R.I.P. Cllr Maggie Mansell

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of one of our most dedicated, compassionate and long-serving councillors, Maggie Mansell. Maggie helped thousands of people and made a real difference, particularly in the field of health. She was campaigning right up until the end. We will remember her passion for equality and justice, her caring nature and her unswerving commitment to our community. She will be sadly missed, and our thoughts are with her family.

Creative Enterprise Zones (CEZ)

It gives me great pride that Croydon has been named among the capital’s first Creative Enterprise Zones (CEZ) announced by the Mayor of London in December. The award of £500,000 will be used to promote the growth of arts through provision of space, skills and support, policy and community. Some of the exciting projects we are working on include:

• Developing Croydon as a music city – a place that encourages and nurtures emerging talent, breaking down barriers to success in the music industry
• Launching a pioneering new cultural internship programme, offering young people paid work placements with leading national and local arts organisations
• Creating a subsidy scheme for under 25s looking for studio space, which will cover up to 40% of the cost
• Encouraging creative businesses to move to Croydon, through the introduction of business rate relief for creative start-ups and those relocating to Croydon
• Collating an online list of available properties for creative businesses, and launching a start-up incubator programme providing tailored business support.

Fairfield Halls

Work continues on the Fairfield Halls ahead of the opening in September of this year. I was fortunate enough earlier this month to visit Phoenix Piano Studios with Neil Chandler, our venue Director, to see for myself the beautiful pianos we are going to have at Fairfield when it opens. Pianos are being provided as part of sponsorship secured for the venue by the operator, something our audiences, residents and young people are going to benefit from in particular.

The next few weeks will see a series of further exciting announcements on Fairfield Halls, the launch of the latest website at the end of this week and more tickets going on sale. There are also great plans for the renaming of the foyer space to become the Arnhem Foyer in honour of our historical relations with Arnhem, and we will be
inviting colleagues and artists over from Arnhem to help us rededicate this space in style later this year.

Mayor's Growth Fund

There was good news in December for the residents and businesses of South Norwood and Woodside. A bid to the GLA to deliver high streets where local businesses thrive and job opportunities are created across both wards was awarded £1.16m from the Mayor of London’s Good Growth Fund. Croydon Council and South Norwood Town Team We Love SE25 led an engagement programme through summer and autumn 2018 to develop the ideas with the community for the three-year programme of projects. The GLA funding will be matched by a further £1.16m from Croydon Council to make a total budget of £2.3m. The project will create a more resilient town centre, reflecting the creativity and diversity of the South Norwood community.

Network rail

Thanks to our successful lobbying, central government has given Network Rail the funding it needs to continue to develop its major upgrade proposals for the Brighton Mainline. The project has just passed a major milestone with the concluding of the first round of consultation. Network Rail’s consultation highlighted the challenge
facing Croydon, London and the Coast to Capital region if action is not taken. Croydon is one the busiest parts of Britain’s rail network with projected annual passenger journeys set to increase to 90 million by the early 2030’s. The consultation sets out to address this by:

- Rebuilding; to greatly enlarge East Croydon Station with two additional platforms, a much larger concourse with greatly improved facilities for passengers and better connections with the town centre and other transport links. We are also working with Network Rail to ensure that further employment space and homes are delivered directly at the new station.
- Separating the lines to London Bridge and Victoria at the ‘Selhurst triangle’, by removing the existing junctions and building new flyovers and dive-unders.

We continue to ensure that the benefits to Croydon are maximised whilst also ensuring that the interests of local residents and businesses are given the utmost importance and consideration during the development of these proposals.

Legacy Onside

Alisa and I recently visited the onside site to see how the building works were progressing.
I am pleased to update that the final building work is scheduled to be completed on 22 March 2019 with the full grand opening taking place in June 2019. There will be a period of “soft opening” where groups of young people from schools and community organisations will be invited to visit the Youth Zone as part of an engagement process. The successful appointment of Barnabas Shelbourne as CEO has seen excellent links with school and the community being developed. The Young People’s Development Group is very active in Croydon and have been part of the appointment of senior staff members and will continue to do so for the wider team. The Group have selected the colours of the climbing wall and the new staff uniform keeping young people at the core of the project. Legacy was also represented at the recent Lord Mayor’s Show by a large number of the Croydon YPDG who had a fantastic time.

Leader’s Diary for December to January

- London Councils Leader’s Committee
- Croydon Tech Forum
- London Pensions Fund Authority Board Meeting
- Coast to Capital Extraordinary Board Meeting
- Cultural Enterprise Zone Launch
- LGA Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board
- LSP Board Meeting
- SLP Leaders Board
- Fairfields Hall Launch
- Local Strategic Partnership Board
- Violence Reduction Unit Conference
- Scrutiny Q&A
- Develop Croydon Lunch

Councillor Tony Newman

Leader of the Council
Latest News

Cold weather provision

As a council we have a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) which sets out how both we and our partners will respond to people in Croydon without shelter during periods of severe weather.

The aim of SWEP is to prevent loss of life and to reduce rough sleeping during extreme weather to as near zero as possible with the Croydon Reach outreach service seeking to engage all rough sleepers and refer them to shelter once SWEP is activated. The national expectation is that cold weather SWEP will be implemented when the temperature is forecast to fall to zero degrees centigrade or lower for three days or more. However, in London working with other London boroughs and the Mayor of London, Croydon will trigger SWEP on the first night of freezing temperatures.

SWEP arrangements operates outside the usual eligibility and entitlement frameworks and includes rough sleepers with no recourse to public funds, no local connection and those usually excluded from accommodation. SWEP accommodation is provided from a number of sources: Croydon Churches Floating Shelter, vacancies within commissioned supported accommodation projects and emergency accommodation.

Local SWEP provision is supplemented by Greater London Authority funded hubs, both No Second Night Out hubs which are available to new rough sleepers all year round and SWEP overflow hubs, opened up when the temperature is forecast to be below zero anywhere within London on that day.

The Severe Weather Emergency protocol can be found on the Council website.

Housing First

Croydon’s Housing First scheme was launched on 1st October 2018, to address the needs of some of the most chronically homeless Croydon residents, who have experienced repeated or extended periods of rough sleeping, combined with other
support needs such as mental ill health or substance use. Housing First will provide 20 of the most chronic residents with stable accommodation within the community by March 2020. Thamesreach Charity have been commissioned to support individuals from the street into their new accommodation and to sustain it thereafter and by 10th December had been successful in engaging four individuals to access accommodation. The Housing First support team will work alongside them to establish themselves within their accommodation, and within their new communities, with the intention that this leads to long term tenancy sustainment.

Housing First is an internationally evidence-based approach, which uses independent, stable housing as a platform to enable individuals with multiple and complex needs to begin recovery and move away from homelessness. Evidence has shown that, through the provision of intensive, flexible and person-centred support, 70-90% of Housing First residents are able to remain housed. Having a place to call home also leads to improvements in health and wellbeing, and reduces ineffective contact with costly public services.

Gateway community presence in Parchmore Community Centre in Thornton Heath

From 14th January 2019, there will be a full time Gateway presence in the Parchmore Centre in Thornton Heath, to build upon the impressive community offering already provided from the Centre. This will support the second community Food Stop, following the resounding success of the New Addington/Fieldway Community Locality model.

Employment advice/workshops, budgeting, debt advice, welfare rights surgeries, healthy living are some of the offerings that Gateway will be providing.

The Food Stop will follow shortly thereafter, which will enable local residents to pay £3.50 a week and get around £20 of food, and as part of that offering, Gateway will provide them a personalised action plan to tackle any issues they have around debt, budgeting and supporting them into employment.
Christmas Celebrations

The Community Development Team organised another really successful borough-wide resident event this year, arranging a Christmas lunch for residents across 26 sheltered schemes and estate based community groups.

80 residents attended the 10 Dec event at the Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church, the community hub for our residents on Croftleigh Estate with the Mayor of Croydon joining in the celebrations. Our second event attracted 82 residents on the 17 Dec at the Addington Community Association.

Both events were great successes, bringing residents together for a meal and entertainment, giving them the chance to meet other residents, and tackling social isolation and loneliness at the hardest time of year. Catering was provided by Guiding Hands, a local voluntary group and the singer, Jessica de Giudici, sang familiar songs spanning over 60 years.
Staff from across the Council volunteered to help, including the Resident Involvement, Quality, Tenancy, Gateway and Leaseholders teams, and had conversations with the residents to see what activities/support we can set up in their localities going forward. Voluntary groups such as AGE UK and local ward members also lent their support.

Feedback from the residents included “Staff were very helpful. Nothing was too much trouble. “Please, please could we have it again next year. Lovely get together”. Many shared that this was such a joy as they never get the chance to get out.

We will now build on the initial conversations and feedback from both events to set up a programme of local activities and events.

**Capital Letters**

In November Cabinet approved a report for the Council to join Capital Letters.

Capital Letters’ purpose is to procure accommodation for homeless households and those at risk of homelessness. It will provide this service on behalf of its member boroughs and will undertake the management of the accommodation.

Capital Letters will procure accommodation across London. All London boroughs currently procure accommodation outside their own borough. Competition over the limited supply of accommodation drives up prices.

