SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS
LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Operation Freshview targets improved livelihood

At the end of July, Prince's Safer Neighbourhoods team (Lambeth borough) in partnership with Lambeth Metropolitan Police's Licensing Unit and the local authority targeted their efforts at Spring Gardens in SE11 as a way of improving the local environment, addressing community concerns about safety and tackling highlighted licensing issues.

Prince's Safer Neighbourhoods team officers used the mobile police station as a base from which to listen to the concerns reported by members of the public, while advising them on valuable crime prevention tips. Officers distributed Ultra Violet (UV) marking pens to mark property such as bicycles in case they are stolen. Officers would be able to return the property by finding the UV mark that is unseen to the naked eye.

Accompanied by the Safer Neighbourhoods team, the Licensing Officers visited the shops along Kennington Lane junction with Tyers Street and Glyn Street in SE11 and spoke with the license holders to warn against selling cans of beer individually but in four packs as the supplier intended. They also warned the shopkeepers to not sell alcohol to already intoxicated people that could lead to incidents of public disorder.

Operation Freshview then led the Safer Neighbourhoods team and Local Authority Environmental Enforcement Officers to patrol the local roads conducting a 'clean sweep' by removing drug paraphernalia while awarding fixed penalty notices to those seen to be littering or allowing their pets to foul the public walkways.

PC Sean Hannon, of Prince's Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"This operation was well received and exemplary of the positive working partnership we have with the Local Authority to answer the concerns brought to our attention.

METROPOLITAN POLICE

NEW SCOTLAND YARD

"We were able to engage with many members of the local community to offer them advice and support to securing their personal property.

Together we will make our borough of Lambeth a safer and great place to be."

3rd Gidea Park Scouts in Custody

Scouts from the 3rd Gidea Park group were recently given a tour of the custody facilities at Hornchurch Police station by officers from Pettits Safer Neighbourhoods team (Haringey borough).

The visit included a role play scenario during which a "drunken" PCSO Carl Simonovitch was "arrested" for an offence under the Public Order Act.

Sergeant Paul Crosby, of Pettits Safer Neighbourhoods team, explained the custody procedure and gave everyone a tour of the custody facilities.

The initiative was part of the Police Community Scout badge.

PCSO Shirley Hibbs said:

"The day was a great success with all the Scouts asking many interesting questions".

Operation Fallon cuts crime in Clapham

A major operation, which was organised by Ferndale Safer Neighbourhoods team (Lambeth borough), was carried out at the beginning of August to reduce crime in Clapham.

Operation Fallon, mounted in support of Operation Agile, which is the borough's response to tackling most serious violence and the general increase in crime on the Clapham night-time economy over Friday and Saturday evenings. Operation Fallon is one of the largest policing operations ever carried out south of the borough and saw 25 people arrested. A total of 133 people were stopped and searched, 30 people given cannabis warnings while having their drugs seized and a further 25 arrested.

The operation has been used in other London boroughs after seeing success in the reduction of crime. This saw 133 people being stopped and searched for drugs, weapons and stolen property and 25 seizures of alcohol made, while 1,687 passengers had their tickets checked on the buses and ten penalty fares issues were administered.

Over 100 officers from across the Metropolitan Police Service including the Territorial Support Group (TSG), Dog Unit, Special Constables, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and borough officers were deployed, leading to 25 arrests for a range of offences including drugs and public order.

A range of innovative tactics were used throughout the operation including a large outdoor search facility that was built as a temporary structure on Clapham Common nicknamed 'Search City' to allow privacy for the detained person and for officers to carry out a thorough search.

Chief Inspector Sian Edwards, said:

"Lambeth Metropolitan Police and our partners listen to the concerns of the community and are determined to keep people safe in Lambeth.

“We will not tolerate anti-social behaviour of any form and will use our expertise to combat these challenges. This operation sends a clear message to come to Clapham, enjoy yourselves but if you choose to engage in criminal activity, you will be dealt with.”

