health.

**ii. Battersea Volunteers – update**

Since the last report Diana has hosted the first **Volunteer Managers Networking Event**. A great opportunity to build the volunteering community, provide peer support, communicate further training and offer one-to-one support with local organisations around best practice. Diana has also set up a regular volunteers newsletter (using MailChimp), currently going to 35 local organisations.

She’s been **raising the profile** of volunteering in Battersea by using social media ([Twitter](https://twitter.com/BatterseaVolun1)) about anything relevant to Battersea around volunteering such as good practice taking place, how to recruit trustees, training taking place, new volunteering opportunities being offered.

We’re taking part in **Volunteers Week 2021** (1-7th June), as another great way to raise the profile, and celebrate volunteering in Battersea**.** Diana has interviewed 12 local organisations and collected case studies including Waste Not Want Not Battersea, Sen Talk, Home Start, Free2B, Battersea Befriending Network and more. We’ve made **7 short films** (KLS Staff member Annabel Bennet has done a great job editing these pro bono); and have **5 written case studies** with photos. These have gone up on [the Alliance website](https://www.blsw11alliance.org/copy-of-volunteer-management) and a new [Battersea Volunteers YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCqLlwS296zPG1dGcY2RuUg) site; and are being used throughout Volunteers Week. These can also be used for future use at events and for further promotion.

Diana has continued to work with the Wandsworth Care Alliance’s **new Volunteer Brokerage online platform.** We now have 37 Wandsworth organisations registered on the site, of which **13 are from Battersea with 11 active Volunteer Opportunities**. **40 volunteers on the site are from Battersea** and 3 from SW8. Any new opportunities for Battersea are tweeted with the hash tag #BatterseaVolunteers.

From June Diana will start the planning for **working directly with local residents** to encourage and support them to become local volunteers. This will include marketing, offering one-to-one volunteer brokerage interviews and supporting them to search for and find the right volunteering role in Battersea.

**iii. Befriending Across Battersea Partnership (new)**

A new befriending partnership is being developed with Battersea Befriending Network, KLS, Battersea Angels and others to provide more befriending in the patch to support more local older and vulnerable residents. We hope to develop this further to include befriending young people, as well as broadening the definition of befriending. A proposal has been developed. Fundraising will start shortly.

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

* **Covid-19 Battersea Community Support Fund** – in partnership with the Big Local SW11. We hope this Fund will have spent out by 21st June (proposed end of government restrictions).
* **BLSW11’s Community and Belonging** – The Alliance recently agreed to invest £30,000 into Big Local SW11’s C&B work. The funding has been transferred over.
* **BLSW11 plan review** – we look forward to feeding into the upcoming plan review process.
* **Campaigning/Lobbying** – working with Council councillors and officers, as well as local community organisations, to bring about policy change.
1. **Communications**

An annual comms plan has been developed and includes a new quarterly newsletter, events, meetings and our new [website](https://www.blsw11alliance.org/).

1. **Finances**

**Year 2 (2021/22).** The Alliance is on track with its current budget; including its £30,000 investment to support Big Local SW11’s Community & Belonging programme.

1. **Contact**

For more information about the Battersea Alliance please contact:

Aaron Barbour Katherine Low Settlement aaron@klsettlement.org.uk

David Stone Big Local SW11 david@biglocalsw11.co.uk