

‘PCSO Steve’ and ‘PC Lee’ attend children’s hospital fun day

Officers from Lambeth’s South Bank team recently held a police fun day for the children at Evelina children’s hospital in mid-April.

The team is based within St Thomas Hospital and is made up of one Police Sergeant, two dedicated hospital liaison officers, one Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) liaison officer, four Counter Terrorism patrol PCs and two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

During the fun day, officers gave presentations on road safety, which highlighted the importance of the green cross code and created awareness of the emergency 999 number and when it should be used.

They also displayed the equipment they carry and the different types of uniform, including riot gear. The children were able to learn about rank structures, the phonetic alphabet and the Airwave police radios. The children were able to take each others fingerprints and interact with police asking any questions they wished.

Older children were given information on the Police Cadets, which is a uniformed voluntary youth organisation, supported by the Metropolitan Police Service. This is open to young people aged between 14 -19 years old and is an exciting way to meet wonderful people, pick up valuable skills whilst having a great time.

To the delight of the younger children PC Lee and PCSO Steve were also in attendance to judge a colouring competition and help make mock police badges.



Police Constable Paul Bidgood said:

“This was a great opportunity for the younger children to get to know their local police officers and learn about the Metropolitan Police Service. It has been a fun day for everyone at the Evelina Children’s Hospital”.

Women empowered by self-defence classes to tackle crime

Gipsy Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team (Lambeth borough) in response to a request raised from their ward panel members arranged a series of self-defence classes in partnership with David Green, Chairman of the Ward Panel.

The classes were held on Monday evenings from 6:30pm till 8:30pm at Emmanuel Church on Clive Road during a two-week period in April. They were organised by PCSO Gerry Jeary, PCSO Victoria Williams and David Green for women who live in the Gipsy Hill Ward and is a first for Lambeth Safer Neighbourhoods team's to deliver.

The instructors teaching the self-defence techniques are trained professionals and encourage the class to imitate their moves before dividing the women into pairs to practise on each other.

All attendees had to complete a simple medical questionnaire to reflect their physical fitness to complete the class.



PCSO Gerry Jeary advises she organised the classes to empower women and states:

"When speaking to ladies and victims of crime, their personal safety was their biggest fear, so we wanted to empower women in a practical way to feel more confident when travelling alone. I am absolutely delighted at the response to our classes and we hope to expand it further".

Kids get safety-savvy in the sun

West Twickenham Safer Neighbourhoods team (Richmond borough) have given local youngsters crime prevention tips at a fun day organised in partnership with Richmond Housing Partnership (RHP).

Children from six years of age to eleven years of age gathered for the fun day at Glebe Gardens Community Centre, Twickenham, in mid-April.

In addition to meeting their local police team, they:

- had their faces painted
- played on bouncy castles
- took part in arts and crafts activities
- enjoyed free drinks and food



Sergeant Marcus Moore, of West Twickenham Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"Activities like this ensure that West Twickenham Safer Neighbourhoods team is visible in the local community and able to provide bespoke advice to young people. The sun was blazing, and in between jumping on the bouncy castle and getting their faces painted, children from the ward stopped by the Safer Neighbourhoods stand to learn more about safety and pick up free crime prevention goodies, including educational storybooks and balloons.

"We're really grateful to RHP who asked us to join in with the fun day. We have an excellent relationship with them and by doing things like this, together; we are helping improve the safety and quality of life for youngsters in the ward.

“Events like this give us a chance to connect with the ward's future generations at an influential age to teach them the difference between right and wrong. It also allows us to show youngsters that the police aren't scary – we're here to help keep them safe”.

Sue Honey, Butts Farm Community Development Co-ordinator, said:

"Initiatives like this are important for giving our younger residents a positive focus and an opportunity to have some real fun! The Safer Neighbourhoods team helped make the day a really memorable one for some local young people. It was also great to have RHP's Urban Academy there, who offered young residents the chance to get involved in a host of sporting activities at minimal cost”.

Two-day operation successfully tackles crime

A two-day operation run by Hillingdon police in the Barnhill ward is being heralded a success with results that included the arrest of a wanted man and six vehicles being seized.

The operation was run by Safer Neighbourhoods teams from Hayes and neighbouring wards over a two-day period in mid-April to combat crime in the area. Specialist traffic officers were also deployed to assist with tackling vehicle crime. A CCTV bus was sighted nearby to monitor general activity in the area.

Police set up their units with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) equipment in Yeading Lane on both days and identified vehicles being driven without insurance and/or other than in accordance with a driving licence. Other police databases were also used to check records and to stop drivers.

The main aims of the operation were to provide public reassurance with police presence, disrupt those using vehicles to commit crimes, target uninsured vehicles and provide support to residents and businesses with crime prevention advice.

