



# Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming March 2018

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## LATEST NEWS

### Young Mayor launch – Thursday 22nd Feb, 7pm-9pm, Braithwaite Halls

Braithwaite Halls was looking resplendent as individual ‘pitches’ for each of the 28 young mayor candidates were set up. This was an inspiring event to introduce the young mayoral candidates and recognise their commitment to the community of Croydon. All of the candidates were inspiring as they set out their manifestos to a packed hall, which included the Mayor, Leader, Councillors, parents, carers and council officers.

The Election Day for the young mayor will be 13 March, with official polling stations set up in schools and colleges across the borough, as well as at the Town Hall and centres in the north, south and east of the borough. The successful candidate will be announced at a special declaration on Thursday 15 March, followed by a celebration for all who have taken part.

Croydon’s first young mayor will represent the largest youth population in London and be a true trailblazer. It is our chance to celebrate the positive contribution the young people of our borough have to make.

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## Secondary school – Year 7 Admissions – September 2018

Wednesday, 1 March is Secondary Transfer National Offer Day

### 86% of Croydon applicants get one of top three choices



Croydon has maintained its record of ensuring the majority of pupils moving up from primary level get their first preference choice of secondary school. 62% of pupils received an offer at a first preference school and 86% received an offer at a school that was one of their top three named preferences. These figures have been achieved despite a 7%

increase in the number of applications for a secondary school place, growth which is set to continue as the larger numbers of pupils in primary schools feed through to secondary education.

100% of our parents/carers applied online for a place once again this year. Online applicants will be able to view the outcome of their application as well as accept/decline their offer by logging on to their eAdmissions account [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk) during the evening of 1 March.

## Reception and Junior Admissions - September 2018

Monday 16 April 2018 will be Primary National Offer Day for those starting school for the first time and those moving from an infant to a junior school.

Almost all our parents/carers have applied online for a place and they will receive an email letting them know which school their child has been offered. Information about how to accept the place, and the waiting list and appeals processes will be available at [www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions)

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## Rolling out our new social work practice model, Strengthening Families

Training in how to use our new social work practice model, Strengthening Families, has been rolled out across the service in preparation to go live in April. Staff champions have also played an important role in communicating the new model to their peers and feedback from staff on the training has been positive. An event to launch the new model with our partners is scheduled in late April.

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Strengthening Families is a strength based approach to social work which places children at the center of our thinking. It will also be the framework through which staff and managers in the service support each other – strength based discussions with an openness about what needs to change. All involved, professionals and the family are asked to think about the following questions:

- What we are worried about?
- What's working well?
- What needs to happen?
- How we will know it's been achieved.

## **New single point of contact launched for early help and children's social care**

We launched a Single Point of Contact earlier this month, which is the single 'front door' to all local authority early help and children's social care services in Croydon. The Single Point of Contact will receive all referrals and requests for services for children, young people and families living in Croydon, whether they need early help or there are safeguarding concerns that may require children's social care involvement.

The Single Point of Contact will ensure that children, young people and their families get the right help at the right time. The Single Point of Contact will be made up of some staff from the current early help hub and the members of our multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH).

Information about how to contact the Single Point of Contact has been shared with our partners and published on our website. The implementation of the Single Point of Contact is a key action in our children's improvement plan to ensure children and young people across the borough receive the right help at the right time. It will also support the development of a coherent Early Help Strategy which is due to be published in June.

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## **Second Ofsted monitoring visit**

By the time you read this we will have had our second Ofsted monitoring visit, on 20 and 21 March. This visit focused on risk and vulnerable adolescents, including missing children, child sexual exploitation and gangs.

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#### Education Estates Cabinet Report - January 2018

The Cabinet Committee agreed the proposals in the Education Estates Strategy report on 22 January. The strategy will ensure that the Council is compliant with its School place planning duties (s13-14 Education Act 1996) to promote high standards of education and fair access to education; secure provision for children with SEN; and respond to parental preference.

The report focussed on 3 of Croydon's main statutory responsibilities as an education authority:

**School Place Planning** – ensuring a sufficient supply of school places to enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duties. The School Place Supply strategy for the next 3 years – 2018/19 to 2020/21 – and the funding to deliver these additional places were approved by cabinet.

**School Admissions** – determining admission arrangements for all Croydon community schools for admission in 2019/20; and Pan London co-ordination arrangements. Full Council determined the proposed Admission Arrangements for Croydon's community schools for the 2019/20 academic year, including the responses to consultation on the proposed reduction of the admission number for Norbury Manor and Monks Orchard Primary; and adoption of the proposed Pan London co-ordination arrangements.

**School Maintenance** – ensuring that school buildings meet minimum standards. Cabinet approved the proposed Schools' Maintenance Plan for 2017/18 and 2018/19 including an additional £3m for fire safety works in community schools.

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#### School Admissions Satisfaction Survey

*“Respond to individual queries and requests in a polite and professional manner. Exchange of information between Admissions Team and school excellent”*

The Council recently carried out a School Admissions satisfaction survey which was aimed at Head Teachers, Admission Officers and Business Managers at all Primary and secondary schools in the borough.

The purpose of the survey was to assess how satisfied schools are with the service they receive from the School Admissions Team.



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Despite record numbers of children applying for a school place in the borough (secondary applications were up by 7% this year) the findings from the survey show that there has been an increase of 17% in satisfaction with the service in the last year, and 24% over the last two years.

Positive comments included: *efficient, knowledgeable, polite, professional, very pleasant and extremely prompt.*

The findings of the survey provide invaluable information on how well the service is performing and where it needs to improve further based on how the service has been received and perceived by schools.

Congratulations to the admissions team!

Contact Officer: [denise.bushay@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:denise.bushay@croydon.gov.uk)

## CALAT

### Flying the flag for CALAT in New Addington'



Located along the length of Central Parade 13 banners now point the way to the New Addington centre – promoting access to learning in the area.

**Apprenticeships (Pathways and Continued Professional Development):**

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Delivery of apprenticeships is a key focus for the service and programmes are currently being delivered in Business Administration, Early Years, Health and Social Care and Teaching assistants.

CALAT is further developing this area; the Apprenticeship and Vocational Curriculum team is working in close collaboration with Croydon's Employment pathways team to develop the Apprenticeship offer for Council staff maximising use of the Apprenticeship Levy, this includes developing a higher apprenticeship offer linked to developmental needs of staff.

#### **London Mayors Small Projects and Capital fund:**

A funding bid to upgrade CALAT's curriculum network, Wi-Fi and equipment at all sites was submitted to the GLA in October 2017. The bid was successful and GLA has agreed £200,000 allocation to the project which has been match funded by the Council's IT capital fund - £247,102. The delivery timetable has to be aligned to the summer recess to minimise service disruption and impact on learners.

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