



Families, Health and Social Care

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Jane Avis

October 2019

Welcome to my October Bulletin,

Council taking back care in special sheltered housing



In my February Bulletin I talked about the facilities and arrangements for our supported and sheltered accommodation not meeting all of the standards we would expect for our residents living in these buildings.

Things have moved on a lot since then and now the decision has been made for the care of 237 older tenants in six special sheltered schemes to be managed directly by the council. They are:

- Frylands Court in New Addington
- Southsea Court in Broad Green
- Toldene Court in Old Coulsdon
- Brookhurst Court in South Norwood
- Freeman Court in Norbury
- Truscott House in West Croydon

This decision fulfils a manifesto promise and has been taken following thorough consideration and a decision to end the contract with the existing private provider. The original 10-year contract was signed in 2011 with Care UK and subsequently subcontracted to Mears and now London Care Ltd. The Council's preferred service model is for the scheme managers and the care staff to all work for the Council.

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It is essential that we provide tenant centered homes for life. We have taken the opportunity to talk and listen to tenants views on many aspects of the schemes and we know we can make improvements in important areas including activities available at the schemes, meals, use of the outdoor space / gardens and the overall co-ordination of day to day arrangements.

We have written to all tenants about the changeover and will ensure that residents, their families, friends and carers are listened to during this transfer. We have had a first meeting at all blocks, and have a plan to visit regularly to keep people up to date and listen to any concerns. This is in addition to regular visits from tenancy officers and visits about future redecorations, as we have already been told that regular clear communications are essential.

To ensure a safe and smooth transfer of the care provision from London Care to Croydon Council a project team has been set up which includes social care, housing, HR and facilities management teams. This team is working on a joint exit plan with London Care and Care UK to meet the deadline of change-over of care by January 2020 (6 months after Care UK gave London Care notice)

I will keep you updated, but if you have any initial queries, please contact Annette.McPartland@Croydon.gov.uk or Hannah.Balzaretti@croydon.gov.uk (Extra Care Housing Service Manager)

Blood pressure: Do you know your numbers?

The council teamed up with the Stroke Association and local pharmacies to offer free blood pressure checks to residents during Know Your Numbers! Week, 9-15 September.

Supporting residents to improve their health and wellbeing, and reduce their risk of strokes and heart attacks, is a top priority for us. We want people to know their blood pressure numbers in the same way as their height and weight.



Those who had their blood pressure checked, also known as hypertension, received information and advice on what they can do to keep blood pressure under control like losing weight, reducing salt intake, eating fruit and vegetables, drinking less alcohol and being more active.

Read more here <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/blood-pressure-do-you-know-your-numbers/>

Local partnership delivers new homes for adults with disabilities

I had a really interesting visit recently to Henderson House in South Norwood. This once derelict building, that was previously used to prepare films such as Superman, some of the James Bond films and the Pink Panther, has been converted into 10 flats for adults with disabilities.

Local property developer and a housing charity, Zetetic Housing, have converted the building and specialist care and support will be provided by Frontier Support. Our social care teams will be able to work with people, their families and carers to place adults with either physical or learning disabilities into their own home.

There are seven one-bed and three two-bed self-contained flats and all are partially furnished so people can move from residential care or family homes. The block includes two flats that are wheelchair-adapted and have wet rooms and adjustable-height kitchen units. On-site support staff are available 24 hours a day and there is a communal hub for the all-important social interaction.

I am looking forward to the opening of this excellent, much needed supported housing which is a key part of our strategy to support people to live healthy, happy and independent lives in Croydon.

Chinese delegation informed about Croydon's health plans



In the summer, we hosted a meeting with a delegation from China, who are members of the Chinese Primary Healthcare Foundation. They stopped in Croydon during their European tour.

We spoke to the group about our plans to help improve the health and wellbeing of our

residents. After the meeting, they told us they had learnt important lessons and they were impressed by the council's efforts to stamp out smoking, reduce air and noise pollution and tackle the health inequalities that can be caused by unemployment, inadequate housing, poor diet and a lack of exercise.