The operation resulted in:

- 46 vehicles stopped over the two days
- 6 vehicles seized (five for no insurance and one for driving not in accordance with a driving license)
- 1 person was issued with a £80 PND (penalty notices for disorder) for possession of cannabis
- 1 man was arrested who was wanted for fraud
- 1 man was arrested for driving offences and fraud
- 2 men were issued with producers by the council for failing to provide a license for carrying waste
- Over 1000 crime prevention leaflets delivered to local residents
- Appointments made with a number of local residents for home security surveys

A crime prevention bus was situated on Uxbridge Road and officers gave advice to local residents and listened to their concerns. In particular, crime prevention messages were given on home safety and preventing vehicle crime.

As the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) from the Safer Neighbourhoods teams carried out foot patrols in the local streets they delivered crime prevention leaflets. Houses were also observed to detect if they were vulnerable to burglary and appropriate advice was given to residents as necessary.

Council officials also attended on one of the days to check licenses of waste carriage traders. Sudhir Bhatt, Senior Street Scene Enforcement Officer, explained that waste carriers need to have a licence in order to carry waste as a business. These licences are issued by the Environment Agency. A producer notice is issued to anyone who is not carrying a licence and given seven days to produce. If they fail to do so a fixed penalty of £300 is issued. Two van drivers were issued with producers.

Acting Inspector Mike Grady, of Safer Neighbourhoods team North Cluster, who was in charge of the operation said:

"Criminals do not recognise area boundaries when they commit crimes. Major road networks are often used by criminals escaping from scenes of crimes such as burglary. ANPR operations help to deter as well as tackle those with wrong intentions. This operation will have had some impact and also reassured the public that we are committed to keeping crime low".

"If you do not insure your car you run the risk of having it seized, a £200 fine, six penalty points on your licence, £150 tow away charge, £17.50 for each day your car is in storage and your future insurance premium is likely to increase substantially".

Counsellor John Major said:

"I am delighted to see the work that was done by a highly professional team of people. I am also encouraged and reassured that the police are listening to the concerns of the local residents and taking action. We have a close relationship with the local police and look forward to continuing this in the future".

Partnership work catches out illegal traders

Last year, the police and Council received a number of complaints relating to late-night illegal trading.

To help prevent such issues causing problems in the current year, Council enforcement officers have joined forces with Queensbridge Safer Neighbourhoods team (Hackney borough) to conduct high-visibility patrols and take action against those found trading illegally; these patrols will continue throughout the summer months.

In mid-April, Queensbridge Safer Neighbourhoods team conducted an operation in partnership with Council enforcement officers to pro-actively address unlicensed street activity and anti-social behaviour.

As a result of intelligence gathered following police investigations and consultations with Market stallholders and local residents, officers attended Broadway Market in E8, junction with London Fields in E8.

Throughout the joint operation, a number of unlicensed traders were spoken to and moved on. Traders were educated accordingly. Council enforcement officers also seized a number of items.



Sergeant Christopher Scott, of Queensbridge Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"This joint operation sent out a clear message to illegal traders in Hackney, that they will not be tolerated on the borough and illegal traders will be prosecuted where necessary".

'Week of Action' a success!

St Pancras and Somers Town Safer Neighbourhoods team (Camden borough) carried out a Week of Action in partnership with Camden Council which ended at the beginning of April.

The aims and objectives of the week were to engage with members of the community, understand the issues directly affecting the community and to conduct enforcement patrols.

The week of activities included a "Stranger-Danger" talk at Edith Neville School, a door-knocking event at Levita House, education and enforcement to tackle unsafe cycling on pavements, dog fouling clean ups, street briefings at Amphyll Square and the Chalton Street market, a safety and well-being event with elderly residents at St Pancras Community Centre and a school visit to Richard Cobden Primary School.

Some of these activities were carried out as a result of information provided by the community. Edith Neville School reported that they were having problems with pedal cyclists cycling on the pavement outside the school and putting children at risk as they were entering the school. As part of the education and enforcement to tackle unsafe cycling, 12 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued to cyclists by police.

Staff at the school stated that this had a positive effect and they have not seen a cyclist on the pavement since the week of action.

The final day of the week saw St Pancras and Somers Town Safer Neighbourhoods team together with officers from the Mounted Branch, Traffic Unit, Air Support Unit, British Transport Police's dog section and council street wardens visit Richard Cobden Primary School.

This gave the children an opportunity to understand the different roles within the police and to improve relationships between the police and community.

The Associate Head teacher at Richard Cobden Primary School said:

"It was no mean feat to entertain and enthral every one of our 453 children. The school has been buzzing with excitement about the role of the police since the event, and not surprisingly you have gained a huge number of fans. For many children the helicopter flying overhead caused the most excitement. It was only when the pilot waved to us enthusiastically that our pupils could be persuaded that this was not just a coincidence, but the helicopter visit has been arranged specially for us".

Sergeant Gary McGovern, of St Pancras and Somers Town Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"Having liaised with Council Partners involved in the planning of the week of action, there was some very positive feedback from older residents; the cycling enforcement and school events and Levita House door-knocking event which sought the views of anti-social behaviour and other issues that currently affect the area. Clearly the week had the intended positive community impact. Overall it was a very successful week and we plan to hold similar events in the future".