



# Safer Croydon and Communities Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali October 2018

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## Safer Croydon

### Tackling Serious Youth Violence



The summer holiday period saw a full programme of events for young people during the school holidays - organised by the council's Youth Engagement Team and a range of community organisations including Music Relief Foundation, Another Night of Sisterhood, Total Jam Sports, Mula Cake, Croydon BME Forum and the Lions Society – just to name a few. Thankfully the summer period was relatively peaceful in terms of incidents of serious youth violence and we continue to see a reduction in both serious youth violence and knife crime incidents in Croydon compared to an increase across London. These reductions we've started to see are still relatively slight and agencies and community organisations across the Safer Croydon Board continue to work tirelessly to reduce serious youth violence further.

To mark the return to school the Safer Croydon Partnership held a four-day programme to help young people get back to school safely. The events, which ran from 4 - 7 September, were part of the council's Choose Your Future campaign, to unite Croydon against serious youth violence and support young people to make positive choices.

The programme was run and supported by a wide range of partners, which include Croydon Council's youth engagement team; the police, Victim Support; Croydon BME Forum, Croydon Business Improvement District (BID) and Centrale and Whitgift Shopping Centres.

The events were really successful in speaking with lots of young people often traveling to school alone for the first time and canvassing their views and highlighting what's on offer for them as young people in Croydon.



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#### Sharing our experience

On 20 September I was invited by the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee to take part in an event as part of their inquiry into Serious Violence alongside other counterparts of mine from other London boroughs, young people affected by serious youth violence and families who have lost loved ones, including Barry and Margaret Mizen. As a result I was able to inform the committee of the thematic serious case review commissioned by Croydon's Children's Safeguarding Board analysing the circumstances of 60 cases of particularly vulnerable young people. I was able to highlight some of the interim findings to inform their broader work to understand how to tackle the root causes of violence against young people.

It was Trading Standards Week last month and Croydon's Trading Standards Team does an amazing job to protect Croydon residents from harm of all kinds. In July, Croydon's Principal Trading Standards Officer gave evidence to the Public Bill Committee for the Offensive Weapons Bill to make the case for the law to be amended to ensure trading standards officers – and not just police officers – are granted the powers to take prosecutions.

#### Learning from Glasgow

On 25 September I had the privilege to visit Community Safety Glasgow which is celebrated for their public health approach to reducing violence. Over a 10 year period they have collectively halved the homicide rate and seen lost no one to knife crime in 2018. Community Safety Glasgow brings together the council and the police to work together with other partners in statutory and voluntary sectors to deliver a co-ordinated response to tackling crime, driven by a single minded focus on data and evidence.

Learning from this visit will inform a review of how the council responds to community safety, the council's community safety function and how it operates and how the organisation can enhance further its response to public safety which involves the whole organisation – including housing, education...



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## ENTE walkabouts and survey

## Gambling Policy Statement Consultation

The council regulates gambling in the borough by monitoring premises licensed by the Gambling Commission. The council is required to publish its policy and to review its approach every three years. The council is now consulting on an amended policy statement which reflects the statutory licensing objectives which include protecting children and 'other vulnerable' people from harm and exploitation by gambling. There is less scope to vary the policy compared to the council's licensing policy (partly because the council doesn't grant licenses for gambling in the way it does for the sale of alcohol). However both myself and Chris Clarke will be looking at how we can address the public health concerns relating to gambling through this work.

<https://getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/KMS/DMart.aspx>



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## Communities

### Croydon celebrates Black History Month



Croydon celebrates black history all year by highlighting events and activities for all the community to enjoy. Black History Month comprises a borough-wide programme of events with contributions from the local community as well as Council services. There are opportunities for all the community to enjoy, including historical events through performance, music, storytelling and songs. Many events are free and the majority take place in Croydon. Details of events to be staged during October can be found at [www.croydon.gov.uk/ccbh](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/ccbh) and Croydon BME Forum website <http://www.cbmeforum.org/>

In Croydon the event is branded as 'Croydon Celebrates Black History' (CCBH), and the theme for this year is **"Heroes and Heritage" Past 2 Present - Same History**. This year Black History Month was launched on 2 October 2018 organised by Croydon BME Forum in partnership with Croydon Council and Croydon Black History Month Committee.

### Mayor's Croydon Community Civic Awards 2018

The 2018 Mayor's Croydon Community Civic Awards celebrates the hard work, dedication and achievements of outstanding local people and organisations, showcasing some of the outstanding contributions made to the people of Croydon through volunteering.

Croydon is already a place where more people than anywhere else in London regularly volunteer – whether that be at the local football league, taking calls on a local helpline service, or providing expert marketing advice to a local voluntary group about how best to expand their fundraising activity. Many thousands of people volunteer in Croydon every year, and they enhance our community in which we live. Without their tireless and dedicated support the borough would lose something vital.



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The finalists for this year, come from all walks of life and from our culturally diverse communities in Croydon and the winners will be announced on Wednesday 17 October 2018.

## CVA Volunteer Centre Croydon Turns 50



Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the Volunteer Centre Croydon which first opened in 1968. The council's Community Fund helps support the VCC to continue to thrive half a century on. In the last year the VCC responded to 10,000 emails, fielded over 3,500 calls, interviewed 1,500 people interested in volunteers and matched 1,000 new volunteers this year alone. In the last 5 years the VCC has contributed over £2.5m worth of volunteering to local organisations.

## Thornton Heath – Croydon Connect Food Stop

Following the success of the Croydon Connect Community Food Stop in New Addington which was shortlisted for a London Homelessness Awards 2018 for taking the Gateway service into the community, we are currently working with partners to develop a branch in Thornton Heath.

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Parchmore Methodist Church and Community Centre will be the Community Connect hub and run the Food Stop shop and obtained funding from the Croydon Community Grants for a fridge, freezer, thermometers and cool bags for the Food Stop shop.

Some refurbishment work is required and also in the meantime preparation work is taking place to identify priority residents and households, to draft a collaboration agreement, looking at potential partners, sourcing volunteers to help run the shop and drafting the Food Stop membership forms.

An information event is taking place on 12 October in partnership with Parchmore Methodist Church and Community Centre and FareShare. The aim of this session is for local organisations that support vulnerable people (who offer food or would like to offer food as part of their service e.g. lunch clubs, schools) to find out more about the Food Stop and more specifically the Local Collection Point (LCP). This will help establish which local organisations want to become Local Collection Point members and collect surplus food weekly from Parchmore Methodist Church and Community Centre. LCP members collect food weekly they provide nutritious meals as part of their respective services, spreading the benefits to other local organisations and, in turn, more residents.

