



# Children, Young People and Learning

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Alisa Flemming

#### November / December 2017

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#### LATEST NEWS

#### Children's Improvement



We have been continuing to work hard on our improvement plan. This was presented to the scrutiny and overview committee on the 31st October before being discussed at the Children's Improvement Board meeting on the 7th November. The plan was also approved at Cabinet on the 20th November. The plan focusses on four areas; Practice, People and Performance, Platforms and Partnerships.

The views of front-line staff have been paramount in the development of this plan and these were received from the [ideasforchildrensimprovement.com](http://ideasforchildrensimprovement.com) inbox, the suggestion boxes and the sprint sessions, with over 400 attendees.

May I remind you all of the engagement sessions that have been arranged for elected members to meet with frontline practitioners and gain further insight into the journey of a child or young person through the service. The first session is scheduled for December 2017 and will focus on our MASH & Children's Social Care Front door. I hope that many of you will be able to attend as it will be a valuable opportunity for us all to increase our understanding as Corporate Parents of the journey for some of the most vulnerable children in our community.

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#### Choose your future

Croydon's Choose Your Future campaign aims to bring the borough together to help young people to make positive life choices and to give them a voice. Support for the campaign is growing, with many young people from Kicks, Reaching Higher and Croydon College backing its goals. The campaign asks them to think about the choices they make – whether it's about their dream jobs, personal achievements, or staying safe. Residents, businesses and local organisations are being encouraged to support them in this.

With 93,000 young people living in Croydon – more than anywhere else in London – the future is theirs and they have the potential to make Croydon even better.

The campaign priorities were agreed by young people at the first Youth Congress in July, and plans have already been announced to elect a young mayor and deputy mayor next spring.



You can find out more at [www.choose-your-future.com](http://www.choose-your-future.com)

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#### **New Heads of Service**

We are pleased to have welcomed three new Heads of Service to the team this month. Their combined experience and expertise will be considerable assets as we continue to improve our services for all children and young people.

On Monday, 30 October Hannah Doughty joined us as Head of Service for Target Services and Iain Low as Head of Service for Early Help and MASH.

Hannah joins us from Liverpool City Council, where she was Head of Targeted Services for young people for 4 years. Prior to that Hannah was a Team Manager in their youth offending service, and spent 18 months on at HMI Probation on secondment.



Iain joins us from Northamptonshire County Council, where he was Strategic Manager for Safeguarding and Care Planning for 3 and a half years. Prior to that Iain worked at Haringey Council for 5 years.

On Wednesday 1 November, Tom Stevenson started as our Interim Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance. He has joined us from Lewisham Council where he was the Interim Service Manager for Safeguarding Quality Assurance in Kent County Council at a time in their journey, which involved their progression through to their recent good Ofsted judgement.

#### **Croydon Music and Arts - Funding from Youth Music**

Croydon Music and Arts, part of our Education and Youth Engagement Directorate, have been successful in a bid for funding from Youth Music for a three year programme for music for children in challenging circumstances. This means that over the next three years some of our most vulnerable children, including those Looked After by the Council, will benefit from £150,000 of music activities. Congratulations to Graeme Smith and his team for putting together a successful bid which will enable us to invest more in our children and young people.



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#### DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS

##### **Croydon Live; an Opportunities Fair**

At Youth Congress 2017, young people cited employability as a key issue in the borough. In response to this, 16-25 year old Croydon students and/or residents were invited to Croydon Live; an Opportunities Fair where employers and providers showcased their live opportunities.

95 young people engaged with organisations such as Willmott Dixon, TfL, Superdrug, Croydon & John Ruskin colleges). They also had the opportunity to attend employability workshops facilitated by CALAT.

Matt Stay, Marketing Co-ordinator at Sutton & District Training said, 'this was a useful opportunity to engage directly with potential learners and also network with fellow providers within the borough'. Furthermore, over 50% of young people deemed the event to be useful in their pursuit of employment or training.

Delivered by Croydon's Youth Engagement 14-19 team in partnership with the Employment Pathway team and Croydon Works, this event was an outstanding example of cross departmental working for the benefit of young people in the borough.

Contact Officer: [jo.jack@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:jo.jack@croydon.gov.uk)

##### **Takeover Challenge**

Croydon's young people will be taking over some of the borough's top jobs in a quest to highlight youth voice and to gain fresh perspectives on the borough's top priorities.

Up to 70 young people have been placed to take over areas of responsibility for one day in this month as part of the Takeover Challenge. The event which is a Children's Commissioner Initiative now in its tenth year and has seen thousands of young people take over high office in organisations right across the country.

The purpose of the event, which this year takes place on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017, is to have young people take over organisations for the day and learn about the world of work. Every young person has the right to have a say in the decisions that affect them, and Takeover Challenge encourages them to exercise that right.

Croydon's schools and voluntary organisations have been instrumental to the success of recruiting so many keen and talented young people between the ages of 11-18 and the event is positioned to provide young people with a chance to gain

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critical skills to boost their education and to help grow their social capital and networks which will support their career ambitions.

This year will see Croydon invite young people to take part for the first time ever with participants taking over a wide range of important roles such as councillors and the councils executive leadership and directorate, services such as the library, Croydon police, and voluntary organisations such as Palace for Life Foundation, Croydon Drop-In and in business with the TMRW Café & Hub.

The day which will launch and finish with a celebration event for young people in the Council Chamber and promises to focus on the impact young people can have in the borough. The individuals and organisations fortunate enough to have young people bringing a fresh perspective to their work are positioned to take advantage of new and innovative ideas to further enhance our work in Croydon this year.

Contact Officer: [david.butler@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:david.butler@croydon.gov.uk)

#### **School Admissions – Starting School in September 2018**

The online application process remains open for families applying for a reception or junior school place, to start school in September 2018.

The application deadline is **15 January 2018**.

Parents and carers should apply online at [www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions) and we strongly encourage visits to preference schools.

Contact Officer: [david.butler@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:david.butler@croydon.gov.uk)