

# OUR CROYDON

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Our Cleaner Croydon campaign is keeping streets clean and safe. Don't miss your Christmas bin collection calendar inside!

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**WISHING YOU...**

**A VERY CROYDON CHRISTMAS**

**FRIDAY 5 - SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER**



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# Welcome to our Croydon



Jason Perry,  
Executive Mayor  
of Croydon

## Dear Resident

### **Croydon's greatest strength is our communities – from Crystal Palace to Coulsdon, New Addington to Waddon.**

This autumn we have come together for events from the joyful 'Croydon Harvest' (p19) to heartfelt services of remembrance (p6). I was, as always, honoured and proud to share these important moments with so many of you. As we head into winter there is much to look forward to, from 'A Very Croydon Christmas' (p3) to the 'National Gallery: Art On Your Doorstep' (p4). Throughout November and December, we will unite as one strong community for an important cause - find out about the '16 Days of Activism' campaign (p21).

Great communities deserve great places, which is why investing in Croydon's future through our town centre, our high streets and our neighbourhoods is such a priority for me. I am pleased that we are starting to see exciting changes in North End as my Town Centre Vision comes to life. The new shops in 'Alders Parade' have transformed the area (p5) - the perfect incentive to shop local this Christmas!

Work to fill in the Wellesley Road pedestrian underpass and replace it with a new cleaner and safer pedestrian crossing is well under way, and there is more to come. Check out the plans for College Green and Minster Green - spaces that are at the heart of our culture and rich heritage (p7 and p8). I have prioritised investment in our high streets, directing £4.6 million of funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and others to make a difference in districts boroughwide. Do try and support our local independent traders on Small Business Saturday on 6 December. I am glad

that New Addington is one of just two places in London selected for the Government's 'Pride in Place' funding (p10). I look forward to working with residents as together we develop plans for their neighbourhood's future.

These exciting projects demonstrate new confidence in our borough as a place to live, work, visit and invest. I firmly believe this starts with getting the basics right - such as clean, safe streets, in our town centre and across Croydon, and this continues to be a focus for me. My zero-tolerance approach to antisocial behaviour means, with the support of residents, we are taking tough action against lawbreakers who make their neighbours lives a misery (p11 and p12). We will be extending our Public Space Protection Order in the town centre after overwhelming backing from residents and businesses. This is a good example of us working in partnership with the Police to make Croydon safer. I am also encouraged to hear the success of their new static live facial recognition cameras, which are helping to catch criminals and make our streets safer (p29).

Finally, please do take care of yourselves during the winter months - there is some great advice on this from our Public Health team (p25). Stay safe and well, and I wish you all a very Croydon Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Jason Perry**  
Executive Mayor of Croydon



# Croydon's Christmas unwrapped: A Very Croydon Christmas is back

From Friday 5 - Sunday 7 December, Croydon will come alive with a weekend of joyful music, creative outdoor arts, festive crafts, and fun for the whole family.

When? Friday 5 December, 4pm - 7.30pm, Saturday 6 December, 12pm - 6pm, Sunday 7 December, 12pm - 5pm

Where? In and around Croydon Clocktower

[culturecroydon.com](http://culturecroydon.com)

Expect heartwarming carol singing, enchanting roaming performers, a street pantomime bursting with cheeky charm, and a captivating outdoor show blending dance, theatre and music.

Highlights of the weekend's festivities will include:

## Carol Concerts at Braithwaite Hall

We'll start with carols on Friday evening. Families can enjoy an early concert with festive treats, while the later performance offers a chance to unwind after work with mulled wine and song.

## Miss Murphy's Pantomime Ponies

A troupe of energetic, costumed 'pantomime ponies' will bring choreographed chaos and glittering costumes to Croydon's streets.

## Sonia Sabri Company: Mughal Miniatures – The Elephant & The Drummer

Don't miss this heartwarming, interactive outdoor performance blending Kathak dance, physical theatre and live music.



DJ Frietmachine

Photography by Willem Van Puyenbroeck

## DJ Frietmachine

Promising to be a surreal, hilarious and delicious experience, this award-winning installation invites audiences to create their own portion of fries!

## Crafts and creativity

Families will love these workshops including creating Christmas rosettes to take home and more.

## Matt Pang's Curiosity Christmas Tree

Keep an eye out for this roaming, twinkling bell-ringing Christmas tree with a mind of its own.



The Elephant and The Drummer by Sonia Sabri Company



The Curiosity Christmas Tree performed by Matt Pang



# Masterpieces on the move: The National Gallery comes to Croydon

**No need to head to Trafalgar Square – world-class art is coming to Croydon.**

**The National Gallery: Art On Your Doorstep** will showcase up to 30 life-sized, high-quality reproductions of iconic paintings across the borough from 26 January - 28 June. Popping up in Croydon town centre, Upper Norwood, New Addington, Coulsdon and Thornton Heath, it will offer our residents a unique chance to experience these masterpiece replicas up close.

The National Gallery is no stranger to Croydon. During the 2023 London Borough of Culture celebrations, Constable's *The Cornfield* was displayed at Thornton Heath Library. They also stopped by as part of their Art Road Trip last May, so we're looking forward to welcoming them back soon.

The National Gallery is also generously offering two free tickets to its upcoming exhibition, *Radical Harmony: Neo-Impressionists*, to Croydon residents. Explore stunning works by Seurat, Van Gogh, Signac, and Pissarro on display from 8 February 2026. To be in with a chance of winning email [culture@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:culture@croydon.gov.uk) with the answer to the question below. The winner's name will be pulled out of a hat on 6 January.

## Competition Question

**Which Croydon library did Constable's painting *The Cornfield* visit during our year as London Borough of Culture in 2023?**



Art On Your Doorstep in Stoke-on-Trent - the first location the National Gallery visited with this project. Photo by Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

Terms & Conditions apply for this competition and can be viewed here:

[culturecroydon.com](http://culturecroydon.com)



## Discover Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's legacy at the Museum of Croydon

**Step into the extraordinary life and music of Croydon-born composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875–1912) in a new exhibition at the Museum of Croydon.**

Explore his journey from violinist to internationally acclaimed musician, blending classical traditions with African influences.

To mark the launch and as part of Black History Month in October, students from The BRIT School took over Croydon Clocktower with original performances in dance, drama, and film, showcasing how his legacy lives on and he continues to inspire new generations.

Enjoy downloadable family packs, a heritage trail, a public programme and schools' programme.

Open until 31 January 2026, Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4.30pm. To find out more visit:

[museumofcroydon.com](http://museumofcroydon.com)

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## OUR COMMUNITY



# Love Croydon, shop local this Christmas

**When you shop locally, you're not only supporting your neighbourhood businesses, but also benefiting your community – with money going back into strengthening the local economy.**

This festive season, head to our town centre, or pop to your local shops - you'll find some exciting newcomers alongside well-known high street heroes.

## Alders Parade

Head to the town centre to check out the new shops and cafes at the Alders Parade! From florists to clothing shops, there's plenty of options to pick up gifts or treat yourself this season.

These new stores are part of Executive Mayor Jason Perry's town centre regeneration programme, working with Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield to preserve the much-loved landmark building and bringing it back into use for residents to enjoy.

## Made by Croydon

Support local entrepreneurs and find unique holiday gifts at the Made by Croydon Christmas Pop-Up Shop Market at Centrale from 26 November - 24 December. The market will be held in the new Creative Enterprise Zone space where you'll find stalls for local product-based brands.

