



# Safer Croydon and Communities

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### December 2019

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## Safer Croydon

### 16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence

Every year, 25 November marks the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women which starts 16 days of action against gender based violence concluding on 10 December. Again this year, Croydon has also taken action during this period. The council's FJC – which supports survivors of domestic abuse – has been raising awareness about the prevalence and impact of this crime in Centrale, through a poster campaign in all council housing blocks, training Home Start Croydon staff, training district judges and taking part in national and regional conferences on stopping violence against women and girls. DWP will also be based at the FJC on a monthly basis giving advice on debt, personal budgeting and housing support and benefits.





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February 2019 saw only the first conviction for female genital mutilation since its criminalisation in 1985. In Croydon there are estimated to be 3,480 females who have been affected by FGM at some point in their lives. Within the past two years Croydon's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) received 122 referrals where FGM was the greatest concern for that individual or family.

There is already considerable work underway in partnership with the National FGM Centre, FORWARD, the Croydon BME Forum, the London Borough of Lewisham and the wider community to provide a wide range of protective and support services. There is an ongoing need to raise awareness amongst professionals in particular about how they can support the overall prevention agenda and access available resources and support survivors within existing community and voluntary structures.

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



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As part of the 16 Days of Action, a powerful conference on FGM – *'Let's Talk About It'* was held on Tuesday 26 November. The conference wasn't attended by over 100 professionals – giving them an opportunity to talk about female genital mutilation and how we can work with communities and across agencies to prevent FGM.

Workshops were led by professionals from organisations including The National FGM Centre, FORWARD UK, RASASC, Metropolitan Police, Croydon Council, Croydon BME Forum and there was extremely powerful testimony from survivors of FGM who told their story.

### **Croydon events mark National Hate Crime Awareness Week**

Croydon hosted a range of borough-wide events during National Hate Crime Awareness Week to help unite the borough against hate crime.

The week - from Saturday 12 to Saturday 19 October - aimed to raise awareness about crimes targeted against people because of their race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability. Croydon launched an anti-hate crime pledge at Croydon PrideFest 2019 called 'Say No to Hate Crime'. The campaign makes clear that there is no place in the borough for any form of hate crime – and so far individuals, along with business representatives signing on behalf of all their staff, has led to 24,000 people taking a stand against hate crime.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/find-out-more-about-hate-crime-come-to-a-croydon-event/>

**Sign our Anti-Hate Crime Pledge**

[www.croydon.gov.uk/saynohate](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/saynohate)

Did you know offences committed against you because of your race, religion, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, or a physical or mental disability are hate crimes? Please report them.

[www.met.police.uk/true-vision-report-hate-crime](http://www.met.police.uk/true-vision-report-hate-crime)  
call 101, or 999 in an emergency



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### Croydon to upgrade CCTV

Cabinet approved a further £1m to replace the borough's CCTV network – in addition to the £1m capital funding agreed in 2018.

The council will replace its current analogue system with a new digital network.

This upgrade of the the CCTV infrastructure will assist the Safer Croydon Partnership to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour and to improve public confidence.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/croydon-to-consider-plans-for-cctv-upgrade/>



### Illegal online knife sales cost two businesses a total of £20,000

Selling knives online to a 13-year-old has led to two companies being ordered to pay a combined total of around £20,000 at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court.

Since June Croydon Council has now carried out 10 prosecutions as part of a national pilot – backed by the Home Office and National Trading Standards - which the council is leading to clamp down on online knife sales to children.

Under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 as amended by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996, it is illegal to sell a knife, knife blade, razor blade or axe to anyone under 18.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/illegal-online-knife-sales-cost-two-businesses-a-total-of-20000/>



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### Council assists police with outcome of Operation Quintana

The council worked to support the police with the outcome of an 18-month long intelligence operation and investigation in South London, called Operation Quintana. The Council worked to close three properties on Portland Road that were contributing to criminal activity. Camberwell Magistrates' Court imposed closure orders on three South Norwood properties that were being used for drug sales and loud, drunk parties.

The council worked with the police to bring about the three month closure orders, which were issued on Thursday 10 October, on The Fishers Charity Shop, 19 High Street, South Norwood and The Cut 'N' Go Barbers, 41 Portland Road.

Residents and business owners had complained about the ongoing drug dealing and ASB caused by the owners, clients, visitors and customers to the premises, and the negative impact this was having on the wider area.





