



**Taylor  
Wimpey**



**WAY FORWARD**

# Annual Report 2021/22

## Battersea Alliance

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

### **Thank you for your support**

For more information about the Battersea Alliance and get involved please contact:

Aaron Barbour  
David Stone

Katherine Low Settlement  
Big Local SW11

[aaron@klsettlement.org.uk](mailto:aaron@klsettlement.org.uk)  
[david@biglocalsw11.co.uk](mailto:david@biglocalsw11.co.uk)

This is a short report about the work of the Battersea Alliance and its partners over the last year 2021/22.

## 1. Context

Since our last report we have seen the election of a new Council, the reorganisation of the Health Authority and the perhaps the biggest cost of living crisis on record! Through the Covid-19 pandemic our sector was already under severe pressure with funding being redirected to meet crisis needs. As the pandemic abates we are seeing enormous strains and stresses caused by poverty particularly fuel poverty, inflation, pay constraints and general economic uncertainty – all directly impacting on the sector, particularly on volunteering, which has showed a marked decline.

## 2. 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)

## 3. Highlights over the last year

This last year was about reconnecting and recovering after the pandemic and various government lockdowns. We reviewed and adjusted our strategy and plan to support more local residents out of the Covid crisis and now the Cost of Living crisis.

### Highlights over the last year include:

- Supported thousands of Battersea residents and community organisations recover from the pandemic.
- Developed 'Battersea Youth Voice': a youth-driven community development programme for Battersea.
- Developed 'Battersea Volunteers': a volunteer development programme for Battersea.
- Developed 'Youth Battersea' partnership: providing a co-ordinated and multi-organisational support package to some of the most challenging young people in Battersea – activities, services and programmes during term-time and holidays; as well as supported each other particularly regarding safeguarding concerns.
- Supported 12 pilot 'CBF' projects with BLSW11 addressing isolation, loneliness and mental health challenges in Battersea, supporting over 500 local people – see CBF's annual report for more detail.
- Held successful in-person events to reconnect over 700+ local people and organisations after the pandemic e.g. 'Battersea Together', 'Your Vote Counts', 'Battersea Jubilee Festival' and various Volunteer Fairs and events.

## 4. Work Programme 2021/22

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

- a. Own Work
- b. Joint Work
- c. Hosted Work
- d. 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** – our website helps to promote the work of the **Alliance and its partners**. Visit: [www.bls11alliance.org](http://www.bls11alliance.org). We've also used social media to connect, share and promote work with local residents.
- **Summer 2022** – we've been able to run some joint activities for young people over the summer holidays, including Providence House-led Arts festival, Battersea Bake Off, and some joint-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:
  - o Our fifth **Battersea Together** event was held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 looking at a post-Covid Battersea. The local MP, Marsha de Cordova, joined us at St Peter's, along with 80+ local residents and community organisations. Our next one is planned for 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
  - o Various **Volunteering events** have been held throughout the year.
- **Community & Belonging Forum (CBF)** – in 2021 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; Battersea Befriending Network; the Maysoule Road Community Group and Maysoule Road Street Party; the JCT Mentoring project and more. See CBF's separate annual report.
- **New Service: Mental Health support for young people, staff and volunteers** (new) – we are making funding applications to run a new programme to support the mental health and wellbeing of young people and their families in Battersea. We hope to be successful and start the work by Christmas 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.

### **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, supported by Battersea Summer Scheme
- Fitness and health sessions with young people from Providence and Caius
- Jobcentre Plus at Caius
- Carney's and KLS are using Caius kitchen for food/cooking workshops
- Caius, Providence and Carney's working together with the police
- 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
- KLS and Caius supporting family bereavement
- Carney's, Providence, Caius and KLS dealing with safeguarding concerns and reducing risk for specific young people

- Providence young people releasing a music video involving some Carney's participants and having it filmed at Carney's
- St Peter's Battersea have run Kids Matter groups with Providence House, and also worked together on God Loves Battersea (as well as 4 other churches on the Winstanley Estate)

**C. Hosted Work** (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)**

As we are now at the end of Year 2 and beginning of Year 3, Battersea Youth Voice have been able to develop some clear ideas of projects that will be most impactful and create a legacy vision that can hopefully continue and ideally be spearheaded by young people. These areas and projects are:

1. New Gen Podcast (a podcast dedicated to getting young people's voice out there)
2. PAAYP – Police Accountability & Advocacy for Young People (Police and young people's rights)
3. Immersive Empathy Training (training for student Police and Teachers by young people to address prejudice)

What follows is more detail of Kebbah's work:

**1. New Gen Podcast**

- Collaboratively worked with young people in Battersea to develop the idea of a podcast
- Created a vision and branding for the podcast
- Secured YOF (youth opportunity funding) to purchase the equipment for the podcast
- Created partnerships with youth groups in Battersea to participate in the podcast (Free2be, Black Minds Matter, Generate, Care Leavers, Beatbox Academy BAC etc)
- Started filming episodes
- Launched New Gen Podcast YouTube channel in addition to distributing sed episodes on Spotify, Google Podcasts etc
- Aiming to train young people to work behind the scenes of the podcast (filming, editing, distributing)

