



Safer Croydon and Communities

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

March 2019

Safer Croydon

Developing our Public Health Approach – Establishing a Violence Reduction Network

In January, Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime attended Cabinet to hear an update on Croydon’s work to develop a public health approach to tackling violence by establishing a Violence Reduction Network and described work as “*exemplary*”.

Following a conference where I brought together almost 100 practitioners across statutory agencies and community organisations to contribute to our thinking on developing our approach, we continue to build our approach with practitioners and communities.



Tackling Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

- **The Drive Project**
The Drive Project is being piloted by Croydon for London – supported by MOPAC and the Home Office through the Police Transformation Fund – as a result of a successful bid from Croydon and is one of only 6 areas that are testing this approach across the country. The purpose of the Drive Project is to tackle high-



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risk perpetrators of domestic abuse in order to keep survivors and their children safe and ultimately to prevent domestic violence from taking place in the first place. We know that 1 in 4 perpetrators of domestic abuse are repeat offenders and that some perpetrators could victimise as many as six people alone. The Drive Project is focused on holding domestic abuse offenders to account to balance the range of services in Croydon focused on keeping survivors and their children safe. The Drive Project went live in Croydon in July last year and has received very positive feedback from MOPAC. Partner agencies are working well together, making appropriate referrals and robustly managing risk. Croydon has a strong record for innovation in tackling domestic violence – and this is just another example.

- **International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM – 6 February**

To mark this important moment in the calendar, I was privileged to be invited to speak at an event organised by Lucy Njomo BEM from the African Youth Development Association to raise awareness about the support and services available to girls, women and men affected by FGM in Croydon. The event was organised to mark the UN International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM which takes place every year on 6 February. The event highlighted the Support Group run by AYDA in Croydon for people affected by FGM and also new services that are coming to Croydon, including a new FGM Clinic for non-pregnant women and also a new partnership with the National FGM Centre – to jointly fund a specialist FGM Social Worker for two years to provide a range of support to continue to tackle FGM and other harmful practices – including developing a pool of volunteers to support young people and families affected by FGM, training and compliance with risk assessment and reporting procedures.





Safer Croydon and Communities

Cabinet Member Bulletin

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March 2019

Communities

Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy

This administration has continued to invest more in the voluntary sector. Since the introduction of the Community Fund by this administration, in this last financial year, we have invested more than £3m in the voluntary sector – all in addition to the investment from council services through commissioning.

Croydon has a large dynamic voluntary sector and it's crucial that the council continues to work in partnership with and supports the sector. That's why we're developing a Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy which will provide a framework for all the Council's work with the sector. The strategy will set out the priorities for which the Council seeks support from the sector and the ways in which the Council will support the sector, directly and indirectly – including future funding arrangements.

Significant engagement work has been undertaken with the sector as part of the work to develop the strategy - including a survey which ran from 7 December 2018 to 8 February 2019, two engagement events held on 22 January and 5 February and interviews held with the main infrastructure organisations in November and December 2018.

Over 220 responses were received to the survey and over 120 people attended the engagement events. Feedback from the events was extremely valuable in assisting us to develop the strategy and it was very positive to see so many organisations within the sector getting the opportunity to meet and discuss the key issues affecting the sector.



Safer Croydon and Communities Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali March 2019



Croydon Neighbourhood Watch @CBNWA · Jan 22
 Enjoyed the voluntary and community event run by Croydon council this morn.. so many great Croydon charities there to share ideas and help each other.. thx to @HamidaAli76 and her team.. #community #Croydon



Tracey Ford @traceyfordjags · 22 Jan
 At #Croydon #voluntary & community strategy engagement mtg - great yo be part of over 120 orgs participating in overall review at @HamptonByHilton #Croydon



Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD)



27 January is Holocaust Memorial Day, the day for honouring victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides. In Croydon in 2019, the event was marked on Monday 28th January with a public candle-lighting ceremony in the Town Hall foyer, followed by a civic event in the Council Chambers and was very well attended.



