



Safer Croydon and Communities

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

March 2020

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FGM- Let's Talk about it

Following a very successful conference with practitioners across services in Croydon on FGM in November, a training session for Croydon's education providers was also hosted on 26 February 2020. The session provided practical support to those faced with identifying girls and women at risk, and how to initiate dialogue with potentially affected girls, women and their families.



In partnership with the National FGM Centre, the Council has also recently recruited a FGM social worker to aid the wider social work team in supporting girls at risk of FGM. The Policy & Partnerships team is currently working with partners and colleagues in 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, including faith groups, to raise awareness and build partnerships with these communities to further the work towards eradicating FGM.

Further Investment in Croydon's Violence Reduction Approach

[Young Londoners' Fund awards Croydon £1.2m for work to reduce youth violence](#)

The New Year has seen some important successes in attracting external funding to the borough to help us in our efforts to support vulnerable residents and reduce violence.



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Croydon has won the highest tier of available funding from the Young Londoners Fund – at £1.2m - to form the Croydon Community Partnership Against Trauma, which will provide trauma training, mental health support, mentoring and diversionary activity to help nearly 1500 young people over three years. Community groups will lead the activities and they will be co-ordinated by Croydon Voluntary Action, with support from Croydon Council

Red Thread, DRIVE and IRISi

Red Thread will be coming to Croydon University Hospital. Their proven model supports young people at risk who've sought medical help. The service is mobilising now and will be up and running in the early summer.

MOPAC are investing in further domestic violence support in the borough. The perpetrator pilot project, Drive, has been extended for a further year. GP support project IRISi is also coming to the borough, this work improves awareness in GP practices and is proven to increase referrals to specialist domestic violence support.

Attracting external funding to support Violence Reduction is a key part of our strategy. We hope to build on this success throughout the year. 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.

Communities

Rent subsidy scheme

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations that occupy a Council-owned building are invited to apply for funding. If successful, it will be awarded for 3 years and cover up to 100% of the contractual rent. Eligible organisations must:

- be community led, a co-operative or a social enterprise;
- have good governance;
- be capable of sustainably, legally and safely managing an asset and delivering services;

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- rent or lease a property owned by the Croydon Council.
- meet our minimum reporting requirements
- be willing to offer space (if available) and support to smaller groups
- provide 75% of their services to Croydon residents.
- be providing services that support the priority outcomes of the council's [Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy](#) . The closing date for applications is 7th March with decisions announced at the end of April. You can apply here <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/community/advice/rent-subsidy-scheme>

Croydon Community Grants

The January round of Croydon Community Grants saw 45 applications submitted. As with the previous round, the high number of applications and relatively limited budget means some tough choices will have to be made. Decisions will be announced in March. The fund will be open for new applications in May - <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/community/advice/tsfunding/funding/community-grants>. For details of other funding opportunities, please visit - <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/community/advice/tsfunding/funding>

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day is a day for remembering victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides. In Croydon in 2020, the event was marked on Monday 27th January in traditional manner with a public candle-lighting ceremony in the Town Hall foyer, followed by a civic event in the Council Chambers. This event was chaired by Cllr Hamida Ali, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Safer Croydon and Communities.



The civic event featured a presentation from Mr Safet Vukalic a Bosnian survivor now living in the UK, and performances from local schools.

These included;

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- Music from Trinity School and Whitgift School
- Presentation from Oasis Coulsdon and Riddlesdown Collegiate
- Faith leaders standing together

Children from across Croydon were also invited to enter an essay competition based around the International Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 theme, “Stand Together”, as part of the borough’s celebration. The winners were chosen by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education committee.

The winning secondary competition entry, written by Gurinayat Kaur and Gurmehek Kaur twins from Oasis Academy Coulsdon, and the primary school winner was Felix from St Peters Primary, were read at the civic event in the Council Chambers.

Other activities that took place in the borough included;

- exhibition for Holocaust Memorial Day in the central library.
- Screening of film in the David Lea Cinema

It is events such as Holocaust Memorial Day which remind us about the importance of reaching out to others and of the importance of uniting to face those with extreme views who seek to divide us.





