



Partnership Southwark Newsletter – November 2021

Welcome to the Partnership Southwark newsletter, published to keep you informed on our work to better join up health and care services and close the gap on inequalities within the borough. If you are interested in hearing more or being involved in this work, please contact our programme team [here](#).

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Working together in Partnership Southwark – improving the health and wellbeing of Southwark residents

As we emerge from the biggest public health crisis of our time, we need a health and care system that is positioned to respond to existing and emerging needs. The old competitive system created a fragmented culture that encouraged silo working. This would have created a poorer experience of care for residents due to lack of co-ordination and communication between the different services involved in an individual’s care.

The new integrated care system (ICS) is intended to address this disconnect – to shift towards a system focusing on personalised care across the prevention and treatment spectrum. In short, it will radicalise how health and care services are planned, paid for and delivered.

ICSs also have the potential to tackle health inequalities by going beyond the NHS to work with the local authority, voluntary sector and other local partners to address social and economic determinants of health. Evidence consistently shows that the wider aspects of a person’s life such as finances, education, employment etc. all have an impact on their health and wellbeing.





No matter what you think of the constant NHS reform, the new ICS is surely a good thing. A new approach where key localised organisations and professionals actively work together to create a seamless health and care journey tailored to individual needs, can only bring health benefits for our population.

Partnership Southwark is the vehicle with which Southwark will embark on this journey of integration. A journey that will strengthen and increase trust between partner organisations and their leaders, as they will be working together to create a system that has the local resident at its heart; ensuring that every part of the health and care system works collectively to improve the health and wellbeing of Southwark residents.

The journey will not be without bumps in the road, but our collective duty and care for our residents, will make this journey worthwhile.

Councillor Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Southwark Council



Community Southwark – bringing Southwark’s communities into Partnership Southwark

Community Southwark is the main provider of support and advice to the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Southwark. We are deeply committed to supporting a strong and thriving sector in the borough through our key strategic functions:

- Offering capacity building services, including free training workshops and resources
- Advocating on behalf of the VCS through our series of networks and representation roles
- Supporting activism, volunteering and community engagement

Partnership Southwark is made up of eight partner organisations, including Community Southwark. As partners we work together and with other health, care and VCS organisations and our communities to better join up services and support, tackle the causes of inequality, and improve the health and wellbeing of Southwark residents.

The work delivered within Partnership Southwark is divided into four workstreams: Start Well (children and young people and keeping families strong), Live Well (working age adults), Age Well (older people and frailty), and Care Well (people in care and residential settings).

Community Southwark provides representation through our networks, many of which relate to these four workstreams, such as our Social Prescribing Network, our Disability Providers Network and our Mental Health Network. Within these networks we are working to reshape





and refresh the way in which Southwark's VCS groups and organisations come together to speak authoritatively on behalf of the whole sector and influence the decisions that matter.

We also host Healthwatch Southwark. Our Healthwatch Southwark team gathers and champions the views of local users of health and social care services, in order to identify opportunities for improvement and to influence how providers deliver care.

This unique position means that we can bring our experience, and the experiences of our networks, into the partnership to help ensure that Southwark people are at the heart of Partnership Southwark.

If you are interested in finding more about Community Southwark and our work, please visit our website link here: [Community Southwark](#)

The Vital 5 – encouraging residents to know their key measures

As part of the Live Well workstream, Partnership Southwark are working on a project that highlights the importance of five key health Indicators, developed by King's Health Partners as the 'Vital 5'. These measures include healthy weight, alcohol intake, smoking, mental health and blood pressure that are linked to development of long-term illness such as cardiovascular disease.

We know that mind and body are intrinsically linked. By improving peoples' key measures, we hope to boost overall health and wellbeing outcomes, reduce inequalities, and ensure that the Southwark pound is spent as efficiently as possible. The Vital 5 project aims to shift resources to invest in preventative techniques and early action. Our healthcare system currently presents substantial unwarranted variation, we aim for this project to place the patient at the centre, which will in turn drive quality improvement over time.

This Live Well project will seek to improve the measuring of these five key health indicators in health and care settings and by empowering people in our communities to take control of and understand their own 'vital 5'. We hope that residents will be able to understand their overall risk score and seek interventions where necessary, with access to advice and support to facilitate this.