**2. PAAYP**

- Creation of PAAYP group (Police Accountability & Advocacy for Young People)
  - o Partnership with Wimbledon Police station to train student police
  - o Member of various Police and community groups (CMG,IAG,PEP)
  - o Partnership with JCT (Just Come Together) for PAAYP
  - o Plans to set up an 'informal resolution' for any potential complaints about young people's stop & search experiences
  - o Soon to distribute PAAYP posters around Battersea youth provisions that display FAQ and info around stop & search
- 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)

**3. Immersive Empathy Training**

- Facilitate young focus groups and research to ascertain key issues with services and possible solutions
- Exploring a training program to be carried out by young people using VR (virtual reality) technology
- Secured a place and currently attending a tech start-up course to create a **minimal viable product** to test with the student Police and Teachers

- Secured a place and currently attending another tech start-up course that focuses on ensuring the business idea is solving a problem and will be successful. Provides excellent opportunities for key networking to access funding and partnerships to take the business idea to another level
- Made the correct connections with the department responsible for delivering training in the MET Police and pitched the idea which they liked
- Planning to gain access to the key people in the schools in and around Battersea to nurture relationships with them in order to bring this solution to fruition
- Currently recruiting young people to carry out this training
- Exploring applying for YOF (youth opportunity funding) to facilitate some additional focus groups for young people.

Now that the information and key problem areas are known, Year 3 is about delivery. Some of the issues highlighted in previous years, are being worked on by other professionals, so it was decided to concentrate on issues mentioned above.

Some of the challenges in Year 2 include developing key working relationships and correspondence from key staff members and external organisations. The communication between BYV and external organisations have improved, even though it is not ideal.

## ii. Battersea Volunteers

Over the last year Diana has concentrated on developing five areas of work:

1. Work with community organisations in Battersea to support and develop best practices in volunteering.
2. Deliver training and one-to-one support in 'Recruiting Volunteers' and 'Managing Volunteers', so that community organisations in Battersea can take on more volunteers and be confident in how to support and manage them.
3. Celebrate volunteering in Battersea. As well as, raise the profile of what we all do in Battersea. We need to say a massive 'Thank You' to the volunteers who support and add value to our much-needed community services.
4. Support volunteer recruitment of local people to enhance the services that work with the local community.
5. Showcase the work of volunteers in Battersea, through stories, films, social media and events.

What follows is more detail of Diana's work:

### 1. Best practices in volunteering

Diana has worked with **13 local organisations** to support and build up their volunteering capacity. Some of these have requested a full volunteering health check to look at their policies, procedures and overall running of their programmes. Others have needed resources to use as templates or signposting to where they can advertise or get more assistance.

### 2. Training and support

- **2 x network meetings** - held online and face-to-face with 9 people in attendance. Bite size training was included, in creating effective role descriptions and Supervision as a guest speaker. There was a 10 min presentation by Wandsworth Care Alliance on the volunteer brokerage platform.
- **1 x managing volunteers training** - 4 people attended. We had excellent feedback.
- **Battersea Volunteers WhatsApp group** is an effective way of sharing information and learning about volunteering with community organisations in Battersea and building relationships.
- **3 x e-newsletters** have been sent during this year. We have an audience of 69 people. The average open rate is 50%.

### 3. Celebrate volunteering

We held and/or attended **n** number of events to celebrate volunteers, recruit volunteers and raise the profile of volunteering. These included:

#### **'Summer Celebration of Volunteers' at Battersea Power Station on 6<sup>th</sup> July**

The event aimed to thank local volunteers who make such a difference to our local community. Alex and the team at BPS generously agreed to sponsor and pay for the event. It also seemed a natural fit to partner with Link Up London, who link skilled volunteers with charities and social businesses who help the organisations do their work better and have a greater impact.

More than 80 volunteers and charities attended the celebration event on 6th July (6.30-8.00pm), in Battersea Power Station's sales suite. It's a gorgeous space with models of the power station and great views overlooking the river and the power station itself. They provided the most delicious finger buffet and a range of drinks for our volunteers. Everyone had a great time, with lots of talking, eating and merriment had by all.

We were joined by The Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Jeremy Ambache, as well as Marsha de Cordova, MP for Battersea, who gave short, but heartfelt speeches to recognise and thank all of the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Councillor Kemi Akinola, who is the new lead Cabinet member for the Voluntary Sector, was also able to join us.

*"Thank you and everyone involved for hosting such a well organised and meaningful event last week. We got to meet lots of people from the area and made links with people whom we didn't know about before. As well as meeting the Mayor, MP and Councillors. Best wishes, Sonya (Olive Branch Aid)".*

We're now planning for next year.

#### **External events attended to raise the profile of volunteering in Battersea:**

##### **Battersea Together**

Gave a presentation on Battersea Volunteers at an Alliance's Battersea Together event in October. Plus table talks and networked with local people.