## High street heroes

From Coulsdon to Crystal Palace, Croydon's district centres have lots of wonderful local businesses ready to serve you. During this festive season, why not pay them a visit and see what gems you can get from your local high street.

One such high street hero for the musically gifted is Rockbottom Music Store on London Road. Stocking the latest equipment, both new and second-hand, the shop has served Croydon, London and beyond for over 50 years.

With a customer base that has included many famous musicians, from Status Quo to Loyle Carner amongst others, a visit to the shop is really quite an experience. Whether you're after pro-audio, instruments or accessories, the Rockbottom team has got you covered - they also do instrument servicing and repairs and have a variety of rehearsal spaces available.

The team at Rockbottom have years of expertise and knowledge, so rather than just clicking a button, at Rockbottom you know you are going to get all the help and advice you need from a local small business.

And don't forget, you can get one-hour free parking in 59 locations across the borough, making it even easier to pop to your local shops.



## Don't forget!

One-hour free parking in 59 locations across the borough.



# Lest we forget: Croydon honours those who served

## Croydon marked Remembrance Sunday with a moving wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph on Katharine Street.

Led by Civic Mayor Councillor Richard Chatterjee and Deputy Lieutenant Colonel Ray Wilkinson, the event included a two-minute silence observed by Executive Mayor Jason Perry, community leaders, faith representatives, members of the military and residents.

The ceremony honoured those who served in the World Wars and other conflicts, while reflecting on the ongoing impact of war and the shared hope for peace. A Remembrance Service followed at Croydon Minster, and a further silence was held at the Cenotaph on Armistice Day on Tuesday 11 November.



Photography by Wade Newell

## Community gathers to remember Sandilands tram derailment victims

Nine years on from the tragic day when seven people lost their lives in the Sandilands tram derailment, members of our community came together to honour their memory at a civic ceremony held at the memorial in Market Square, Central Parade, New Addington on Sunday 9 November.

Dane Chinnery, Donald Collett, Robert Huxley, Philip Logan, Dorota Rynkiewicz, Philip Seary and Mark Smith lost their lives and more than 60 people were injured in the tragedy, which took place near Sandilands tram stop on 9 November 2016.

The Civic Mayor, Councillor Richard Chatterjee, led a two-minute silence. Executive Mayor Jason Perry joined residents, community leaders, and members of the emergency services who gathered to pay their respects.

It was a moment to stand with the families and all those affected by the tragic events of that day, and to reflect on the impact it had on our community.

If you have been affected by the tram derailment, there is support available. Croydon Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT) offer a range of psychological therapies to those aged 18 years and over, who are registered with a Croydon GP.

[croydontalkingtherapies.nhs.uk](http://croydontalkingtherapies.nhs.uk)





# Minster Green designs to create welcoming public space

**Exciting changes are coming to the area around Croydon Minster, as part of a major town centre regeneration project.**

Minster Green will be transformed into a greener, safer and more inviting space for everyone to enjoy, funded by the council's Growth Zone programme.

The plans include closing the old subway and creating a beautiful new public area in front of the historic church. Visitors will be welcomed by wildflower planting, new trees framing views of the Minster, and lighting that will highlight its stunning architecture at night. A new sculpture will also be installed to celebrate the area's rich heritage.

The Minster Green project supports Executive Mayor Jason Perry's vision for a vibrant and accessible town centre. It has been shaped in partnership with Croydon Minster, residents and community groups.

A priority is to protect the medieval church - which dates back to the 9th century. The designs have been created to make the surrounding space more welcoming, while tackling antisocial behaviour by targeting hotspots.

An exhibition opens at Croydon Minster from Tuesday 25 November until Saturday 29 November, where the community can see the designs in detail. See the Urban Room website for more details.

Construction is set to begin in early 2026, with completion expected by summer. Growth Zone projects are delivered by the council with the support of the Greater London Authority and Transport for London. Find out more:

[croydonurbanroom.com](https://croydonurbanroom.com)



## Over 800 new homes coming to Croydon town centre

**Croydon is getting a major housing boost, with more than 800 new homes approved at One Lansdowne. The development, led by Greystar, will transform a long-empty site near East Croydon Station into a lively new neighbourhood.**

The plans include 808 build-to-rent homes, 116 of them affordable and 92 designed for families. Residents will benefit from new shops and public areas for everyone in the town centre to enjoy.

Designed by HTA Design, the two-building scheme will improve walking routes between East Croydon and the town centre, with green spaces, play areas, and plenty of cycle parking.

This is one of Croydon's biggest housing approvals in recent years and supports Executive Mayor Jason Perry's Croydon Growth Plan. It follows Greystar's successful Ten Degrees development, which delivered 545 homes and is now fully occupied.



# College Green to bloom into new town centre park

**Big changes are coming to College Green – and they're designed with Croydon residents in mind.**

As part of the Executive Mayor Jason Perry's Town Centre Vision, we are transforming the space between Fairfield Halls and Croydon College into a vibrant, welcoming public area.

Funded through Croydon's Growth Zone programme – which uses funds raised through business rates – the plans include a sociable green space with something for everyone: a children's play area, sports zone (MUGA), picnic spots, seating, and even cafe terraces. Expect plenty of greenery too, with wildflowers and trees making the area more inviting and accessible.

This is all about making Croydon town centre more connected, especially between East Croydon Station and the cultural quarter. It's one of 10 projects under way to improve public spaces and celebrate the borough's heritage.

A public exhibition was held at Croydon College where residents had an opportunity to speak to the project team and MICA Architects. If you missed it, see the designs on the 'resources' pages on the Croydon Urban Room website.



College Green is one of ten projects under way in the town centre to improve connectivity, greenery and public spaces, and to celebrate the borough's rich history.

This includes improvements to Minster Green and building a new crossing in Wellesley Road to connect East Croydon to the town centre, which is due to open in December. Visit:

[croydonurbanroom.com](http://croydonurbanroom.com)



# Town centre regeneration inspires future engineers

**School children at St Mary's Catholic Junior School enjoyed workshops by council officers and contractor FM Conway, where they learned about Croydon's town centre regeneration projects and engineering.**

Work on a new surface-level pedestrian and cycle crossing in Wellesley Road is expected to be finished by Christmas. It is a complex engineering project as the highway is a key route for cars and trams and involves filling in the subway.

Mrs Adebola, Year 5 teacher at St Mary's Catholic Junior School, said: "The STEM workshops were full of creativity and curiosity. The children had an amazing time exploring engineering as they planned their bridge

designs and brought them to life with marshmallows and spaghetti. The sessions were filled with smiles as young engineers turned their ideas into real structures."

The Wellesley Road crossing will significantly improve connectivity between Croydon town centre and East Croydon. It supports Executive Mayor Jason Perry's Town Centre Vision, aimed at restoring pride and attracting new visitors, residents, businesses, and investors to Croydon.



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# Croydon secures £20m to transform New Addington

**Croydon is set to benefit from a major boost, thanks to the government's new Pride in Place Programme. The borough has been awarded £1.5m over two years to help breathe new life into high streets, green spaces, and community buildings.**

But the big news is for New Addington North, which is one of two London neighbourhoods to receive long-term investment for regeneration projects - up to £20m over the next decade.

This builds on work already under way by the council, including £223k of improvements to the district centre through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), nearly £100k invested in youth safety, and restoring pride through our blitz clean, as well as introducing longer opening hours at New Addington Library.

The £1.5m will be used over two years to make an immediate impact. The £20m for New Addington North will be invested over 10 years and the council will set up a Neighbourhood Board to lead the programme, bringing together residents, local groups and councillors.

