



Communities, Safety and Justice

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

January 2018

Latest News

Community Safety

Seasonal crackdown on burglary

Operation Bumblebee saw police officers intensify their efforts to work with police forces from across the country to target burglars who try to evade capture by travelling across county lines.

Meanwhile the Met is calling on Londoners to act now and follow basic crime prevention advice to protect their homes.

- Keep your homes safe
- Ensure doors and windows are properly locked with a key when leaving home;
- Keep valuables out of sight and out of reach;
- Lock side gates and store bins behind them;
- Avoid leaving packaging outside, which may indicate you have expensive new items in your home.
- Put away heirlooms and passed down sentimental items that you do not use every day that cannot be replaced. A safe in the loft or stored in a bank is the safest way.

Tackling Serious Youth Violence event 14th Dec 2017

Following recent tragic events in Croydon, representatives from across the Voluntary and Community sector came together to meet with statutory organisations involved in tackling serious youth violence, including the council and the police. The purpose was to better coordinate our response to this high-profile issue and to maximise the borough's access to the funding available to tackle it. The council and the police shared information on how we're working to combat serious youth violence and discussed what more could be done in order to attract further funding opportunities. Community organisations valued the opportunity to meet one another because a number of the excellent projects underway operate independently. ,

From the discussions that took place, it was clear that many of the barriers to engaging with young people at risk of being drawn into violence, were commonly experienced by the agencies seeking to engage with them. It was agreed that the Croydon BME Forum would establish a Serious Youth Violence Forum to ensure better collaboration between partners and sharing of best practice. They will also take a strategic, multi-partner lead on bidding for external funding on behalf of the



Communities, Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali January 2018

members. If you would to get involved, please contact Andrew Brown – andrew@bmeforum.org.

United against knife crime

Crystal Palace Football Club added its support to Croydon's latest plans to combat knife crime.

At the recent home game against Watford (which led to a 2:1 win, the club used its Fan Zone to help promote the Choose campaign, encouraging young people think about the choices they have – and the consequences of carrying a blade.

This included anti-knife crime rap songs from Music Relief Foundation (a group working with 11 to 19-year-olds, young people from the council's Choose Your Future campaign sharing their personal experiences of carrying a knife, and information on the range of activities and events run by the council's Youth Engagement Team.





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BRIT School supporting the fight against knife crime

The Brit School have worked with Croydon police to produce a play about knife crime which they will be taking to 12 schools this year together with the police. This important initiative will launch on Monday 12 February at the BRIT school and will enhance the offer available to all Croydon schools on how they can address young people's safety including:

- A two-hour video-based workshop over two weeks developed by Croydon Youth Offending Service titled *Every Choice Matters* which will be available to every secondary school
- Supporting schools on how to respond to incidents where knives are found in schools
- Knife detection wands offered to all schools by the Mayor of London

FJC offered support during the holiday season



The festive period is a time when most people relax and enjoy themselves, but for others it's a time of anxiety and isolation.

Statistics show that domestic abuse and sexual violence spiked last year across the UK, with some police services reporting an increase of 16% in domestic abuse calls.

For this reason, the team from Croydon's Family Justice Centre (FJC) ensured men and women knew about its services, and where to get help.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/fjc-offers-support-holiday-season/>



Communities, Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali January 2018

British Empire Medal for work against FGM

Lucy Njomo has been awarded a British Empire Medal for her work to raise awareness of FGM. Lucy, from Thornton Heath, and a survivor of FGM, founded the African Youth Development Association (AYDA) – the only local community organisation campaigning against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Croydon. Lucy has spent the last 10 years supporting vulnerable women and families who are at risk of, or who have survived this crime. Many congratulations to Lucy!

To find out more about AYDA, please see <http://opencharities.org/charities/1123021>



Public welcome new plans to help stop town centre ASB

A public space protection order (PSPO) to tackle antisocial behaviour (ASB) and street drinking was introduced in Croydon town centre from December 18.

The area covered will include High Street, North End, London Road, East Croydon station, Queens Gardens, Park Lane, George Street and Sumner Road.

A PSPO is an order designed to stop individuals or groups committing ASB in a public space.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/public-welcome-new-plans-help-stop-town-centre-asb/>





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Cabinet Member Bulletin

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Communities

The Community Fund Showcase

The Community Fund showcase event provides an opportunity for providers through the council's Community Fund (which represents most council funding of the voluntary sector) and service users and residents to celebrate key achievements over the first year and come together for an informal networking opportunity.

The conference will feature a keynote speech from Social Enterprise UK SEUK and there will also be presentations and performances detailing examples of key projects in action and their impact.

The conference will take place on Monday 5th February please email communityfund@croydon.gov.uk for further details.





Communities, Safety and Justice

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

January 2018

Croydon Community Grants Nov 2017

24 applications were received for the November 2017 round of funding through the Community Grants scheme. The applications came from a wide range of groups including sports activities, community youth development projects, women's empowerment activities and tackling social isolation, domestic violence and knife crime. 13 groups were successful with two of the applications are pending further information. Awarded amounts ranged from £1,432 to £5,000

Projects funded through this round of Community Grants include a scheme to create an outside activity space for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties which will be located at St Giles School. Another project will work with young people affected by cancer covering healthy lifestyle, family and friends relationships, goal setting, action planning, stress management and communication workshops.

The next round of Community Grants is now open for groups to apply and will close Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 5pm. For more information about the Croydon Community Grants and how you can apply please click on this link [Croydon Community Grants](#)

Holocaust Memorial Day

An event to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day took place on Friday 26th January. Our keynote speaker for the event was Wlodka Robertson, who came to England as a child on the Kindertransport. A number of local schools performed at the event and the traditional candle lighting ceremony and the signing of the Book of Remembrance took place in the Town Hall.

In addition, Croydon central library will be displaying an exhibition and the David Lean Cinema will be screened the film Menashe on Tuesday 16 January and Saturday 27 January.



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Financial inclusion

Council nominated for its work to take the Gateway Service closer to communities

Croydon Council has been selected as a finalist in the UK Housing Awards 2018, in the category 'Innovation of the Year', for our work around taking the Council's Gateway approach beyond the local authority and its public sector partners into the community to co-produce services with local residents, help prevent homelessness and build community resilience. The awards, run by the Chartered Institute of Housing and Inside Housing, showcase the very best the housing sector has to offer.

Our flagship service, Gateway Croydon, takes a whole-family approach focussed on helping people achieve financial stability by balancing their income, budget and housing costs. By taking our Gateway approach out into the community and working as a member of the Community Connect Alliance of partner organisations from across the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors, we have transformed the way we achieve outcomes for Croydon residents. We have created innovative solutions to ensure residents are financially stable, able to better manage their money and maximise their income through personal budgeting support, debt management, income maximisation and by gaining employment.