

Neighbourhood News

Issue 7

Welcome to the latest edition of Neighbourhood News. I am extremely proud to be the Neighbourhood Chief Inspector and have the opportunity to lead such a great team of people. Our monthly newsletter contains highlights of the excellent work the Neighbourhood strand continues to deliver each and every day. In this month's edition, you will also find a section on stop and search. Hopefully you will find this informative. Going forward, we plan on including updates from our Stop and Search/Use of Force Board.



Commissioner Cressida Dick's top two operational priorities are reducing violence and increasing public confidence in the Met, particularly the confidence of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. We want all communities to have the same high levels of trust in us as we work towards becoming the most trusted police service in the world. Lower levels of trust create challenges in keeping Londoners safe, whether it is a reluctance to share information, to report crime, or to support our work to tackle violence. Our ambition in the South East is to ensure that community engagement activity is focused, meaningful and authentic. This is particularly vital in areas and within communities where trust and confidence in policing are low. To tackle this, we will introduce a Community Engagement Board to oversee our engagement activity and delivery of our commitment to the Mayor of London's Action Plan.

Take care and stay safe.

Mick Chattenton - Neighbourhoods Chief Inspector

BULLETIN BOARD

Stop and Search for the South East Command Unit and Metropolitan Police Service

We are targeting and putting more resources into areas blighted by higher levels of violence and other serious crime. We use a range of tactics and legislation to tackle violence of which the use of stop and search legislation is just one element. Stop and search is highly effective at removing dangerous weapons and drugs from the streets and bringing violent offenders to justice.

However, we do not underestimate the impact that the use of stop and search has on some individuals and that it continues to cause significant concern within some BAME communities. We acknowledge there is a gap in confidence, but also know that 81% of Londoners agree that we should use stop and search and 73% are confident in our use of it (figures from the Public Attitude Survey 20/21).

A key indicator of success is the positive outcome rate which means an object or article is found during a stop and search. The SE-BCU has consistently delivered a good outcome rate, frequently above the MPS average. This demonstrates that the stop and searches are intelligence led, being carried out in the right areas and the right people being stopped to prevent violence, crime and potentially saving lives.

Live Q&A Sessions

In February, the South-East BCU will be running a live Q&A session on Twitter and Facebook to discuss ward panels and recruit further members. If you know of a ward panel chair or member who wants to take part and get involved, please email SE Social Media - and Bulletin desk Mailbox. Alternatively, speak to PC Cresswell-Nash in the Media and Communication team, who can get this set up for your teams and wards.

New Referrals to the VPC

New VPC referrals can be made through any of the coordinators, including PC Aaron Bawden (Lewisham), PC Wendy Lillie (Greenwich) and PC Lilly Brader (Bexley). Anyone between the ages of 10 and 18 years can become a police cadet. Just send the coordinators an email with the young person's contact details and they will make contact.

GREAT WORK TEAM!

Examples of great-quality work by the SE BCU Neighbourhood Teams



◆ PC Maunder and PC O'Neill were patrolling Woolwich town centre when they were informed of two males acting suspiciously on the High Street. Both males were detained and searched under Section 23 (Misuse of Drugs Act). One of the males was found in possession of cannabis and the knife on the photo, and subsequently arrested. The other male was found in possession of cannabis. Another knife off the streets! ←

◆ The Bellingham & Sydenham teams have been working hard to get a Criminal Behaviour Order in place for a previous offender. The matter was adjourned at court and the offender was told not to enter the Borough of Lewisham. After a month, there had been no breaches of the tag, but the team knew them to have connections in the Lewisham area. PC Arnott and PC Homshaw focused their patrols around Catford and Catford Bridge Stations in the hopes of catching the offender travelling in and out of Lewisham. The officers spotted the offender walking out of the station on 2nd January, and was arrested for breach of bail. This secured the necessary Criminal Behaviour Order to keep this offender from returning to Lewisham.

◆ A block of flats in Forest Hill has been subject to continued anti-social behaviour in the communal stair cases. After numerous complaints from the residents, PC Pearce wrote a letter to all of the residents asking for their thoughts and complaints regarding the ASB. PC Pearce researched the causes of the ASB and applied for a Communal Closure Order. It was granted on 1st February to run for three months, preventing anyone without a reasonable excuse from entering the premises. Any person found in breach can be arrested or charged and is liable to imprisonment up to 51 weeks or a fine. This is the first communal closure order for the South East Command Unit.