The civic event featured a presentation from Mrs Chantal Uwamahoro a survivor of the Rwandan genocide, which took place 25 years ago, a film capturing the journey of Herman who also survived the Nazi Persecution and performances from local schools, including Riddlesdown Collegiate, Oasis Coulsdon, Harris Academy South Norwood and Whitgift School.



Safer Croydon and Communities Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali March 2019



Children from across Croydon were also invited to enter an essay competition based around the International Holocaust Memorial Day 2019 theme, “Torn from Home”, as part of the borough’s celebration. The winners were chosen by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education committee.

Winner Emily Mary Taylor from Oasis Academy Coulsdon, and runner up Jake Dennis from Whitgift School read from their impressive work as part of the civic event in the Council Chamber.

Other activities that took place in the borough included;

- exhibition for Holocaust Memorial Day in the central library.
- Screening of film in the David Lean Cinema

LGBT History Month 2019

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans (LGBT) History Month takes place every year in February. It celebrates the lives and achievements of the LGBT community.

Croydon Council worked in partnership with the LGBT community, the Metropolitan Police and the NHS to plan and deliver an extensive programme of events throughout February. The national LGBT History Month theme for this year was ‘History II: Peace, Reconciliation, and Activism’.

The launch of LGBT History Month in Croydon took place on Thursday 7th February 2019 in The Braithwaite Hall, Croydon Clocktower. The launch event was in the presence of the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Bernadette Khan, and was attended by over 80 people.





Safer Croydon and Communities

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

March 2019

The event included performances from local singer Katie Rose & Sarah Fisher, students from the BRIT School, students from Croydon College, Community singing led by Catherine Pestano, LGBT cabaret artist Mark Bunyan, and the Rainbows Across Borders Chorus who highlighted issues affecting the community such as oppressive regimes, coming out and acceptance.



Other events that were organised as a part of the LGBT History Month programme include Croydon Area Gay Society (CAGS) LGBT history exhibition on 2nd floor of central library, a display in Bernard Weatherill café on 8th floor for LGBT History Month celebrating the official end of the First World War and marking the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, a screening of Disobedience a tale of forbidden love featuring Oscar winner Rachel Weisz at Screen and a talk by author and veteran activist Stuart Feather at The Spread Eagle. His talk told the story of early radical-feminists protests during Croydon Area Gay Society (CAGS).

Sign up for this year's Big Lunch Street / Park Parties 2019

Croydon residents will once again show their community spirit and will be staging street parties on Saturday 1st or Sunday 2nd June 2019 for this year's Big Lunch.

In previous years, residents from across the borough have come together to share food and celebrate with neighbours. Last year, hundreds gathered for street parties across the borough in celebration of both the Royal Wedding and Big Lunch.

Keen to see as many people as possible take this chance to mix with their neighbours, the council is doing all it can to make it really simple to set up a Big Lunch street or park party. The costs of closing your road will be covered, and the council will even provide road-closure signs – saving your street more than £1,000.

All it takes is a 10-minute visit to www.croydon.gov.uk/biglunch, to apply to hold your street or park party and we will do our best to help you make your event a success.



Safer Croydon and Communities

Cabinet Member Bulletin

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March 2019

You will just need to say where the event is to be held, what sort of facilities will be offered – such as if you plan to sell alcohol or intend to provide catering from an outside source – and when you want to hold it. For the latest application deadlines and answers to frequently asked questions, or a list of available green spaces, visit www.croydon.gov.uk/biglunch

The Big Lunch website – at www.thebiglunch.com – has a useful frequently-asked-questions section, offering advice on a range of issues, including the important subject of public liability insurance. You will also find details of discounts arranged with insurers.

For details of last year's events, or to gain inspiration and information on organising an event this year, visit [The Big Lunch](http://www.thebiglunch.com) website. You can view some of the very many parties that took place last year by clicking this link [Croydon 2018 Big Lunch pictures](#)