

Healthwatch Representatives Feedback Form

Representative Name	Martin Haddon
Meeting	<p style="text-align: center;">Canerows Annual Gathering</p> <p>Canerows is a Wandsworth user-led peer support group based at Sound Minds in Battersea. Their main activity is visiting wards and talking to patients at Springfield and Queen Mary Hospitals. The Gathering brought together mental health service users/survivors from BME backgrounds, their families, supporters and carers to talk about peer support.</p>
Date & Time	31 May 2018 1.30 - 5 pm
Who attended	Over 30 people, including mental health service users, carers, service providers and representatives of BME and other community organisations. Marsha de Cordova, MP for Battersea, attended for part of the meeting.
Key issues	<p>Three ward visitors gave moving personal testimony emphasising the value of peer support to both parties.</p> <p>Below are highlights from updates by local peer support service providers:</p> <p>Battersea Befriending Network (http://batterseabefriendingnetwork.webplus.net) an expanding network of 1:1 befriending volunteers across Wandsworth. Mental health service users are referred by an appropriate professional who participates in the initial meeting between service user and befriender. Volunteers are given training.</p> <p>Nurture (www.nurturelondon.co.uk), a recent spin-off from Sound Minds, is a voluntary mental health support group which visits young people in Springfield Hospital as well as offering 1:1 sessions for adults focused mainly on cooking skills.</p> <p>Hope Atrium (Health, Opportunity, Participation and Education) is a community interest company with a range of activities, the most recent being From Surviving to Thriving (fs2t.co.uk) which is funded by Wandsworth CCG to train wellbeing champions among the BME community as well as running a summer programme for young people.</p>

	<p>Tiffany Brown from the Participation People has been working with Wandsworth Children’s and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) including setting up a young people’s participation council and helping young people contribute to the design of a new Transition service.</p> <p>Talk Wandsworth (psychological therapy and wellbeing) and the Wandsworth Carers Centre also gave updates.</p> <p>Melba Wilson OBE, a longstanding champion of mental health in the BME community and one-time chair of Wandsworth Primary Care Trust and Marsha de Cordova, MP for Battersea and Shadow Minister for Disabled People, gave keynote speeches.</p> <p><i>I suggested to Melba Wilson that the Mental Health Trust’s Expert Panel on Diversity and Equality, on which she sits, will start to lose credibility if it does not get down to business soon (it has only met once so far). She took my point and said she would press for more meetings.</i></p> <p>I left before the Gathering’s general discussion.</p>
<p>Healthwatch Actions and What to Watch</p>	<p>To continue to monitor developments in peer support services for people with mental health problems.</p>
<p>The Meeting in one sentence (for blog, FB, Twitter, newsletter)</p>	<p>Canerows, a local BME mental health support group, highlights the value of peer support at its annual Gathering.</p>