

Lambeth Together Care Partnership Board Public Forum

Thursday 20th July 2023



Questions from members of the public

Question from Basia Brzezicka, Dementia Adviser, Lambeth Alzheimer's Society:

How can we address the issues, how can we help those vulnerable people, who pretty much discriminated still in our society, sadly. I'd like to remind everyone that having diagnosis of dementia does not stop person being human, and I feel quite often their human rights are dismissed.

Isolation – isolation is a big killer for those with dementia and not only, despite the existing social groups, there is no support with getting there, for some people it is just impossible to get there on their own, and quite often there is no one to support them.

Need for befriending service, many people are housebound, or they feel uncomfortable in groups, lack of stimulation, and isolation are major factors in dementia progression, we could all experience during the lockdown.

Missing medical appointment, or not being able to follow up the doctor's suggestions - this is a huge risk factor and contribute to loss of public money, no explanation needed.

Carers burn out, can lead to mental health issues and potential abuse – there is a big need for carers education, there has been mentioned in the past the Alzheimer's Society Crisp programme which has been approved by NHS England in the past. There is a need for the much-respected programme which needs to be funded. Also, respite for carers, most of the time carers has no time for themselves, they struggle with daily tasks, they face isolation and horrendous stress.

Big need for a support worker - for people living with dementia, many people can live quite well with right support at their environment. They are too independent to live in a care setting but cannot function well on their own. For example, the person can need help checking the letters, following the matters, support around social activities, etc, however, they might not need support with personal care or meals.

David Orekoya, Associate Director of Integrated Commissioning – Mental Health, responded:

- David explained that his team work in partnership with colleagues across the council and in terms of the issue of isolation, they fund an organisation called The Age Exchange, which provides weekly wellbeing groups to encourage friendship and support for those living with dementia.
- The befriending service is still an area for opportunity and is a part of the strategy going forward.
- The team recognise the need for more support for Carers and this is something that is being worked on.





Carole Milner, North Lambeth Residents' Group

We attended the Lambeth Together Care Partnership meeting last November, where I also met Amanda Coyle from the Neighbourhood and Wellbeing Delivery Alliance, who put us in touch with Chris French, who has been a continuing support to us.

We are a group of residents and a local community, including LERA (Lambeth Estate Residents' Association), other local groups and our local church, St John's, in North Lambeth. As we grow older, we want to live in our own homes, support one another, and stay as independent as possible for as long as possible. To do that, and to avoid re-inventing wheels, we needed to know what support, formal and informal is available to us and to identify what we need to do for ourselves.

We have researched very widely, made a number of contacts and have made good inroads including a public meeting in March, where we had input from Paul Coles, Nicola Sands, Karen Jackson, Steve Griffin and others. We have continued working since and have come to realise what an enormous amount of interest there is in this project, perhaps not surprising given the demographics. Reflecting that, whatever we do, we intend to make it useful to and replicable by any other groups and communities such as ours.

Of all the possibilities for action, our hope is to focus initially on three short, medium, and long-term priorities:

- To gather into one place, co-ordinate and make easily accessible all pre-existing local guidance and information (e.g., Carechoices Directories of Care and Support Services produced in 35 UK regions over the last 30 years).
- To create a replicable model for very localised self-help and mutual support, based on core values of trust and good neighbourliness.
- To proactively support any long-term plans for a local Elder Care / Residential / Nursing / Dementia Centre and hub.

We are ready to make it happen, and now we need to open a discussion with our local authority and relevant partners.



Jane Bowie, Director of Integrated Commissioning (Adults), responded:

- Jane agreed there was still an issue with people being able to access the services and is a continued focus on how they can be made more accessible.
- A directory of local services is already commissioned; Age UK provide that service and are reviewing the information presented. They are looking to expand and increase the input of different partners and stakeholders to advertise on that site and this sits in the context of wanting to review what the prevention offer is. Jane has commissioned this on behalf of the local authority, but more joint work is being done, particularly with Southwark, looking at the interface between individual borough directory of services.
- Jane introduced Josepha Reynolds as the new Programme Director of the Neighbourhood and Wellbeing Delivery Alliance and suggested that both she and Josepha could meet with Carole going forward, to further develop her insights.

