

Neighbourhood News

Issue 8

Mick Chattenton - Neighbourhoods Chief Inspector

Welcome to the latest edition of Neighbourhood News which highlights some of the operational activity delivered by the teams in tackling violence, drug offences and other crimes affecting local communities across the Bexley, Lewisham and the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Great work by the teams in focusing on deterring crime and anti-social behaviour to make communities feel safer. We have held our first Community Engagement Board, attended by a range of community partners. This panel will be essential to keeping us aligned to what engagement activity our local community expects. You will all be key in delivering this across your respective areas.



In this newsletter you will not only hear of the excellent work taking place across the three boroughs, but also hear about some of the amazing staff we have working with us. At our recent staff engagement forum, you wanted to hear more about the backgrounds of our colleagues. Our officers and staff come from all walks of life and I am always thrilled to hear about your different lives- It's what makes us exceptional at what we do.

Following the Government's recent announcements last week we move to the next step of their roadmap out of the COVID restrictions. Outdoor gatherings of either six people or up to two households are now allowed. Outdoor sports, including football, golf and tennis are also permitted to resume. Progress to each incremental step depends on conditions around vaccination, infections, hospitalisations, deaths and new variants which will continue to be kept under review by the Government. This is where we can all continue to play our part. The restrictions that remain in place are there to ensure the virus is kept under-control. The police and local authorities continue to work with local schools, NHS and Public Health to ensure we can provide the correct advice to reduce the spread of COVID. Together we can all help to fight the spread of this virus. Take care and Stay Safe.

BULLETIN BOARD

Neighbourhood Watch and Ward Panel Recruitment

Over the next few months, SE BCU will be looking to increase Neighbourhood Watch and Ward Panel membership by running a recruitment drive. Live Q&A sessions have already been run on social media channels and have been a success, by numerous people starting new Neighbourhood Watch groups and joining in with ward panels. If you want to hold a live Q&A session on your ward then please make contact with PC Phil Cresswell-Nash who will guide you in this process. It is an excellent way to engage the community and reach a wide audience in a matter of minutes.

Nextdoor

If you would like to have access to the Nextdoor please email PC Phil Cresswell-Nash and he will get you signed up. Nextdoor is an easy to use system of updating your wards on what you are doing and how you are doing it. One message instantly can go out to thousands of residents, ensuring a great reach. It comes up as a notification when they are signed up and by conducting 360 feedback this system is easy and straight forward for users to update their wards, so please get in touch and start using it.

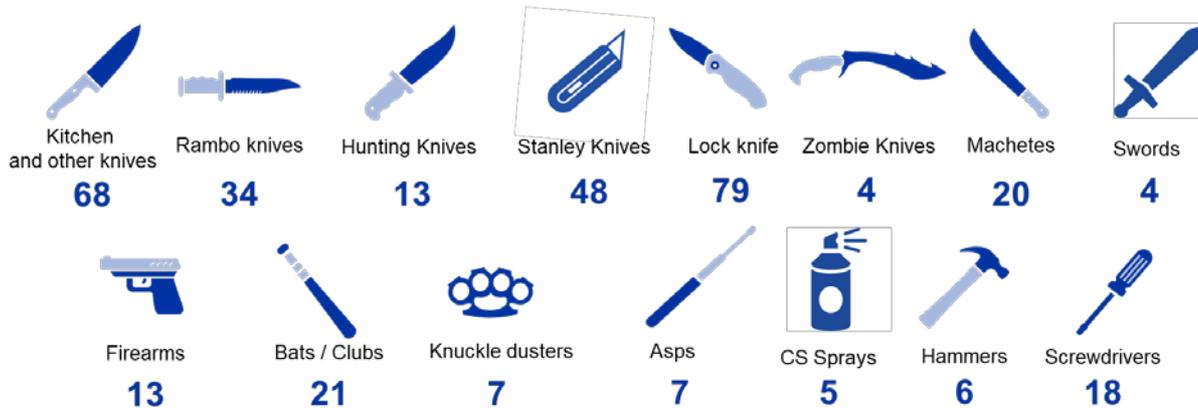
New Referrals to the VPC

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.

Stop and Search: Protecting Londoners

Stop & Search resulted in 438 weapon seizures across London in February 2021

A selection of the offensive weapons, bladed or pointed articles & firearms seized from Stop & Search are represented below:



And 91 other pointed / bladed articles or weapons

YOUTH INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP

Our three YIAGs took part in an online evening discussing use of force and the importance of accountability to ensure trust in policing. The Schools and Youth Engagement Team delivered an immersive evening simulating a Post Incident Procedure and explaining the complexities of Acute Behavioural Disturbance/Excited Delirium. The evening was supported by investigators from the Independent Office of Police Conduct (IOPC) and was well received by the young people. We are now looking to deliver this to our Adult IAGs also and have shared it with SW BCU who will be using it for their YIAGs. If you know of any Young People across the BCU who would like to be part of the YIAG, please get in Touch with PC Molly Dewar-Hassan/PC Joe Lawrance (Lewisham) or PC Darren Smith/PC Dan Sullivan (Greenwich & Bexley).