Capital Letters therefore aims to introduce more cooperation, using the collective market power of the boroughs to encourage landlords to shift their accommodation away from the more expensive and less secure nightly paid accommodation and towards more settled leased and private rented accommodation. It will also provide a framework for enabling boroughs to place households closer to home.

The anticipated key benefits of Capital Letters are:

- an increase in the supply of private sector accommodation to prevent and relieve homelessness in London
- provision of stable, suitable accommodation and a shift away from short-term, expensive, and often unsuitable nightly paid accommodation
allocating properties as locally as possible to avoid moving households far away from their home area

• Achieving better value for money by pooling resources, sharing expertise, and reducing competition for accommodation between London’s boroughs.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has allocated £37.8 million to support the Capital Letters programme over three years.

The establishment of Capital Letters is coordinated by the London Housing Directors’ Group and London Councils, the umbrella group representing all 32 boroughs and the City of London.

During the initial launch phase, the Capital Letters steering group of which Croydon a member is overseeing the key decisions required for the programme. This steering group is chaired by the chair of the London Housing Directors’ Group. All key partners (including MHCLG) are represented at the steering group.

Capital Letters is being set up as a Company Limited by Guarantee, wholly owned by member boroughs. A board of directors will be appointed by the members.

It is anticipated that Croydon like many boroughs will benefit from cost savings from this pan London Initiative. The Housing Initiatives Team in the Housing Solutions and Assessment Team will be taking this forward on behalf of the Council.

CRISIS at Christmas in Croydon

For the first time, CRISIS the national homelessness charity ran one of its Christmas residential services for rough sleepers here in Croydon. The centre provided people with food, healthcare and advice on housing and employment as well as a range of things to do, people to talk to and most of all, a safe space.

The centre had between 100 and 110 guests each night and many more attended to take part in activities during the day. The council would like to extend its thanks to CRISIS and to the many volunteers who made this happen.
Brick by Brick

It was a privilege to attend, along with the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Humayun Kabir, the topping out ceremony at the previous Cheriton House in Chipstead Avenue, Thornton Heath. This new Brick by Brick development comprises of 27 affordable homes (24 shared ownership flats and three affordable rented flats) due for completion early summer 2019. Works are progressing well with framing, windows and roofs installed on both blocks. Work will soon start on all the internal carpentry and electrical works. The development will be named Flora Court after First World War soldier and Thornton Heath local resident, Flora Sandes.

Taberner House

There is further good news on affordable housing for Croydon residents on the Taberner House site. The redevelopment comprises of the erection of four buildings ranging in height from 13 to 35 storeys comprising 514 residential units and commercial space at ground floor level. The reworked 2017 planning permission secured a minimum 35% of units as affordable accommodation, with 50.2% of the
provision proposed as affordable rent. This included a block of 90 affordable rent units to go to families on the council’s housing waiting list.

Charitable housing association L&Q will now take on 172 of the properties providing a mixture of Shared Ownership and London Living Rent apartments in two blocks, increasing the overall level of Affordable Housing being provided across the Taberner House development to 50%.

It’s fantastic news to hear more than half of the homes on the Taberner House site will be affordable, including the 90 social homes already going to families on the council’s housing waiting list. This development is an important part of Croydon’s regeneration and it’s extremely pleasing to know more affordable properties will be in a prime location within the town centre, close to a number of important public transport routes.
Waste Collection

I would like to start my bulletin by wishing all residents of Croydon a very Happy New Year. The last year saw some major changes to the way Croydon collects waste which were put in place to ensure we maximise the amount of recycling and reduce the amount of landfill waste we produce. I’m pleased to report that these changes are already having a positive effect and that we are on track to soon be amongst the top recyclers in London.

The festive period is the busiest time of year in terms of waste and recycling collection, and this year we have seen around 30% more waste being generated by residents. This has put considerable pressure on the collection crews who often have to make 3 trips per day to the recycling centres and waste disposal points. Whilst the crews worked tirelessly to complete their rounds, at times the sheer volume of waste presented meant they were unable to do so. The level of missed collections over the Christmas period has been higher than expected and officers are applying the appropriate contract defaults. Veolia have also received a service improvement notice as a result of these failures. Officers worked with our contractors to ensure all work was caught up as quickly as possible and I’m pleased to report that we are back on schedule, so thanks to everyone for bearing with us through this extremely busy time and sorry for any disruption to your service.

Starting on the 14th January we will be collecting your old Christmas trees over the next two weeks. If you want to take advantage of this service please place your Christmas trees inside the boundary of your property nearest the street on your normal day of refuse (landfill) collection. Please note that this is a service for real trees only and that all decorations will need to be removed from the trees prior to collection.

Whilst we are working hard with our contractors to ensure missed collections are kept to a minimum, I would like to remind all residents that if they do experience a missed collection, then the fastest and most effective way of getting this resolved quickly is to report it online via the My Account section of the Croydon.gov.uk website. In order for our contractor to return and rectify missed collections it is a requirement of the contract that they need to be reported within two days of the scheduled collection. By reporting online this ensures an instruction is generated and sent to our contractor straight away. The contractor then has one working day in which to rectify this. If they do not, then we can impose contractual penalties. Often officers, councillors and MPs receive reports about missed collections and this two day window has already elapsed, meaning we cannot ask the contractor to return prior to the next scheduled collection, so please do ensure you act promptly via the online channels to report missed collections and other issues such as flytips, overflowing litter bins and street cleansing issues.
Grounds Maintenance Contract

I’m delighted that the grounds maintenance service will be coming back in house in February. This will give the council a greater degree of control and flexibility over the service and ensure that the borough’s 127 parks and green spaces are maintained to a high standard for the enjoyment of all residents. Bringing this service back into the council’s control is a major piece of work, but one which I believe will ultimately result in a better standard of service, so I would like to thank the officers who are working hard to ensure a smooth transition and to welcome the employees who will be transferring across to the council from the previous contractor.

Enforcement

I am pleased to inform you that the Council’s Neighbourhood Safety Officers and the Environmental Enforcement Team have been very active and successful in pursuing people who are insistent on making the Croydon’s environment unclean and unsafe.

We have in the last six months issued **522** Fixed Penalty Notices [FPN’s] for littering and fly tipping, **49** Community Protection Notice Warning Letters [CPNW] and prosecuted **11** offenders.

A recent and very successful Multi agency operation, “Operation Kestrel” coordinated by our Environmental Enforcement Team delivered the following results.

- 80 vehicle inspections on the Purley Way with one vehicle seized, one stopped from driving away and four served with notices for improvements before they could drive away.
- One abandoned vehicle removed
- 10 Fixed-penalty notices were issued by council officers for various offences
- 2 Community Protection Warning Notices were issued
- 1 fine for breaching a Public Space Protection Order [PSPO]
- 25 sets of graffiti across the town centre removed

The operation saw high-visibility patrols carried out across the entire borough. Our teams worked alongside other Council Departments and External Partner Agencies in order to catch criminals and prevent them from offending. These high-visibility co-ordinated actions are invaluable in raising the profile of the work we do.

As part of the operational focus, vehicles thought to be carrying commercial waste were pulled over and inspected for insurance documents, waste carrying permits and other paper work to ensure they were complying with legal requirements.
Online 24/7
www.croydon.gov.uk/doitonline/report-it where you can see a full list of everything that you can report online.

Using my account
Use My Account www.croydon.gov.uk/myaccount to check if we know about a problem and, if we don’t, you can either report anonymously or set up an account where you can track the progress of your report. Please see My Account for a complete list of services available.

Phone
Our customer contact centre is open Monday to Friday between 9 and 4, and our advisers are on hand to help you. Call 020 8726 6200 for all environmental issues including waste collections, recycling and potholes. Call the fly-tip hotline on: 020 8604 7000 (option 2 for fly-tipping)

Email
Email us on: flytip@croydon.gov.uk

App
Download the free Don’t Mess With Croydon smartphone app and you can report issues to us on the go in 3 easy steps.
• Select the category you want to report
• Add a photo
• Confirm the location - and you’re done!
Complete list of services available on the app.
Senior Management Appointments

Following Richard Simpson’s decision to leave the Council, some new appointments have been made.

First of all, Jacqueline Harris-Baker, Director of Law and Council Monitoring Officer, has been appointed Interim Executive Director of Resources. She will continue to be the Council Monitoring Officer. This appointment will take effect at the beginning of February, thus ensuring there is a smooth transition.

Secondly, Lisa Taylor, our Director of Finance, Investment and Risk and Deputy Section 151 Officer, will become the Section 151 Officer, again at the beginning of February.

Thirdly, Sean Murphy, Head of Commercial and Property Law and Deputy Monitoring Officer, has been appointed Interim Director of Law, again taking effect at the beginning of February.

I would like to congratulate these excellent officers. It is also another example of how we develop our staff.

Draft Local Government Settlement 2019

A week later than scheduled, the Government finally published its draft local government settlement on December 13. This confirmed the anticipated £7.8m. underlying cut to the main funding we get from Government. Whilst there has been some funding for social care and other one-off money announced, we have seen a net reduction in cash and considerable reduction in real terms, despite a growing population and increasing need. Added to this, we have seen £0.6m. taken out of our public health funding, meaning a cash reduction of c. 10% over the last three years.