The investment supports Executive Mayor Jason Perry's commitment to restoring pride, supporting local businesses, and regenerating town and district centres. He said: "We are seeing real momentum from the Croydon Growth Plan and this new funding gives us the opportunity to build on that success - helping to revitalise our high streets, strengthen community ties, and bring renewed pride to our borough."



Rowdown Field, New Addington

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## CLEANER CROYDON

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# More fly-tippers facing fines as new squad steps up



**Croydon's new on-street squad has been taking tough action to tackle fly-tipping – with a raft of fines issued for dumping rubbish on our streets illegally.**

During October alone, over 70 people were fined for not getting rid of their rubbish in the right way.

We're cracking down on irresponsible businesses too, with 13 in South Norwood fined after on-the-spot inspections found they didn't have commercial rubbish collections in place. If caught again, they will face tougher enforcement and unlimited fines.

Launched in the summer, the

new compliance team are part of Croydon Council's zero-tolerance approach to dumped waste and other environmental crimes.

This follows a survey in which 97% of residents backed enforcement against these offences.

Jason Perry, Executive Mayor of Croydon, said: "The vast majority of people in Croydon take pride in our borough. They do their bit to keep it clean and like me, are fed

up with people who dump rubbish illegally on our streets.

"That's why we're taking tough action to show that these crimes will not be tolerated in Croydon. At the same time, our officers are working with residents and businesses to make sure everyone understands how to dispose of their waste responsibly – and encourage them to do the right thing."

## Help us keep Croydon clean - don't risk a fine by leaving bags next to bins

**If you have more rubbish than you can fit in your bin, it is your responsibility to make sure you get rid of it properly.**

Leaving bags of rubbish or other items like boxes or mattresses on the street, including next to a bin, is a fly-tip. It makes our streets look dirty and residents have told us they want it to stop.

Our team investigate rubbish dumped illegally on our streets to look for evidence of who has left the mess. They will contact those responsible and can issue fines for offences.

We want to make it easy for everyone to do the right thing. If you've got more rubbish than will fit in your bin, you can take black sacks and furniture to our household reuse and recycling centres for free.

If you can't get to a centre, you can book a bulky waste collection from your home. Find out more at [croydon.gov.uk](http://croydon.gov.uk)

Please be careful of people offering services to clear your waste. If they are not licenced and do not get rid of your rubbish properly, you could be fined.



Executive Mayor of Croydon Jason Perry at a blitz clean

## Blitz cleans in Thornton Heath and Crystal Palace

**Our blitz clean squad have been busy these autumn months, working with communities to help make their local centres cleaner and safer.**

October was a busy month with blitz cleans in Thornton Heath and Crystal Palace. Alongside cleaning, repairing and repainting, we are working with businesses to help keep their shop fronts clean.

This includes tackling graffiti and stickers on shop shutters and shop fronts. Our blitz squad are helping businesses to keep their shopfronts looking good after the blitz clean has ended. Our free graffiti removal kit includes wipes, a brush, a scraper, gloves and a spray – offered to traders at each of our blitz cleans.

Sofiane Dahmani, manager of local business Bloom, said: "I will be using the graffiti cleaning kit to help keep my shop front clean."



# Crackdown! Council crushes dangerous and untaxed vehicles

**Croydon Council crushed and destroyed 13 untaxed and unroadworthy vehicles as part of its zero-tolerance approach - after residents complained about a garage owner's behaviour blighting their street.**

The dangerous vehicles were dumped on Parchmore Road in Thornton Heath by the garage previously known locally as Balham Autos.

Following months of ignored warnings, the council's antisocial behaviour and enforcement teams stepped in to remove the vehicles. They had been blocking parking spaces designed for residents, obstructing pavements and creating serious hazards.

Officers found cars without an engine parked on double yellow lines, vehicles without tax or doors, and others with sharp, exposed metal edges. Some were left blocking disabled bays, and there were reports of aggressive behaviour towards residents and council staff when the garage was challenged.

Croydon Council has issued a Community Protection Notice (CPN) and a Section 16 Notice - a legal requirement for the business to provide full information about the vehicles and site operation carrying an unlimited fine if not complied with. The council is also working with the Environment Agency on unlicensed scrap activity and the London Fire Brigade owing to fire safety concerns.

Jason Perry, Executive Mayor of Croydon, said: "For too long, this garage has been allowed to

dump dangerous, untaxed and unroadworthy vehicles on the street, blocking pavements and disabled bays, and making residents feel unsafe.

"I went down to Parchmore Road myself to meet residents, who have lived there for over 40 years and have had enough of seeing their street treated like a scrapyard.

"This type of illegal activity attracts more antisocial behaviour and fly-tipping - it tells others the rules do not matter. That is why I have taken a zero-tolerance approach - tackling the

signs of neglect before it grows into something worse."

Resident Clifford Willis said: "I'm heartened that the council is taking determined action to resolve this long-running situation. Long may it continue."

This zero-tolerance approach is part of the Cleaner Croydon campaign, to work with residents and businesses to make streets cleaner and safer - and every neighbourhood a place residents are proud to call home.



## Round of ap-paws for our dog warden, Tara!

**Croydon's dog warden, Tara Boswell, has been recognised in the RSPCA's prestigious PawPrints Awards for the seventh year running.**

Tara's work helping stray dogs and promoting improving animal welfare in Croydon have won her the Responsible Ownership Hero award.

As dog warden for the borough, Tara's role involves finding rescue placements for unclaimed stray dogs and helping to find their forever homes. The service also provides support to Croydon residents and encourages responsible dog ownership through initiatives like free microchipping.

Tara said: "Working in animal welfare can be incredibly challenging, but every single stray dog

I'm able to help makes it worthwhile.

"I absolutely love my job, but it can be really difficult dealing with cases of neglect and cruelty or seeing dogs that aren't claimed or rehomed as quickly as we'd like.

"I'm grateful for the support of everyone who champions responsible ownership and does their bit to give stray dogs the second chances they deserve."

[croydon.gov.uk/dogwarden](https://croydon.gov.uk/dogwarden)



Tara Boswell, Croydon's dog warden.



## OUR HOMES

# Have your say on action to protect tenants in private rented homes

**The council is consulting on two new licensing schemes to tackle poor living conditions and raise standards in private rented homes in Croydon.**

Nationally, 19% of homes are privately rented, but in Croydon it is 31% and this looks set to keep rising.

The plans would help to make sure all tenants live in warm, safe dry homes, while creating a fairer environment for both them and responsible landlords.

Property licensing is a way of raising standards in private rented accommodation. Croydon already administers the national licensing scheme which is required by law for large homes of multiple occupation (HMOs). The two proposed schemes would build on this approach.

The first is a selective licensing scheme for properties in 14 wards of the borough. Private landlords in these areas would need to hold a Croydon property licence, requiring them to make sure properties are fit for purpose, and provide evidence of fire safety and proper tenancy agreements. They would also be subject to property inspections. The council is also proposing a licensing scheme for smaller HMOs.

If approved by the council next year, these schemes could be in place by mid-2026.

Before making a decision, the council is working with independent research agency, M-E-L Research Ltd to consult on the proposals.

You can share your views until Monday 12 January 2023.

For more information visit:

[croydon.gov.uk/landlord-licensing](http://croydon.gov.uk/landlord-licensing)



## Reintroducing Regina Road

**Exciting plans to rebuild the Regina Road estate have received unanimous support from Croydon's planning committee - another big step forward in creating better homes and a brighter future for residents.**

Over the next few years, the South Norwood housing estate will be transformed into a welcoming new neighbourhood with up to 340 homes, including at least 225 affordable council homes. The plans include green spaces, play areas, a preschool and a shared space for activities and events.

