



September 2010

SAFER kingstonNEWS

Welcome to the 2010 Safer Kingston Partnership newsletter

Many thanks to all readers of the 2009 Newsletter who completed the Reducing Crime Together Survey. We had a record number of surveys returned to us with four times more responses than usual. We hope the survey enclosed will prove as popular.

Responses to the survey are fed into the Safer Kingston Partnership Strategy Group and are used to define partnership priorities for the forthcoming year. Make sure you have your say this year by completing the enclosed survey. If you prefer, the survey can be completed online at: www.kingston.gov.uk/reducing_crime Closing date for the survey is 17th October 2010.

What we've done Last year key messages you told us about in the survey included concerns about anti-social behaviour (particularly by youths), irresponsible cycling across the borough and burglary of homes.

Young People

Respondents to the 2009 survey expressed concerns about groups of young people, often misusing alcohol and behaving in an anti-social manner. Key initiatives in preventing further disruption by young people are the interventions which stop anti-social behaviour turning into criminality. Kingston has a good record of lowering numbers of first time entrants (FTE)

to the criminal justice system and this trend continues. In 07/08, there were 156 FTE's. This fell to by 15% in 08/09 and fell again in 09/2010 by 31%. The target for 2010/2011 is just 87 FTE's and year to date figures indicate that this on target. Kingston's Youth Clinic which focuses on the first time entrant youth population has been recognised as an example of best practise.

Community Payback



In Kingston, we believe that those persons who commit crime in our area should be seen to be paying their debt to the community. We are strong advocates of the community payback scheme in which offenders

perform physical work to improve selected areas of the borough. There are numerous examples of the good results that this scheme has brought to the borough.

Anti-Social Cycling

These concerns have been robustly addressed through an anti-social cycling campaign managed by local Safer Neighbourhood and Safer Transport Teams.

This campaign resulted in 225 stops of cyclists who were riding anti-socially, 217 instances of cyclists being given words of advice and the issue of 8 Fixed Penalty Notices. The campaign will continue throughout 2010.



Burglary initiatives

Kingston Borough is currently the safest London borough (by a considerable margin) but combating burglary remains a key priority for Kingston Police. Over the last year a significant number of initiatives and resources have been dedicated to reducing this crime type. Initiatives include: Intelligence led mapping of burglary offenders and vulnerable locations, leading to known offenders being targeted with overt and covert operations. Leafleting houses and businesses with crime prevention advice, monitoring of key routes into/out of the borough and the revival of Neighbourhood Watch schemes have all been effective in limiting the number of offences. These initiatives ensured that the increase in burglary offences across the country has been avoided in Kingston.

If you have difficulty reading this document because of a disability or because English is not your first language, we can help you. Please call our helpline on **020 8547 5757** or ask someone to call on your behalf

PARTNERSHIP PLAN SUMMARY
PAGE 2

HOW WE'VE DONE
PAGE 3

BE SAFE AND STAY SAFE
PAGE 4

Our focus for the final year of the 2008-11 Plan will be the themes set out below:

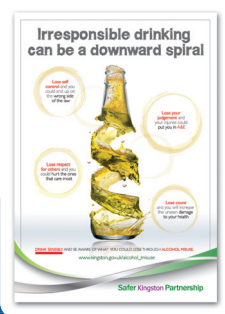
Selection of these themes this will not displace everyday activities by the Partnership agencies. These themes provide a focus of activity which can be readily measured and timed. This will enable you to see how we are doing and progressing against specific targets rather than randomly responding to incidents and events. This targeted approach will also enable us to be more successful in reducing Crime, Disorder, Substance Misuse and Re-offending.

Anti-social behaviour

New initiatives to address anti-social behaviour have been put in place in the last year across the borough. These include problem solving training for key partners, greater joined up working between agencies to which ASB is reported, improvement in the shared ownership of ASB problems and the establishment of minimum standards for ASB responses. These initiatives are designed to improve response times to ASB issues, promote a multi-agency solution and increase the confidence of victims of ASB. Residents of Kingston have one of the lowest levels of perception of anti-social behaviour across London and these figures are improving.