GREAT WORK TEAM!

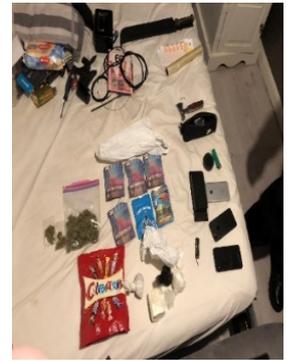
Examples of great-quality work by the SE BCU Neighbourhood Teams

◆ PC Sharman and PC Buszka from Coldharbour SNT were on patrol when they stopped a vehicle on Sandling Rise SE9. The occupants were detained for a search. However, the driver attempted to drive off. Acting quickly, the officers were able to prevent this and both the driver and the vehicle were searched. The officer found a loaded firearm, knives and a quantity of class B drugs. The driver was arrested and the investigation which is currently ongoing has been supported by Plumstead SNT. As a result of the officers' actions, these weapons and drugs were taken off the streets. →



◆ Belvedere, Thamesmead East and Thamesmead Moorings Safer Neighbourhoods teams attended an address in Belvedere for an arrest enquiry. Whilst at the address, officers were alerted by a neighbour that someone had just ran out of the venue. Officers have then entered the property and discovered 73 plants of cannabis growing in the upstairs bedrooms. Officers have then surrounded the area and the male who ran off was arrested for cultivation of cannabis. ←

◆ Last month, Kidbrooke and Hornfair led two section 28 Drug warrants with help from the Violent Suppression Unit, Eltham West, Eltham North, Eltham South Middlepark, and Bexley Neighbourhood tasking team. A large quantity of drugs and weapons were found, and three people were arrested. The investigation is ongoing but a great investigation is already showing promising results. →



◆ Last month, all neighbourhood teams across the South East came together for a day of action across the wards for Operation Dualla. Operation Dualla is a joint working operation to reduce wanted offenders on the wards, target crime hot spots and conduct patrols on key areas across all the wards in the south east. There were numerous stop and searches, vehicles seized and positive arrests. Members of the community engaged with the operation as well. ↓



◆ During plain clothed patrols PC Scott and PC Austin (Sidcup SNT) spotted a male riding a moped which had recently been brought to their attention for drug dealing in the area. They followed the moped until it stopped. Upon their approach the suspect ran off. PC Austin chased and detained him after a short foot chase. During the chase, the suspect discarded a bag stuffed with 27 bags containing herbal cannabis. He was searched and found to be in possession of almost £900 and a multi tool with a locking pointed tool. He was arrested for possession with intent to supply, points and blades and driving with no insurance. The investigation is ongoing.

◆ Safer Schools Officer, PC Arterton, has worked tirelessly to secure a conviction against a shopkeeper who sexually assaulted a 15 year old girl. The shopkeeper kissed the young girl after she said she didn't have enough money for her purchase and insisted on hugging her against her will. The young lady suffered trauma from this incident but supported by PC Arterton was able to deliver a powerful victim impact statement. The man changed his plea to guilty after 18 months. He was added to the sexual offenders register for 5 years and a Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) was issued which prohibits him from being within 100 meters of a school or being in contact with anyone under the age of 18 unless their parents are aware of his conviction. He was also ordered to pay the victim £1000 and to pay £500 in court costs. PC Arterton was insistent on not letting this case go to get the best outcome for the victim whose family are very grateful for the support. His persistence paid off.

◆ Recently, PC Robinson (Welling SNT) and Special Constable Biginton were on their route home after finishing a shift. At that time, they came across an incident on Sevenoaks Way, in Orpington. This resulted in PC Robinson arresting for theft and assault on an emergency worker. At that time, officers from SN BCU intervened and assisted PC Robinson and Special Constable Biginton. →





◆ In early March, officers from Thamesmead and Belvedere Safer Neighbourhood Team arrested a male in possession of a knife. In the early evening, officers had reason to stop a white transit van in Thamesmead. The male and his vehicle were searched and two knives were found in the van within easy reach of the driver. The male was arrested and taken back to a South London Police Station where the investigation continues. ←

◆ Charlton SNT led a warrant, with shooters, Hill and Woolwich common. Drugs were found inside the property and the investigation is currently ongoing. This is the result of joint ward work, producing very positive results.

◆ Last month, Greenwich Peninsula SNT led a warrant and was assisted by Woolwich Riverside and Greenwich West SNT. One male was arrested for possession of class B drugs with intent to supply, as well as for the possession of numerous weapons. →

◆ Officers from the SE BCU Police Licensing Teams, supported by PS Renno, PC Evans, PC Crossman and PC Butler, conducted full compliance premises license visits in Welling. Several premises were visited resulting in warning letters being issued to two premises for minor discrepancies relating to license conditions. However, one premises breached numerous conditions on the premises license. These, along with other premises license conditions, were placed on the license in 2017 by Bexley Licensing Sub Committee after the Premises License Holder/Designated Premises Supervisor had failed several test purchases of selling alcohol to under age children in contravention to the licensing objective of Protection of Children from Harm. The breaches of licensing conditions found by the Licensing Team, resulted in staff closing the premises immediately, and it remained since.



