



# Safer Croydon and Communities

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### October 2019

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## Safer Croydon

### Funding Secured for Croydon's Violence Reduction Agenda

The Mayor's Office for Police and Crime has allocated Croydon £400,000 across both 2019-20 and 2020-21 to support our public health approach to tackling violence in the borough. MOPAC have asked that this funding is used to support 3 priorities – all of which are relevant to work in Croydon:

- Tackling drug related crime
- Tackling youth offending
- Minimising school exclusion

This is important recognition of Croydon's work and the challenges we face. We are currently looking at how we best utilise this funding – but it will support work set out in our public health approach policy, agreed by Cabinet in June - for example establishing a network of 'community navigators' who can work with us to ensure those most at risk are able to access support, raising awareness of the impact of trauma and ensure our services respond with that in mind and developing a common understanding of risk which can be used by both community and statutory services.

### Croydon leading the way on prosecutions of online sales of knives to children

Croydon is leading a national pilot focused on illegal online knife sales to children has led to two more successful prosecutions.

At Croydon Magistrates' Court representatives of two companies – Tool Supplies UK Limited of Heswell, Wirral, and Inifer Potter and Son Ltd of Hockley in Essex – pleaded guilty to separate offences of selling a knife online to a Croydon child.

Both companies were fined £8,000 and each was ordered to pay costs of more than £2,000, which brought Tool Supplies UK Limited's total penalty to £10,627 and Inifer Potter and Son Ltd's to £10,398.40.

The prosecutions come as part of Croydon Council trading standards team's lead role in a nationwide pilot against online knife sales to children that is backed by National Trading Standards and the Home Office. The first company to be successfully prosecuted under this operation was SD International Trading Ltd in June.



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#### Victoria Atkins Ministerial Visit to the Drive



Victoria Atkins MP visited Croydon's FJC to hear more about the borough's Drive programme.

The Parliamentary Under Secretary for Safeguarding and Vulnerability and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Women), was keen to hear more about the intensive intervention plan that aims to ensure the safety of survivors and their families by reducing and preventing high-harm perpetrators of domestic abuse reoffending.

Croydon is the only London council to pilot Drive – and the minister met with front line workers, programme leads and partners, and gave her support to the multi-agency approach

Bromley & Croydon Women's Aid (BCWA) has been commissioned to provide a specialist service to help keep young people safe from domestic abuse. The service, for six- to 12-year-olds, will be offered to the children of those participating in the borough's perpetrator programme, Drive.

The council and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) commissioned the service, with Home Office funding.



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### Croydon's continuing record in tackling Female Genital Mutilation

#### Specialist Social Worker

Significant work is continuing in the borough to tackle female genital mutilation (FGM). Croydon has appointed its first specialist social worker to lead its preventative work against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The new post will be based in Croydon's Early Help team and will also support social workers in responding appropriately to cases. It is jointly funded by the council and the National FGM Centre – a joint partnership between Barnardo's and the Local Government Association.

Their work will also focus on helping those who have undergone FGM, and supporting those living in fear of this crime. They will also engage with residents, providing guidance and advice by working closely with community groups across the borough.

We estimate that there are around 3,500 women and girls who are living with FGM. The social worker will also help to develop preventative work in cases involving other harmful practices including breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith and believe and will also work with the African Youth Development Association, who have led the community on FGM awareness for many years, FORWARD, a national African-women-led organisation working to end FGM and the Croydon BME Forum.

#### FGM Conference – Let's Talk About it – 26 November 2019

Croydon's FGM Steering Group, which is accountable to the 'Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (DASV) Programme Board' and that in turn to the Safer Croydon Board – is organising a conference on Tuesday 26 November to raise awareness awareness, to promote protection against FGM for women and girls and to tackle stigmatisation and improve understanding among professionals

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fgm-lets-talk-about-it-tickets-64166250984>

#### FGM Clinic in Croydon

Croydon now has one of 8 FGM clinics in the country – designed for non pregnant women aged 18yrs to 25 years as well as those women who might have long-standing and chronic health concerns outside of pregnancy. The community-based clinic will offer a range of support services delivered by a multi-disciplinary team including; physical assessments and treatment (including deinfibulation if required), counselling, safeguarding information and access to an FGM Health Advocate.



