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HEALTH, WELLBEING, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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LECTURER NAME: DIOLA BIJIHOUT

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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
The Sustainable Development Goals	1
Goal-3, Goal-4 and Goal-17	3
Introduction of Croydon	5
UK policies to meet the three SDGs	6
Croydon Policies to meet the 3 SDGs.....	8
Reviewing the status of Croydon to meet the 3 SDGs.....	9
Recommendations	10
Conclusion	11
References	12

Introduction

The member states of the United Nations voted in favour of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. Pradhan et al., (2017) state that the goals aim to end extreme poverty, reduce inequality, and build prosperous, peaceful societies by 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), often referred to as the Global, are a call to action for a community where no one is left behind (Sachs et al., 2016). In 2015, all member nations of the United Nations voted to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It outlines 17 objectives and 169 sub-goals to achieve those objectives.

The distinct components of these high Objectives are connected. The UN wants everyone to be happy and healthy regardless of age. This is one of their primary goals. Nevertheless, because it cuts across multiple other goals, progress toward its implementation also contributes to accomplishing those other goals (Campbell et al., 2018). The Sustainable Development Goals is a worldwide and all-encompassing agenda for sustainable development that the international community has set. This agenda builds on the SDGs' social objectives and environmental goals. This report aims to look at and discuss sustainable development goals and understand their implications and importance. Furthermore, this report shall also identify and discuss how our identified borough chosen to be Croydon, has progressed into meeting the goals set for sustainable development.

The Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals aim to create a better world for everyone, one where hunger, poverty, illiteracy and inequality would be no more. As such, 17 goals were taken up as the sustainable development goals and they are described here in brief:

- SDG-1 of the sustainable development goals focuses on reducing poverty by ensuring that developed countries get access to economic opportunities for better policies. It aims to help the impoverished and bring them out of poverty.
- SDG-2 of the Sustainable Development Goals aims to end hunger and malnutrition worldwide by 2030 through several measures, including raising agricultural productivity and the income of small-scale food producers by at least twofold, adopting resilient

farming practices, establishing sustainable food production systems, and protecting genetic food diversity (Fader et al., 2018).

- SDG-3 seeks to improve the quality of life for all people of all ages by eliminating preventable causes of death and illness—this objective place particular emphasis on reducing the high rates of disease and death among children and mothers.
- SDG-4 aims to provide everyone with a good education. This goal ensures that all students receive a top-notch education and helps them develop a lifelong love of learning (Kanuri et al., 2016).
- SDG-5 aims for gender parity in leadership roles. Promoting women's and girls' equal rights is integral to the Sustainable Development agenda. The equality of the sexes is the focus of Objective 5, which also aims to end prejudice.
- SDG-6 focuses on the distribution and provision of pure drinking water. Even though 2.3 billion people currently reside in water-stressed nations and objective 6 intends to provide water for everyone, safe water for drinking, sanitation, and hygiene is contingent on the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation (Armin Razmjoo et al., 2020).
- Goal 7 of the SDGs is to ensure reliable and affordable access to sustainable energy for all by expanding renewable energy sources, boosting energy efficiency, bolstering international cooperation in clean energy access, research, and technology, and modernising infrastructure in developing nations.
- Goal 8 of the SDGs aims to, among other things: sustain economic growth; increase economic productivity; improve resource efficiency; generate full and productive employment; increase the number of youths of working age; eradicate forced labour; protect workers' rights; promote tourism, and guarantee everyone has access to formal financial services (Olsen et al., 2014).
- SDG-9 seeks to foster the growth of productive businesses and the associated technological and institutional infrastructures. This Sustainable Development Goal aims to strengthen the manufacturing sector to be more innovative, accessible, and resilient.
- SDG-10 looks to bridge the gaps between people. This Sustainable Development Goal aims to create a world in which people from all backgrounds enjoy the same access to resources. Income disparity, refugee crises, and inequality indexes all point to the fact

that some places are far better to live in than others (Haqbeen et al., 2021). There is a massive gap between national per-capita incomes.

