



# Communities, Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali November 2017

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## Latest News

### Croydon tram accident first anniversary

Croydon marked the anniversary of the Sandilands tram accident on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017, a year to the day since the tragedy.

Two permanent memorials were unveiled: one in the vicinity of Sandilands tram stop (on the corner of Sandilands and Addiscombe Road), and one Market Square in New Addington. Both memorials included a plinth with inscription as well as surrounding seating and crocuses.

A private ceremony was held close to the site at Sandilands for families who had lost a loved one in the incident and for a small number of local community leaders and representatives of agencies that supported the response on the day.

A civic ceremony was also held in New Addington. Sixty choral singers from Fairchildes Primary School and Meridian High School performed a rendition of Somewhere Only We Know by Keane. The moving civic ceremony was open for all to attend and heard from bereaved families as well a member of the emergency services who was one of the first at the scene.

A minute silence was observed by Croydon council staff members and the Union Jack flag was lowered at Croydon Town Hall



Sandilands Memorial



New Addington Memorial



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#### **Croydon Consortium Knife Crime Bid**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 the BME Forum as lead partner of the Croydon Consortium submitted a bid to the Home Office for their Knife Crime Fund.

#### **THE PROJECT**

The project is aimed at tackling some of the underlying issues behind knife crime, reduce the numbers of young people joining gangs and participating in gang activity in Croydon & surrounding areas. It also seeks to raise awareness of the dangers associated with being part of a gang, while highlighting successful ways out of gang life.

#### **The Consortium will deliver a programme of activities to young people and parents including**

- Raising Awareness of the dangers of associated with being part of a gang.
- Workshops on education, employment and enterprise.
- Workshops and discussions around community empowerment.
- Workshops advice and guidance support on related services and positive ways of engaging with local authority, schools and social services.
- Parent Workshops - to focus on parents who feel excluded from their children's lives.
- Social Media Workshops – What to look out for / How not to be a victim.
- Youth Summit hosted by the Consortium Partners to highlight successful ways out of Gang Life.

The Programme of activities will be delivered to young people aged 8 - 25 who are at risk of offending, being drawn in to gangs, and at risk of or already not in education, employment or training (NEET). If granted funding, the work will be delivered over four months (Dec 2017 – March 2018), From day one the project will involve Croydon Council, schools, Croydon Youth Offending Team, Croydon Probation and the Croydon Turnaround in the project delivery.



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#### Keeping knives off the street

Testing traders' knowledge of, and adherence to, the law where the sale of knives is concerned is a key tool of Croydon Council's trading standards team in combating the capital-wide problem of knife crime.

Figures published by London Trading Standards show children as young as 13 continue to be sold knives across the capital. It is illegal to sell knives to anyone under 18.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/keeping-knives-off-street/>



#### Keeping the rogues in check

Croydon's trading standards department supported the first London Trading Standards Week.

The Croydon team has an established reputation across the capital for its effective work in combating issues including under-age knife sales, doorstep trading scams and rogue letting agents, and the week helped to showcase the ongoing efforts to ensure consumers and businesses are protected.

<https://wp.croydon.gov.uk/news/keeping-rogues-check/>



**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



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#### **Seasonal crack down on crime and ASB**

During the autumn festivities, the Metropolitan Police Service conducted its seasonal crackdown on crime and anti-social behaviour on Tuesday, 24 October.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) can have a severe impact of the lives of communities and this behaviour typically increases around the start of the autumn school holidays, Halloween and Bonfire Night.

#### **Modern slavery – it's closer than you think**

Modern slavery is, alarmingly, alive and well and living in Croydon, and it is this worrying fact that was examined at a town-centre conference.

Aimed at individuals and groups who have direct contact both with the victims and the criminals who benefit from the human misery they promote, the conference addressed the key issues of the matter.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/modern-slavery-closer-think/>



#### **Changing tastes prompt fresh look at town-centre licensing**

Changes to people's social habits and a drive to boost the night-time economy are behind Croydon Council's decision to conduct a review of licensing requirements in the town centre.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/changing-tastes-prompt-fresh-look-town-centre-licensing/>





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#### **Councillor Hamida Ali, cabinet member for communities, safety and justice**

The council's obliged to review its licensing policy every five years. Croydon's would have been due for review next year, but given the changes we've seen to the evening economy, and the vision we have for Croydon over the next five years, we wanted to bring the review forward.

"We're keen that our licensing policy better reflects the aspirations we have for Croydon as a place and a destination of choice. We believe the proposed changes will make the application process simpler for licence holders and potential licence holders, and result in a more vibrant and diverse offer for anyone coming into Croydon for a night out.

Our reviewed policy better reflects this authority's vision for a vibrant and inclusive evening and night time economy right across the borough.

#### **Croydon hits the pop charts**

Croydon is one of six entries shortlisted as a finalist for this year's Problem Orientated Partnership (Pop) Awards for its problem-solving work to tackle road racing and antisocial behaviour on Imperial Way.