Alcohol misuse

The majority of people in Kingston who drink alcohol will not experience any problems. However, there will be some members of the local community who do experience problems as a result of their own or someone else's drinking. Our objectives are to reduce levels of alcohol related crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and re-offending and publicise our success. In addition, we provide information, advice and



Domestic abuse and hate crime

Kingston has one of the lowest levels of domestic violence amongst the 32 London boroughs and numbers are reducing. In relation to Hate Crime, surveys have shown that more than eight in ten Kingston residents agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together, with 73% feeling that their local area is a place where residents respect ethnic differences between people. Kingston is committed to increasing the confidence of victims of both domestic abuse and all forms of hate crime to report offences, holding perpetrators accountable for their actions and bringing them to justice.

Violent crime

Kingston has consistently reduced the number of 'Violence against the Person' offences over the last few years. The Partnership initiatives include; proactive policing

and targeting of known offenders, marshalled taxi ranks and mini-cab kiosks, a Night-time Town Centre Manager, 'Best Bar None', 'Behave or Be Banned', and Street Pastors. The reduction of knife crime continues to be a priority in Kingston.

Crime by and against young people

Two key targets are to reduce the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system and to reduce the rate of re-offending by young people. Kingston's performance remains strong in reducing the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system and amongst under 18's, there has been a 52% reduction in re-offending compared with last year. We are also working to reduce drug and alcohol related harm to young people. Kingston remains a safe place for young people to live, with lower levels of recorded crime than most local authorities in London.

Drug abuse

Kingston's Strategic Partnership for Alcohol and Drugs (SPAD) is a multi agency partnership responsible for implementation of the national drug strategy. Its vision is to reduce drug and alcohol related harm to individuals, their families and the local community. This will be achieved by working with the community to identify key local issues relating to drug and alcohol misuse, commissioning effective drug treatment/support services and implementing interventions to break the cycle of drug misuse, offending and prison.

publicity which informs the public about sensible drinking and alcohol support services.



Burglary

This is a new priority area identified by last year's Reducing Crime Together Survey. Although the level of burglary in Kingston remains low we are not complacent about this and will continue to robustly tackle these offences.

How did the Partnership perform in 2009/10



Kingston achieves double award

At a national awards ceremony held on Thursday 21st January, Kingston achieved a unique first by being awarded the national Purple Flag to add to the Green Flag awarded in December 2009.

The Purple Flag is a recognition given by the national Association of Town Centre Managers of the successful management of the night time economy in Kingston Town Centre. In assessing locations for Purple Flag status the judges looked for town centres that are clean, safe, well cared for and which provide a diverse offering of shops, bars, restaurants, clubs and cultural activities.

The Green Flag, awarded by the Audit Commission, recognised areas where the partnerships are working successfully or being innovative. Kingston received its flag for continued joined up working to reduce violence in the town centre and make it a safer environment for all users.

Kingston is safer!

Once again in 2009/2010 there has been a reduction in overall crime in the borough - down 2.4% or 267 fewer victims than in 2009/2010. The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames continues to be the safest borough in London. The highlights contributing to this fall in crime have been:

- Most Serious Violence offences (down 11.4%) and Serious Youth Violence down 25 offences versus last year.
- Offensive Weapons offences (down 52.5%).
- Robbery (down 2.6%)
- Drug Offences (down 12.1%)
- Motor Crime (down 27.8%). Thefts of motor vehicles are down 113 offences and theft of property from motor vehicles down 186 offences.
- Criminal Damage (down 5.4%).

- Knife crime is down 21 offences compared to 2009/2010.

Residential Burglaries are up 36 offences, but this is against a backdrop of a nationwide increase in burglaries. Despite this, Kingston has the lowest number of burglary offences of all London Boroughs.

This suggests that the various initiatives in place to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour have been highly effective. See 'unique double award' article on this page.

Street Pastors

Street Pastors is an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care, listen, dialogue and help.