Since the start of austerity, in real terms, we have lost nearly three quarters of our government funding.

We have responded to the consultation on this draft settlement, pointing out the serious underfunding that the proposed local government settlement represents, both generally and for Croydon more specifically.

This approach from the government is exacerbated by the very significant shortfall in the funding for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and the ongoing effects of universal credit.

In addition, Government has announced yet another consultation on future funding for local government. We will respond, of course. Given the timetable for this consultation and the ongoing delays to the next Spending Review, we are unlikely to know what the funding for 2020/21 is before November 2019, which makes medium term financial planning even more challenging.
Draft Budget

I presented our draft budget to Scrutiny on 15 January.

This showed how we are proposing to balance the budget for 2019/20 despite the wholly inadequate and iniquitous funding from central government. It shows how the tight financial management we have in place and proactive approach we have to financial management and planning, are allowing us to be on the front foot.

I will, of course, be presenting the final budget proposals to Cabinet and Council in February.

I would like to pay tribute to the Leader and Cabinet and the many hard working officers who have been involved in the budgeting process, for the joined up working and engagement that has delivered these budget proposals, which will see us balancing the books whilst delivering to our residents, with implementation of our manifesto commitments, despite the funding shortfall.

Asset Investment Strategy

We have successfully taken in the assets acquired over the last few months and the second phase of the Colonnades acquisition is progressing well.

The Council will always look at asset opportunities, but will only pursue them, where we consider they meet the objectives of the Fund. This has resulted in our not pursuing a number of assets that were identified or where the council was approached.

Council Tax Billing

The team is already working very hard to ensure that there is a very smooth process in getting out the council tax bills for the current year.

Accounts

In order to ensure that we meet the very tight deadlines for preparing and having the audit complete on the accounts, a lot of work is already taking place, taking learning from last year. Indeed, the external auditors are undertaking their interim visit at the moment.
Croydon.digital

We have launched a new brand and community site to convene and celebrate Croydon’s vibrant tech scene, and talk openly about our work on digital within the council too.

You can find it at https://croydon.digital and please do subscribe to the blog to get updates on our progress in digital transformation, and for information about how to get involved in shaping the digital strategy.

The reaction in the local tech sector to this and the changes the Council is making to its IT department and digital presence has been very positive.

Digital Strategy

Work on developing a new digital strategy will start this month with the aim of publishing the strategy by July. The strategy will be developed in wide consultation with Croydon residents, businesses, and digital government experts.

Work will start soon on improving the council’s website design and usability. The new Croydon Digital Service will be working on new designs that will ensure the user experience is consistently good across our web estate and improve both our content and online transactions, testing with residents to ensure they meet their needs.

Improvements are also being made on the Council’s CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system, forms and interfaces, which will improve residents’ experience and allow for more effective follow-up by the Council.

Parental and sickness leave for members

I am delighted we are bringing to January Council, provisions for parental and long term sickness leave for Councillors. If we are to enable the widest range of Councillors and support Councillors in their role, then this is an excellent step. I am proud we have gone further than the recommendations various bodies have made in this regard.
Urban Regeneration

South Norwood Good Growth Fund project - Re-imagining the Everyday Spaces in South Norwood

A project to improve the high streets and public spaces of South Norwood has been awarded £1.16m from the Mayor of London’s Good Growth Fund. Croydon is also match-funding the value of the bid, creating a total combined budget of £2.3m for the three-year project, which aims to deliver high streets where local businesses thrive and job opportunities are created across both the South Norwood and Woodside wards.

The project will see the council and the local town team, We Love SE25, work with residents, businesses, landlords and community groups to help re-activate empty premises as retail and workspaces for creative and social enterprises. It will bring empty properties on Station Road, High Street, Selhurst Road and Portland Road back into use, as well as making improvements to the area’s public realm and supporting local businesses, both old and new.

Community buildings within the high streets will become active places, bringing together residents, helping to create a resilient town centre reflecting the creativity and diversity of its people. The project will invest in community hubs including the Samuel Coleridge Taylor Centre, Socco Cheta community centre, Stanley Halls and the Croydon Youth Theatre Organisation. It will also contribute to the future use of South Norwood Library once the service moves to its new home on Station Road.

The money will be received by the council in April 2019. The council will now begin work with partners and stakeholders to plan and schedule the programme of works for the next three years.

Kenley Good Growth Fund ‘stage 1’ scoping project

The council has been awarded £50,000 from the Mayor of London’s Good Growth fund to develop a Community Strategy for Kenley, with a view to submitting a further bid to the Good Growth Fund in summer 2019. The Local Plan (2018) identifies Kenley as one of four Areas of Focused Intensification, and is expected to make a proportionate contribution to the delivery of housing across the borough. The Kenley Community Strategy for Good Growth project will be primarily focussed around the intensification area whilst looking at the wider services and infrastructure requirements and enhancements to support housing delivery in the area, working with the local community to define the needs of their neighbourhood, and the future vision for Kenley.

The project aims to:

- Engage with the Kenley community, including hard-to-reach groups not already represented in the existing consultation feedback, to understand their concerns. This will include a focus on engaging with young people.
- Catalyze a change in attitudes towards the implications of intensification in the neighbourhood through demonstrating positive outcomes from it.
Identify location-specific regeneration and infrastructure (both social and physical) support that could accompany the increase in housing.

Enable Good Growth in Kenley in the future that delivers community benefits alongside housing delivery to ensure intensification is delivered in a sustainable and managed way.

Provide ‘lessons learnt’ for suburban intensification that may be useful for other areas of Croydon and London as a whole.

We will be recruiting public engagement consultants to lead the conversations with the local community, and intend to start work early in 2019. An initial draft of the Community Strategy should be in place by summer 2019.

**Topping out of 101 George Street – the world’s tallest modular towers, here in Croydon**

The key site outside EC station has been vacant since 1989, providing a gateway into our Cultural Quarter. A 2015 permission for a traditional residential scheme with 17/32 storey towers was never implemented. Tide and their Vision Modular System arm had their first pre-application engagement with us in Feb 2017. The scheme was originally submitted as 30 and 40 storeys (490 Build to Rent units) with 15% affordable. The LPA felt Tide could go taller to increase affordable housing, resulting in 39 and 44 storey (546 units), with 20% affordable housing equating to 109 units (76 Discount Market Rent and 33 London Living Rent).

Benefits of the Modular Construction include:
- Project being delivered 40% quicker than traditional construction
- Up to 60% less deliveries to the site compared to traditional construction
- Modules delivered with all glazing and internal finishes while cladding done on site
- So a shorter period of disruption and important homes delivered quicker
Environment, Transport and Urban Regeneration
January 2019

Councillor Paul Scott (Job Share)
Lead for Urban Regeneration

Councillor Stuart King (Job Share)
Lead for Environment and Transport

1st pre-app meeting: Feb 2017
Place Review Panel: April 2017
Committee: July 2017
Planning application submitted: August 2017
Resolution made at Committee: November 2017
Decision issued: February 2018

Construction
Construction commenced: Q1 2018
Construction programme: 22 months
(Traditional would be 36 months)
Topping out: December 2018
Modular units deliver: February 2019
Cladding commence: April 2019
Completion: Q1 2020

Purley Baptist Church - response to Secretary of States perverse decision

I was shocked and very disappointed to read that the Secretary of State over-ruled his own highly experienced Planning Inspector and refused planning permission for the redevelopment of Purley Baptist Church. The reasons given for his decision are very weak and ill thought through, lacking any logical argument or justification.

His apparently partisan approach is all the more surprising given that the principle of a tall landmark building for this site has had cross party support in Croydon, with the idea for a 14 storey building first being proposed and adopted by the Tory administration in 2013. The applicants have raised concerns about the role of local MP Chris Philp, who is Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State. It is disappointing that a local MP who is so directly involved in Government, apparently focused on the delivery of new homes for local people in desperate housing need, is so opposed to building any of those homes in his own constituency. He objects to virtually any development in South Croydon, other than very expensive executive homes.

It is good news that the developer has decided to challenge this decision through the Courts; to my mind and having read the papers, the Secretary of State’s reasoning is seriously flawed. The Council will be supporting the applicant as part of this legal process and it is also encouraging that the GLA will be involved in the relevant legal proceedings.
The site has been in a sorry and derelict state for far too long and the scheme, which proposed 220 new homes including much-needed affordable housing and enhanced church and community facilities, would have provided a much needed regenerative boost to Purley Town Centre.

The Purley Baptist Church, which works so hard to support its local community, have invested so much into creating an excellent landmark building, that is incredibly unfair that they have been treated in such an unjustified manner.

The Council’s support for the scheme followed extensive pre-application discussions, with a resolution to grant planning permission back in 2016 which was later endorsed by the London Mayor. The Secretary of State’s decision to “call-in” the application has significantly delayed the redevelopment of this critical site, especially as his own Planning Inspector, in recommending a grant of planning permission, advised that “the scheme should be approved without delay”. It is therefore most frustrating that the regenerative benefits associated with this development and the delivery of much needed homes (including affordable homes) has been further jeopardised.

I am hopeful that sense will prevail.

