



# Safer Croydon and Communities

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

### April 2019

## Safer Croydon

### **Mayor of London visits Drive Programme at the Family Justice Centre**

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, visited Croydon FJC on 27 February to see how the borough is leading the way with its work to tackle serious violent crime.

The Mayor is funding the Drive programme, which Croydon is piloting for London. Drive aims to help stop high risk perpetrators of domestic abuse re-offending and to ensure the safety of survivors and their families.

The FJC provides services for those experiencing domestic abuse, and the Drive programme sits alongside its survivor services.



<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/croydons-anti-dv-work-credited-by-london-mayor/>

### **Mayor of London visits Croydon BME Forum**

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, visited Croydon BME Forum on 5 March which he has funded through the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Community Seed Fund to support community activity to tackle knife crime. Croydon BME Forum's project works to support and enable the work of 5 community organisations to support and grow their capacity and sustainability – Another Night of

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Sisterhood (ANOS), Jam Total Sport, Lions Society, Music Relief Foundation and Rising Stars Support. During their visit, the Mayor and the new Director of his new Violence Reduction Unit, Lib Peck, saw some of the work of Jam Total Sport first hand and spoke with young people on their views of knife crime and its effects on our communities.



#### Trading Standards – Leading nationally to pilot online test purchasing

Croydon Trading Standards are leading on a nationwide project carrying out online test purchase of knives by a person aged under 18. To date we've carried out 60 online test purchase attempts with 26 knives having been successfully purchased. All cases where a knife has been received are progressing with further investigations and potential legal action. These findings reveal a clear issue of knives being available for purchase online with many retailers failing to carry out basic checks before sending out the knives. These retailers are breaking the law and putting our communities at risk. Our officers and the young volunteers participating in this project are doing an amazing job and I will be pushing for tough action against these retailers.

We also continue to carry out physical test purchasing of under-age sales of knives with Croydon retailers. Since November 2018 approximately 100 test purchases have been made with 2 knives successfully purchased – which is 2 too many and it is troubling that any retailer in Croydon would sell knives illegally. The defendant in one of these cases is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to the offence and one case is being prepared for future action. The councils trading standards team offers free training to retailers in Croydon relating to age-restricted products.



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#### Croydon publishes leading thematic review

Croydon's Children's Safeguarding Board published a detailed review of the experiences of 60 vulnerable young people – designed to inform how all agencies in Croydon respond to children and young people most in need in our communities.

The Vulnerable Adolescents Review – published [here](#) – was commissioned in summer 2017 following the tragic deaths of three young people in less than a month, with the aim of understanding the factors that led to such devastating consequences.

This review not only offers Croydon important insight on how we can improve our collective response to safeguard the children in our communities who need our protection most, it also offers every area in the country a useful resource as the issues it raises will be as relevant there as here.



<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/croydon-reviews-the-lives-of-60-vulnerable-adolescents/>



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## Communities

### Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy

In March the Cabinet approved a new Voluntary & Community Sector Strategy which sets out how we as a Council want to work with and support the sector. Croydon benefits from a strong voluntary and community sector, and the strategy was developed with the engagement and contributions from over 200 survey responses and over 120 people attending events between December and February.

The strategy will provide a framework for our financial and wider support for the voluntary and community sector, including informing the recommissioning of the Community Fund later this year. Further engagement events are planned with the sector during April and May to ensure we provide the right support through the bidding process.

### Equality Annual Report

Cabinet in March also received the annual equality report. The report sets out our progress against the authority's equality objectives as part of the council's Opportunity and Fairness Policy. The report provides updates on our activities, as well as presenting the latest data on equalities, community and workforce profile and where further action is needed to reduce inequality.

- Significant achievements include:
- Improving employment opportunities for disabled people
- Promoting equality of access to education through tailored programmes to meet the needs of under represented communities
- Reducing digital exclusion in Croydon
- Celebrating Croydon's diversity and heritage through supporting annual events such as Croydon Mela and PrideFest.



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#### Black History Month 2019 – Theme Launch

On 18 March, the Mayor hosted an event at Croydon Town Hall to launch the theme for this year's Black History Month, which is 'Rid the Stigma'. 2019 will be our sixth year celebrating Black History Month, and it has been great to see these events go from strength to strength.

The launch event was organised by the Croydon BME Forum, with support from the Mayor's Office and Communities Team. Speakers included Cllrs David Wood, Alisa Flemming, Patsy Cummings, Janet Campbell, Andrew Brown from the Croydon BME and education Consultant David Okoro.



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