- SDG-11 focuses on promoting sustainable urban and community development. Through the execution of national urban planning, increased access to public places, enhanced public transit, and the eradication of slums, this goal promotes safer, more resilient, and more sustainable cities and human settlements.
- SDG-12 focuses on sustainable production and consumption (Servaes, 2017). Promoting environmentally responsible consumption and industrial practices is important because it can help mitigate climate change and other adverse environmental effects.
- Climate action, falls under SDG-13, is taking measures to mitigate climate change's unfavourable outcomes.
- SDG-14 of the Sustainable Development Agenda is to protect the marine, oceans, and seas resources for future generations.
- SDG-15 of the Life on Land project is improving land life. This includes the promotion of terrestrial ecosystems as well as the preservation, restoration, and protection of forest ecosystems (Reddy, 2016). It prevents and fixes problems, including desertification, land degradation, and species extinction.
- Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals is to "promote peace and inclusion for sustainable development and justice for all" to reduce the likelihood of conflict, ensure the safety of all people, and strengthen institutions.
- Goal 17 emphasises the importance of robust partnerships and global cooperation to accomplish Sustainable Development Goals.

Goal-3, Goal-4 and Goal-17

Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Agenda is to promote health and well-being for all people by 2030, with an ambitious goal of ending the scourges of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other communicable diseases. Seidman (2017) states that access to high-quality, cost-effective medicine and immunisations is another goal. This includes both increasing access to inexpensive drugs and supporting vaccination R&D. The third set of goals in SDGs consists of 13 specific objectives and 28 corresponding indicators to track progress toward those objectives. "Outcome objectives" comprise the first nine milestones. Reducing maternal mortality,

eliminating preventable child deaths, combating communicable diseases, reducing deaths from noncommunicable diseases, and promoting mental health, as well as preventing and treating substance abuse, lowering the number of people killed or injured on the world's roads, providing everyone with opportunities for sexual and reproductive health care, family planning services, and education, and ensuring universal health coverage. Implement the WHO's Central Themes on Tobacco Control; fund research, development, and universal access to inexpensive vaccines and medicines; expand the healthcare delivery system but instead support the healthcare systems in underdeveloped countries, and strengthen methods of early warning for global health threats (Howden-Chapman et al., 2017). Goal No. 3 of the Sustainable Development Agenda is to ensure that every individual have access to quality medical care regardless of their financial situation. It aims to end epidemics and the needless deaths of new-borns, babies, and children under the age of five.

Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Agenda is to ensure that all children and young people can participate in safe, inclusive, and high-quality learning environments (Ferguson and Roofe, 2020). Literacy and numeracy for all is a stated goal—an essential part of the educational process that leads to new insights and valuable abilities. As a result, there is an urgent requirement to expand the number of schools and improve the quality of the ones already in operation so that all students can benefit from high-quality learning conditions. There are ten sub-goals, each tracked by one of eleven indicators. Seven "outcome-oriented targets" have been established, including providing free primary and secondary education, providing equal access to quality pre-primary education, providing affordable technical, vocational, and higher education, increasing the number of people with the necessary skills for economic success, eradicating all forms of discrimination in education, achieving universal literacy and numeracy, and providing education for long-term sustainability and global citizenship (Franco and Derbyshire, 2020). Enhancing the number of professional educators in emerging nations, creating more scholarships for higher education in developing countries, and constructing and improving schools that are both inclusive and safe for all students are necessary to fulfil SDG 4.

Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (also known as Global Goal 17) focuses on working with others to achieve common objectives (Franco and Abe, 2020). Among the 17 SDGs ratified by the United Nations in 2015, "Strengthen the mechanisms of implementation

and revive the global commitment to sustainable development" is one of the official phrases. Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Agenda emphasises the importance of international cooperation to achieve all 17 objectives by 2030 (Maltais et al., 2018). It's a plea for nations to synchronise their regulations. Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Agenda envisions enhanced and equal trade in addition to coordinated investment activities to support sustainable development on a global scale. Humphreys et al., (2020) state that it is about leveraging the SDGs as a primary system and a shared vision to define a more effective and efficient path forward for international collaboration between developed and developing countries. Its ultimate goal is to facilitate a trading strategy that is open, fair, and mutually advantageous to all parties involved and to do so on a global scale by encouraging international commerce and assisting poorer nations in increasing their exports. Humanitarian crises caused by war or natural calamities have always required lots of money and help. Nonetheless, many countries need Official Development Assistant (ODA) to stimulate economic development and trade, and objective 17 can help.