##### **Mayor of London's Civil Society and Sport unit event**

Networking and learning about volunteering practice across London at the Mayor of London's Civil Society and Sport unit event, hosted by Deputy Mayor Debra Weekes.

##### **Healthy London Partnership workshop at City Hall**

Gave a presentation at Healthy London workshop about value of volunteering for good mental health and wellbeing and raise profile of volunteering in Battersea.

##### **Wandsworth Council Supporting the Voluntary Sector: Shaping the Future Vision**

Input about volunteering into new Voluntary Sector group, led by Cllr Kemi Akinola, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Voluntary Sector, Business Engagement and Culture).

##### **Pump House Gallery Jubilee Festival event**

Networking at this summer celebration event.

### 4. Volunteer recruitment and support

We use a variety of methods to communicate and reach local people to encourage them to volunteer in Battersea, and support to local organisations to do more recruitment themselves. These include:

### **Volunteer Fair in Battersea Park (25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022)**

We worked with ENABLE Sports & Leisure to host a Volunteer Fair during their Battersea Park Summer Festival. 10 local community organisations attended over the 2 day festival, reaching hundreds of local people about volunteering opportunities in Battersea.

### **Bramlands Close Street Party**

Partnered with Waste Not Want Not Battersea to promote Battersea Volunteers service to the public at their summer street party.

### **Student Volunteers Week (February 2022)**

Interviewed 2 students who volunteer at KLS and promoted the videos of their interviews on Twitter. Gave a talk to 22 Students at the Royal College of Art about volunteering in Battersea.

### **Wandsworth Jobcentre talks**

Gave 2 talks to 60 Jobcentre staff around the importance of volunteering to enable people to build their confidence, improve their CV and get back into the work ethic. Working with them to promote volunteering to job seekers as a route into work.

### **Volunteer coffee mornings**

Have been organised to talk to potential volunteers about a range of local volunteering opportunities.

### **Volunteer Brokerage sessions**

A new brokerage services was soft launched in Autumn 2021. Diana has interviewed 11 local people interested in volunteering. 2 have gone on to volunteer. More marketing and comms needs to be carried out in Year 3 to increase take up of this service. We're still working with Wandsworth Care Alliance to help promote and run a Wandsworth-wide Volunteer Brokerage Service.

### **Comms materials to wide promotion**

We trialed a 6ft banner on railings at KLS to promote the service. This has provided a useful will be rolled out across Battersea. We also have new flyers to promote the service, which are distributed widely.

### **Social Media**

Used social media – principally Twitter (with a following of 172, up from 47 in year 1) and Linked In – to increase awareness about and profile of volunteering in Battersea. We made 197 tweets, 4,631 tweet impressions, 7,012 profile visits, 82 mentions, 125 new followers.

## **5. Showcase Volunteers in Battersea**

### **Trustees Week (November 2021)**

We contacted organisations across Battersea and through promotion and communication we were able to promote 11 case studies - 3 of these were video interviews.

Case studies can be found here <https://www.blsw11alliance.org/trustees> and included: Carneys Community, Sound Minds, Wandsworth Mediation Service, Rotary club of Battersea Park, Katherine Low Settlement, Little Village, Link Up London, Providence House and Share Community.

### **National Volunteers Week (June 2022)**

We celebrated by circulating volunteer stories through social media, using a mixture of stories we had collected and showcasing the stories promoted by our charity sector.

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

### **Battersea Alliance membership**

We're looking to widen the membership of the Battersea Alliance with more strategic partners, delivery partners and funders joining us.

### **Developing work with BLSW11**

The Alliance continues to develop its relationship and work more closely with the BLSW11 team.

### **BLSW11's Community & Belonging Forum**

In 2021 the Alliance invested £30,000 into Big Local SW11's CBF work, which has been invested into 12 pilot projects to address loneliness, isolation and mental health in Battersea.

### **NHS**

As the SW London NHS Integrated Care Service is rolled out, we are looking to develop our relationship with them and work out a plan for working together

### **Campaigning/Lobbying**

We have worked with community organisations to bring about policy change. E.g. the new Labour administration taking over Wandsworth Council has committed to become a 'Living Wage Employer' and for Wandsworth to become a 'Borough of Sanctuary' for refugee communities.

## **4. Finances for Year 2021/22**

We raised £90,000 and spent all of this on our work programme. Including match funding from Big Local SW11 and Winstanley & York Gardens Joint Venture – thank you for your support.

## **5. 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.

The Battersea Alliance is on track with its current budget; and we are **increasing our fundraising** to secure further investment for the community e.g. NHS Equalities Fund.

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.

We are exploring ways of achieving significant efficiencies by sharing **'backroom costs'** (e.g. facilities management, IT, fund raising) to build capacity for front line work.

We will **widen the membership** of the Alliance at our next 'Battersea Together' event on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022. This will help to bring more community organisations and partners under the umbrella of the Alliance; and therefore provide more collective, joined up work to support local residents.

Your support on this journey would be much appreciated.