**Planning committee update**

At Planning Committee on 8th November I stepped down as the Chair. Cllr Toni Letts was appointed as my replacement for Committee and Cllr Muhammad Ali has been appointed as Chair of Sub-Committee. I have taken over the role of Vice-Chair for both Committee and Sub-Committee.

**Borough Wide Growth Strategy - outline and announcement about forthcoming workshop. Noting of proposed paper to Cabinet**

The Council and the borough currently faces a considerable challenge accommodating the borough’s growth, especially housing need. As we are all aware the country, London and Croydon faces a housing crisis. In the planning context, the borough’s Local Plan 2018 sets the vision, objectives and policies for accommodating the borough’s growth in a sustainable manner up to 2036. Delivering sustainable development, supported by the necessary infrastructure, whilst protecting the borough’s valuable open spaces and conserving the borough’s unique character and heritage has been challenging for the Council and communities alike.

However, with the Government’s unbending commitment to the presumption in favour of sustainable development (as defined in national policy) and the requirements of the emerging London Plan the challenge is only going to become much greater. This is no better expressed by the emerging London Plan proposing to increase Croydon’s annual housing target from 1,435 per annum
to 2,949 per annum. The Council has expressed to the Mayor and is participating at the London Plan examination to state our concerns about the deliverability of this housing target and that it must be supported by commensurate infrastructure to mitigate the impact of development.

Our response to this increased challenge will continue to be proactive, rather than reactive, to ensure the Council is leading the planning for growth and setting the growth strategy to the benefit of the borough’s communities. The Council’s growth strategy and objectives will be embedded in the review of the Local Plan 2018. The growth strategy forming part of the Local Plan review is to ensure that the strategy has greatest weight in managing development and growth. The key issues are ensuring that Croydon’s development needs are met, that development is accommodated sustainably and that the borough accommodating this high level of growth is conditional on the necessary infrastructure to mitigate development, especially sustainable transport and social infrastructure. The Council is working towards publishing the first draft of the Local Plan Review in October this year and is looking forward to ongoing engagement with communities and stakeholders to shape the content. It is currently anticipated that more detail regarding the growth strategy will form part of a report to Cabinet in April.

**SPD2 Suburban Design Guide – Update**

The Council has processed 623 representations made during the consultation period and are now assessing the amendments to be made to the final SPD as a consequence of the consultation. Alongside this a consultation statement is being drafted, which will capture the consultation process including the statutory requirements met and event statistics, amendments made to the final SPD and responses to other themes that emerged in the representations. A good number of representations did not directly relate to the SPD2, but instead commented on the broader Croydon Local Plan 2018 policy position on evolution of the suburbs and intensification. Theses will be captured in the consultation statement too. It is anticipated the final SPD will be adopted at Full Council in April 2019 following its consideration at Cabinet in March 2019.
Transport and Environment

Bus route proposed for Tollers Lane Estate

The introduction of a regular bus service to serve the Tollers Lane Estate, which has poor access to public transport facilities has been a long-standing aspiration for the Council, Councillors and many residents. Indeed, last year I received a petition from residents in support of this issue.

Between 9th January and 11th February 2019 Transport for London is consulting residents on the potential extension of the 404 bus service to serve the Estate. There will also be other planned changes to the route, including an increase in the frequency from 1 bus to 2 buses per hour, excellent to and welcome news for users of this service. The consultation is being undertaken in conjunction with complementary changes to the 434 bus service. Further details can be found via their website: https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/buses/routes-404-434/

Transport for London would also part-fund alterations to roads and parking within Tollers Lane Estate to enable the safe and reliable operation of the 404 bus service. At the same time, and having listened to residents’ concerns, the Council is proposing to provide more car parking on the Estate roads as part of these works.

We also plan to undertake further highway improvements, including minor widening at key road junctions, addressing some of the existing surface water drainage problems,
introducing new double yellow line waiting restrictions for safety reasons and providing 5
new bus stops.

Residents within the Estate were sent a letter on 4th January 2019 to explain the Council’s
proposed parking and highway changes and have until 27th January 2019 to let us know
their views.

Subject to the results of the two consultations, and the necessary approvals being in place,
the Council plans to commence the parking & highway works in Spring / Summer 2019, with
the new bus service being introduced by Transport for London later in the year.

Vision Zero

Transport for London (TfL) has recently launched their Vision Zero action plan setting out
how it will deliver the Mayor’s Transport Strategy target that by 2041 no one will be killed or
seriously injured on London’s roads. Croydon is very supportive of this plan, the benefits of
which were explored in a recent council Scrutiny session.

This plan calls on the UK Government to reduce the default urban speed limit from 30mph to
20mph, which Croydon has already introduced throughout our local residential road network.

TfL’s Vision Zero plan also looks to provide the necessary resources for local authorities to
re-design streets for lower speeds through their Healthy Streets programme, enhance the
safety camera network, trial area-based average speed cameras, to improve the
Metropolitan Police’s enforcement of speed limits, and to fit speed-limiting technology to the
TfL bus fleet.

To monitor progress towards the Vision Zero objectives, TfL have set the ambitious target of
reducing the number of serious and fatal injuries by 65% by 2022, over the five year base
from 2005 to 2009. For Croydon that base was 252 casualties and in 2017 our killed and
serious casualty record was 126. This equates to a 50% reduction from the base figure, and
therefore shows that we are already well on our way to achieving our target by 2022. With
the Council’s commitment to the Healthy Streets programme, the expansion of our cycle
routes and the introduction of Safer School Neighbourhoods in the forthcoming financial
year, Croydon is well positioned to meet the aims of Vision Zero as set out by Transport for
London.

LIP3 Update
The six week statutory public consultation on the draft Third Local Implementation Plan (LIP3) went live on Monday (10th Dec) – the draft documents and online survey questionnaire are here www.croydon.gov.uk/LIP3 - the consultation ends on Sunday 20th January 2019. We have had a very positive and encouraging public response with almost 1,100 responses during this statutory public consultation and the earlier consultation exercise that informed development of the draft LIP3.

The final LIP3 document has to be submitted to the Mayor for his approval by 16th February 2019 We will receive formal notification of approval from the Mayor of London in March 2019. The final LIP3 will then be adopted by the Council in May/June 2019.

**Mayor's Air Quality Fund Bids**

The Mayor’s Air Quality Fund (MAQF) is a £20 million fund over 10 years to support projects by London boroughs to improve air quality. London Borough of Croydon are working to submit the following funding bids:

- **A pan-borough South London project to develop a Construction Consolidation Centre (CCC) on a temporary site along the A23 Purley Way corridor.** We are already investigating potential CCC sites as to mitigate the impacts of the Growth Zone activities in Central Croydon and reduce HGV movements within the town centre. Construction related logistics traffic would drop off their loads at the CCC and the final leg of the journey would be made by an electric or low emission lorry. The MAQF bid would match fund the Growth Zone funding. We have invited other neighbouring boroughs to partner with us on the bid to increase our chances of a successful bid as South/South West London is the only part of London that is outside of a 30 minute catchment of an existing CCC. The maximum amount of funding available to bid for this project is £500,000.

- **A single borough bid for a ‘Smart’ Taxi Rank Queuing System at East Croydon Station** that would remove the problem of taxi congestion and over ranking at the station, and the associated problems of engine idling. As part of this project we would install electric vehicle charging points and give priority fast track access to electric taxis to incentivise their uptake. The maximum amount of funding we can bid for this project is £200,000.

- **Low Emission Neighbourhoods (LENs)** – The MAQF will fund up to 4 new LENs across London with up to £500,000 available to each. The focus of the Croydon LEN project would be the London Road corridor from Thornton Heath Pond bus garage.
down to West Croydon Station. The LEN proposals along this corridor would include working with the Harris Invictus Academy, the Croydon University Hospital, the bus garage, mosques, hotels and various other businesses and stakeholders. We are looking at the possibility of developing an area-wide Zero Emissions Network (ZEN) that would seek to improve emissions through the introduction of green infrastructure, behaviour change measures, electric vehicle charging points, an electric micro-transit on demand bus service, no-idling zones, possible traffic access restrictions to prevent rat running and new pocket parklets at side roads junctions.

**School Streets**

Since introducing 3 award winning School Pedestrian Zones in 2017, the Council have now received requests for similar schemes at many more primary and junior schools.

The aim of selectively pedestrianising the roads outside schools, at the beginning and at the end of the school day, is to secure a more pleasant, healthier and safer environment for children, parents and nearby residents. During term time the school run generates thousands of short trips on our roads every day. These journeys contribute to congestion, air pollution and, at some schools, create dangerous conditions immediately outside the school gates. The initial 3 schemes have given rise to a significant uptake in walking and cycling to school, with less car use, and the council is now looking to roll out the scheme across the borough as the central plank to a School Streets programme.

Our Manifesto committed us to review the success of these school pedestrian zone pilots with a view to rolling the scheme out at other appropriate locations. This review happened within six weeks of the election and in July 2018 TMAC approved a recommendation that the pilot schemes were made permanent and a roll out to new schools was agreed.
In October we wrote to all schools inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) in our School Streets programme (the new name for the scheme). I am delighted to report that thirty one schools responded positively to that invitation.