The awards – now in their 12<sup>th</sup> year and run by the Metropolitan Police, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, and Transport for London – seek to credit good partnership work between the police and communities to reduce crime and disorder.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/croydon-hits-pop-charts/>





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#### **The Community Fund programme**

Community Fund programme was shaped by the recommendations of the Opportunities and Commission and aligned to the Community strategy and Ambitious for Croydon Framework. It recognises the significant role the Voluntary, community and social enterprise sector play in supporting residents through difficult times and in reaching the most disadvantaged and vulnerable citizens in Croydon.

The programme was re-designed with a particular focus on outcomes and ensuring residents and diverse communities from difficult backgrounds are valued and supported with the skills, capacity and resilience to improve life chances.

The programme started in October 2016 and through contract performance reporting activity it is showing the impact the programme is making to people lives. Emerging findings

1. Increased attachment between parent and child achieved by learning together and participation in child's homework and school life
2. 70% of young people feel more connected and supported through social isolation
3. 80% of young people have taken part in a team challenge and positive activity
4. 70% have been engaged and feel more awareness about drugs, alcohol and health lifestyles
5. 80% of people have attended training on financial inclusion matters such as benefits uptake, switching suppliers, understanding interest rates, pensions and digital training sessions

A progress report will be published and showcase event is also being planned in late January 2018.

#### **Councillor Hamida Ali, cabinet member for communities, safety and justice**

'I regularly visit projects and organisations who are funded by the Community Fund - most recently Play Place and the Family Centre, including the new and impressive Community Food Stop – and never fail to be impressed by the inspirational and entrepreneurial people we have working in our vast voluntary sector'.



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## Groundbreaking community mini-market the Food Stop launches for struggling families



London's first combined welfare and food club for hundreds of people opened Friday 27 October through a subsidised mini-market set up by Croydon Council, community group The Family Centre and charities. Families on Universal Credit and anyone unemployed living in Fieldway and New Addington can get around £20-worth of fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, dairy and other foods each week for £3.50 at the Food Stop based at The Family Centre, in Field Way.

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



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The scheme is innovative because, in return for access to discounted groceries, families in need are signed up to receive help from Croydon Council's Gateway service. Established in response to government welfare reforms, the Gateway service has helped more than 1,000 families avoid homelessness through support with household budgeting, benefits advice and training courses to improve their maths, English and digital skills.

The Food Stop will be open every Wednesday and Friday to anyone who has an address in Fieldway or New Addington wards, but priority is given to residents on benefits such as Universal Credit. Membership will include access to council officers offering help to prevent homelessness and support with household finances. Members will also receive access to a weekly jobs club, volunteering opportunities, healthy cooking workshops and support to quit smoking.

The mini-market offers a wider range of products than usually provided at a food bank, and customers have more choice. The project is also geared towards helping families become healthier, as each food group is colour-coded and customers can have more green items – such as pulses and rice – than meats, which are red items. Food with a short shelf life, such as fresh fruit, vegetables and bread, is free.

The Food Stop has been made possible by volunteers and staff at The Family Centre, Croydon Council, and FareShare, a national charity that sources and delivers surplus supplies to the Food Stop. The scheme is part-funded with over £16,600 from the *Evening Standard's* Dispossessed Fund, £5,000 from council repairs contractor Mulalley, and £10,000 from Croydon Council.

Julia Weller, chief executive officer of the Family Centre, said the initial target is to get 100 members of the Food Stop. She said: "Our priority is anyone who is out of work, but we'd like to open it up because there are also the working poor we want to include."

She said the Food Stop is a community effort, from council Gateway staff offering logistical help and local volunteers painting the centre, to Tesco in Elmers End donating surplus food.

She added: "We couldn't have done any of this without everyone's input, from the council and FareShare to local residents."



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## **Councillor Hamida Ali, cabinet member for communities, safety and justice**

“This is a really exciting community project which could be a real lifeline for many residents struggling to make ends meet. The Food Stop will not only give them cheaper access to fresh food but also vital council support to improve their financial stability.

“We think the Food Stop – a community shop run by community organisations and the council in partnership – is a first for London. If it proves popular, perhaps it won’t be the last in the borough. I’d like to thank everyone from the community and the council who has worked together to make this amazing project happen.”

## **Young people to take over Croydon**

Young people have the exciting opportunity to have their voices heard when they take over some of Croydon’s top jobs as part of the borough’s first Takeover Challenge next month.

68 Croydon residents aged between 11 and 18 stepped into the decision-makers’ shoes in the week beginning 20 November.

I was joined by Brooke Saunders and Tae-Jaden Marius who between them joined me for a busy day meeting with council officers, visiting community projects and taking part in Cabinet. I really enjoyed sharing my day with Brooke and Tae-Jaden and was reminded of the importance of ensuring that we’re working with our young people – who are 1 in 4 of our population in Croydon.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/young-people-takeover-croydon/>





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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)