

December 2020

Dear Friends of Community Links,

On behalf of the Community Links Board of Trustees, we are writing to share some news with you.

As you may know, since 2016 Community Links has been part of a strategic partnership with Catch22. Catch22 became the sole member of Community Links in January 2017.

Catch22 is a not-for-profit business with a social mission, building resilience and aspiration in people and communities for over 200 years. The Board of Trustees has now decided to strengthen this partnership with Catch22 and merge fully in early 2021.

Given our shared objectives, the merger will bring tangible benefits to both organisations and ultimately benefit the 60,000 service users we support each year, in Newham, across Greater London, and further afield through our policy work.

We will recognise the benefits in three broad areas;

- **Sustainability** – merging with Catch22 gives Community Links more protection in this uncertain environment, in which many charities of all sizes face an uncertain future.
- **Scope** – merging with Catch22 opens more opportunities for Community Links' service users and staff.
- **Scale** – merging with Catch22 gives us the opportunity to build upon and apply our place-based community approach to Catch22's many services across England and Wales.

Community Links' brand (our name, logo etc) and history established over 40 years will continue, as will our commitment (through our mission) to the community and to sharing local lessons to influence wider policy. There will still be a ring-fenced Community Links team within Catch22 and we will also continue to fundraise for much needed funds to carry on our important work.

Our activities will be overseen by an Advisory Committee tasked with safeguarding the legacy and future of Community Links. The Committee will also help ensure local knowledge, experience and expertise continues to drive what we do.

Our website contains frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the merger (<https://www.community-links.org/about-us/>). You are welcome to get in touch with any questions directly via email at [merger@community-links.org](mailto:merger@community-links.org).

We look forward to continuing to work together to forge a brighter future for our many service users in Newham and Greater London.

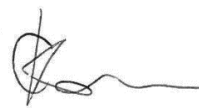
Yours sincerely,



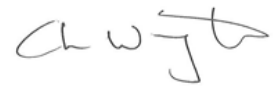
**Alan Lazarus**  
Chair, Community Links



**Terry Duddy**  
Chair, Catch22



**Chi Kavindele**  
Director, Community Links



**Chris Wright**  
CEO, Catch22