Council staff reviewed EOIs against selection criteria that took into account amongst other things whether the schools is STARS accredited, part of a proposed Healthy School Neighbourhood, has favourable pupil catchment and the PTAL rating.

Eight schools have been identified as candidates for the first phase of the roll out and informal consultation with residents in neighbouring roads will being later this month. The schools are:

- Fairchildes Primary (New Addington South ward)
- Harris Academy Purley (South Croydon ward)
- Downsvie Primary & Nursery (Norbury Park ward)
- Winterbourne Junior Girls (Bensham Manor ward)
- Cypress Primary (Crystal Palace & Upper Norwood ward)
- Norbury Manor Primary (Norbury & Pollards Hill ward)
- Harris Primary Academy Kenley (Kenley ward)

Scheme details will be reviewed and revised as necessary in light of the results of the informal consultation, which will be reported to TMAC in May 2019. Those schemes that are approved by TMAC will then proceed to formal TMO consultation and school and council communications with parents will take place in July prior to schools breaking up for the Summer holidays.

It is intended that the schemes will become operational at the start of the new school year in September 2019.

It is possible that some schemes may not become operational until after this point if, for example, there are on street safety works required to support the introduction of the scheme (e.g. a new zebra crossing or yellow line restrictions).

The pilots introduced in 2017 were incredibly successful with a daily reduction of 254 trips by car recorded across the three schools – and schools reporting a considerably improved and safer school gate environment, as well as improvements in punctuality, too.

Air pollution is strongly associated with traffic congestion, with pollutant levels being generally higher inside cars than on the pavement. It is a serious public health issue, which impacts most on our vulnerable residents. Croydon currently has the unenviable reputation for the highest rate hospital admissions for childhood (0-9 year) asthma in London and 7.5% of
premature deaths in Croydon are linked to air pollution. Sample measurements taken on a ‘walk to school day’ showed how air pollution was halved on the day, which illustrates how it is possible to do positively address the otherwise bad trends.

I look forward to working with ward councillors to introduce these measures to provide a healthier and safer school environment for our young people.
Latest News

A National Nature Reserve in Croydon - UPDATE

In the last bulletin I informed you of the collaborative work taking place between LB Croydon, City of London and Natural England towards the creation of a National Nature Reserve (NNR) in the south of the borough. Positive discussions regarding the vision, objectives and name of the NNR amongst partners continue to take place and we are still on track for a dedication in Summer 2019.

NNRs are the representations of the best sites, nationally, for nature conservation, representing 3 pillars – science, engagement, resources. They are exemplars for scientific research and public engagement. The areas earmarked for the Croydon NNR have been identified as outstanding examples of species rich chalk meadows and downlands and form a landscape feature at the edge of London.

A Future Parks Accelerator Fund – Croydon & the Wandle Valley

In October a UK-wide £10m strategic initiative was launched by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the National Trust (NT) – the Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) – with the aim to inspire and financially support ambitious and sustainable solutions to protect and enhance public parks and green spaces. Within a context of increasing financial uncertainty for parks and green spaces, the FPA will support a selection of local authorities and communities to consider and implement practices for how these spaces can be better used, managed and funded to serve community needs and aspirations now and over the next generation.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON
These ambitious aims require partnership working, which is why Croydon submitted a joint expression of interest with London Boroughs of Sutton, Merton and Wandsworth, under the umbrella of the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust. Decisions regarding successful applications are expected in the New Year and we remain excited at the prospect!

**Croydon views celebrated as part of Wandle Vistas Award**

During 2018-18 Croydon residents and Officers were involved in the Wandle Vistas project, delivered as part of the Living Wandle Landscape Partnership. This exciting project involved local people assessing and researching a selection of 10 vistas across the Wandle Valley, including four in Croydon, with the information being used to create resources for use in education, interpretation and planning policy. [Watch the film and download the map here](#)! In November this project won a prestigious Landscape Institute Award and such a success should be used as a springboard to celebrate and enhance the Croydon vistas, including Addington Hills and Norwood Grove, to name just two.
Croydon allotments to receive investment in 2019

Following a successful funding application to the Council’s Growth Board, allotments managed by the council are set to receive over £350k of investment.

Six direct-let sites will receive capital infrastructure improvements. A programme of investment will target funding at improving walkways and accessibility, repairing plots that are prone to flooding, as well as those that have overgrown trees, whilst improving general health and safety standards.

In addition to the capital programme the Active Lifestyles team were also successful in securing £10k from the Council’s Place Business Improvement Board to streamline and simplify allotments IT management software. Upgrades in 2019 will aim to improve both management efficiency as well as user experience.

The programme of capital improvement is due to start in early 2019 and is expected to be completed in Spring 2020.

Walking for Health - UPDATE.

Walking for Health is a nationwide programme of health walk schemes that deliver free, regular led walks designed to support people to get active and stay active. It is an inclusive programme, open to all. There are 14 walks in Croydon to choose from every week.

There are currently over 300 active walkers registered with the Croydon scheme, 24% of whom joined the scheme in 2018. An increasing number of walkers have been referred to the scheme by health care professionals and advisors.
In Croydon, our focus is on short accessible walks particularly designed for participants:
with restricted mobility or fitness
- with declining health who want to remain active but at reduced levels
- new to physical activity
- recovering from ill health

We also organise progression walks of longer duration and with more challenging terrain.

In addition to the health benefits, the walks are a social activity, with many walkers saying that as well as the exercise, they enjoy the opportunity to spend time with the friends they make and the opportunity to meet new people.

The new Croydon Walks programme January to June 2019 is now available in libraries, health clinics, online and from the Active Lifestyles team. This includes nature walks and health walks which take place in Croydon’s woodlands and green spaces.
RAP Sport Christmas Event

To celebrate the success of another year for the Croydon RAP Sports programme, the Active Lifestyles team added a little festive spirit by organising an all-inclusive night out for the participants. The event took place on the 18th December 2018 at the Oxygen Trampoline Park and was the first project led by project support apprentice who joined Croydon Council in the autumn.

The event was a great opportunity for all attendees from various RAP sport sessions to meet each other, providing a fun and enjoyable experience for all. It also acknowledged the contribution to the programme from the parents and carers enabling them to take a well-deserved break from all their hard work throughout the year.

The Croydon RAP programme is a dedicated sports scheme providing young people with disabilities from ages 5-25 with the opportunity to take part out various sporting activities on a weekly basis. The programme also offers opportunities to learn skills and meet new people. The programme is delivered by a team of specialist coaches who work closely with individuals throughout the year.

For more information on the RAP Sports Courses visit https://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/sports/youth-sports/team-sports
Leisure Contract Update

Thornton Heath

Health and Fitness investment of over £949k is almost completed for facilities providing much needed state of the art improvements. Investments in Thornton Heath have continued with a new Sauna and Steam room on poolside.

South Norwood

The South Norwood gym health and fitness investments are now complete. Improvements include new equipment from Techno Gym which also makes the space look and feel bigger and enables more space for functional items.

GLL Sport Foundation Application open till 20th February 2019

GLL is once again showing its commitment to improving health, wellbeing and opportunity in the communities it works in, by supporting the next generation of athletes to the tune of £1.5 million, via The GLL Sport Foundation (GSF). Now in its eleventh year, GSF’s latest investment in today’s and tomorrow’s athletes will take its total support to £10.7 million. Athletes from across the UK can apply for support through the GLL Sport Foundation via the online portal at: www.gllsportfoundation.org. Applications close 20th Feb. 2019. The word is being spread amongst the athletes of Croydon!
Crowd Funding Workshop

On the 1st of November the Community Sport Manager (CSM) hosted Croydon’s first crowdfunding workshop. Open to local organisations and members of the public, the workshop is part of a pilot for GLL CSM’s to deliver workshops to encourage more individuals and groups to understand and utilise the support available through the GLL Community Foundation and how they can bring their idea to life. The workshop attracted 43 sign ups and was a great opportunity for groups to engage with each other and share their understanding and learning around crowdfunding campaigns. In Croydon the CSM is currently working with three projects to get them ready to launch their campaign.

Weight Management Talk

During November the CSM attended local weight management groups organised by our Live Well team in libraries and community centres across the borough. The invitation to the talks aimed to introduce the opportunities at the leisure centres and explain different membership options as well as publicising community drop-in sessions. Discussion also focussed on addressing barriers to exercise/using the leisure centres, including cost, weather, parking and concerns around body image.

School of Hard Knocks Employment Talk

As part of GLL’s commitment to support Croydon residents into employment the CSM has partnered with the School of Hard Knocks charity. On 2nd November the CSM visited the current recruits and gave a presentation on GLL as an employer and the local opportunities available in Croydon. Currently two successful appointments at both Thornton Heath and Monks Hill have been made through the partnership.
Leisure Centres and Healthy Living Hub support promotion for HIV testing

National HIV Testing Week is an initiative of HIV Prevention England, funded by Public Health England, and coordinated by Terrence Higgins Trust, with support, partnership and participation from organisations across the public, statutory and private sectors.

Croydon was again supporting the week, which started on Saturday 18 November. All the leisure centres in the borough received promotional material to display and the Healthy Living Hub at Central Library hosted testing sessions.