We also updated them about our plans to create healthier streets by having more accessible, car-free areas for people to enjoy.

Read more about the visit here <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/chinese-visitors-praise-croydons-plans-to-improve-residents-health/>

New mental health funding for schools and colleges

We are pleased to have received new NHS funding for mental health support in schools and colleges.

Thousands of schoolchildren and students will benefit from a share of a £4.3 million joint funding boost to improve mental health services in south west London.



We will use the funding for specialist teams in 40 Croydon primary, secondary and SEN schools and further education colleges, who will lead mental health programmes and training for children and young people, their families and teachers.

This kind of early intervention and the focus on prevention are vital for children and their families to maintain good mental health in the long term, as well as helping to ease the demand on health and wellbeing services in the future.

Find out more about how this funding will be used - <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/major-funding-boost-for-mental-health-support-in-croydon-schools/>

Schools marketplace



Croydon's schoolchildren were thrilled to see their fruit, veg, jams and herbs being snapped up by hundreds of keen shoppers at the annual one-day schools' marketplace in July.

Many of the schools sold more than £100 worth of goods each, which they will reinvest in their food growing projects.

The market day and the schools' food growing projects are supported by Croydon Council's Food Flagship programme, which aims to tackle obesity among children and young people. The projects help schoolchildren to better understand where their food comes from and they also learn how to cook nutritious meals from the fresh produce.

Read more here about this fantastic event <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/market-day-reaps-healthy-rewards-for-schools/>

Save the date – free event "Digital Health & Care Innovation"



A date for your diaries is Wednesday 27th November, 10:00am - 3:00pm at the Fairfield Halls Park Lane where Croydon Council is holding our first MarketPlace event in partnership with UKTelehealthcare. The aim of the event is to raise awareness

and encourage the use of Technology Enabled Care Services (TECS).

This free event is for all health and care professionals, carers, residents and local services to pop in and see the benefit digital health and care technology can have.

At the Croydon MarketPlace, you'll find:

- Major suppliers from across Europe and the UK exhibiting the latest health technology products and services
- Informative workshops and presentations
- An opportunity to network, share discussion and understand the future of TECS
- Information about local services focused at maintaining independence, enabling early intervention and preventing health decline

A full programme and registration details will be published closer to the event.

Any queries please contact Matthew.Catchpole@Croydon.gov.uk

Wraparound support for breastfeeding mums in Croydon

We are proud to offer breastfeeding support services in Croydon, which can be a lifeline to many new parents and can prevent them feeling isolated and worried.



A new peer support group started in New Addington to coincide with Breastfeeding Celebration Week in June. The New Addington Mum2Mum breastfeeding peer support programme is funded by Croydon Council and run by Croydon Health Services, they train volunteer mums to help other parents with breastfeeding.

The volunteers offer mothers and families practical and emotional advice around infant feeding and weaning.

New mums and mums-to-be can also get support at two Croydon Baby Cafés in Woodside and Selsdon. The cafés complement a range of other breastfeeding services offered across the borough.

Find out more - <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/wraparound-support-for-breastfeeding-mums-in-croydon/>

Target set to achieve zero new HIV infections in Croydon



Croydon Council is backing the Do It London campaign to achieve the ambitious target of zero new HIV infections in the capital by 2030.

The campaign, which is funded by London boroughs, runs until the end of autumn to support residents to make safer and healthier lifestyle choices by increasing condom use and getting more people to regularly test for HIV.

Croydon's C-Card scheme offers free condoms to residents under 25, as well as adults who are considered to be vulnerable and those groups more at risk of contracting HIV.

Read more about the campaign - <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/new-campaign-sets-target-to-achieve-zero-new-hiv-infections-in-croydon/>

I hope you find this bulletin interesting, if you would like to contact me about anything, please do so on:

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