This is a new beginning for the estate, after a TV documentary in 2021 exposed residents living in appalling conditions in the 1960s tower blocks.

Executive Mayor of Croydon Jason Perry pledged to deliver affordable, safe and well-designed homes that residents can be proud of here, and across the borough.

The new design takes inspiration from South Norwood's history and the old Croydon Canal that once ran nearby. The buildings and streets will reflect the character of the area, with tree-lined paths, open spaces and plenty of greenery to make it a pleasant place to walk, cycle and spend time outdoors.

The buildings will range from three to six storeys, with one taller block creating a local landmark. Light and warm-toned bricks have



been chosen to fit in with nearby Victorian and mid-century homes. A mix of smaller terraced homes and low-rise apartment buildings will give the neighbourhood variety and a more traditional feel.

At the heart of the new estate will be a large green space with trees, gardens and play areas. There will also be new walking and cycling routes and shared gardens where residents can grow plants, relax and get to know each other.

Residents have helped shape the designs from the start. Daniel Blundell, who has been lived on Regina Road since 2011, said: "I've raised both my children here, so this place really means a lot to me. I've been part of the Residents Working Group from the start. The council and project team have been great to work with throughout."

"We all know the buildings have reached the end of their life, and we need a permanent, long-term solution. I'm more than happy to wait for the new homes to be completed, because I know it will be worth it. It's a fresh start for the whole community."



# Croydon recycles

**CLEANER CROYDON**  
WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR A CLEANER BOROUGH



## Meet the sweepers

### Petrica, sweeper

**What is your favourite place in the borough?**

My favourite place is the market. I have been working here for seven years and it's the best place.

**And what's your favourite thing about your job?**

I love my job, I try to keep the streets clean for people and the community to use.



### Luke, sweeper

**What is your favourite place in the borough?**

The town centre - it's always lively and you get to know people and it's a nice community. People always coming and going.

**And what's your favourite thing about your job?**

What I love most is working with the other team members, and being part of the community. I like it when people come up to me and say thank you, it makes me smile. I take satisfaction from the job - you can see you're making a big difference within the community.



Petrica and Luke are part of a crew of recycling and waste operatives who are working together for a cleaner borough. We thank residents for continuing to treat our crews with respect and we encourage everyone to think safe when recycling.

Safety in recycling doesn't just mean sorting materials correctly, it also means keeping our crews and community safe. Please never place dangerous waste like batteries, small electricals, or gas canisters in your household or recycling bins. These items can cause fires or serious injuries during collection and sorting.

## Flame-free festivities

**Give the gift of safety this Christmas by keeping flammable items such as decorative lights and batteries out of bins.**

On average, Croydon Council's recycling and waste collection partner, Veolia, reports one preventable fire every day across the UK caused by residents putting dangerous items in their recycling or rubbish bins and on-street litter bins. The fires occur in collection vehicles and in waste management facilities, putting both Veolia staff and the general public in direct danger.



### Tips for keeping safe this Christmas:

- Batteries can be recycled at many local supermarkets and pharmacies such as Sainsbury's, Tesco's and Boots - collection bins are typically located near the checkouts. Household reuse and recycling centres in Croydon also have battery collection points.
- Electrical items - items with batteries, plugs, cables, or hidden batteries such as those found in children's toys and electrical toothbrushes - can be recycled but they must be handled safely at dedicated facilities. Residents can visit household reuse and recycling centres in Croydon or find local recycling points at [recyclenow.com/recycling-locator](https://recyclenow.com/recycling-locator)
- Used vapes should be taken back to retailers, never placed in household recycling or rubbish bins or in on-street litter bins.
- Nitrous oxide (NOx) canisters need to be handled safely during disposal. Residents can bring them to household reuse and recycling centres in Croydon for recycling. Other types of gas canister should be returned to retailers.

### Croydon HRRC locations:

- Factory Lane (West Croydon, CR0 3RL)
- Fishers Farm (New Addington, CR0 0LB)
- Purley Oaks (South Croydon, CR8 2BG)

Find more recycling options using the Recycle Your Electricals website

[recycleyourelectricals.org.uk](https://recycleyourelectricals.org.uk)



# What goes where?

Stick me on your fridge so that you can refer to this helpful recycling information year-round! Share your fridge selfie with us on Twitter @yourcroydon so we can retweet and share our borough's fantastic recyclers.

The table below summarises the two collection services received by the vast majority of properties in the borough. Containers and collection frequencies may differ for some flats and houses with no front garden.

Visit [croydon.gov.uk/recycling](http://croydon.gov.uk/recycling) if you're unsure.

## Food waste

-  ✓ All cooked and uncooked food
-  ✓ Dairy products: cheese and eggs
-  ✓ Fruit and vegetable peelings
-  ✓ Tea bags and coffee grounds
-  ✓ Meat and fish bones

- ✗ No plastic bags (use compostable liners or newspapers to line your caddy)
- ✗ No nappies

## Container

**Houses**  
Collected  
every week



**Flats**



## Plastics, glass, cans and cartons

-  ✓ Plastic bottles
-  ✓ Plastic pots, tubs and trays etc.
-  ✓ Glass jars and bottles
-  ✓ Cans, tins, aerosols and tin foil
-  ✓ Food and drink cartons

- ✗ No plastic bags
- ✗ No plastic film

## Container

**Houses**  
Collected  
every 2 weeks



**Flats**

Please remember to  
rinse and squash  
plastics, glass  
cans and  
cartons



## Paper and card

-  ✓ Newspapers and magazines
-  ✓ Card and cardboard
-  ✓ Toilet/kitchen roll tubes
-  ✓ Egg boxes

- ✗ No plastic bags
- ✗ No food and drink cartons
- ✗ No tissues
- ✗ No shiny or glittery wrapping paper

## Container

**Houses**  
Collected  
every 2 weeks



Paper  
and card  
must be  
clean and  
dry

## Non-recyclable waste

-  ✓ Non-recyclable rubbish
-  ✓ Food-stained cardboard (i.e. dirty pizza boxes)
-  ✓ Plastic bags and film
-  ✓ Polystyrene
-  ✓ Nappies

- ✗ No recycling or food waste
- ✗ No electrical items or batteries\*
- ✗ No gas canisters

\* Batteries and textiles

Residents living in houses can present one small bag of either batteries or textiles per week. Please place the loosely tied bag next to your recycling container for collection.

**Houses**  
Collected  
every 2 weeks



**Flats**





# How do I?...



## Report a missed collection

- Go to [croydon.gov.uk/recycling](https://croydon.gov.uk/recycling)
- Fill in your address and the bin type which was missed
- Our crews will then be alerted to return and collect



## Report a fly-tip

- Report it at [croydon.gov.uk/flytipping](https://croydon.gov.uk/flytipping)
- Our crews will visit the location and remove the fly-tip
- You can also report fly-tips easily using the Love Clean Streets App, available for both iOS and Android



## Report an overflowing street litter bin

- Report it at [croydon.gov.uk/litterbin](https://croydon.gov.uk/litterbin)
- Our crews will empty it



## Visit the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre or Reuse Shop

Find out more information about where they are and what you can recycle here: [croydon.gov.uk/hrrc](https://croydon.gov.uk/hrrc)



## Leave a compliment or make a complaint

Fill out the form at [croydon.gov.uk/complaints](https://croydon.gov.uk/complaints)

## 12 days of reducing Christmas food waste!

1. Plan meals carefully and create a shopping list based on your guest count.
2. Store leftovers in airtight containers.
3. Get creative with leftovers by transforming them into new dishes (e.g. turkey soup, sandwich fillings).
4. Share excess food with neighbours, friends, or family.
5. Donate unopened items to local food banks. (e.g. City Harvest, Felix, Trussell, etc)
6. Compost vegetable scraps and other organic waste.
7. Freeze excess food for later use.
8. Use the 'first in, first out' principle when storing food.
9. Be mindful of expiration dates and use items before they spoil.
10. Consider hosting a 'leftovers party' after Christmas.
11. Educate family members about portion sizes and the environmental impact of food waste.
12. Spread the message and encourage friends/family to reduce their food waste too!