George Verghese, GP, Primary Care Clinical Network Director for North Lambeth Primary Care Network, added:

- The three main points that Carole had raised are very much a focal point for all and in different ways. Unfortunately, there isn't a universal scalable solution for all, but all have been worked on several times, to try and solve.
- A new Health Equity Champion has just been recruited and will link in with the thriving North Lambeth network, along with the social prescribing link workers, hosted by Age UK as well voluntary groups, in order to get a sense of community support that works along those lines highlighted.

Paul Coles, Chief Executive of Age UK Lambeth, added:

- Paul explained that he had been working with Carole already and noted discussions between him and Chris French from the Neighbourhood and Wellbeing Delivery Alliance. One recommendation to Chris was that any new commissioning of directories should take effect over 2 years to enable changes to take place and be a more effective directory.
- A lot of the directories are self funded and could have been a problem in the past as they weren't seen as sustainable but with the change in Lambeth population, it may be more viable now.

Josepha Reynolds, Programme Director of the Neighbourhood Wellbeing and Delivery Alliance, added:

- Josepha detailed the work that the Neighbourhood and Wellbeing Delivery Alliance do and welcomed Carole's input going forward.



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Question from Abdul Aziz Ali, member of the public, asked during the Board Meeting:

Abdul explained that he was at the board meeting for the first time and was there for more information on Learning Disabilities and Autism:

When it comes to funding, I feel there is an issue with language barriers and healthcare. However, having now received what is necessary for my son, the difficulties we now face is his reaction to seeing a doctor and the extra support that is needed. The doctor should be notified of the condition ahead of the appointment.

Helen Bolger and Michelle Homer from the Learning Disabilities and Autism team will arrange to meet with Abdul Aziz Ali.



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Questions from Odilon Couzin, member of the public:

- Child Immunisations - I noticed a lot in the strategy document about strengthened education and information for vaccine hesitant parents, but not much about trying to listen to people's attitudes towards the vaccines and vaccine programme. I wonder what was found to be the biggest barriers to vaccine uptake, and how this will be incorporated into the strategy.
- Autism strategy - Very good to see this report. I wonder if there has been any effort to strengthen support to children and young people in schools, as issues such as bullying came up in the consultation document. As I understand, schools are quite stretched and often lack the human resources to provide sufficient Special Educational Needs and Disabilities support, especially for those students with "high functioning" Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Cost of living crisis support - Has there been any discussion about installing solar panels on council flat rooftops? This seems like a very cost-effective long-term strategy that could help people reduce energy costs, which I saw in meeting documents are the #1 financial challenge faced by low-income residents.
- Long COVID - I was very interested to see that the Health and Wellbeing bus was looking into long COVID in more deprived areas and populations in Lambeth. Has there been any update on this, and any strategies to address the issue of Long COVID (which seems it will only get worse in the future).
- Children and Young People's Alliance - I noticed in the Assurance Report that the Children and Young People's Alliance is facing some capacity issues due to "reduced team structure". I wonder if somebody can explain why this is, and what the plan is to address these capacity issues.

Ese Iyasere, Public Health Consultant, responded:

- Ese agreed the question around immunisation was a timely one, and as part of the Lambeth Together's mission, it was recognised that the coverage of immunisations need to be improved and work is being done on tackling the inequalities in that space. In terms of barriers, although a complex issue, understanding the barriers people are experiencing will help in developing a robust response, whilst referring to the work done by Public Health England.
- Once best practice has been explored, it was taken out to the partners to get an all-system approach, which included residents, to begin to explore ways to tackle the inequalities. Engagement sessions were run with grass roots organisations, Voluntary and Community Sectors and residents to gain their insight on how the vaccination programme could be taken forward. There were 1:1's with current providers and GP's, and they convened a workshop to look at a system solution to tackle Lambeth's issue.
- A strategy has now been developed which includes giving vaccinations out of new spaces, children's centres, for example, running alongside engagement sessions, with an overall target approach.