This year’s HIV Testing Week theme – Give HIV the Finger – aimed to demonstrate that getting tested for HIV is as easy as a quick finger-prick test, with the result available within 15 minutes. Receiving an early diagnosis and treatment can help people to live up to a normal lifespan.

New artists in residence at Museum

The Croydonians exhibition is on from Wednesday 19 December 2018 in the Croydon Art Collection.

From an Addington blacksmith and his wife, to celebrities and a mayor of Croydon, discover some of the faces from Croydon past and present.

This exhibition will showcase works from the Croydon Art Collection alongside photographic portraits that have featured in recent exhibitions at the Museum of Croydon.”

Libraries new programme of events

Croydon Libraries celebrate 2019 with a variety of events in January, starting with a Volunteer Celebration on Saturday 12th January at Thornton Heath Library, open to anyone interested in volunteering with us. Visit Central Library for a Healthy Lifestyles marketplace event outside the Central Children’s Library, Thursday 17 January, 10am-1pm. Talk to experts who can advise on healthy eating and lifestyles and find out about health information online. Join us for a talk from Ian Porter on The Titanic - What happened after the ship sank, at Ashburton Library, Monday 21 January, 11am, covering more details of the rescue and aftermath including tales of the corruption and disregard for human suffering during that terrible night.
(Contact ashburtonlibrary@croydon.gov.uk to book). Finally, we are pleased to launch two new online resources, all free with your library card:

- PressReader, allowing you to access thousands of newspapers and magazines from around the world; read the latest complete editions of the newspapers as they are published.
- Digital comics & graphic novels, with new collection of comics including Spiderman, Avengers and X-Men.


**Working Together**

**Registrars Service**

**Locality Working**
We continue to advance plans for closer working with Bereavement Services and the introduction of locality working and improve accessibility to Registration Services.

Birth and death registrations are conducted weekly on Monday mornings at the Mitcham Road Cemetery Office with the popularity of these appointments increasing. In relation to Croydon University Hospital, we continue to work to overcome the IT being experienced but hope to be able to offer a registration service from here by early February.

**Bereavement Services**

**Replacement Cremators**
Our current cremators are now over 20 years old and reaching the end of their operational life

The procurement process for replacement cremators is almost complete with recommendations to go to CCB in early January 2019. Work to replace the cremators will be scheduled for late summer/early autumn 2019.
New Burial Land
We are planning to appeal our unsuccessful planning application for Greenlawns Memorial Park. Papers are being prepared for submission in early 2019.

Events
Over 100 people attended the Christmas Memorial Service on Sunday 9th December with over £170 being raised for charity

A new programme of events for 2019 is currently being finalised and will be distributed in January.

Our events are free and if you are interested in attending please contact us via e-mail on BEREAVEMENT@croydon.gov or by phone on 020 8684 3877 to register your interest.
Welcome to my first bulletin of 2019. I’d like to start by wishing you all a happy and healthy 2019.

I was incredibly sad to hear the news that my colleague Cllr Maggie Mansell passed away following a short illness. Maggie made a huge contribution to Croydon over many years, particularly in Health and Social Care. Maggie always used her compassion, expertise and dedication in her many roles, especially as the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and, even more recently, as Dementia Champion. Maggie will be missed by all.

There is a book of condolences available to sign in the Town Hall reception.

Over the Christmas break, I have been reflecting on 2018 and how much I have learnt, the people I have met, the successes we have had and the challenges ahead. Moving into health, wellbeing and adults, integrating health and care has been a positive move that is in-line with the national agenda.

This leads me to think about what 2019 will bring. We eagerly await the overdue Social Care Green Paper which may bring more changes that could lead to us having honest conversations about what is best for our service.

We have the new corporate plan and the new operating model for the whole Council to guide us and I am looking forward to delivering positive outcomes for our residents.

LATEST NEWS

A consultation about Croydon’s charging policy for adults
We are running a consultation about proposed changes to the charging policy for adult social care and are encouraging people to share their views with us.

In Croydon we are doing everything possible to protect the delivery of services and provide support to people who need them the most. Services across England that support older and disabled residents are facing huge pressures and local authorities have a duty to ensure resources are allocated in a fair and equitable way.

However these are challenging times and we need to ensure an efficient use of the budget whilst trying to deliver the best level of service to those who require it. The proposed changes that are being considered will ensure that Croydon Councils charging policy reflects the requirements of the Care Act.
There are five proposals that we are asking for views on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal Number</th>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>What this means?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Amending the point at which services become chargeable</td>
<td>Charging from the start of service</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Changing the treatment of some income</td>
<td>Taking the full amount of the Higher rate Disability living allowance (care component) DLA, Attendance Allowance (AA) and the enhanced daily rate of Personal independence payment (PIP) into account in the financial assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Light touch financial assessments</td>
<td>Clients on the lowest level of income completing a light touch financial assessment to receive a faster response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Administration Charges</td>
<td>Applying an arrangement fee for arranging care and support on behalf of people who pay for their own care and who ask the local authority to arrange their care and support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Meals on wheels</td>
<td>Taking away the subsidy currently in place and changes to how the service is provided to people</td>
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This consultation might impact people who:-

- Receive an adult social care service or support from the council
- Pay the council a financial contribution towards your social care support
- Receive a higher or enhanced rate of disability benefits from the DWP

The proposals potentially affect residents in Croydon who receive meals on wheels and other care and support services from the council. All the proposals have been legally ratified to ensure they comply with the Care Act, which is the legislation that informs local authorities on charging for services provided. Where applicable, the proposals continue to ensure that Croydon Council operates a means tested financial assessment in accordance with the law.

The consultation opened on 17 December 2018 and will close at midnight on 25 January 2019. We have a charging helpline (020 8760 5676) open between 10am and 12pm and 2pm to 4pm on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Fridays. Outside of these hours, an answer machine facility is available for anyone to leave their views or to ask for documents in other formats.

More information, and to access the easy read version and to complete the questionnaire:

www.croydon.gov.uk/chargingpolicyconsultation
Community Led Support (CLS)
Community led support is a strengths and asset based model that builds on and supports work already underway across Croydon.

It joins up good practice, builds on what’s working and focuses on strengthening common sense, empowerment and trust. It helps people recognise and build on their own skills, abilities and strengths; and those of their family and communities.

A key principle is that the conversation with the professional and the person changes from “What’s wrong?” to “What’s strong?” starting from a positive base and reducing bureaucracy to the minimum it has to be.

Community Led Support includes multi agency working in community hubs and talking points to help connect people to their communities. It’s in place in over 20 places in the UK and is having a positive impact on waiting times and on staff and resident experience and satisfaction.

We are working with the National Development team for inclusion, (NDTi) for 18 months to help embed the approach at Croydon and I will keep you updated through this bulletin.

More information: Annette.McPartland@Croydon.gov.uk
Be healthier and happier this New Year
We are supporting residents to set realistic health goals throughout 2019. We know that making New Year’s resolutions can seem daunting, especially if you have over indulged in those festive treats. The JustBe Croydon website at www.JustBeCroydon.org has tips and advice that can help you to achieve those common New Year resolutions like losing weight, quitting smoking or doing a bit more exercise.

A few simple changes to your lifestyle, like reducing the salt and sugar in your food and drink and doing a few minutes of exercise daily, can make a big difference to your future health and happiness.

The website has a Health MOT tool, which only takes five minutes to complete. At the end, it provides you with a personalised report to help you to meet your goals.

You can also visit a Live Well advisor at a health hub in Croydon and speak to them about getting fitter and improving your mind and body. There is no need to make an appointment to see an advisor and the health hub locations can be found on the JustBe Croydon website.

DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS
Update on the Cherry Hub
In October I updated you on the development of Croydon’s new all-age, all-disability hub, called The Cherry Hub. I am delighted to say that the project is nearly complete and is already being successfully used by family carers and some council services.

The Autism service relocated in the summer and everyone is already benefiting from the new location. Phase two completed, with a new sensory room, training kitchen, large activity room and a variety of activity rooms along with space for people to meet.

We were lucky as the photography group at the Whitehorse Hub documented the development, some of their photos are below.
The plan is to have a period of in-house use only, to test, look for snags and ensure that the building is ready for an opening in the Spring.

More information: Annette.McPartland@Croydon.gov.uk

Coca-cola asked to make changes to consider the health and wellbeing of Croydon

Croydon is a SUGAR SMART borough, and the council is leading a local campaign to help residents to be aware of the risks to their health if they consume too much sugar.

When the Coca-Cola truck came to Croydon on the 15-16 December, as part of the company's annual Christmas promotion, Rachel Flowers, our Director of Public Health, wrote to the company requesting that they work in parallel with the borough by promoting sugar free alternatives to their popular drinks line-up.

Members of the public health team and the charity Sustain went to the truck to handout SUGAR SMART and oral health information to members of the public. One young couple with a baby were very pleased to hear we are a SUGAR SMART borough saying ‘this is what we need...support on sugar swaps’.

You can read more about our actions in this article.

Find out how you can get involved with SUGAR SMART Croydon here

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON
WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Community effort supports more people to get tested for HIV

Each year Croydon Council organises activities to offer more opportunities for local people to get a HIV test during the national HIV Testing Week campaign.