## New study finds over half the contents of Croydon rubbish bins could have been recycled!



## Festive top tips!

- Flatten cardboard boxes before putting them in the blue lidded wheelie bin/ blue box.
- Empty and rinse all containers before putting them in the green lidded bin/ green box.
- Remove film lids from plastic pots, tubs and trays (put the film lids in your general waste bins).
- Only place items that cannot be recycled in your general waste bin - no food waste please.
- On collection day, place your bins at the front edge of your property, close to the pavement but not on it.
- For a complete list of what can and can't be recycled, please visit: [croydon.gov.uk/recycling](https://croydon.gov.uk/recycling)
- If your collection is missed, please leave your bins out and check the service status online at: [croydon.gov.uk/bin-status](https://croydon.gov.uk/bin-status)



# Christmas and New Year collections

Recycling and waste collections will change over the festive season:

Usual Collection Day	Revised Collection Day	Change
Thursday 25 December 2025	Saturday 27 December 2025	2 Days Later
Friday 26 December 2025	Monday 29 December 2025	3 Days Later
Monday 29 December 2025	Tuesday 30 December 2025	1 Day Later
Tuesday 30 December 2025	Wednesday 31 December 2025	1 Day Later
Wednesday 31 December 2025	Friday 02 January 2026	2 Days Later
Thursday 01 January 2026	Saturday 03 January 2026	2 Days Later
Friday 02 January 2026	Monday 05 January 2026	3 Days Later
Monday 05 January 2026	Tuesday 06 January 2026	1 Day Later
Tuesday 06 January 2026	Wednesday 07 January 2026	1 Day Later
Wednesday 07 January 2026	Thursday 08 January 2026	1 Day Later
Thursday 08 January 2026	Friday 09 January 2026	1 Day Later
Friday 09 January 2026	Saturday 10 January 2026	1 Day Later

Collections return to normal from Monday 12 January 2026. Please remember to put your bins out by 6am on your collection day.

## HRRCs opening hours

Factory Lane, Fishers Farm and Purley Oaks Household Reuse and Recycling Centre opening hours.

The Household Reuse and Recycling Centres (HRRC) will be open normal hours over the festive period with the following exceptions:

### Christmas Eve:

Factory Lane: 8:30am - 12pm

Fishers Farm: 9am - 12pm

Purley Oaks: 8am - 12pm

Christmas Day: Closed

Boxing Day: Closed

New Year's Day: Closed

## Community Reuse Shop

Visit the Community Reuse Shop this Christmas at Fishers Farm HRRC, where you can find great value, pre-loved items such as refurbished electronics, homeware, books, toys and sport equipment, all of which have been saved from disposal and given a new lease of life.

The shop also operates a discount scheme to support residents on low incomes or facing financial hardship, and is open to both residents and non-residents.

## Don't miss the Christmas Grotto!

Get into the festive spirit as our magical Christmas Grotto opens on Saturday 29 November, running for five days.

## Christmas tree Collections

Want your real tree to be collected?

Put it out by 6am on Tuesday 6 January 2026 and it should be gone within a fortnight.

Remember to remove all decorations, pots, etc. Put your tree close to the front boundary of your property, visible to collection crews and so it won't block the pavement.

Alternatively you can:

1. Take your tree to be composted at a HRRC.
2. Leave it next to your rubbish bin on your collection day (it will not be recycled).
3. Chop it up to create a winter shelter for animals in your garden or add it to your compost heap.



# A more inclusive Croydon for people living with dementia

**Croydon's Dementia Action Alliance (CDAA) is working to make Croydon a more inclusive place for 3,500 residents living with dementia, and to help their families and carers get the right information and support.**

CDAA includes the council, community groups, local businesses and residents, Age UK Croydon and other voluntary, community and faith groups.

The Alliance leads on key themes in Croydon's Dementia Strategy, aiming to make sure residents living with the condition are cared for, included, and supported to lead healthier, more independent lives.

And Croydon is now home to more support groups and activities where people living with dementia can socialise in relaxed environments and connect with peers.

Croydon's David Lean Cinema hosts a dementia-friendly relaxed screening on the first Tuesday of every month. The lights are dimmed, but it's not dark, and people can move around freely. Visit [www.davidleancinema.org.uk](http://www.davidleancinema.org.uk) - look out for screenings marked as (DF) - or call 020 3411 1243.

Age UK Croydon delivers Memory Tree Cafes around the borough, where people living with dementia and their carers can enjoy welcoming,

stimulating activities. Visit [www.ageuk.org.uk/croydon](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/croydon). Before attending, please call 020 8666 0066 or email [memorytreecafe@AgeUKCroydon.org.uk](mailto:memorytreecafe@AgeUKCroydon.org.uk).

Singing for the Brain is led by Croydon Alzheimer's Society. Singing improves brain activity, wellbeing and mood - and you don't need to be a good singer to benefit! Join the fun - Fridays, 10.30am to 12pm at Saint Matthew's Church, Chichester Road, CR0 5NQ. Contact [croydon@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:croydon@alzheimers.org.uk) or 020 8663 2818.

Carers First runs sessions designed especially for dementia carers. It's a relaxed space for people to talk, have fun and share their experiences.

Visit [www.carersfirst.org.uk/croydon/welcome](http://www.carersfirst.org.uk/croydon/welcome) or call 0300 303 1555 - or pop into the Carers Support Centre at 24 George Street, CR0, 1PB.

These are just a few activities in Croydon - some are free, and some do charge, so please contact the organisations first. For many more search [www.croydon.simplyconnect.uk](http://www.croydon.simplyconnect.uk), hosted by Croydon Voluntary Action.



“

So relaxed and I look forward to meeting lots of lovely people with very friendly and helpful staff and volunteers.” is how Marcie describes the Memory Tree Café.

”

Helpful websites:

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

[alzheimers.org.uk](http://alzheimers.org.uk)

[nhs.uk](http://nhs.uk)

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UK Government

NHS

**HELP YOUR BODY FIGHT FLU**

**STAY STRONG. GET VACCINATED.**

[nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](http://nhs.uk/wintervaccinations)



## OUR COMMUNITY

# Autumn awakening: Reviving Croydon's Walnut Fair

Croydon Harvest returned in a swirl of autumn colour – and a gust from Storm Amy! Inspired by the centuries old tradition of Croydon's Walnut Fair (1314 – 1868), the weekend brought giants, dancing, storytelling and crafts as families gathered to celebrate hope, heritage and harvest.



Hope the Hedgehog greets visitors



Children enjoying craft activities from weaving to collaging



Traditional Karagam folk dance from South India



Choir Chervona Kalina perform Ukrainian folk songs



Gujarati Garba dance



Giant puppet Sofia, Ukrainian Carnival Queen, delights the crowds





## LIBRARY STORIES

Croydon Libraries

# Residents welcome stunning new digital space



**Croydon's Digital Zone is open and already proving to be a popular space for residents to use computers and free wifi.**

Guests who attended the official launch event on 23 October were excited to see the transformation of the first floor of Central Library.

