

# Homes & Gateway Services

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Deputy Leader, Alison Butler

#### April 2019

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## Latest News

### **New housing for young Croydon care leavers**

Over the last eighteen months Croydon Council's Gateway Services has been working with Andrews Charitable Trust and CAYSH on an exciting new initiative to create a new housing and support opportunity for care leavers.

Last year Andrews Charitable Trust (ACT) chose to invest in buying and leasing a new property to CAYSH, a specialist young people's organisation commissioned by the council to support young people aged 18-25 who are leaving the council's care services.

The £500,000 investment has allowed ACT to buy a three-bedroom house in Purley, which will become home to three care leavers who are ready for this final step to independence. CAYSH will provide employment-focused support, while the council's Gateway service will also help the residents to improve their independence, maximise their job prospects and avoid debt.

[Andrews Charitable Trust](#), which has already invested in similar housing in Sutton and Bristol, owns the nationwide estate agency Andrews Property Group, and [CAYSH](#) is a London-based outreach charity that works to help young people avoid homelessness.

The council has almost 800 care leavers whom it supports into accommodation, from providing references to finding an approved landlord and help into work or training. This can also involve offering a month's rent in advance and deposit to get care leavers into appropriate accommodation, and help finding them furniture.

This very generous charitable investment will provide 3 care leavers the opportunity to take that first step to independence.

### **All Ages**

The AAFSC (All Ages Family Safety Challenge) is an inter-generational community engagement project, run by the Community Development team and London Fire Brigade's Crossfire educational team. The challenge is designed to improve the safety of Croydon's households through a programme of interactive community-based training workshop session heats, covering Water, Fire, Internet and Road Safety and includes advice on First Aid, ASB and Healthy Lifestyles.

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It is a great opportunity to bring together communities of all ages from right across the borough.

Typically, three training workshops, lasting about an hour each are delivered to each of the groups in our communities.

During this year's programme (2018/19), the London Fire Brigade and London Ambulance Service delivered 91 workshops, with over 3000 people from 70 different teams attending their local All Ages FSC heats.

The Finals and awards ceremony, held on Wed 20 Feb 2019, and taking over most of the upper level of the Town Hall, celebrated the 7<sup>th</sup> successive year of the programme with 12 participating teams\*\* and this year, the organisers were particularly pleased to see the additional needs teams almost sweeping the board in winning 3 of the 4 top prizes.

#### **Finals participating teams:**

Coulsdon Centre  
Coulsdon Blazers  
Longheath Youth Club  
Mighty Men of Valour  
Monks Hill Youth Club  
Pathfinders  
17<sup>th</sup> Purley Cubs  
The Clarks  
The Moose Family  
Waddon Youth Centre &  
We are Family

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## Community-Led Housing

The pilot process agreed by cabinet in January is progressing well, and we are contacting residents neighbouring the first two council-owned sites that have been earmarked for community-led housing development. We hope to publicly announce these sites soon. The council have now held their first community-led housing workshop at the Croydon Art Store in the Whitgift Centre, where residents and representatives of community groups could find out more about the programme. I was pleased to open the event, and Zohra Chiheb from the council's regeneration team provided more detail on the council's proposals. Lev Kerimol from the London Community-Led Housing Hub provided guidance about project governance, professional advice and financing. Attendees also heard from Gordon O'Connor-Read, a resident member of RUSS, a Community Land Trust developing 33 new homes on a site in Lewisham.

This is an exciting opportunity for Croydon and I look forward to seeing it progressing.



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#### **Celebrating 100 years of Council Homes**

Are you, a member of your family or friends, tenants of a Croydon council home, or did you grow up in one? Maybe, you remember visiting your Nan or Grandad in theirs?

Croydon council is very keen to mark 100 years of council homes since the 1919 Housing Act heralded a huge council house building programme across the country, including around 25,000 built in Croydon. As part of the celebration, the council wants people's stories, films and other memorabilia for an interactive exhibition at the Croydon Clocktower in August. Housing officers and Museum of Croydon staff are also compiling items from photographs to rent books and providing their own stories.

The 1919 Housing Act heralded a huge council house building programme across the country in the decades since, including around 25,000 built in Croydon. This nationwide expansion included early replacements for slum dwellings and households bombed out during the Second World War, as well as major new estates to meet growing post-war demand.

The first council homes built in the borough after the Act was passed were in Godstone Road (1920), Woodside (1921) and Norbury (1921), with key groups being rehoused including ex-servicemen, First World War widows and a growing commercial class such as clerks, postal workers and tram conductors. After the Second World War, the new estate at New Addington was begun in 1948, and Croydon's first high-rise blocks were built in 1957 in Lodge Lane and Violet Lane. From New Addington to Norbury, many thousands of families have benefitted from council homes in Croydon, and our event is about marking this significant contribution to our communities. I hope as many people as possible dig out their memorabilia and let us know so we can include it in this summer's exhibition.

To find out more and to provide contributions, contact [residentinvolvement@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:residentinvolvement@croydon.gov.uk) or call 020 8726 6100 extension 47350.