



# Communities, Safety and Justice

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### October 2017

---

## Latest News

### Licensing Policy Statement Consultation

The Council is required to review and republish its licensing policy statement at least every 5 years. Our current policy was reviewed in 2013 and I asked for the policy review to be brought forward so that it reflects both the current situation and the vision we have for Croydon as a place and a destination of choice.

The key proposed changes are:

- Removing the 'cumulative impact zone' for the town centre, which advocates against an increase in licensed venues in this area – reflecting the high concentration of pubs and clubs that were in place at the time this policy was first introduced in 2004. Consumer trends have changed in that time seeing a decline in pubs and clubs across the country - in favour of a broader range of venues - including restaurants rather than just bars, pubs and clubs.
- Removing the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) risk assessment form from inclusion within the policy statement because it is under review by the MPS. The policy statement continues to highlight that safety and risk assessment is the responsibility of license holders and signposts them to the police for further advice.

We are keen for partner agencies and licensees in particular to give their feedback and welcome anyone in Croydon to give us their views. The consultation closes on Monday 13 November: <https://getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/project/427>

### Business backs the fight against knife crime

Croydon businesses are signing up for responsible knife retailing ahead of the launch of the council's Choose your future campaign.

Choose your future, which launches next month, aims to unite Croydon against serious youth violence and





# Communities, Safety and Justice

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### October 2017

---

to support and celebrate the positive choices young people can, and do, make.

The council has launched its Responsible Retailers Agreement for the sale of knives, asking retailers to show their commitment to keeping the community safe by volunteering to follow a number of conditions that include:

- Agreeing to store knives in a safe and secure area to deter self-service and prevent thefts
- Agree not to sell certain styles of knives, such as hunting, combat and martial arts blades
- Ensuring staff don't sell knives to under 18s

Supporting young people to choose not to carry knives will be a major part of our new campaign. By choosing to be responsible retailers, Croydon businesses are making a vital stand against knife crime.

The council is meeting with all 200 known knife retailers in Croydon. So far 160 have been visited by the Trading Standards team and all but a few have pledged their support for the agreement.

The agreement is credited as an example of good practice in encouraging responsible retailing in the Mayor of London's Knife Crime Strategy.

#### Black History Month Launch

Black History Month in Croydon launched at the start of the month at an event attended by over 160 people with a theme celebrating our black institutions. There are over 20 black institutions in Croydon that have been working for over a decade including Croydon Caribbean Credit Union, Croydon Supplementary Education Project and Croydon African Caribbean Family Organisation (CAFCO)

The programme of events that took place this month across the borough for Black History Month can be found here:

[https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/downloads/Croydon\\_Black%20History%20Month\\_programme\\_2017.pdf](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/downloads/Croydon_Black%20History%20Month_programme_2017.pdf)



# Communities, Safety and Justice

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### October 2017

---

#### Gee Bernard Leadership Programme

Simon Woolley, Director of Operation Black Vote, was one of the speakers at the Black History Month Launch event where he highlighted the Gee Bernard Leadership Programme that OBV is running in Croydon in partnership with the council. Gee Bernard, who sadly passed away last year, was Croydon's first black councillor and this programme is designed to encourage BME leaders of the future to step forward. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to observe a range of civic and political roles including school governor, magistrate, councillor and members of Safer Neighbourhood Panels, NHS Trust Boards and voluntary sector boards:

<http://www.obv.org.uk/news-blogs/croydons-future-your-hands>

#### Runnymede Trust Race Equality Scorecard

The Runnymede Trust has recently updated the work they conducted in Croydon in 2013 to look at data on race equality in the borough across a range of indicators and they have published a 2017 edition of their Race Equality Scorecard for Croydon.

We will ensure that we use this assessment to help shape our services and commissioning practice.

[https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Croydon%20Scorecard%20v3\\_1.pdf](https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Croydon%20Scorecard%20v3_1.pdf)

#### Universal Credit – lobbying for reform

Croydon now has over 20,000 households in receipt of universal credit, the largest caseload of any council in the country. Based on our unique experience of the implementation of this policy, the council continues to use that expertise to lobby government for important changes to this policy which we believe is fundamentally flawed in crucial ways. For example, we continue to call for the urgent removal of all forms of emergency and temporary accommodation from inclusion within universal credit. We also continue to experience delays and other difficulties in making applications – when trying to support some of the borough's most vulnerable families. However, through the council's Gateway service we continue to offer support to people most affected through discretionary support with housing payments, budgeting, money management and finding work which is greatly assisting families.

If you have any particular questions or issues with regard to current or future reforms please contact our head of enablement and welfare, Asha Vyas

[Asha.Vyas@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Asha.Vyas@croydon.gov.uk)



# Communities, Safety and Justice

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### October 2017

---

#### Financial inclusion

The Food Stop – a community food club – launched at the Family Centre at the end of this month is an important initiative in New Addington and Fieldway. Members can access £15-20 worth of fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy and other staples for just £3.50 a week – giving them affordable access to fresh food. Community members who are eligible for membership of the Food Stop will also get access to *Community Connect* project – the council's Gateway service based in the Family Centre supporting residents with housing, employment and financial stability. For more information about The Food Stop and how residents can become members, contact Julia Pitt, Head of Gateway Service Development at [Julia.pitt@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Julia.pitt@croydon.gov.uk)

The Council's Gateway Service supporting families under financial pressure, held a recent event at Crystal Palace Football Club with partners including Croydon Plus Credit Union, Thames Water, MIND, South West London Law Centre, Asda and Public Health. Over 100 families who took part received advice on budgeting, debt, income maximisation, employment and training, housing advice, healthy eating, exercise and reducing utility costs.

#### Youth Congress

Croydon Congress in July was focused entirely on the borough's young people for the first time. Over 250 young people took part to let us and other decision makers know the issues that matter most to them. The day was a huge success and gave Croydon's leaders a crucial insight into the concerns of our young people and their priorities. The day highlighted a range of issues that concern our young people from discrimination to child abuse and sex and relationship issues. However, the top three issues that those young people identified collectively as:

- Jobs and financial success
- Crime and safety
- Mental health support

#### Mayor's Civic Awards

The Mayor's Civic Awards 2017 were held at the Croydon Hilton earlier in the month to celebrate the contribution made by amazing Croydon citizens who put their community first through their voluntary service to the borough. 25 finalists were shortlisted from over 200 nominations for awards in 10 categories. Huge congratulations and deep gratitude to our winners:

- Business in the community award: Chequers Contract Services Ltd

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



# Communities, Safety and Justice

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### October 2017

---

- Contribution to sport and health living award: Energise FC
- Don't Mess With Croydon – Take Pride award: Sparkle Bulku
- Fairer Croydon award: Lynn Cedar and Deborah Haythorne and drama therapists at Roundabout
- Good neighbour award: Sarah Balch
- Stronger together award: South West London Law Centre Advice volunteers
- Young achiever of the year award: Shaniqua Benjamin
- Volunteer of the year award: Bilquis Ahmed
- Voluntary group of the year award: Love Norbury
- Mayor's lifetime achievement award: Brian Hollands MBE