The floor now features a spacious study area with computers, two soundproof meeting rooms with screens which can be hired out by community groups, and a podcast studio. The podcast studio proved to be a real hit, with some visitors even recording live sessions during the launch. Many also enjoyed the exhibition area displaying Croydon's history through photos and film.

Leo Cardow, Croydon resident said: "It's a great digital space. I think it's really useful to have a dedicated area where people can listen to lectures, explore information desks and dive deeper into digital learning."

Debby Grayson, reading group leader said: "Having our own meeting room in the Digital Zone for our Reading Aloud sessions and Poetry Hour has made such a difference! We don't have to worry about outside noises or distractions, or about our own discussions distracting other library users. I think that the quiet intimacy of

the room helps people feel more comfortable – a safe place where they can exchange ideas, share their experiences, make new friends and have a laugh."

The zone is now open to all with free digital workshops delivered by ClearCommunityWeb and CALAT to provide a digital helping hand to anyone who needs it.

The upgrade was funded by the Libraries Improvement Fund (LIF) from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and administered by Arts Council England.

## ADVERTISEMENT

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Croydon libraries are now open more days in the week- including Saturdays?**

**This means more time to use the library facilities and join fun activities!**

Find your library



croydon.gov.uk/libraries

Discover library events



libraries.croydon.gov.uk/events





# 16 Days of Activism to tackle gender- based violence

**Croydon is uniting for 16 Days of Activism – an international campaign to raise awareness about gender-based violence.**

From 25 November to 10 December, events include an awareness walk through the town centre, training and workshops for professionals, and a conference to raise awareness about the issues surrounding violence against women and girls. The Executive Mayor of Croydon will unveil a memorial bench dedicated to those who have lost their lives to domestic abuse and gender-based violence in our borough.

For information about the 16 Days of Activism, visit [croydon.gov.uk/16days](http://croydon.gov.uk/16days)

In our summer edition, we introduced our panel of domestic abuse survivors, and their work with Croydon Council to address violence against women and girls.

The panel is making a real difference in Croydon, from feeding into a new council plan to tackle

domestic abuse in social housing, to advising on reviews into domestic abuse-related deaths.

Panel member Tina Saunders said: "I joined the Expert by Experience Panel as I believe it's important to elevate the voices of survivors and victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence and VAWG, to inform and improve the response and provision locally, by raising awareness, breaking down stigma and increasing understanding and empathy. I want to advocate for survivors, so their experiences are heard to shape service delivery and policy development and improve the lives of those affected."

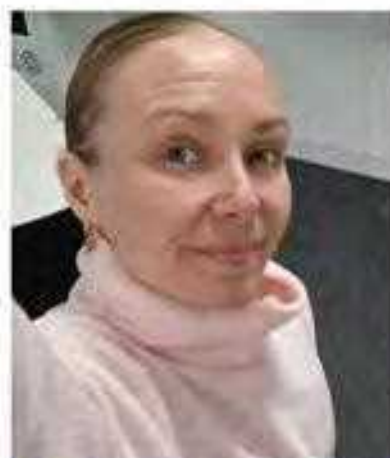
If you are experiencing domestic abuse, Croydon's Family Justice Service offers independent, confidential and non-judgemental support to people of all genders:

020 8688 0100

[fjs@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:fjs@croydon.gov.uk)

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (except bank holidays).

Outside of these hours call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247 or 999 in an emergency.



Tina Saunders, Expert by Experience Panel member

## STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE  
25 NOVEMBER - 10 DECEMBER

**The 16 days of activism aims to raise awareness and create change to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls globally.**

Together we can challenge misogyny, support survivors and end violence against women and girls.

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence, reach out for help. Find out about local support services.



**SCAN FOR SUPPORT  
OR CALL THE FAMILY  
JUSTICE SERVICE:  
0208 688 0100**



# Youth robberies drop 10% as Youth Justice Plan delivers results

**SAFER CROYDON**  
WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR A SAFER BOROUGH

**Our commitment to supporting young people is showing real results, with youth robbery down by 10% over the past year. Reoffending rates are now below the national average, and fewer children are spending time in custody – thanks to the borough's 'child-first' approach to youth justice.**

Croydon has London's largest under-19 population. Last year we supported 289 children, many facing challenges such as exploitation, mental health issues, and being out of education.

By working closely with police, schools, health services, and community organisations, we've focused on early intervention - helping young people avoid the criminal system, build positive identities, and access new opportunities. We've arranged

paid work experience through partners like Veolia Recycling and Croydon Youth Theatre and voluntary work with local charities.

One young person shared: "It feels good to be appreciated and recognised – not getting a shadow cast because of one incident but being encouraged to a better future."

Detective Inspector Sam Hart of the Met Police hopes this will offer reassurance to residents, saying: "We are seeing consistently positive outcomes for our young people on both sides of the judicial system and the collaborative relationship between partners has certainly contributed to this."

We're now extending this work into 2026, focusing on supporting girls affected by violence and addressing the overrepresentation of Black and mixed-heritage boys in the youth justice system.

Our priority is to help young people turn a corner, making the borough safer for everyone.



ADVERTISEMENT



Every year, we check the electoral register is up to date. We're almost done for this year. If you've not already responded, please do so as soon as possible.

More information  
[electoral.services@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@croydon.gov.uk)  
0300 373 0595

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**  
**DON'T LOSE IT**





# Changing our council – to provide better services for you

**We are changing our council to be more modern, efficient and cost-effective – and most importantly, to provide better services for you.**

**Since 2021, we've made a lot of progress, including:**

- our services for children and adults are both rated 'good'
- making our borough cleaner and safer, with blitz cleans, a new Town Centre Taskforce – and zero tolerance for fly-tippers and other crimes
- restoring pride in our places – investing in our town and district centres and helping high streets to thrive
- our housing services are getting better, with action to make sure all residents have warm, safe dry homes. As a result, the Regulator for Social Housing has lifted restrictions on Croydon.

We've also saved a lot of money – more than most councils in London.

But we need to do more. Croydon still has serious financial challenges – some of which are owing to historic debt, which will cost council more than £70m in repayments next year.

And like other councils we are facing more demand for essential services like social care, help with homelessness and support for special educational needs. We want to get our council in a better financial position to be more cost-effective and efficient. And we want to do this in a way that means better services for residents.

Last year we carried out on street surveys, met residents in local cafes, shops and parks and you told us you want to be able to engage with the council in a different way at times that suit you.

This means we need to modernise and use digital services so you can get help with simple queries and make payments easily online or via mobile apps, freeing up resources for us to help those who need extra support. Many of you told us that you do this in other areas of your life and that you expect the council to be able to offer this service too.

It means working with our community partners – like local charities and faith groups – to see if they are better placed to provide some of the services we deliver. They can often do this more efficiently – and residents told us they prefer to get help from people they know and trust like their local community groups and their faith groups.



It means focusing on prevention – providing you with the right information, advice and support when you are experiencing challenges, before they become crises.

We asked you what you thought about these changes in our budget engagement last year, and how we spend and save in 2026/27 will build on this. We recently carried out a residents' survey – we'll be sharing the results with you soon and your feedback will help to shape our services in the future.

In the meantime, here's some examples of the kind of changes we are making.