[Introduction of Croydon](#)

According to Kritah (2012) Croydon is an outer London borough with Lewisham Southwark and Lambeth bordering its north and Surrey border to the south. It is London's most southern borough which covers an area equivalent 87 square kilometres. Croydon was a small market town in 1086 with about 340 inhabitants and it connects Brighton and London and from this year it has grown to become one of London's biggest commercial centres with significantly advanced infrastructures

(tram, rail, and road links) with over 120 parks and open spaces and most of London's most wealthy neighbourhoods. Croydon is the second most populous borough in London, with a total population of 386,710, and it is the fifteenth most populated district in England (Moore and Sayers, 2020). Both the County Borough of Croydon and the Coulsdon and Purley Urban District had been a part of Surrey before their merger in 1965, which resulted in forming the present-day borough of Croydon. Croydon At present, London Borough Council is a participant in London Councils, an organisation that serves as an umbrella for London's several local administrations. Croydon Airport played a significant role in the development of Croydon as a commercial centre, contributing to the city's overall economic vigour (Usher, 2019).

In 1954, 2000, 2002, and 2012, the Croydon Council and the Croydon Corporation, made efforts to make the region as a city, but this was unsuccessful at each year. Croydon Vision 2020 was then developed as a massive redevelopment project which is in a progress state, the primary objective of this vision is to support Croydon's desire to become "London's Third City" by encouraging an increase in the number of businesses and tourists visiting the area. Although most of Croydon is considered an urban region, the southern half of the municipality has substantial portions of both suburban and rural uplands. Since 2003, the Fairtrade Foundation has designated the borough of Croydon as one that practises and promotes fair trade. It was the first borough in London to get accreditation from Fairtrade when that honour was bestowed upon it. A cultural epicentre may be found in London and throughout the South East of England (Back, 2015). The liveliness of the borough is enhanced by the presence of Fairfield Halls, an important arts and entertainment centre. However, in 2012 the council decided to withdraw funding for the city's renowned fringe theatre, the Warehouse Theatre, which led to the theatre being forced into administration. The building itself was demolished the year after that. Despite Croydon's reputation for having unsightly tower complexes built in the 1970s, a significant number of people opt to live there because of its advantageous location. A dependable tram system links the neighbourhoods of Croydon and Wimbledon. In addition, an excellent shopping district can be found at the intersection of High Street and Whitgift Centre, both of which are restricted to foot traffic only. You might want to consider writing the above paragraph more succinctly.

UK policies to meet the three SDGs

To achieve Goal 3, the goal of the Home Office is for a great, independent United Kingdom where all its citizens may feel safe in their homes and communities and where they can work together constructively. Their delivery strategy specifically specifies how they will accomplish key targets, track progress, and implement changes (Fox and Macleod, 2022). To lessen criminal activity; to reduce the threat of terrorism to the United Kingdom and British interests abroad; to facilitate the lawful flow of persons and products in favour of economic growth; to ensure the safety of the public; Deal with illegal immigration, deport individuals who don't have legal status, and safeguard the helpless.