TSG Inspector Paul Wakeford said:

“Operation Fallon has had amazing success all over London by tackling street crime that is intrinsically linked to drugs and alcohol misuse. Its use in Clapham has been to further enhance the superb work already taking place. The purpose built ‘Search City’, streamlined processes and intelligence led patrols, we can quickly filter large numbers of suspects and identify those committing crime and deal with them.

“Ultimately, we wish to make the social scene here safer for everyone and reducing crime, arresting offenders and having a meaningful presence is what the public expects from the police. I think our results clearly show this.”

Stockwell Local Policing Team bowls over young children with cricket match

At the beginning of August, as part of the Metropolitan Police Service’s commitment to engage with young people and to work in partnership with the local community, Lambeth’s Stockwell Local Policing Team took a group of young people to the Kia Oval Cricket Ground to watch the Clydesdale Bank 40 match between the Surrey Lions and the Northants Steelbacks. This was to promote the sport to young people, while affording them a diversionary experience during their school summer holiday.

The children aged 13-15 years were from the local schools, Archbishop Tenison and Stockwell Park High and attended the grounds with their school teachers and their local police officers.

The tickets were generously given by the Kia Oval to be distributed to deserving students that were well behaved and achieved merits for their school work or displayed a keen interest for the sport as a member of their school’s cricket team to experience the sophisticated sport at a world class venue.

Surrey County Cricket Club and Stockwell Local Policing Team have been piloting this scheme to provide an engagement for young people. Cricket is a diverse sport contested by players of numerous ethnic and cultural backgrounds and would offer children an opportunity to see some sporting idols in action while focusing on a healthy and positive activity.

PC Luke King, of Stockwell Local Policing Team, who helped to organise the event said:

“The Stockwell Local Policing Team is always looking for ways in which to promote youth diversion and encourage alternate ways for the young members of the local area to spend their time.

The young people enjoyed themselves immensely and the trip was a success in offering them something new while strengthening the relationship between the community and police.”

Steven Blackwood from Surrey County Cricket Club said:

“Surrey’s commitment to helping engage with young people from the local community is ongoing and tickets to matches are a valuable way to reward them and hopefully provide a new audience for the club in the future.

We hope that they continue to participate in other cricket programmes in the future. We also look forward to continuing this relationship moving forward.”

Police give reassurance talk to community

In mid-August, Safer Neighbourhoods team officer Chief Inspector Taff Thomas (Brent borough) and Brent Prevent Engagement officer PCSO Sharmila Stavrou attended the Shree Sanatan Hindu Mandir on Ealing Road to speak to the congregation of about 80-100 people to provide reassurance in light of the recent events that have taken place.

Chief Inspector Taff Thomas spoke of the recent events that took place and gave a talk about the pro-active policing that has taken place in Brent. He spoke about the pockets of criminal activity Brent suffered and the arrests made. The community were made aware of the importance of staying vigilant and reporting any disturbances or information they may have concerning any criminal activity.

PCSO Sharmila Sravrou was able to translate into Gujarati all that was being said, as a large number of the community who attended did not have English as their first language and found it difficult to understand.

The community said they felt safe in Brent and it was great to see so many officers on the street.

PCSO Sharmila Stavrou also attended the Sikh Centre in Stag Lane in mid-August with Queensbury Safer Neighbourhoods team (also Brent borough) to provide a similar message. There were more than 200 people present.

They too were very happy with the way Brent police have kept the streets and shops safe during the difficult times seen. They also expressed their gratitude for the police attending and to all the police officers that had been working all the long hours to keep Brent a safe place to live and work.

During the talks, crime prevention advice was issued around personal safety and gold jewellery thefts. Leaflets were distributed and contact numbers were provided to the relevant Safer Neighbourhoods teams for the community to get in touch with for further advice.

Chief Inspector Taff Thomas said:

“I was pleased to be able to go into the temple and speak to the community to offer reassurance on events over the past ten days. I would like to thank the community for the support they have given the police. Brent remains a safe borough to live and work in.”