Street Pastors Kingston are a key partner in the initiatives targeted at making the town centre a safer place for all. Street Pastors Kingston continues to go from strength to strength. There are now 44 street pastors in the team,

three pastors have just finished training and the training of a further nine pastors is underway. Twenty seven different churches are represented in Street Pastors Kingston. During the last year Street Pastors Kingston have:

- Calmed 46 Aggressive incidents
- Supported 334 vulnerable people
- Given out 147 pairs of flip flops
- Given First aid 36 times
- Given out 65 heat retaining blankets
- Collected 6964 bottles
- Helped 41 people to transport
- Given directions to 90 people
- Spoken to 3699 people
- Called CCTV 128 times

Fire Safety

Fires in Kingston continue to remain at a low level. However, the aim is to reduce the number of fires in the borough even further. The prevention of fires in the home is a key priority as, across London, this is where most of the fire related deaths and injuries occur. The London Fire Brigade offers free Home Fire Safety Visits; see page 4 for details on how to arrange your free visit from local fire officers.

Be Safe and Stay Safe



Prevent yourself from becoming a victim of crime

by taking a few simple precautions. Further advice can be found at www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention or by contacting Kingston's Crime Prevention Officer on **020 8721 5880**.

Home

- Make sure windows, doors and other access points such as garden gates are locked.
- Never leave your door or vehicle keys in sight of the front door and where possible keep valuables out of sight.

Useful Contacts

Anti-Social Behaviour
Safer Kingston Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator – **020 8547 5031**

Environmental Services Contact Centre; for calls about graffiti, abandoned vehicles etc - **020 8547 5560**

Environmental Health; for calls about noise, pollution, animals, etc **020 8547 5536**

Domestic Violence
24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline - 0808 2000 247 or Kingston Police Community Safety Unit - **020 8721 5857**

Drug Misuse Talk to Frank – **0800 77 66 00**

Hate Crime - Kingston Police Community Safety Unit - 020 8547 5859 or Kingston Racial Equalities Council – **020 8547 2332**

MET Police Non-Emergency number – **0300 123 1212**

Dial 999 if there is an emergency where you or someone else are in immediate danger, or if a crime is taking place.

Personal Safety

- Always have a plan of how you are getting home. Stick with a friend and keep to main routes to get home.
- Stay alert; be aware of what is going on around you and try to avoid wearing headphones.

Sensible Drinking

Excess alcohol consumption is a major health issue in the UK and Kingston is no different. As many as one in four people drink at levels which will increase the risk to their health. Excessive or 'binge' drinking often results in additional resources like Police and Ambulance being deployed to deal with people who have lost control and injured themselves or others or become involved in anti-social behaviour.

Current guidelines suggest that a man should drink no more than 3-4 units a day and a woman no more than 2-3 units a day. Three units is one pint of Cider, one 250ml glass of Wine or one pint of Lager.

Here are some tips that could help stop you getting drunk and into dangerous situations:-

- Eat something before you begin drinking.
- Don't try and keep up with friends who drink more than you.
- Drink water during the evening and before bed.

For more advice on sensible drinking visit

<http://www.kingstonpct.nhs.uk/Ma naging-alcohol.htm>

Christmas

- Make sure you lock your front and back door, even when you are at home.
- Don't put presents under the tree until Christmas Eve, and don't leave wrapped presents in view from windows.
- Don't hide expensive presents in sheds or garages.
- When disposing of packaging for expensive presents. It would be a good idea to take any large boxes for recycling yourself.
- Note the serial numbers of new electrical items or frame numbers of new bicycles and register them free at www.immobilise.com

Get a Home Fire Safety Visit

The London Fire Brigade carries out free home fire safety visits for residents in the borough. They will also fit a free smoke alarm where needed. If you would like a visit, or would like to arrange a free home fire safety visit on behalf of family or a friend (please check with them first), contact the London Fire Brigade:

- free on **08000 28 44 28**
- emailing them at smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk

For further tips on how to stay safe please visit www.london-fire.gov.uk.

Vehicle

- Keep your vehicle locked and secure; even if you are leaving your car for only a few seconds. Closing the windows and sunroof, and locking the doors deters opportunist thieves.
- Never leave items on view in the car; remove mobiles, laptops, sunglasses, radios, SatNav devices and anything else you value from the car. Also remove the SatNav sucker mark from your windscreen.