By prioritising the persons they serve directly and the taxpayers who fund its operations, the DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) can fulfil its objective of enhancing the quality of life

for current and future generations. Every day, they entrust and equip individuals to supply the services of providing quality and standard living, advice, and support

to employers, working-age people, disabled people, families, vulnerable groups, and pensioners (Griffiths, 2018). DWP's main objective is to improve the nation's reconstruction efforts. After COVID-19, they want to boost national employment to total capacity to promote economic revival by focusing on three core growth pillars which includes Innovation, infrastructure and skills through engaging short-term economic activity and achieving long-term

productivity advancement by record and skilled investment in

roads, broadband, cities, and rails as well as connecting people to opportunities, Supporting output growth through top notch skills trainings skills and

supporting and incentivising creative idea and technology development that will mould and build the UK's future high-growth,

secure and sustainable economy. (Great Britain. Department for Work and Pensions, 2021)

Deacon (2016) states that The United Kingdom's Department of Health and Social Care took measures to safeguard the public's health through initiatives such as vaccine and therapeutics development and deployment, safeguarding the country from foreign threats and new strains of various viruses, strengthening the NHS and adult social care sectors, securing the delivery of essential equipment and supplies, decreasing the spread of disease through non-pharmaceutical interventions, and implementing efficient mass testing, contact tracing, and isolation procedures.

To ensure equitable and inclusive standard education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, The United Kingdom has developed strategies to boost the economy, raise education levels across the board, provide disadvantaged children with a fair chance at success in life, and level the playing field for all citizens (Great Britain. Department of Education 2021). Their spending next fiscal year will result in significant, quantifiable progress toward four key goals. The government's goal is to spur economic expansion by helping people find and keep jobs, raising productivity, and bolstering training and education programmes. Their goal is to raise educational benchmarks across the board so that all young people in the country may enter adulthood with the necessary set of skills and credentials. To ensure that no child or young

person falls between the cracks, they want to provide high-quality local services to support those who need them the most. Their goals are to make professional and advanced educational programmes as desirable as an A-level and a three-year degree from a traditional university and to guarantee that such education and training can keep up with the demands of businesses on a local and national scale (Great Britain. Department of Education 2021).

According to (Great Britain. HM Revenue and Customs 2021) for goal 17, The United Kingdom aims to keep taxpayers happy through equal treatment and to shield its citizens from damage. During the fiscal year 2021–2022, they will prioritise helping consumers cope with the economic burden of the pandemic through programmes including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme. As the United Kingdom rebuilds stronger, it plans to do all in its power to assist businesses and individuals in getting back on their feet and supporting the economy, all while maintaining the proper collection of tax income and defending the system from fraudulent assault. One of the strategies will be to make filing taxes easier for those with uncomplicated situations while also creating more resources available to those who may require them. HMRC's Making Tax Digital and other simplified services are aimed at helping small companies and their agents. We will tailor our strategy to the more complex tax needs of big corporations and the rich. They will look out for threats, eliminate room for mistakes, and make it challenging to evade or avoid paying taxes.

[Croydon Policies to meet the 3 SDGs](#)

According to Croydon, (2022) goal No. 3 of the SDGs is to ensure that all people are in good health. The administration of Croydon borough concluded that the excessive emission of carbon in the air, which creates air pollution and has negative impacts on the health of the people living in the borough, was a key contributor to these problems. Therefore, the Croydon Carbon Neutral Action Plan was approved and ratified by the City Council on February 7, 2022. Several suggestions made by the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission are developed here. It describes how things are right now in the borough of Croydon, and how they hope to change in the future so as to reduce the amount of carbon emissions caused by activities in the area. The council recognises that reaching carbon neutrality by 2030 will be difficult and will necessitate a large, well-coordinated effort, but that doing so will help them reach Sustainable Development Goal No. 3. To further promote resident wellness, the municipality also compiled a list of suggested

workouts. The government thinks these activities would promote a healthy way of life for the populace. The Council strongly recommends that its members embrace more physically active lifestyles, such as walking and cycling. Secure bike racks have been installed on public streets, more bike lanes have been built, free cycling skills workshops have been offered to all citizens, and the city has collaborated with Transport for London and other London boroughs to create a connected cycle network. In addition, they have planned a number of walking events to get people out of the house.

