

KCPP Update

The Newsletter of Kingston Community & Police Partnership

Help tomorrow take shape

Jonathan Crook from the Office of National Statistics reports....



On 27 March 2011 all residential households in the United Kingdom will be taking part in a census. Since 1801 a day has been chosen every ten years for this purpose (except in 1941 during the war). The census provides an excellent source of information about the population. This enables central and local government, health authorities and many other organisations to identify need for housing, education, health and transport services for years to come. Did you know that supermarkets use census statistics to work out the kind of foods they need to sell to keep local communities stocked up with their favourites? Water companies use the census data to plan the pipes for clean and waste water - to make sure there's enough for everyone. Fire brigades and the police use census data to help communities, putting fire alarms and crime prevention measures in specific areas. The benefits are far reaching. The census statistics also feed into the allocation of funding for local authorities and play a major part in identifying need for local services in communities,

so it is crucial the population estimate is as accurate as possible. When the



envelope comes through the door you'll easily recognise it by the purple 2011 Census logo. Take care of it. If, like many people, you want to complete the questionnaire online, your individual internet code is on the front of the questionnaire. There is a wide range of help options available -such as language guidance booklets, large print format, Text Relay and census field staff on hand, as well as online help and telephone call centres. More information about the 2011 Census can be found at: www.census.gov.uk

SUSTAINING DRUG USE THROUGH CRIME

“acquisitive crime”

Main presentations at KCPP meetings are at the request of members. In September we were pleased to welcome Detective Chief Inspector Jess Ruddell to our meeting to speak on drugs and acquisitive crime.

DCI Ruddell kindly agreed to write an article for Update so that our local community could be advised of the work being done locally -

Over the past year Kingston police have been focusing on drug offences in our continual efforts to reduce acquisitive crime. Drug dealing and drug misuse outlines the human cost to both the user and the community at large. As a result tackling drug misuse remains an MPS priority and a priority for Kingston police when set against the impact of serious acquisitive crime.

During my career I have witnessed numerous tragedies associated with drug use. It is vital that drug users committing acquisitive crime are identified and taken to court so that their criminal acts are dealt with as well as their addiction. But it is also critical that policing efforts are primarily focussed on the dealers who benefit from the misery of others. Last year 6% of Kingston's Total Notifiable Offences related to drugs of which the majority (70%) related to the possession of cannabis. Cannabis use is of particular concern, especially amongst young men and is not as benign as many would like to believe. The physical and mental health implications of cannabis use have been widely publicised and tackling this drug type remains a priority for us. Statistics around drug offences must be

viewed carefully as the majority of recorded data is generated by police activity. This is achieved by pro active drug operations leading to people being arrested for dealing offences or found in possession of drugs for personal use. The investment Kingston Police has committed to our pro active and reactive investigations has proved beneficial. Through intelligence led policing we have dramatically reduced our burglary and robbery rate and have



been extremely successful with regards to the arrest of some prolific offenders over the past year. It should be noted that many of those known to have committed serious acquisitive crime within Kingston have travelled in from other areas of London, the South East and indeed further away. This highlights the fact that where drugs have been a driver, the responsibility to reduce supply and addiction issues falls upon the shoulders of us all, country wide.

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There are no easy answers but in my view four things are key

- partnership working with the community
- the Prolific and Priority Offender system
- attempts to rehabilitate and
- where appropriate, protecting the public through imprisonment

The link between drugs and crime is complex as is the solution. When statistics are viewed, Kingston is seen to be in a healthy position as far as drug and serious acquisitive crime reduction is concerned.

It is with pride that Kingston police, in conjunction with our partners, continually strives to maintain our position as the safest London Borough within which to live, work and socialise.

Detective Chief Inspector Jess Ruddell

Borough Commander

Det. Chief Superintendent Martin Greenslade writes...

There has been much speculation over the last few weeks as to what the impact of the Governments Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) will be for policing in Kingston. I wanted to let you know that we are doing everything that we can do to protect front line policing services for Kingston Borough. Over the last three years we have made efficiency savings across all our budget lines without it impacting on police officer numbers.

I want to reassure you all that I am fully committed to Neighbourhood policing and having Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) covering every ward across the Borough. We have worked to ensure that every neighbourhood has its own modern police base, allowing staff to be briefed and patrol at the very heart of the communities that they serve. We will do everything that we can to keep a structure of neighbourhood officers working from these bases. We are reviewing the workloads of the

respective teams and will be looking to use our resources more flexibly to meet our changing demands. Areas of lower crime, lower incidences of ASB and lower deployment requirements will see some of their resources deployed to wards with greater demand. There may also be additional responsibilities for SNTs to respond to non-emergency calls. This will require a shift-pattern review and officers and staff from SNTs being on-duty across a broader range of times. As part of an internal review I am keen to explore what are considered to be



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the borough and whether they correlate with existing ward boundaries. SNTs have recently concluded the first phase of a public engagement exercise on this matter, completing questionnaires with a cross section of residents.

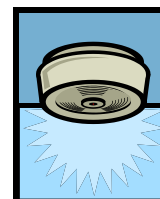
I wrote to all ward councillors, panel chairs and key community contacts in October to keep them abreast of our position, a copy of my letter to them was published in the Comet. I gave a personal briefing at the Guildhall on the 10th of November to councillors, panel chairs and key community contacts advising them of developments and these issues have been discussed with the executive of the KCPP and the Independent Advisory Group. At the time of writing I will be engaging with the wider KCPP at the meeting on the 6th of December.

Details of the final structure will follow a full evaluation of the CSR and will be linked to work being conducted centrally under the Modernisation Programme. I can reassure you that Kingston's SNTs will continue to:

- Engage with local communities, problem solving their priorities.
- Pro-actively reduce crime and the causes of crime within their neighbourhoods.
- Target criminals and manage offenders, disrupting their criminal activities and bringing them to justice.

FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKS BY THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

*Borough Fire Commander
John Elwell Writes:*



We want you to be safe and sound. We're carrying out free home fire safety checks for residents in the Royal Borough of Kingston and the other boroughs in London.

We'll also fit a free smoke alarm where needed.

If you would like a visit or would like to arrange a free home fire safety check on behalf of a member of your family or a friend please check with them first and then contact us by:

- calling us free on 08000 28 44 28
- emailing us at smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk
- faxing us at 020 7587 4222

Fires in the home are the main cause of fire deaths.

Getting a smoke alarm, regularly testing and maintaining it, as well as planning your escape route in the event of a fire can dramatically decrease the risk of death or serious injury.



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MPA
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