Laura Griffin, Commissioning Lead – Early Years and Parenting, responded:

The day-to-day experiences of our children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is an area which all partners are committed to supporting and improving and this work will be ongoing. School staff are supported through Mental Health Support Teams to recognise and respond to issues affecting children and young people's emotional and health and well-being, recognising that many children with SEND will be in the cohort who most need this support. Through the same teams, children and young people (and their parents / carers for those in the primary age group) have access to targeted support as well as to wider resources in the local community.

School staff are also supported to understand SEND needs by the CAMHS service and by Specialist Children's Community Services, and through comprehensive continuing professional development opportunities, including those provide by the Speech and Language Therapy Service. We are currently conducting a parent / carer survey to gather the views of parents and carers of children with SEND and will be carrying out a more in-depth consultation with both parents / carers and children and young people in the Autumn. Findings from this consultation work will inform our future work in this area.

Cassidy Travis, Head of Climate Change & Sustainability, responded:

Thank you for your interest in solar panels on Council Estates. We are working with the housing team to identify suitable sites, funding sources and financial models across Lambeth's estates for Solar Photovoltaic.

We are working through a number of nuances such as pricing and use of battery power, installing systems for community areas (with benefits being shared with the residents) or wider residential use (which will require buy in from all residents), residents who hold leases to their homes and others.

We are open to suggestions/proposals from our residents.

Bimpe Oki, Public Health Consultant, responded:

The project was led by the South East London Long COVID Programme and was funded by NHS charities, Together & Guy's & St Thomas's Charity, that aims to accelerate the recovery of people with Long COVID in South East London. The team worked with the Lambeth Health and Wellbeing Bus providing members of the community a unique 'breathing review' to highlight the importance of optimal breathing for health & recovery after being unwell. In addition, a Long COVID survey was conducted to find out more about the experience of those living in Lambeth about their awareness, understanding & prevalence of Long COVID.

General findings, which will help shape future activities and the direction of the SEL Long COVID Programme, include:

- There seems to be a higher prevalence of Long COVID in Lambeth compared to national data
- More awareness of Long COVID in Lambeth is needed
- Reaching into communities using outreach methods is an excellent way of raising awareness on health conditions.

As a result of the project, the South East London programme has better understanding of the awareness and prevalence of Long Covid at a community level. Some training sessions for Health Champions and Ambassadors have started across South East London so they are able to raise increased awareness of Long Covid in their communities.

Simon Boote, Children and Young People's Alliance Programme Lead, responded:

Thank you for bringing your concern about the capacity issues faced by the Children & Young People's (CYP) Alliance, as highlighted in the Lambeth Together Care Partnership Board Assurance Report, to our attention. We realise that a strong team is crucial for the CYP Alliance to do its job well, and we are glad you are interested in this.

We are now confident that the 'reduced team structure' mentioned in the report will not be an issue moving forward. This is because we have now finalised and published the overall Lambeth Health & Care Plan, and we have just appointed a CYP Alliance Programme Director.

The Lambeth Health & Care Plan sets out our main goals and will help our alliances, including the CYP Alliance, progress and start making real improvements for the people living in Lambeth. Our Alliance Directors will be the ones guiding this vision and making sure the plan is carried out in the best way possible.

The upcoming months will be key as we start to action the main goals of our plan. We really appreciate your patience and ongoing support as we navigate this process. And we look forward to keeping you updated about the developments in the CYP Alliance Programme as they happen.

Question from Sarah Thorley, member of the public:

As an active member of our Local Neighbourhood Group, Homeward Neighbourhood Association at the top of Brixton Hill, I have noticed references to neighbourhood subjects throughout the meeting and wondered if there was a list of neighbourhood associations and what they do.

Cllr Jim Dickson responded:

- There are a lot of overlapping and interlocking activities, involving several neighbourhood forums and a list can be provided of those.
- Cllr Dickson suggested putting Sarah in touch with their Neighbourhood Forums, where lots of community activity gets discussed and acted on.
- Josepha Reynolds suggested linking Sarah up with several community networks.
- Cllr Dickson also suggested looking into Integrate Lambeth as another source of information.