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## Community share their concerns at Crime Prevention Day

Croydon Neighbourhood Watch held a free Crime Prevention event on Saturday 5 October where communities shared their concerns about safety including, antisocial behaviour, fly-tipping, rogue traders and hate crime at the Safer Croydon Partnership's Crime Prevention Day on Saturday 5 October.

The police updated the community on their work to tackle violent crime including knife crime, burglary and cyber crime – including advice on how to keep safe online. The council's Trading Standards team and Neighbourhood Safety Officers were on hand to provide advice and community members had the opportunity to sign the council's anti-hate crime pledge – 'Say No to Hate Crime'. The Chair of the Safer Neighbourhood Board also took part – highlighting the role of the board to bring police and communities together to discuss policing locally.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/come-and-find-out-how-croydon-is-fighting-crime/>

Croydon Neighbourhood Watch in association with The Croydon Metropolitan Police presents its first ever **CRIME PREVENTION DAY**

**Look out!**  
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**Saturday 5 October**  
@ The Royal Russell School,  
Coombe Lane, Croydon, CR9 5BX  
(Free parking on site)  
Time: 10:00 – 15:00

Concerned about crime in your area? Do you feel unsafe in your home? Worried about knife crime, drug dealing in your ward?  
Come and hear the latest measures being taken to combat crime and how we can feel safer in our communities.

Key sessions on Policing, Cyber Crime, Scams, Violent Crime and Community Action with guest speakers from the Police, Croydon Council, Neighbourhood Watch and community groups.

All welcome.

*#safertogether  
#goodneighbours*

Full lunch and tea and coffee provided (£10 cost per head).

To register for the event please email [nhw@cbnwa.com](mailto:nhw@cbnwa.com)

**PLUS... Marketplace with stalls including Trading Standards and Smartwater offering FREE Smartwater hits (RRP £75)**

**METROPOLITAN POLICE** TOTAL POLICING **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS**  
LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL RESPONSIBILITIES



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## Communities

### Consultation on how the council supports the voluntary and community sector through its premises

The council has been consulting the voluntary and community sector on new policy for:

- Allocating its community properties and setting rents
- Providing rent subsidy and discretionary relief from non-domestic rates ('business rates') to the voluntary and community sector (VCS).
- Council premises-related support and associated subsidies for the VCS is worth over £0.5 million a year

Despite the unprecedented financial pressure the council is facing, we intend both to maintain this support and offer organisations greater equality of opportunity to access this support and spread the benefit of this investment as widely as possible across the VCS.

The aim of our proposals is to:

- Focus funding on VCS organisations with the biggest community impact and greatest need
- Focus rent subsidy funding initially on organisations occupying council properties.
- Provide transparency on how rents are charged, subsidies are offered and council community properties are allocated
- Spread the benefit of the funding as widely as possible, offering opportunity to organisations that have not received funding to date, while operating within the council's budgetary constraints.

A consultation event for VCS organisations was held on 1 November together with an online survey of proposals which was available during October and November. The policy will also be considered by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee in December and Cabinet in January. If agreed the policy would take effect from 1 April 2021



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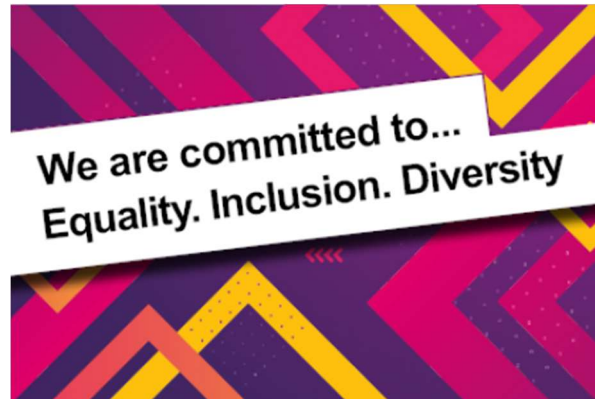
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## Equality and Diversity

### Equality Framework for Local Government Accreditation (EFLG)



We took part in the Local Government Association's (LGA) Equality Framework for Local Government (EFLG) peer challenge 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 an important performance improvement and benchmarking tool that local authorities in England use to map their organisation's practice in terms of equality and inclusion and is an opportunity to examine whether our policies, processes and leadership are developing better equality and inclusion outcomes for our staff, residents and 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 feedback was very positive and we are hopeful for confirmation at 'Achieving Level' which is an important achievement, which the LGA will confirm in the coming weeks.