HIV Testing Week started on 17 November year and we promoted the campaign in Croydon until Worlds Aids Day on 1st December.

The campaign was a resounding success with almost 1,200 additional people in the borough taking a HIV test - beating last year’s total.

Much of this success was due to the work we did to involve volunteers and local businesses.

Fred Semugera, in the council’s public health team, led the work to coordinate more than 100 trained volunteers, including Croydon College students, Rainbow Across Borders - a local LGBT group, and Croydon Council staff, to get them signposting people to get tested at nearby venues.

He also galvanised the support of local businesses and organisations for them to offer HIV testing during this time. This included being tested at Croydon University Hospital, local pharmacies, the CVA Resource Centre, the health hub in central library and Prestige hair and beauty salon. You can see the full list of participating venues on our website.

Read more about our achievements here

HIV testing is available throughout the year at the sexual health clinic at Croydon University Hospital, GP surgeries, or with test kits that can be delivered by post.
I hope you find this bulletin interesting, if you would like to contact me about anything, please do so on:

**Correspondence:**
c/o Town Hall
Katharine Street
Croydon
CR0 1NX

**Business phone:** 07710 184 921

**Email:** jane.avis@croydon.gov.uk

**Online information**
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

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON
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.

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.
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’re 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.
Latest News

Working Together

Our Apprenticeship Programme Wins Again

In November, Croydon Council won the Personnel Today Award 2018 for Apprenticeship Employer of the Year. The awards celebrate success in both the public and private sector.

The winning submission focused on Croydon’s large youth population and above average youth unemployment, and the barriers faced by residents, particularly looked after children, those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, those with disabilities and those from BAME groups. Croydon’s solution to these challenges has been to implement innovative recruitment practices such as utilising social media platforms, simplifying the application process and introducing group assessment days so that candidates can demonstrate their strengths which is particularly useful for those who struggle to articulate themselves at interview. We have also worked hard to reduce unconscious bias amongst recruiting managers by putting the emphasis on potential not experience. We have put together a holistic and robust programme that includes activities, events and training to
ensure that apprentices receive opportunities to grow into well rounded individuals. For example, they have been assigned mentors to support their development and growth throughout their apprenticeship and attended themed workshops to equip them with the knowledge they need to succeed.

Subsequently, in our first cohort 85% of the apprentices were from a BAME background, the average age of our apprentices was 20 with 97% of them being between the ages of 16-24. Furthermore, nearly 10% were care leavers, 20% had additional learning needs/physical disability and another 10% were lone parents.

**Health & Social Care Recruitment Event**

Croydon Works in collaboration with CALAT hosted the first Health & Social Care focussed recruitment event on Friday 14th December. The event was held at CALAT Thornton Heath, to ensure that local residents have access to the opportunities available.

The event was arranged following feedback from care employers who are struggling to find enough local talent to keep up with demand. A total of 16 employers were in attendance including some of the biggest local providers such as London Borough of Croydon, Caremark and Highfield House, all of whom had live vacancies.

We also had a number of training providers present and numerous workshops running throughout the day. This included CALAT showcasing various Health & Social care course, Skills for care, discussing the various roles available in the sector and Croydon Council on how to become a Social Worker.

With over 100 residents in attendance, the event was a success, feedback from employers was good and a number of residents secured interviews and tentative job offers.

Croydon Works and CALAT are planning to replicate the event across other areas in Croydon.
Croydon's Year of Business

The Year of Business was started to help small and medium businesses thrive in Croydon. These businesses, with fewer than 250 employees, make up 99% of the businesses registered in the borough.

The year of business was all about helping companies in our borough thrive, offering them the support and opportunities they needed to fulfil their potential. With over 170 events, seminars and workshops held through the Croydon Business Network, supporting over 4000 delegates, we are pleased to announce that the year for our businesses has been a great success. As we enter 2019, our ambitions for our business community has not diminished, every year is a year for Croydon businesses and we will be keeping on working with our dynamic business community to help our businesses start, develop & grow.

If you would like to know more about our services listed below:

- Croydon Enterprise Loan Fund
- Discretionary Business Rate Relief
- Free job brokerage service – Croydon Works
- Free concierge service to help you find property – Croydon Urban Edge
- Support to help businesses inspire young people’s careers in our local schools – EPIC
- Support to guide you to information and support on apprenticeships (100 in 100 campaign).

Croydon Economic Summit

300 businesses showed they meant business at our annual Economic Summit held in Box Park on Thursday 22 November. Guests heard from a host of local, national and international speakers.

The summit addressed key issues highlighted by Croydon businesses in two sessions - Global Opportunities & Challenges. These explored Croydon’s positioning within global markets from a national and international perspective.
Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed
January 2019

at this time of Brexit uncertainty. The Future session explored Croydon’s future transformation and included aspirations from a youth perspective as well as looking at local development.

With key note speakers: Crepes and Cones, Senior Economist and Head of Economic Forecasting & Stress-testing Economics at Royal Bank of Scotland Group, Marcus Wright and Mark Lever, Head of Corporate Affairs Gatwick Airport and many more the message that was highlighted was that Croydon’s diversity was a positive strength that made us resilient in these unsettled times. A call to work proactively to support and showcase opportunities for our young people was also a clear action for the Council to proactively work to drive this forward.

Good Employer – Living Wage Week

In October we held an event to celebrate Living Wage employers in Croydon.

With over 50 of our leading Good Employer businesses joining the discussion on the benefits of paying people the London Living wage, the event debated and discussed important opportunities and challenges faced by the business community.

The London Living wage makes a positive difference to people’s lives. As part of our drive to achieve increased financial security and greater independence for local people, we would like all Croydon employers, big or small, to become London Living Wage accredited and join the Good Employer Network. We work with the Good Employer Network to drive forward best practice in the borough.

We would like to welcome our newly accredited Good Employers

- Enterprise for London
- Crepes and Cones
- Right at Home
- HML Croydon
- Hazel Home for Autism Ltd
- MR Scaffolding Services Ltd
- Click Enterprise
- Queen B Luxury Nail and Beauty Lounge
- White Hut Studio
- R&O Plumbing and Maintenance
- Simply Lunch
- Croydon Pride
Strengthening our local economy requires collective commitment. Businesses and employers play an important role in creating a local economy that attracts investors and opens up opportunities for further growth. The Good Employer Charter aims to become a testament to the strengths of Croydon’s market by showcasing local businesses’ commitment to their employees, customers, suppliers, business partners and the local communities.

Being a good employer means your employees feel more valued and effective in their work. This translates into improved productivity, lower staff turnover and greater ability to retain talent. Your business gains a competitive advantage and improved performance.

Being a responsible business helps to satisfy your consumers’ and business partners’ desire to support companies that have strong corporate social responsibility. It improves the quality of life in communities where you do business, thus boosts your brand reputation, increases sales and positive consumer sentiment.

If you would like more information CLICK HERE

Croydon Tech Forum

We celebrated our tech community on 4th December at 5.30pm at TMRW Croydon.

Committed to revolutionising how it interacts with the borough and its tech community through improved services enabled by digital transformation, our new Chief Digital Officer Neil Williams introduced his vision and objectives showcasing Croydon’s drive to deliver top quality digital services to residents and businesses.

The event brought together some of the best tech leads in the borough for an evening of networking, sharing best practice discussing their digital expertise and showcasing some of the latest technology and services.

The next event will be held on the 26th February. To find out more email: carol.squires@croydon.gov.uk
Evening & Night-Time Economy

I and my fellow councillors took part in walks around our metropolitan and town centres to explore the strengths, opportunities, barriers and threats to our night time economy. The objective was to “test” the experience of these destinations, especially the transitions between stations and destinations, and also to understand some of the issues affecting traders, residents, and visitors. The walks identified specific and practical environmental aspects such as lighting, signage, cleanliness, safety, etc. that can be improved at ENTE destinations.

Evidence from the walks will be used to inform our emerging Evening & Night Time Economy Strategy which Cllr Ali, Cllr Lewis and I will present to Cabinet later this year.

Pop Up Business School

The third annual Croydon Pop Up Business School took place for 2 weeks in December. Over 100 participants joined the Business School for a 10 day course on how to start your own business with no money and no loans. Participants were taught how to start a business doing something they love, without taking any loans and by learning how to harness the power of connections with people in person, online and through social media.
The course included workshops on how to start a business with no money, how to build a website for free, how to get on google, teaches about tax, law and company set up, and gives participants the confidence to get started. The course is followed by 6 days of free trading in the Whitgift Centre for participants.

The Croydon Pop Up Business School was sponsored by Croydon Council, Croydon Partnership, Optivo and Wandle Housing.

Management Apprentice Programme Launch

Departments across the council have been working together to create Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for Council staff. The new programme financed using the Apprenticeship Levy includes Leadership and Management apprenticeships and Business administration apprenticeships at levels 3 and 4. Customer service at level 2 is also on offer as part of this programme due to start in February 2019.

During two promotional sessions within the Council 44 members of staff registered interest in the Level 3 (Leadership & Management) and 12 for the Level 5. More sessions will be run in January to engage with staff, followed by initial assessments so that staff can start courses in February 19.