The emphasis on resident owned information will allow people to take charge of their overall wellbeing by making minor lifestyle adjustments. This workstream embodies the goals of Partnership Southwark. This includes working with healthcare colleagues, social care, and VCS organisations as a collaborative effort to ensure Southwark residents live a healthy life by making every contact count.

Please see the below video that gives an overview of the overall concept:

[Introduction to the Vital 5 - YouTube](#)





It takes a village



Partnership Southwark seeks to bring together and support work which goes beyond health and care, helping to address

underlying issues for people which affect their every day lives and wider determinants of health and wellbeing.

An example of this is a new initiative in Southwark called ***It takes a village*** which is designed to tackle the driving factors of multiple disadvantage.

Multiple disadvantage means 3+ out of 6 needs – sometimes called ‘complex needs’ – mental distress, homelessness; substance use; abuse or exploitation; physical/learning/cognitive needs; contact with children’s services or the criminal justice system.

People who have these ‘complex needs’ have almost always experienced trauma, and often personal trauma (such as abuse, bereavement) alongside systemic inequalities such as racism and poverty.

It takes a village is an approach that believes that in order to prevent Multiple Disadvantage, we need to get better at including, valuing and listening to the experiences of communities and individuals who are often silenced or ignored.

Our engagement through It takes a village has highlighted that some of the social, behavioural and psychological problems we see in multiple disadvantage are the consequence of people feeling shamed, oppressed or silenced as human beings.

We’re doing five things:

1. **Skilling up:** Setting up a pool of champions across communities, grassroots organisations and statutory and voluntary services, who are passionate about changing their organisations to become more trauma and social inequality informed, and do better for and with people facing multiple disadvantage . We’re offering enhanced training, networking and support opportunities. We’re also sharing ‘mikedrop sessions’ – 4-5 minute videos to skill you up and fill you full of tips, tricks – using voices from people with lived experience, people in our communities, as well as psychologists and other paid professionals.
2. **Making it easier** for people who may be excluded (eg careleavers, women who sex work, people who are homeless) to access preventative health and social support, by setting up service protocols and instituting a ‘passport’ system to make it easier to access bespoke care if you’ve faced systemic inequalities.
3. **Giving clinical advice and case consultation, pathway facilitation and direct intervention** to help support people facing complex problems, now.
4. **Building links** between community activists and paid services and professionals to diversify ways of thinking, and contributing to the anti-racist movement in Southwark.
5. **Feeding learning** into strategy and the system, and being a ‘critical friend’ to support different and less hierarchical ways of thinking and communicating across the system.

Fancy hearing more or even getting involved? We’d love to hear from you! Drop me a line – Felicity.Reed@southwark.gov.uk

Felicity Reed, Clinical Lead Adults Facing Multiple Disadvantage, Southwark Council





Carers Delivery Group - Gearing up for Carers Rights Day on the 25 November

The Partnership Southwark Age Well Leadership Group has committed to working more closely with and providing better support for carers in the borough. In June, a multiagency Carers Delivery Group (CDG) made up of partners including the hospital trusts, primary care networks (PCNs), Southwark Council and VCS organisations including Southwark Carers, Imago and Healthwatch Southwark assembled to focus on:

- Improving carer Identification
- Creating a shared culture and approach across the partnership
- Championing innovation and best practice
- Ensuring Southwark carers shape our plans and offers

To ensure Southwark carers are at the heart of our planning and support offers, in September, the Council launched a Carers Partnership Group as a safe space to hear directly from carers on their experiences and provide feedback on support plans and improvement areas; such as a revised Southwark Council Carer assessment process. Both the CDG and the Carers Partnership Group have committed to work hand-in-hand to take positive actions to support our carers in Southwark.

Since forming, the CDG has shared existing strategies, programmes, and resources to facilitate closer working and reduce duplication. We have also delivered a Partnership Southwark lunch and learn session focused on carers on 23 September. **(Insert link).**

The CDG has identified a significant gap in support for carers; particularly young carers in the borough (18-25years) and this has been prioritised as the focus this year. Engagement with a young carer focus group is planned for November to understand their experiences and what Partnership Southwark can do to support young carers now and in the future.

Raising awareness through shared communication is also a priority for the group this year with a coordinated communications approach across Partnership Southwark for Carers Rights Day on 25 November where we will share messages, pledges and resources to support Carers across the partnership.