◆ In early March, officers from Eltham South and Eltham North Safer Neighbourhood Teams conducted a Traffic Operation on Rochester Way, SE9 after numerous complaints from local residents about speeding, using of mobile phones and not wearing seat belts. Four drivers were issued with penalty notices for using a phone whilst driving and one search of a vehicle for cannabis plus one driver given a penalty notice for not wearing a seatbelt. This feedback was given back to the local residents who were delighted with the action and the teams will continue with this in the foreseeable. →



◆ Recently, officers following on a break during a busy shift were able to show Stanley (three years old) to sit in marked Police vehicle with the blue lights and horn going. He loved it so much he asked to be a weekly visit! Who knows - maybe a future PC? ↓



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!

MEET THE OFFICERS!

PC Darren Smith

I'm Darren, a PC on the South East Area's Youth Engagement Team. I grew up in Penge, went to school in South Norwood, and have worked for the MPS for just over six years now. I grew up in a single parent family, as did many on my housing estate, and my childhood memories are really positive. My GCSE results suffered as a result of me being the class clown and never handing in my coursework on time – probably my main regret to this day, as I really wish I went away to university rather than drag my heels through two years of college just to keep my Mum happy! I first applied to be a Police Officer when I was 19 but was unsuccessful due to my lack of life experience. At the time, I was drifting through college, not going to class, working part-time and living week-to-week. I then worked at a busy public leisure centre for the best part of a decade, doing various roles. After that, I finally applied for the MPS again – successfully this time! I can honestly say that the last six years have been the most rewarding, challenging and enjoyable of my working years so far. I've met some amazing people, as well as found out a lot about myself – as cliché as it sounds. My resilience and patience has been tested to the maximum at times, but I have found my previous roles in customer service have prepared me well for such scenarios. Last year however, I found myself struggling with my mental health. A tumultuous period of my personal life, coupled with the pace of working in front line policing, had finally taken its toll on my mental health. Importantly, I managed to recognise that I needed help, which I received from my friends, colleagues, family and the NHS. I started to improve, more so when my avid love of cycling was rekindled – which enabled me to feel and look physically fitter, more confident and regain my lust for life, and even raise £1,183 for Cancer Research UK!



In the midst of this difficult period, the Black Lives Matter movement became more and more present. As a mixed race person, I found myself in a quite difficult but also privileged place. For every negative response to the BLM movement on social media, I'd come across another person who was willing to listen and accept that things in our country aren't quite where they need to be. Many people close to me were not aware of the racism that I had witnessed or suffered over the years. I will never fully understand what it is like to live the life of anyone else – apart from my own life. I have accepted that no one will ever know what it is like to live my life, and some people will choose to refuse to acknowledge that others experience different and difficult situations. Some people will only ever see me as a mixed race person and have their own pre-conceived ways of how I talk and act. The most important thing is that I do not allow other people's opinions to influence or define who I am today – and I won't!

PC Louise Savage-Knight

Kia Ora! I am PC Louise Savage-Knight, a Safer Schools Officer in Lewisham. I have a very varied background prior to policing. I am a Kiwi, originating from New Zealand with mixed Maori heritage. At the end of my schooling I attended the New Zealand Police College open day and was due to pursue a career there, when I was offered a job presenting children's television. I took that opportunity, which then led to an opportunity presenting a TV show in Australia. I moved to Australia and when working there was asked to come over to London to work at London Fashion Week as a model. I came over to London many years ago now, but didn't enjoy modelling – so decided to become a stuntwoman in film instead. I have doubled for some of Hollywood's leading ladies in feature films – including *Gladiator*, *The New Avengers*, *High Heels and Low Lives*, *The Golden Bowl*, *Birthday Girl*, *The Hours*, but to name a few, as well as doing some other acting bits. I have been animated into a computer game and appeared in Beano and on TV in an ad for a sweet brand with a child actor called Kit Harrington (now famous for *Game of Thrones*!). In between filming projects I have been a licensee for bars and clubs around West London, lived in Monaco for a year as Curator for a new contemporary Art gallery, managed guest lists at private members clubs in Knightsbridge and led a very busy life! I then had two children, and decided then that I would work around them, so set up a successful childcare business, also working with my local council to set up a respite foster programme for children living below the poverty line. I moved just outside the M25 and once my children were settled into their respective schools, came back to my original plan of being a Police Officer and serving the community.



I love my job. I believe that the biggest sea of change comes from small ripples, and we can all make positive contributions to the world in which we live. I look forward to seeing you all when I'm out and about.