

Scrutiny & Overview Committee Supplementary Agenda



4. Question Time: Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon and Communities (Pages 3 - 12)

Question time with the Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon and Communities, Councillor Hamida Ali.

5. Review of Safer Croydon Partnership & Violence Reduction Network (Pages 13 - 28)

The Committee is asked to review the Safer Croydon Partnership and the Violence Reduction Network.

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Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon and Communities Question Time

Scrutiny & Overview Committee
Councillor Hamida Ali

Introduction to the portfolio

The Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon and Communities' portfolio spans two Council directorates, **Place and Resources**, and the **Violence Reduction Network, Policy & Partnerships, Public Realm and Resilience** teams.

The portfolio supports the following **Corporate Plan 2018-22** priorities:

- Everyone feels safer in their street, neighbourhood and home
- People live long, healthy, happy and independent lives
- Our children and young people thrive and reach their potential



Trading standards and tackling knife sales

The Council's trading standards team have led on a nationwide **online knife test purchasing initiative**

Out of 100 attempts, 41 vendors supplied a knife

17 retailers were prosecuted: 12 pleaded guilty, one was found guilty, and four have pleaded not guilty

The trading standards team has been praised for their work in preventing under-18s from purchasing deadly weapons by the chair of National Trading Standards



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

3% of maternities in Croydon are to women affected by FGM

Achievements

- November 2019, the Council hosted a conference to raise awareness about the scope of the issue with for over 90 professionals
- The Council has invested in a FGM social worker in partnership with the National FGM Centre

Plans for 2020

- Policy & Partnerships team is working with the NHS to review the current FGM strategy which expires in 2020
- The Council plans to hold another conference later this year aimed at voluntary and community sector organisations



Recommissioning the Community Fund

The Council will invest £8m in the voluntary sector over the next three years including investment through the Community Fund

Successful Community Fund submissions met the following outcome themes:

- People Live Long, Happy & Independent Lives
- Children & Young People Thrive and meet their potential
- Everybody feels safe in their street, neighbourhood and home
- Everybody has an opportunity to work and build their career
- Prevention Fund (over 65s)

Under £15,000

- 110 submissions
- 18 successful submissions
- £233,281 awarded

Over £15,000

- 90 submissions
- 34 successful submissions
- £3,830,359 awarded

Equality Framework for Local Government

In November 2019, the Council completed a satisfactory self-assessment against the following criteria for the **Achieving** level of the LGA's Equality Framework:

- Knowing your communities
- Leadership, partnership and organisational commitment
- Involving your communities
- Responsive services and customer care
- A skilled and committed workforce

The recommendations from the report will be addressed in the upcoming Equality Strategy and underpinning action plan. **Scrutiny & Overview Committee input to potential new equality objectives is welcomed.**



Croydon Resilience

The Council chairs the Croydon Resilience Forum and has a team of five staff

Achievements of 2019/20 include

- Prepared for Britain's exit from the European Union, including a review of the Council's Fuel Disruption Plan
- Review of Council and multi-agency pandemic flu plans in support of Coronavirus preparedness
- Revised corporate training and exercising programme
- Revised Croydon Resilience Forum Utility Disruption plan
- Delivery of three Croydon Resilience Forum business meetings, including half-day workshops



Safer Croydon Partnership & Violence Reduction Network

Safer Croydon Partnership acts as the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Croydon and leads on reducing crime and disorder in the borough

The Violence Reduction Network unites the following teams to reduce violence in the borough:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Team
- CCTV & Intelligence Hub
- Family Justice Centre
- Performance & Intelligence Team
- Prevent Team

Thank you

**Councillor Hamida Ali (Woodside)
Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon
& Communities**

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Scrutiny & Overview Committee: Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP)

Councillor Hamida Ali (Woodside)
Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon &
Communities

25/02/20

SCP- activity overview

- Implemented refreshed executive and board arrangements to make better progress on priorities
- Thematic boards embedded to oversee delivery of key work strands
- Key focus on thematic issue each meeting allows for detailed attention to be given to each priority area

SCP- key work over the next year

- Develop new Community Safety Strategy that embeds Violence reduction
 - Ambition to genuinely co-produce the strategy
 - Strategy will embed our public health approach
 - Strategy will develop and embed our network approach so everyone in Croydon can understand the role they can play

How does Scrutiny and Overview want to be involved?

Strengths

- Performance headlines (in main report) are strong or moving in the right direction
- Attendance, engagement and participation of the executive board is strong
- Partner engagement on thematic and programme boards has improved since last year
- VCS representation across the partnership structure is now embedded
- Our success in securing external funding to meet our priorities continues (see main report)

Weaknesses

- Administration and staff support for programme boards is a challenge for some partners
- Not all partners contribute equally e.g. only the CCG and the Council contribute to DHR costs
- Resources of partners limit activity that can be undertaken to deliver the strategic aims of the SCP
- Our use of data to identify problems, develop solutions and evaluate whether they are working needs further development.

Opportunities

- Building on our existing work to refocus the SCP towards violence reduction
- Taking a holistic view of violence and its drivers through a public health approach
- A networked approach that uses all the assets in the borough not just statutory services
- Investing in our analytical capacity to improve the evidence base for our approaches and to assess whether or not they work
- Viewed as a strong partner for external funders

Threats

- There remains a reliance on external funding which is often short term
- The creation and stabilisation of the police's BCU area has caused churn in some senior officers
- There remain some concerns about sharing and use of partner data
- A public health approach is a long term and pressure for results could undermine its effectiveness

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Scrutiny & Overview Committee: Violence Reduction Network (VRN)

Councillor Hamida Ali (Woodside)
Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon &
Communities

VRN- activity overview

- Adopted a high level public health strategy
- Appointed first director and other key staff
- Developed key work including approaches to trauma, analysis, multiagency responses to issues (see report)
- Success at attracting external funding to support our violence reduction priorities (see report)

VRN- key work over the next year

- Align Violence Reduction work and SCP work to provide strong multi-agency leadership and buy in
- Develop our analytical approach to provide strong evidence for our work and outcomes
- Work with partners to develop a whole Croydon approach
- Bring in best practice from elsewhere, and share our successes so others can benefit

Strengths

- Strong multi-agency support for the approach
- Partners including health, police and some VCS orgs developing their own violence reduction approaches
- Strong desire for partners to work together and not duplicate
- Good practice in key areas of work already in place, for example domestic violence and youth practice
- Partner appetite to increase transparency and be more reflective about our priorities, work and outcomes

Weaknesses

- As work is still developing there can be lack of clarity or ambiguity
- The SCP weaknesses around resources will also apply to violence reduction work
- Resources for violence reduction work remains limited and fragile across partners
- The scale of the data/analysis/evidence challenge
- Misconceptions about what a public health approach is and how it will reduce violence

Opportunities

- Significant appetite for a public health approach to violence reduction and therefore good will to the approach from partners
- Croydon's reputation as a leader and innovator in violence reduction work
- New investment in our analytical capacity
- Viewed as a strong partner for external funders

Threats

- Public health solutions are long term and may take time to deliver results
- External focus, trends and fads could impact on the work
- Violent events will still happen while we are implementing and delivering our approach
- The lack of consistent long term funding

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