## Our call centre is being centralised

**We want to give residents a good service. And even though many of you have told us you prefer to access services online, we know that's not everyone. There are always times when it's necessary to talk.**

We are training our staff to be able to answer more questions at the point of call rather than diverting residents to different departments. We have started with housing enquiries and since July 70% of calls have been answered at point of contact. We have also reduced wait times significantly.



# Making it quicker and easier to get through to us when you need to

## New AI Assistant to be rolled out across council website.

Our AI Assistant is set to go live across the entire council website in November after a successful trial on our council tax and environmental services pages.

The AI Assistant - called Ask Croydon Council - quickly finds the information you need and answers your questions in an easy-to-read way, linking to the relevant pages or forms. It can be accessed 24/7 and means you don't need to spend time searching for yourself.

Essentially, it's a smarter and faster way to search than using the more traditional web pages.

Most residents have told us they prefer to get in touch with us using digital channels. Yet many of our services are still predominantly manual, paper based or fragmented - which can be frustrating for residents as they are being passed between teams, and experience long delays before getting the answers they need.

And as the council receives more than one million contacts per year, this puts immense pressure on service teams.



A lot of the questions asked are simple and can be quickly answered by the AI Assistant, freeing up time for teams to focus their efforts on more complex enquiries and residents who need more support.

We started out small with our pilot and we've seen consistently good ratings - with more than 7,000 questions answered.

We analyse the questions people ask - so we are constantly adapting the language on the website. Staff are trained to review the background information to ensure that we are constantly providing up to date and accurate information.

Now, we're ready to launch across the whole website - and you'll see the AI Assistant ready to help on the homepage. And we'll be continuing to develop and improve the Assistant all the time.

Ask Croydon Council is one example of how we are using digital, data and technology, to make it quick, easy, and convenient to access our services - at times that work for you.

# A new place to call home for Croydon's children

## Croydon will soon open a new children's home, Precious House, created in partnership with the charity, St Christopher's Fellowship.

More than just a building, it will be a safe and supportive space for local children who need short to medium-term care.

The home was named by Croydon's Children in Care Youth Ambassadors, who played a key role in shaping the project - from helping to choose the service provider to influencing the look and feel of the home. The name reflects how valued the home is to the young people it serves.

The home will focus on helping children return to family life or move into local foster care, working closely with families and professionals to avoid long-term stays in care. It's part of a wider effort to keep children connected to their communities and support them close to home.

St Christopher's, which runs children's homes across the UK, shares this vision. Many children in care are placed far from their families, but Precious House will offer a local alternative that prioritises stability and belonging.

Councillor Gatland, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People said: "The input from our Children in Care Youth Ambassadors has been invaluable. Together, with St Christopher's, we have created something that will provide real value and impact for young people in Croydon."



This new home is a key part of our wider transformation plans, making sure children with complex needs can thrive locally, while also easing pressure on council budgets from the cost of placements. It's a shining example of what can be achieved when young people's voices are heard, and we work together for a common goal.





# Five ways to boost your health and wellbeing in the New Year

**As we head towards a new year, many of us are thinking about how to feel healthier, happier, and more connected.**

Whether you want to improve your mental health, build resilience, or simply enjoy life more, the Five Ways to Wellbeing - recommended actions to boost your health - can make a real difference in your everyday life.

## Start small, feel better

You don't need to do everything at once. Pick one or two actions that feel manageable and build from there.

### 1. Connect

Strong relationships are key to wellbeing. Make time to connect with family, friends, neighbours, and colleagues.

#### Local ideas:

- Join a community group or club, attend events at your local library or invite a neighbour for a walk or a cuppa
- Take part in activities at the Men's Shed in New Addington
- Croydon Council funds creative health workshops - whether it's dance, music, crafts or gardening, these activities will help you to socialise, build confidence, have fun and feel better

[culturecroydon.com](http://culturecroydon.com)



Proper Blokes Club - Team Lloyd Park



Proper Blokes Club - Team Selhurst

### 2. Be active

Physical activity is good for your body and boosts your mood and reduces stress.

#### Local ideas:

- Explore one of Croydon's 127 parks and green spaces near you for a walk, jog, or cycle
- Croydon leisure centres offer a range of fitness activities
- Join a walking group. For example, men can take part in walk and talk sessions in Lloyd Park and Selhurst led by The Proper Blokes Club

A resident who attended the Crochet and Connect sessions for West and Central Croydon mums said:

“

It helped in my wellbeing greatly. It was a good space to relax from a tiring day of work and socialise with other mums. I always leave calm and in positive state of mind.

”



Blue Lotus Collective - Crochet and Connect





Little Harp workshop. Credit: Simon Founie

### 3. Take notice

Being present and aware of your surroundings helps you appreciate life and manage stress.

#### Local ideas:

- Practice mindfulness during your commute or lunch break - notice the sights, sounds, and smells around you
- Visit exhibitions and events at the Museum of Croydon and Fairfield Halls
- Go on a heritage walk to discover the borough's rich history
- Start a journal or take photos of things that make you smile

### 4. Keep learning

Learning new things builds confidence and keeps your brain active.

#### Local ideas:

- Sign up for courses at Croydon Adult Learning and Training (CALAT) and Croydon College
- Explore online learning platforms
- Good Food Matters supports community cooking and gardening in Croydon

### 5. Give

Helping others creates purpose and strengthens community ties.

#### Local ideas:

- Volunteer with charities like Croydon Voluntary Action, Age UK Croydon and Croydon Samaritans
- Donate items to a local shelter, food bank or help out at a community event
- Offer your time, skills, or simply a smile - kindness is contagious!

Also check out the top tips and personalised support from Live Well Croydon to help you lose weight, stop smoking and cut down on alcohol.

[croydon.gov.uk/livewell](https://croydon.gov.uk/livewell)

 **LIVE WELL**  
CROYDON

Ruth Hutchinson, Croydon's Director of Public Health:

“

The start of a new year is the perfect time to focus on our mental health and wellbeing. The Five Ways to Wellbeing are simple actions that can make a big difference. By weaving these into our daily lives, we can boost our mood, build resilience, and create stronger, healthier communities.

”

Deborah Field-Pellaw, a birth educator, facilitator and co-director at Blue Lotus Collective CIC, who ran Crochet and Connect sessions for West and Central Croydon mums said:

“

It is always a wonderful experience to create a calming space for women, and to support the mental health and wellbeing of families, especially mothers. By encouraging wellbeing, creativity, education and peer support, we provide safe spaces for learning, connection and personal growth. This helps participants build confidence, resilience and meaningful community networks.

”



New Addington Community Creative Writing Group



Scan the QR code for more information



# Give the gift of hope this Christmas

## Foster for Croydon

### A season for giving – a lifetime of impact

Many children won't get gifts this Christmas but for those in the safety of our foster homes they will get more than just gifts, they will have stability, safety and love. Whether it's clean clothes, home cooked food, decorating the tree, or sharing stories at bedtime, small moments of care can mean the world to a child who needs it most.

For many of us, Christmas is a time for family, connection, and belonging. But for some children in Croydon, it can also be a difficult reminder of what's missing.

By becoming a foster carer, you can make sure a child feels safe, cared for, and included not just at Christmas, but all year round.



*"We are committed to giving the young people the best possible chances that life can offer them. Although their past has been considerably traumatic there is no need to make it part of their future."*

**Lisa, Croydon Foster Carer**



#### Become a Croydon foster carer and receive:

- Comprehensive, ongoing training
- Professional payments
- Round-the-clock support

Call: **0300 222 2112**

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

Email: [iwanttofooster@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:iwanttofooster@croydon.gov.uk)





# FAMILY HUBS



# Now open!

## A welcoming new Family Hub space for parents, children and young people

The Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Family Hub is now open, bringing local services together under one roof, helping families grow, learn, and thrive.

