



Families, Health and Social Care

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Jane Avis

March 2020

Welcome to my February Bulletin.

As you would have read in my previous bulletins, we have achieved a lot in Health, Wellbeing and Adults over the last financial year, despite our financial challenges. So my opening is to thank our dedicated council officers and the many volunteers and carers who help us deliver a great service to the residents of Croydon.

We have continued to deliver excellent social care services against a backdrop of decreasing funds and increasing pressures.

The demand for adult social care has risen consistently over the last decade and, as we move in to a new financial year, the pressures are predicted to continue despite small injections of funds. Our budget planning is severely impacted by the continued delay of the Social Care green paper, being unsure about the social care funding from central Government and any impacts of Brexit.

An arising area we are noticing is that some members of our older population, who have previously been able to pay for their social care, can no longer do so. We know this is a national problem and I am looking forward to seeing how this will be addressed by the new Government.

Looking to the future I believe that the integration of health and social care is key to making lives better for people who require support. Working in localities, building on peoples strengths and thinking in creative and innovative ways can ensure that our residents can live healthy, happy and independent lives.

Commitment to our Carers

I know that some of you are concerned about the recent planning application approval for the floors above the Carers Support Centre in George Street to be converted into residential dwellings. The use of the ground floor as a Carers Support Centre remains unchanged.

I want to assure you that we are committed to our valued carers and the excellent support provided by the Carers hub.

Guy Van Dichele has met with colleagues from the Carers Support Centre and the Whitgift Foundation to discuss ways to ensure the service continues, along with supporting the staff at the Carers Support Centre to minimise any impact on them, and our carers.

On 1 April 2020 the council will enter a new contract term with The Whitgift Foundation in order to provide a Carers Support Centre for carers in Croydon. This contract is for three years and includes activities, workshops, information & advice, telephone support, a café, 1-to-1 appointments, respite, carer assessments, counselling and much more.

I will keep you updated in future bulletins.

Chief Executive of Croydon Mind retires



Richard Pacitti, Chief Executive from Croydon Mind has retired after nearly 30 years.

Richard has been an excellent advocate for mental health, and achieved a tremendous amount during his career. Our recent partnership work with hoarders in Croydon gained a lot of praise and continues to be a success.

Last year was Croydon's largest World Mental Health Day event – raising awareness, showcasing excellent work and raising money for Mind in Croydon.

We wish Richard a long, happy and healthy retirement and look forward to working with the new CEO.

Dementia friendly screenings at the David Lean Cinema

For a second year The David Lean cinema has organised Dementia friendly screening of films once a month. Lights are turned down low and people are free to join in with the singing and dancing on screen should they wish to.

The cinema has included more culturally diverse musicals this year to appeal to a wider audience and the film schedule includes Carmen Jones (1954), starring Harry Belafonte and Dorothy Dandridge and Bollywood hit Parineeta (2005), starring Vidya Balan, Saif Ali Khan and Sanjay Dutt. Along with musical favourites Singin' In The Rain and Hard Day's Night



Admission is £1 on the door for people living with dementia (their carers get free entry). Free tea, coffee and biscuits will be available before shows.

The screenings are part of the David Lean Cinema's work with the Croydon Dementia Action Alliance (CDAA) to support the borough's commitment to become a dementia friendly town. There are more than 20 local organisations who are members of the CDAA, including Croydon Council, the local NHS, emergency services, the voluntary sector, Age UK Croydon and more.

For more information and bookings for the dementia-friendly films, visit www.davidleancinema.org.uk/dementia-friendly-screenings/

Fizz Free February

We are taking action to lower obesity rates by supporting residents to be healthier and make smart sugar swaps like ditching fizzy drinks and drinking more water.



Pledging to go fizz-free this February is beneficial as it will help people to reduce their daily sugar intake, which can reduce the risks of getting ill caused by consuming excess sugar and can also save money.

- Drinking just one 330ml can of fizzy drink a day could add up to over a stone of weight gain per year.
- Tooth decay is the leading cause for hospitalisation among five to nine year olds in the UK, with 26,000 children being hospitalised each year with the condition, that's 500 each week.
- You can save £438 a year if you stopped drinking one bottle of soft drink, per day for a year.

Drinking water instead of fizz can be easy by filling up your reusable water bottles for free at a Refill station inside a local business. Participating businesses will display a Refill window sticker or you can find a site via the Refill app – the download details are available at www.refill.org.uk

There is more information to help people be sugarsmart the website www.croydon.gov.uk/sugarsmart

Improving our website



CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

Croydon Digital Service (CDS) are looking for people to take part in user research on our website, particularly people who may need information about adult social care, for example such as care at home, occupational therapy or support for a disability.

Please contact the user research team for more information:
userresearch@croydon.gov.uk

I hope you find this bulletin interesting, if you would like to contact me about anything, please do so on:

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