



Safer Croydon and Communities

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

January 2020

Safer Croydon

Violence Reduction Network Workshops on Vulnerability and Domestic and Sexual Violence

The VRN is bringing community and statutory partners together as part of work to lead a public health approach to tackling all forms of violence. On 10 December, the Violence Reduction Network (VRN), held a workshop with voluntary and statutory partners, focused on the key issues affecting the vulnerability of young people.

Participants heard from Dr. Tirion Havard and Dr. Andrew Whittaker from Southbank University who spoke on their work to explore the shift in organised criminal group activity from territorial to more commercial approaches. Participants discussed a range of issues including how we can disrupt criminal groups and prevent the exploitation of young people, the experience of girls and how the community can come together to protect our young people.

The VRN will be holding a second workshop focused on domestic and sexual violence in February.

Croydon continuing to lead nationwide fight against illegal online knife sales

Croydon Council has been piloting a national online test purchasing scheme targeting online knife sales. A young volunteer for the council took part in 100 attempts to buy knives from online retailers in the UK and 41 of those were successful and since June Croydon Council has been pursuing prosecutions - 11 have been carried out to date.

Recent prosecutions include Perkin Knives Limited in Ilford for selling a Damascus knife to our teenage volunteer. Also Bright Associates in Croydon and Next Gen International Ltd in East Croydon were prosecuted and ordered to pay fines for selling a 6 piece knife set and an axe respectively via third party retail websites eBay and Wowcher.

These cases demonstrate that too many online retailers are both not matching the practice of street retailers in meeting the law or playing their part in keeping our young people safe.



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CCTV Cameras targeting crime hot spots



Temporary cameras have been installed in Purley and Croydon town centre to help monitor antisocial behaviour, street drinking, drug taking and fly-tipping.

The council's antisocial behaviour team and Croydon police requested a camera be moved to Old Lodge Lane, in Purley following reports of drug taking and harassment of local shop staff.

Fly-tipping, excessive domestic waste, vermin, car racing and fighting were also raised as concerns, as well as ball games being played in the roads, which were damaging residents' vehicles and holding up bus routes.

These redeployable cameras are an important resource for the council and have been used around the borough to assist the council and our partners in tackling the safety concerns affecting Croydon residents.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/temporary-cctv-cameras-to-target-crime-hot-spots/>



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Communities

Community Fund



We have just concluded the recommissioning of services from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). This fulfils our manifesto commitment to maintain investment in the sector – moreover we are increasing the funding provided in recognition of the value and benefit of service delivery through the VCS.

The commissioned projects and services will help us deliver on the following priorities of the Corporate Plan:

1. People live long, healthy, happy and independent lives
2. Preventing, reducing or delaying care and support needs for older people
3. Our young people thrive and reach their full potential
4. Access to homes and prevention of homelessness
5. Everyone feels safer in their street, neighbourhood and home
6. Everybody has the opportunity to work and build a career

The combined budget for the Community Fund and Prevention Fund is £7.8m over three years from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023. Whilst the majority of this funding is set for three years, the Community Grants, which form part of the Community Fund, will continue to be open to new bids, to be assessed three times a year. We have also retained £100k per year to commission against any emerging needs.

34 larger projects (exceeding £15k per annum) have been approved for award of contracts. These cover a wide range of commissioned services across the 6 priorities. There are familiar organisations, such as Age UK, Crisis and Mind in Croydon, as well as some that are new to the Community Fund. For example, the Generating Genius Programme will provide stimulating, engaging and accessible activities for 12-15-year olds to help prepare for academic and career success with a focus on key professions underrepresented by state-educated pupils. (STEM, Medicine, Finance, Politics & Law).

A further 4 larger projects were also selected against dedicated tender processes –



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- 'Infrastructure' contract to support the VCS in Croydon. This will be jointly delivered by Asian Resource Centre Croydon, Croydon BME Forum, Croydon Voluntary Action and Croydon Neighbourhood Care Association.
- 'Carers' contract which will see the Whitgift Foundation Carers Information Service provide support to carers.
- 'Advice Services' contract which will see the Citizens Advice Bureau provide advice, guidance and signposting around key issues such as debt, housing and benefits – preventing residents needing statutory services.
- 'Contract Management & Quality Assurance of the Prevention Fund' contract which will see Croydon Neighbourhood Care Association support the delivery of the Prevention Fund, monitor delivery and provide support where needed.

There are also 19 smaller, Community Grant projects (under £15k per annum for one year) that have successfully applied. Again, some are already delivering services in Croydon such as, Gloves not Gunz, Shirley Neighbourhood Care Association and Disability Croydon, whilst some are new recipients, such as the Waggy Tails Club in South Croydon. They help children who suffer from mental as well as physical disabilities to make friends and develop their social and communication skills through interaction with dogs and dog-related activities.

A complete list of the awards was reported to the Cabinet meeting on 20 January: <https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/documents/s20075/Community%20Fund%20Commissioning%20Programme%20Award.pdf>

Holocaust Memorial Day 2020



The theme for this year is "Stand Together" and will explore how genocidal regimes throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalising certain groups, and how these tactics can be challenged by individuals standing together with their neighbours.



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Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz as well as the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia. These significant anniversaries serve as a reminder of the consequences of allowing prejudice to go unchecked. Given the challenging times, it is more important than ever that we come together and contribute to the fight against identity-based hostility.

This year's candle-lighting ceremony was held on Monday 27 January in the foyer of Croydon Town Hall. This was followed by an event in the Council Chamber with our guest speaker, Mr Safet Vukalic, who is a Bosnian genocide survivor. We were also joined by students from some of Croydon's secondary schools.

Join The Big Conversation and help shape Croydon's future

The council is calling on the people of Croydon to join The Big Conversation and get talking about how they want the borough to be by 2030.

The Big Conversation is a ground-breaking resident engagement exercise which gives local residents, businesses and visitors the chance to help shape Croydon's future. We want to hear the views, concerns and priorities of local people and community groups to help guide council policies and investment over the next decade.

https://getinvolved.uk.engagemthq.com/big-conversation/survey_tools/big-conversation





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Equality and Diversity

Equality Framework for Local Government Accreditation (EFLG)



The Council took part in the Local Government Association's (LGA) Equality Framework for Local Government (EFLG) peer challenge in November 2018 as part of our determination to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion are really at the heart of how we work and our vision for Croydon where everyone has an equal chance to prosper.

The EFLG is a process that enabled the Council to better understand the importance of equality, and evidence that its policies, processes and leadership are developing better equality and inclusion outcomes. The process also enabled the Council to learn more about the organisation, our partners and our local communities.

Following a three day visit by the peer review challenge team, involving 26 interviews with staff and members at all levels and partner organisations, including within the voluntary and community sector, and a formal assessment, the LGA have confirmed the London Borough of Croydon has completed a satisfactory self-assessment against the criteria for the Achieving level of the Equality Framework. The achieving level focuses on implementing equality related systems, policies and procedures.

This is excellent news for the Council. We will share the final report from the LGA in due course.