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#### Sign up to Croydon's Anti Hate Crime Pledge



National Hate Crime Awareness Week takes starts on 12 October. We're calling on everyone to take action to demonstrate their opposition to any form of hate crime and support a zero tolerance for hate crime in Croydon by signing up to our anti-hate crime pledge.

Over 350 individuals have already signed up alongside over 30 organisations in Croydon representing over 7,000 members of staff.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week itself will feature a series of events – look out for further details.



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#### Temporary cameras put fresh eyes on crime hot spots



Ten temporary CCTV cameras have been deployed around the borough as part of the Safer Croydon Partnership's (SCP) work to tackle antisocial behaviour, fraud, fly-tipping and theft.

The cameras are in Frensham Drive, Hathaway Road, Headley Drive, London Road, North End (by McDonalds), Nursery Road, Poplar Walk, Portland Road and The Queen's Gardens.

The locations were selected after residents highlighted them as areas often affected by these types of crime.

#### Report Modern Day Slavery – via the Safe Car Wash App

Croydon Council's proactive approach to tackle modern day slavery has been highlighted as good practice recently within guidance on the topic issued by the Local Government Association. One example is an app that enables residents to alert the council about possible signs at a car wash business and which could help someone escape modern day slavery.

Signs to look out for include whether there are any child workers at the premises, if there is evidence of workers living on site and if the body language of workers appears fearful or withdrawn.

Anyone visiting or passing hand car washes is asked to look out for signs of this crime and to report it anonymously via the Safe Car Wash app, which can be downloaded through the App Store and GooglePlay.



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## Communities

### Community Fund – bids are in. Consultation opens on other support for the sector

This Administration has reaffirmed its commitment and investment in the voluntary sector through renewing the Community Fund – making more than £3m available to the sector over the next three years – which was also a manifesto pledge. Plans for the Community Fund were also set out in the council's Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy. Applications for the provision of a whole range of services from advice to infrastructure and which will also contribute to five of the council's key priorities have been open for a number of weeks and closed on 1 October. The next step will be for council officers to evaluate the applications. The outcomes will be announced at Cabinet in December and new funding agreements will begin on 1 April 2020.

Bids for smaller grants (less than £15,000) also closed on 1 October with news of successful applicants due in January. However, applications will remain open for the smaller grants with further decisions made at three points next year in March, July and November.

Another commitment in the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy was to review how the council grants other forms of support for the voluntary and community sector including access to council properties, rent subsidy and discretionary rate relief. The council's resources in these areas are fully committed year on year and have not been reviewed for many years. We're keen to ensure we're maximising the use of our resources in this area and establish a clear policy on how we use those resources. Organisations are encouraged to give us their views through a consultation which will be open until mid-November.



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#### **Croydon celebrates Black History Month – RID the Stigma: Representation, Identity, Diversity**

Croydon is marking Black History Month with a borough-wide programme of events with contributions from the local community as well as Council services.

This year's theme is "***RID THE STIGMA***" ***Representation, Identity, Diversity***"

This year's launch event will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and is organised by Croydon BME Forum in partnership with Croydon Council and Croydon Black History Month Committee. Tickets to attend this event is available via Eventbrite.

The programme for the month will feature a range of events including historical events through performance, music, discussion & employability panels, storytelling and songs. Such as Black Poppy Rose exhibition and talks, Young Business Entrepreneurs Event, BME Education Group (Raising the education achievement of young BAME people in Croydon), Intergenerational Care just to mention a few. Many events are free and the majority take place in Croydon.

This year we also have a range of events that will be held in the recently re-opened Fairfield Halls. Details of events to be staged during October can be found at:

[www.croydon.gov.uk/ccbh](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/ccbh) or at the Croydon BME Forum website: <http://www.cbmeforum.org/>