If you want to make pledge and support Carers Rights Day on 25 November please get in touch with Louise Pisani, Partnership Southwark Programme Manager via Louise.Pisani@nhs.net





Black and Asian communities invited to dedicated wellness clinic

Black and Asian people are being invited to attend a dedicated wellness clinic to help detect long-term health conditions that can put them at a higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Guy's and St Thomas' has launched the service for people in Lambeth and Southwark. The project aims to reduce the high levels of undiagnosed health conditions among Black and Asian people, and reduce the health inequality gap that has been brought into sharp focus during the coronavirus pandemic.

In June 2020, [Public Health England](#) reported that death rates from COVID-19 were higher for Black and Asian ethnic groups when compared to White ethnic groups. One of the reasons for this included a high level of pre-existing health conditions.

Research by [Guy's and St Thomas' Charity](#) highlights that people from Black and Asian communities in Lambeth and Southwark experience a greater burden of long-term health conditions than people from White ethnic groups, and are likely to get their first long-term condition years earlier than their white neighbours.

Thanks to generous supporters of Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, the Trust is piloting a six-month project that aims to work in partnership with local faith and community groups to support Black and Asian people to attend health screenings.

As well as running the service from the Walworth Road Clinic in Southwark, the team plan to offer health check-ups after religious services at churches and mosques, and at community centres.

Patients are offered tests for high cholesterol, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and screening for sexually transmitted infections. All participants are sent a letter summarising their findings and health promotion advice, and those with significant findings receive a follow-up.

Dr Rashidat Rabi, a specialist doctor in sexual reproductive health at Guy's and St Thomas', said: "It's crucial that we identify people living with multiple long-term health conditions so they can get the right diagnosis and treatment.

"We want to work with faith leaders to improve the health of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds in our local boroughs. The insights gained from the pilot project will help us design future approaches to improving the health of other ethnic minority communities in London and beyond."

Revd Sandra Schloss, from St Luke's Church in Peckham, said: "The wellness clinic is a great facility for people in the community, it is a service that will help those who are unsure





about going to their doctors to have the opportunity on their doorstep to have a full check-up. I totally support this initiative."

The wellness clinic runs on Thursdays between 4pm and 7pm at the Walworth Road Clinic in Southwark.

Bigger and better children's hospital gets green light

Plans for a landmark new building that will help make Evelina London a world-leading children's hospital have been unanimously approved by Lambeth Council.

The new building will be joined to the existing, award-winning children's hospital which opened in 2005. In that time the number of children and young people who come to it from across London and the South-East has more than doubled.

The bigger and better children's hospital, which will open in 2027, will mean that Evelina London can continue to meet the needs of the sickest children with the most complex conditions from across the country.

It will also provide space to expand specialist heart and lung services as, subject to consultation, some services will move from Royal Brompton Hospital to Evelina London in around six years' time.

The new hospital building, designed by Hawkins\Brown Architects and developer Linkcity, is expected to include:

- Around 100 beds, plus up to 20 additional critical care beds
- A new suite of operating theatres and procedure rooms
- Specialist imaging facilities
- More spaces for patients and families to relax, including a roof terrace.
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Marian Ridley, Director of Evelina London, said: "This is a huge step for us – it will allow us to continue with our exciting plans to grow the hospital into a world-leading centre of life-changing care for even more children, young people and their families.

"Without increasing our capacity, a significant proportion of children and young people would not be able to access specialist care, leading to delays to treatment, increased use of emergency care, and the potential for worse quality of life and long term outcomes.

"We are therefore very grateful to the council for their support, alongside our local community, patients and families who we consulted throughout the planning process."

Professor Ian Abbs, Chief Executive of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Our ambitious plan to expand Evelina London will make it one of the world's leading children's hospitals, and enable us to provide exceptional care to many more children and young people.





“This is just the beginning of an exciting journey for us, and we will continue to put patients and families at the heart of what we do.”

Construction of a new day surgery centre, next to the existing hospital building, is already underway and due to open in 2022. It will provide family-friendly space that offers everything children and young people need for surgery in one place, including pre-surgery checks, recovery, and preparation to return home.

As a specialist children’s hospital on the same site as St Thomas’ Hospital which has maternity, an emergency department and other adult services, Evelina London is unique in London and one of a few hospitals in Europe able to offer children and families a comprehensive range of services from before birth to old age.

With planning permission secured by Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust and its development partner Linkcity, the current development agreement will be amicably concluded. The next stage will require a fresh competitive procurement for the construction and operational fit out.

