

# **Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon and Communities Question Time**

**Scrutiny & Overview Committee  
Councillor Hamida Ali**

25/02/20

# Introduction to the portfolio

The Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon and Communities' portfolio spans two Council directorates, **Place and Resources**, and the **Violence Reduction Network, Policy & Partnerships, Public Realm and Resilience** teams.

The portfolio supports the following **Corporate Plan 2018-22** priorities:

- Everyone feels safer in their street, neighbourhood and home
- People live long, healthy, happy and independent lives
- Our children and young people thrive and reach their potential



# Trading standards and tackling knife sales

The Council's trading standards team have led on a nationwide **online knife test purchasing initiative**

Out of 100 attempts, 41 vendors supplied a knife

17 retailers were prosecuted: 12 pleaded guilty, one was found guilty, and four have pleaded not guilty

The trading standards team has been praised for their work in preventing under-18s from purchasing deadly weapons by the chair of National Trading Standards





# Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

3% of maternities in Croydon are to women affected by FGM

## Achievements

- November 2019, the Council hosted a conference to raise awareness about the scope of the issue with for over 90 professionals
- The Council has invested in a FGM social worker in partnership with the National FGM Centre

## Plans for 2020

- Policy & Partnerships team is working with the NHS to review the current FGM strategy which expires in 2020
- The Council plans to hold another conference later this year aimed at voluntary and community sector organisations



# **Recommissioning the Community Fund**

The Council will invest £8m in the voluntary sector over the next three years including investment through the Community Fund

Successful Community Fund submissions met the following outcome themes:

- People Live Long, Happy & Independent Lives
- Children & Young People Thrive and meet their potential
- Everybody feels safe in their street, neighbourhood and home
- Everybody has an opportunity to work and build their career
- Prevention Fund (over 65s)

## **Under £15,000**

- 110 submissions
- 18 successful submissions
- £233,281 awarded

## **Over £15,000**

- 90 submissions
- 34 successful submissions
- £3,830,359 awarded

# Equality Framework for Local Government

In November 2019, the Council completed a satisfactory self-assessment against the following criteria for the **Achieving** level of the LGA's Equality Framework:

- Knowing your communities
- Leadership, partnership and organisational commitment
- Involving your communities
- Responsive services and customer care
- A skilled and committed workforce

The recommendations from the report will be addressed in the upcoming Equality Strategy and underpinning action plan. **Scrutiny & Overview Committee input to potential new equality objectives is welcomed.**



# **Croydon Resilience**

The Council chairs the Croydon Resilience Forum and has a team of five staff

## **Achievements of 2019/20 include**

- Prepared for Britain's exit from the European Union, including a review of the Council's Fuel Disruption Plan
- Review of Council and multi-agency pandemic flu plans in support of Coronavirus preparedness
- Revised corporate training and exercising programme
- Revised Croydon Resilience Forum Utility Disruption plan
- Delivery of three Croydon Resilience Forum business meetings, including half-day workshops



# **Safer Croydon Partnership & Violence Reduction Network**

Safer Croydon Partnership acts as the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Croydon and leads on reducing crime and disorder in the borough

The Violence Reduction Network unites the following teams to reduce violence in the borough:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Team
- CCTV & Intelligence Hub
- Family Justice Centre
- Performance & Intelligence Team
- Prevent Team



# Thank you

**Councillor Hamida Ali (Woodside)  
Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon  
& Communities**