◆ On 14th January, Thamesmead East conducted a search warrant in Crowden Way, where numerous plants discovered and investigation is ongoing for prosecution against the offender. ←

◆ A local suspect has been charged with four counts of criminal damage to motor vehicle in Wynford Way on 18th December. This was a long investigation but PC Sharman did not leave any stone unturned and collected numerous evidence to ensure a charge for the offences.



◆ On 9th January, Laura Sutton (supported by officers from Eltham West, Eltham North, Coldharbour, and Middle Park) led an operation targeting drugs supply from a local address. The team found a large quantity of Class B drugs inside the address. The occupier was arrested and the investigation is currently progressing. The local elderly residents were overjoyed at the prompt police action and great team work by all wards, working together for enforcement action.

◆ The team at Bexley were tasked with Operation Avara – a joint operation with British Transport Police at Hither Green Rail Station, targeting the use of the transport network to commit crime. Plain clothes officers were watching the behaviour of individuals as they approached a knife arch situated at the station. PC Younger noticed a male immediately change direction as he saw the knife arch, and so he stopped and detained him for a search. In the males waistband PC Younger found a silver 10cm long kitchen knife and the male was arrested. The male had 71 previous conviction, including three previous accounts of possession of a knife. The investigation was dealt with by PC Scott and PC Smith. The male was charged, convicted at court and sentenced to 6 month imprisonment.

◆ On 26th January, PS Catlow led an event to mark vehicles at Queens Mary's Hospital, Sidcup after the area was targeted by thieves stealing catalytic converters. Officers from Sidcup, St Mary, St John and Longlands wards marked 68 vehicles throughout the day. The team also checked in excess of 50 vehicles which did not need marking as the catalytic converter was placed higher up in the engine. This in itself was great reassurance for the owners who had been worried about leaving their cars in the car park during their shift at the hospital. ↓



◆ Belvedere and Thamesmead Moorings were on patrol when they came across a bike dumped in the corner of the street. They were able to identify and reach out to the owner. Delighted by this, he came to recover the bike.

◆ Two Lewisham Central officers had a successful manhunt for an offender wanted for failing to appear in court, accused of possessing indecent images of children. For the past couple of weeks, the team prioritised arresting this male and conducted countless enquiries. However, PC Kaya and PC Grant took it upon themselves to go the extra step to get this male in. Initially, there was no luck at his home address but, undeterred, both officers ventured to the suspect's place of work in central London. The male was found taken to Bromley custody and taken to court immediately after.

◆ In Greenwich, Operation Swift targeted the sale of smuggled illegal cigarettes. Two premises had stock of these cigarettes and one of the premises had them hidden behind a working panel of sockets. In addition to the seizure, there were several breaches of their licence. As a consequence, a closure notice was issued. In another operation with Greenwich, Trading Standards targeted premises in Woolwich where over 300 litres of alcohol were found and seized. One of the premises has been targeted by Sergeant Cooley and the Integrated Enforcement Team, who brought the issues of drugs and anti-social behaviour at the location to the attention of the Licensing Team. ↓



◆ PC Walsh from the ASB Team obtained a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) at Bexley Magistrates Court against a juvenile, following two convictions for Possession with intent to supply Class A & B drugs. With numerous conditions put into place including positive requirements to; 1) Engage with the support offered from the Bexley Education Welfare Officer and YOS worker and 2) Engage with the St Giles Project. CBO's are an excellent way to prevent further offending and, in this case, has provide diversionary alternatives for a young person.



◆ Finally, last week an ANPR operation took place across Lewisham, Bexley and Royal Borough of Greenwich. Led by PS King as part of Operation Eckville (catalytic convertor thefts). All three boroughs took part with officers working incredibly hard from Neighbourhoods, Schools, MSC, VSU and Traffic (RTPC). The operation was a success with four people arrested for driving offences including driving whilst unfit through drink/drugs. Traffic officers from this op assisted ERPT in the vehicle pursuit of a male who disturbed in the act of committing catalytic convertor thefts and this male was arrested. This op resulted in two positive stop & searches with Com Res issued for possession of Cannabis and 4 uninsured being vehicles seized. The op was supported earlier in the day by schools officers conducting weapon sweeps which resulted in two knives being recovered from public spaces. Thank you to all who played their part in helping to keep the public safe and tackle offences by those using the roads network. →



If you have a story you would like to feature in the next edition, please send it to PC Phil Cresswell-Nash, the External Communications officer. Thank you for reading and keep up the excellent work!