



Safer Croydon and Communities

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

January 2019

Safer Croydon

Driving down serious violence – developing a public health approach



Croydon has announced plans to create a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and adopt a public health approach to tackle the root causes of serious violent crime. This is in line with the approach adopted by Glasgow, which led to homicide figures dropping dramatically.

On 15 January I brought together almost 100 practitioners across statutory agencies and community organisations to contribute to our thinking on developing our public health approach to tackling serious violence.

We heard from speakers including Duncan Bew, lead Trauma and Emergency Surgeon for Kings College Hospital, Letitia Robb, Andrew Brown, Chief Executive of Croydon BME Forum and Sarah Jones MP in her role as Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime

[http://news.croydon.gov.uk/driving-down-serious-violence/#iLightbox\[gallery11663\]/0](http://news.croydon.gov.uk/driving-down-serious-violence/#iLightbox[gallery11663]/0)

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



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Support against domestic abuse – call out for more volunteers

Over the festive period, Croydon's FJC made sure people knew about its support services. Posters were on display across the borough detailing where help was available, and how to seek support.

The FJC are also looking for more volunteers who are interested in assisting people facing domestic abuse. The FJC's Volunteer Project boosts the professional service they provide by giving them extra capacity to support survivors. Almost 50 people are already volunteering with more than another 10 about to start their training.

Volunteers are already assisting clients Monday-Friday, 9am-7pm and on Saturdays from 10am-1pm but the FJC needs more volunteers who can help on Mondays-Fridays 9am-5pm. Volunteers need to be 21 or older and be able to help out for a minimum of two hours every week.

The FJC supports over 200 people a month and with more volunteers the FJC could help even more people access support from health, housing, financial services and children's centres.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/support-against-domestic-abuse-during-the-festive-season/>

Extra safety measures to combat anti-social behaviour

Croydon Council has installed two temporary CCTV cameras in Lansdowne Road and Milton Road to help monitor anti-social behaviour and drug use.

Residents called for the camera following their concerns about drug dealing and use in these areas.



<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/extra-safety-measures-to-combat-anti-social-behaviour/>



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Tell us your community safety concerns

The Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) has launched a survey to gain a greater understanding of people's crime concerns.

The short survey seeks the views of everyone who lives, works or visits Croydon. It asks which crime and anti-social behaviour issues causes them most concerns.

The survey is also looking at people's experience of anti-social behaviour on transport such as buses, trains and trams. Please follow the link to complete it.

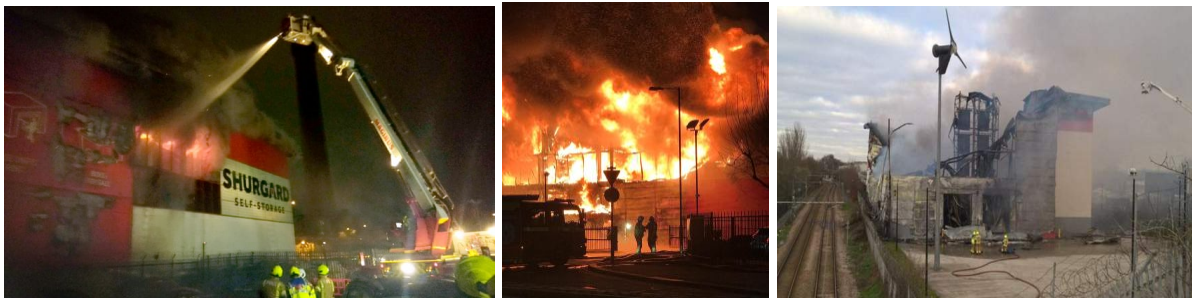
<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/tell-us-your-community-safety-concerns/>

Communities

Community Resilience - Fire at Shurgard Self Storage

On New Year's Eve, 31st December 2018, the community was struck by tragedy when a large fire engulfed the Shurgard self-storage warehouse on Purley Way.

At the height of the fire, the entire four storey building was alight and 20 fire engines and over 120 firefighters were at the scene. The destruction posed a threat to travel, which resulted in the A23 partially closing and trams coming to a halt.



The council provided support during the incident and remained on hand to provide specialist dangerous structures advice, and a demolition contractor.

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Although this was an incident which left no persons harmed, the event massively affected all those who occupied the self-storage unit with possessions, often all people had, being lost which in many cases are irreplaceable.

Full demolition of the building is currently taking place. The London Fire Brigade and Metropolitan Police Service continue to investigate the fire and Shurgard are working with their affected customers. Our thoughts go out to all those affected.

Developing a Voluntary Sector Strategy for the borough

Croydon Council is developing a strategy to drive its work with voluntary and community sector organisations and groups across the borough. Through the Community Fund the council is investing over £6million in the voluntary sector. In preparation for the ending of those funding agreements in March 2020, we've been consulting organisations for the last 5 weeks on their views on how the council should work with the sector in the future. Over 200 organisations have responded to the survey and over 100 representatives attended an engagement workshop earlier in January which will assist the council to consider both its priorities and the commissioning process for its funding in the future.