In order to meet the requirements of SDG-4, that goes on to complete education in a safe environment, walkers and cyclists are given preference on particular routes that are located near schools both before and after school hours (Dalby et al., 2019). When more students and their families choose to travel on foot or by bicycle to school, there is less congestion on the roads, fewer emissions from vehicles, cleaner air, and quieter communities. Officials are confident that this measure will improve the quality of the borough's educational facilities. The government of the borough has also made sure that people who can't afford college have access to scholarship money. The result will be universal access to higher learning.

Reviewing the status of Croydon to meet the 3 SDGs

Croydon has run with a number of roadblocks in its pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), although having made considerable headway in this endeavour. Males in Selsdon, Ballards, and Selhurst have a 9.9-year greater chance of outliving their counterparts in other boroughs when it comes to expected lifespan. There are now 2,014 full-time inhabitants of the borough who are residing in temporary accommodation. The percentage of unemployment in Croydon is now at 7.6 percent, making it one of London's highest. One youngster in every ten children between the ages of 4-5 in Croydon is overweight. Croydon is home to 47,978 persons who, at any given moment, are struggling with a diagnosable mental health condition. The year 2016 saw the birth of 445 new-borns who weighed less than 2.5 kilogrammes at birth. There are around 10,041 older citizens living alone, with 5,522 of them experiencing severe levels of loneliness. 349 young people between the ages of 10 and 18 are being monitored by a group dedicated to youth justice. Only 41.7% of students achieved perfect scores on all of their GCSE exams, which range from A* to C. Alterations to housing, jobs, and food are some of the ways in which the borough might be transformed into a more desirable location to reside (Adams et al.,

2020). In Croydon, which is one of the ten percent poorest areas in the country, there are over 10,000 people who name these areas their home. 1100 infants are born into households in Croydon who are living below the poverty line every single year. People who live in places with low incomes have a greater chance of passing away at a younger age and spending a greater portion of their life in bad health. Clearly, this is not acceptable and has to be changed. Tobacco use, excessive alcohol use, improper nutrition, and a lack of regular physical exercise continue to be responsible for the large majority of deaths that could have been avoided in today's society. In most cases, the presence of two or more of these risk factors is observed in individuals who will later develop a chronic disease (Pettigrew et al., 2015).

An improvement in health requires, first and foremost, a strengthening of social and economic conditions. People living in housing that is of high quality and is affordable for them, people who are successful academically, and people who are able to keep jobs that pay well are all examples of things that Croydon does not currently have but is working towards.

Recommendations

The discussions of the Council ought to centre on the implementation of the sustainable development goals as well as safety measures. Inequality, individual characteristics, lifestyle choices, and environmental factors are all factors that contribute to preventable physiological and mental injury. It is crucial that inequality play a role in decreasing this harm since it is a contributor to the problem. It is within the ability of the Council to make Croydon a better place, one in which everyone has equitable access to resources, can make contributions that are important, and may realise their full potential, all while living longer and healthier lives. Croydon should also work on the educational system in order to favour any and every citizen including the less privileged. Integration of the different policies and implementation measures is one other subject in which the council may conduct more work. To increase the possibility that the desired objective will be accomplished, the council should be able to provide coordinated care in the environment that is most suitable for each individual, family, and community. Proceeding in this manner is the best way to ensure the people of Croydon, both those who are already living there and those who may move there in the future truly benefit from the sustainable development strategies laid down.

Conclusion

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were endorsed by the United Nations in order to solve humanity's most urgent problems on a global scale. It is absolutely necessary that the individuals who will be in charge of making choices and directing the path that society will take in the future give significant thought to this matter. This study investigates the steps taken by the British government to attain sustainable development goals, with a specific emphasis on the borough of Croydon as the focal point of the investigation. The review of the borough's policies in this report covers a wide range of areas, including health, education, and collaboration across different departments. Because of problems with unemployment, healthcare, carbon emissions, and homelessness, the borough of Croydon in Greater London, England, is having trouble meeting the sustainable development goals set for the area. In this paper, some brief suggestions are made to the Croydon council regarding how they may promote greater social cohesion and ensure that the local population has the resources it needs to develop into productive, cooperative adults. These suggestions are made in response to a request made by the Croydon council.

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