CPD apprenticeships are a great way to invest in staff to develop their skills and increase productivity as well as helping them to make their next steps in their careers.

Coming in September 2019: Facilities management Supervisor BIFM level 3, Facilities Manager BIFM level 4, Assistant Accountant AAT level 3

Economic Growth Strategy consultation

In December 2018 I presented the key themes and priorities of the borough’s emerging Economic Growth Strategy at Cabinet with a view to consulting on them widely with stakeholders and partners before finalising the strategy in early 2019.

The themes for consultation are:

- To create places where businesses, investors and residents want to be and invest in infrastructure for growth;
- To create the business environment for growth
• To invest in ideas that can deliver real change for Croydon
• To invest in our people ensuring they have access to quality skills provision and can access jobs that ensure financial independence.

I’ll be working with partners both inside and outside Croydon to develop these themes further over the coming months – if you would like to have your say about the emerging strategy then please contact me or Emma Lindsell – Director of Economic Growth (emma.lindsell@croydon.gov.uk).
LATEST NEWS

Happy New Year – I’m looking forward to continuing the work this year to ensure that all children in the borough are safe, healthy, happy and able to aspire to be the best they can be. I’m really pleased that Rob Henderson and Nick Pendry are now in post as permanent Executive Director of Children Families and Education and Director for Early Help and Social Care. I am really looking forward to working with them.

Sadly David Butler, Director of Education will be leaving us to take up a new role as Chief Executive of a Multi-Academy Trust. David has been with Croydon for many years and built excellent relationships with schools, and head teachers, partners and colleagues and he will be sorely missed. I will be working with Rob on David’s replacement. I’d like to take this opportunity to personally thank David for all that he has done for the residents of Croydon. David is a wealth of knowledge and he will be greatly missed. I wish him an abundance of success in all future endeavours.

Staff Awards

I was delighted to attend the Children, Families and Education Departmental Awards in November. This was an opportunity to celebrate all those in the department who had been nominated for a Croydon award with the finalists going forward to the ceremony at the Hilton. We had 4 members of staff and 1 team who were finalists at the Hilton and I am delighted that Maria Nawrocka won the category for Residents Award on the night for her supporting role in the delivery of our Play Streets Initiative.

The Departmental event was held at the Conference Centre and we were lucky enough to be entertained by a string orchestra made up of pupils from schools in the borough who played a variety of music from the Beatles to Beethoven.

I would like to offer my congratulations to all those nominated, as well as the finalists.

DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS

Children’s Improvement Journey

I am committed to making sure our early help and social care staff have caseloads that ensure they have the time to do high quality work with our children and their families. In the past eight months children’s social workers’ caseloads in Croydon have come right down to an average that is below our target in all service areas.
including the assessment and care planning services, at the front line of keeping children safeguarded.

How did we do it? We listened to staff who told us that caseloads were too high. So, in June three managed teams of social workers were brought in to add capacity on the ground, take over the duty desk during the summer months and so give our Croydon staff space to really get on top of their cases.

Within weeks the difference was clear and caseloads began to fall. By November it was clear the action had paid off. The average caseload per social worker dropped to a level that gives Croydon one of the lowest caseload averages in London.

Veronica Leigh, assessment service manager, describes the difference as immense.

“The service is in a much better place now,” she says. “Caseloads are manageable and morale is really, really high in the teams. I can feel a buzz about the service that wasn’t there at all six months ago.

“Our social workers now talk about Croydon as a place where you’re supported by skilful managers to do the best job you can to make a positive impact on children and young people, and word of mouth is drawing in staff to come and be part of our team.”

There is still much more to do to make sure all our children and families get the high quality services they deserve, but this has been a really important, visible, step in the right direction.

Croydon new Special Free School

Following Croydon’s successful bid for capital funding from the Department for Education to develop a new free special school, the Education and Skills Funding Agency commissioned Croydon Council to lead on the delivery of the new special free school - Addington Valley Academy. The school will offer 150 places to children aged 2-19 years, with autism and learning difficulties, with the aim of providing a local pathway from the early years to adulthood.
The plan is for construction of the new school to commence in early summer 2019, ready for the school to be open in September 2020.”

Launch of our new Partnership Early Help strategy Best Start Family Solutions service

The end of 2018 saw the launch of the new Best Start Family Solutions service which is our new partnership Early Help Strategy. Over the past year hard work has been undertaken across both the statutory and voluntary sectors in collaboratively developing the strategy and this all came into fruition in November with the launch of the new strategy.

The new Partnership Early Help delivery model is shaped around three early help locality hubs, working initially within the three localities established through the Best Start early help provision, in the north, central and south areas of the Borough. These three hubs provide a locality base for a range of practitioners supporting close collaboration and alignment of services. These include the realigned Council intensive early help family key work teams and the Best Start service, who will work with partners including schools, health services, police, voluntary, faith and community sector agencies in delivering an integrated approach to our early help offer in the locality. This aligns with the Council’s new operating model and enables us to provide a joined up and effective early help offer for children aged 0 to 18 and their families.

If you would like to find out more about the Best Start Family Solutions service, please contact Clive.seall@croydon.gov.uk

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON
Takeover challenge Day

Another very successful Takeover Challenge took place with 146 young people participating, 99% more than in 2017.

Key Statistics:
- 63% were female
- 37% were male
- 99% attend Croydon schools (including alternative providers)
- 93% live in Croydon with 7% living on the periphery of neighbouring boroughs
- 13 Young People participated from the Beckmead Family of Schools (alternative provider)
- 1% of young people were identified as NEET and have since been referred
- 89 come from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Backgrounds (BAME)
- 25 unique placements were offered to young people (4 higher than 2017)
- 99% would recommend taking part to their friends

Some quotes from the young people:
“*I enjoyed my placement environment and engaging with senior managers*”

“It will allow young people to have their say in how they feel Croydon should be developed and hopefully impact what will be improved”

“It will encourage young people and children to have their say on the council decisions. Also it will help the council to make the Borough better as citizens have told the council what they should do”

“It gave me a voice”

“It will change a lot of things, because we young people have new fresh ideas”

“The best thing about the takeover challenge were the tours the ability to share our views and being able to find out how the council function”.

“I really felt like I am part of Croydon”.

Croydon Music and Arts (CMA), Giving Young People a Voice

CMA have been exploring the impact the arts can have through giving young people a voice, by involving them in the creative process and giving them a choice in how to perform or present their work.

CMA have applied this practical approach to music making in the classroom, and in their annual music education hub return for the DfE they have been able to report a
45% increase in the number of children learning instruments in Croydon schools. An external evaluation of this work in four primary and three secondary schools found that:

- Playing a musical instrument was shown to be accessible to all
- Young people feel a great sense of satisfaction from this
- Musical ability and class cohesion are developed concurrently.

The report recommends CMA continue the roll out and has provided some recommendations for how they develop this approach across Key Stages 2 and 3.

Some of our Arts Council cultural education partnership funding has been used to pilot a similar approach with spoken word projects in primary schools linked to literacy.

To support young artists making progress CMA are currently working with RSL exam board to create a new class qualification for the performing arts across Key Stages 2 and 3 as part of the Regulated Qualifications Framework. As well as rewarding young artists it will prepare them for GCSE or vocational qualifications at Key Stage 4.

The impact of giving young people a voice is not just about celebrating their artistic achievements and the contribution they can make to cultural life in Croydon. Being able to express themselves is particularly valuable for those facing disadvantage, helping them to address challenges, improve their well-being and achieve in other areas.

**CALAT ALDD Awards**

Another brilliant Adults with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities (ALDD) awards ceremony took place in November, celebrating all the fantastic hard work and achievements of everyone involved in the ALDD programme, the celebration was well attended and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Kabir, was on hand to give out awards along with Cllr Shafi Khan, the Deputy Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning.
CALAT Spring term enrolment campaign

CALAT will be encouraging Croydon residents to enrol on Spring Term courses at their New Year open day which will be held at Croydon Clocktower in January. Staffed by members of all the curriculum areas these events are a great way to promote CALAT’s diverse offering as well as a fantastic opportunity to meet other potential learners.

In addition to boost January enrolments CALAT has launched a 6 week campaign running throughout December and into January 2019. A full page advert was placed in the Croydon Advertiser coinciding with a Decaux board, web and social media campaign.

Consortium Bid

CALAT has submitted a bid to the London Learning Consortium to support their tender for the procurement element of the Adult Education Budget. The bid is for £400k over 4 years and will focus on two cohorts of learners, one transitioning Family Learning Adult learners onto mainstream accredited programmes and vocational pathways and the other will focus on adults with health conditions and learning difficulties to assist them in gaining employment. The outcome will be announced in January / February 2019.

CALAT English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) + GLA funded collaborative project

Aimed at ESOL students whose childcare responsibilities created barriers to learning, the collaborative project has supported parents to create a memory box for their child whilst developing their language skills and to also provide pathways to other agencies, libraries and local support networks available in Croydon and other areas.

Parents supported range from as far and wide as Albania to the Philippines with an adult age range of 18 to 30 and babies from 8 days to 1 year.

The second delivery phase of the project begins in February 2019 where we expect similar uptake and continued overall success.