Visit us at:

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Centre, 194 Selhurst Road, South Norwood, SE25 6XX

Find out more: [www.croydon.gov.uk/familyhubs](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/familyhubs)



**FAMILY  
HUBS**

**NHS**



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





# Public Space Protection Order tackling antisocial behaviour in town centre



**Croydon Council has extended its Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the town centre, to make Croydon cleaner, safer and healthier for all.**

The order sets out clear rules about what is and isn't acceptable in the area. This includes drinking alcohol on the streets, harassing people and urinating in a public place. Croydon Police are responsible for enforcing the PSPO.

Introduced in November 2022 as part of the Executive Mayor's Business Plan 2022-26, the PSPO has contributed to a 24% reduction in antisocial behaviour in Croydon town centre - without causing any measurable increase in such behaviour in neighbouring areas.

Following a six-week public consultation in which residents and businesses strongly supported the PSPO, the council renewed the order for a further three years in September.

The PSPO will be extended to include Oval Road and Park Hill Park to the east, a greater stretch of London Road to the west, and Wandale Park and Tanfield Road to the southwest following residents' feedback.

Feedback from Croydon residents, police, and businesses also highlighted concerns about the use

of amplified sound in public spaces. In response, the renewed PSPO will no longer allow the unauthorised use of microphones, loudspeakers, megaphones, and other amplification equipment powered by mains electricity or generators.

Partners including the Metropolitan Police and Croydon BID (Business Improvement District) strongly supported the changes to the PSPO.

The order supports other work Croydon is doing with its partners to tackle antisocial behaviour in the town centre through the Town Centre Taskforce.

Jason Perry, Executive Mayor of Croydon, said: "Croydon residents deserve to feel safe and proud of their town centre. The town centre PSPO has already made a real difference, and by extending and strengthening it, we're responding directly to what our community has told us they want."

"This is a clear message that antisocial behaviour will not be tolerated and we're taking necessary action to protect our public spaces and support those who live, work and visit here."

# Facial recognition leads to more arrests



Superintendent Luke Dillon, Croydon police

**Across the capital, Live Facial Recognition (LFR) has led to more than 1400 arrests since the start of 2024.**

These are criminals who were wanted by police or the courts, as well as offenders who were in breach of court-imposed conditions, such as sex offenders or stalkers.

Over 25% of these arrests were for violence against women and girls offences, including rape, strangulation and domestic abuse. The technology is helping us to be more targeted, and to identify offenders who may not otherwise have been stopped by police.

In Croydon, we are deploying this technology to help make the borough safer. We have made more than 200 arrests in the borough using LFR. Of those arrests, 150 have since been charged or cautioned. The importance of this technology was brought home when, during one of these operations, a male who had failed to attend court for possession of a knife, was stopped, and found to be in possession of a knife.

Any new technology requires careful monitoring to ensure that

it's effective, but it is also important to address community concerns around accuracy, reliability and bias. As part of our use of LFR, independent testing shows that it performs consistently across different demographic groups. If you walk past a LFR camera and are not on the bespoke watchlist, your image is not stored, it is immediately and permanently deleted.

We have recorded a false alert rate of just 0.0003%, with just one false alert out of every 300,000 people who pass the cameras. Nobody has been arrested as a result of a false alert.

Across London, four out of the 10 people falsely alerted by the system between September 2024 and 2025 were not stopped at all. The remaining six people were all spoken to by officers for under five minutes.

Here in Croydon, we continue to hold engagement sessions with residents, local community members and councillors, so you have confidence we are using this technology to make residents safer. If you have any questions about LFR, feel free to approach officers in your area who can help answer any concerns or queries you may have.



# Croydon's adult social care and health services rated 'Good'

**We're really pleased to let you know that Croydon's Adult Social Care and Health services have been rated 'Good' overall by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).**

This achievement recognises the council's commitment to delivering high-quality, person-centred care.

A priority for Executive Mayor Jason Perry is for residents to live healthier, independent lives for longer, and this assessment shows we're on the right path.

The CQC praised Croydon for listening to residents and helping them stay independent through preventative care and the least restrictive support options.

Resident Geraldine O'Shea said: "Recently I received support to get a new shower to help me get in and out of my bath. Croydon Council staff have supported me very well. They have helped me to live independently and I'm loving every minute of it."

This positive rating reflects the dedication of everyone who works tirelessly to support disabled adults, older people, unpaid carers, and anyone who needs our services.

Despite financial pressures and high demand, Croydon has made significant progress. The CQC highlighted strong partnerships with the NHS and voluntary sector, innovative health initiatives, and a deep understanding of local inequalities.

Azuka Agbai, the council's head of disability services for 18 to 65 years, said: I am especially pleased that the

hard work, dedication and commitment of our staff has been recognised by the CQC. This is a well-deserved acknowledgement of the care and commitment shown every day by our teams."

The CQC highlights some areas where we need to do better, and we're committed to making changes to improve residents' lives. This includes better support for unpaid carers and reducing occupational therapy wait times.

We will keep working with residents and partners to build on this success and improve services for all.



Adult Social Care and Health team



Geraldine O'Shea (right) with a friend (centre) and Azuka Agbai (left)



Marsh and Willow Day Services

## Work with us

**Whether you're just beginning your career or are looking for something new, we have lots of different career options and roles on offer.**

We work alongside many great partners, community organisations and resident groups - join us and make a difference in Croydon's communities. Meet Charlotte, partnership programme manager - public health.



Charlotte

“

I'm passionate about working with people and communities – that's what attracted me to my role. I love working with people in their neighbourhoods and helping them to live healthier and happier lives. Our diverse, welcoming communities make it a brilliant place to work together to create lasting change.

”

## Why choose Croydon Council?

- **An inclusive workplace:** We value diversity and inclusion. We want to be a workforce that represents our communities, where you can be yourself at work. We've maintained a 0% gender pay gap since 2022.
- **Proud to be Croydon:** Over 60% of our staff live in the borough.
- **Total reward package:** We offer competitive salaries and employee benefits, including membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), shopping discounts, and much more. We're also a London Living Wage employer.
- **Work/life balance:** We understand the importance of balance and offer roles with flexible, hybrid working options. We offer good parental leave and paid volunteering days, as well as special leave to support you when you might need it most.
- **Growing talent:** We take training and development seriously and offer on the job training and access to our diversity talent development programmes.
- **Changing for the better:** We're working to transform how we do things, to provide the best possible services to our residents. Our transformation is a chance to be part of the future council, putting customers first, investing in digital channels and restoring pride.

## Apply today

Take a look at our current vacancies. Visit: [croydon.gov.uk/jobs](https://croydon.gov.uk/jobs) or scan the QR code.





# A VERY CROYDON CHRISTMAS

FRIDAY 5 - SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER  
CROYDON CLOCKTOWER

Step into a world of festive joy as Croydon transforms into a sparkling playground of music, magic and merriment...

Expect a galloping gymkhana of pantomime ponies, crafts and creativity inside the Clocktower, a curious Christmas tree with hidden surprises, dhol drumming and kathak performance and a Dutch DJ that also makes delicious fries!



The cover artwork for this edition of *Our Croydon* has been created by Croydon-based artist and illustrator, Chantelle D'Souza.

[WWW.CULTURECROYDON.COM](http://WWW.CULTURECROYDON.COM)