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Celebrating LGBT+ History Month

LGBT+ History Month celebrates the lives and achievements of the LGBT+ community in the UK. This event is led by Croydon Council in collaboration with Croydon Pride and Croydon Area Gay Society (CAGS). The month aims to promote tolerance and raise awareness of the prejudices faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.



On Thursday 6 February Croydon Council around 100 people celebrated the launch of LGBT+ History Month, celebrating the LGBT+ community.

The launch event was held for the first time at Fairfield Halls with an evening of performances and a panel discussion and Q&A on: How is LGBT+ History represented in performance.



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Panelists included:

- DJ Ritu – Global Beats DJ, Radio Presenter and founder of Club Kali – The world's longest running LGBT+ club playing eastern / Bollywood beats
- Vinicus Salles – Choreographer, Errant Dance Company / Tutu Troubles
- Ella Golt aka Richard Melanin, The Third
- (Chair) Paula Goodwin - Croydon Pride

Performances in the Arnhem Foyer included Rainbows Across Borders Chorus, who are a Croydon based voluntary self-help group for lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender (LGBT) asylum seekers who are fleeing persecution of oppressive homophobic/Transphobic regimes. Katie Rose and Sarah Fisher with Welcome Choir who performed songs celebrating the work of LGBT artists ended with a dance music legend, founder of Club Kali and trailblazing broadcaster DJ Ritu, the voice behind the UK's definitive global music show, A World in London, who played club classics for people to dance along to.

Speeches on the night from The Mayor of Croydon, Cllr Hamida Ali and Jo Negrini highlighted the significance of the month.



<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/community/equality/lgbt-history-month>



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Croydon Celebrate Black History Month

Every year in October, Croydon joins the rest of the UK in celebrating black history month. Croydon BME Forum work in collaboration with Croydon Council to create a range of events and activities throughout the year to celebrate Black History Month in Croydon.

Croydon BME Forum will be launching the Theme for this year's Black History Month at the end of March. Launching the Theme early in the year encourages organisations to prepare and put on activities during the course of the months

Sign up for this year's Big Lunch Street / Park Parties

Croydon residents will once again show their community spirit and will be putting on street parties on Saturday 6th or Sunday 7th June 2020 for this year's Big Lunch.

In previous years, residents from across the borough have gained memorable experiences, coming together to share food and celebrate with neighbours

We expect as many people as possible will take this chance to mix with their neighbours, the council is doing all it can to make it really simple to set up a Big Lunch street or park party. The costs of closing your road will be covered, and the council will even provide road-closure signs – saving your street more than £1,000.

All it takes is a 10-minute visit to www.croydon.gov.uk/biglunch, to apply to hold your street or park party and we will do our best to help you make your event a success.

You will just need to say where the event is to be held, what sort of facilities will be offered – such as if you plan to sell alcohol or intend to provide catering from an outside source – and when you want to hold it. For the latest application deadlines and answers to frequently asked questions, or a list of available green spaces, visit www.croydon.gov.uk/biglunch

The Big Lunch website – at www.thebiglunch.com – has a useful frequently-asked-questions section, offering advice on a range of issues, including the important subject of public liability insurance. You will also find details of discounts arranged with insurers.

For details of last year's events, or to gain inspiration and information on organising an event this year, visit The Big Lunch website. You can view some of the very many parties that took place last year by clicking this link [Croydon 2019 Big Lunch pictures](#)



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Join The Big Conversation and help shape Croydon's future



This week the Big Conversation's focus turns to the environment and asks what changes you'll be making to do your bit for the planet?

Could you recycle more, avoid jumping in the car for short journeys or shop more sustainably? Whatever it is, we want to hear about it - join the Big Conversation.

Feedback will help shape the borough's priorities and investment over the next decade. https://getinvolved.uk.engagementhq.com/big-conversation/survey_tools/big-conversation