

SAFER KINGSTON NEWS

The Safer Kingston Partnership

The Safer Kingston Partnership is made up of a number of organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors. These organisations work together with the local community to reduce crime, disorder and substance misuse in Kingston Borough

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames is already one of the safest London boroughs in which to be educated, live, work or visit. The Safer Kingston Partnership wants to make it even safer; our vision is that everyone who lives in, or comes to, our borough should be safe and feel safe.

This document;

- Gives you some background to the Safer Kingston Partnership,
- Summarises our 2008-11 Partnership Plan and give you a chance to contribute to the 2009 annual review of the plan,
- Tells you about some of our key achievements in 2008/09, and
- Gives you some Community Safety Advice and contacts.

Safer Kingston Partnership

The Partnership has a Strategy Group of partners, who have a legal responsibility to reduce crime, disorder and substance misuse and to produce a strategy to achieve that reduction. The partners are, currently:

- **Kingston Council**
- **NHS Kingston**
- **London Fire Brigade**
- **Metropolitan Police Authority**
- **Metropolitan Police Service - Kingston borough**

The London Probation Area and the Strategic Partnership for Alcohol and Drugs are also represented on this group.

A much wider range of other partners contribute to our Partnership, working through a broader Partnership group and through individual initiatives.

There is a small Partnership Team which co-ordinates the work of the Partnership providing support and assistance to its members. The Team is also available to give support, information and advice on crime and disorder issues to anyone living, working or visiting the borough. For further information about the Partnership you can visit our website at www.kingston.gov.uk/safer_kingston_partnership. Our contact details can be found on page 4 of this document.



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

Safer Kingston Partnership Plan Summary



How did the Partnership perform in 2008/09?



Crime figures

Total recorded crime in Kingston is down 8% compared to 2007/08 - that's 981 fewer crimes, making Kingston the safest London Borough.

- Residential Burglary up 102 offences
- Robbery down 12 offences
- Theft of vehicles remained at the same level
- Theft from Motor Vehicles down 131 offences
- Youth Violence down 35 offences
- Knife Crime up 4 offences
- Gun Crime down 5 offences

Whilst overall crime is down in Kingston we are not complacent; there were significant challenges during 2008/09 and these will continue in the forthcoming years. Look out for our great tips on Page 4 to make you and your property safer and help keep Kingston safe.

Fire Safety

Fires in Kingston are at their lowest level in the past 10 years; however, our aim is to reduce the number of fires in the borough even further.

- Accidental fires in the home, 84 fires; 26 fewer fires than 2007/08
- Deliberate Fires, 134 fires; 10 fewer than 2007/08

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.

Addressing anti-social behaviour in Kingston upon Thames

82% of residents responding to the 2008 Place Survey had a low perception of anti-social behaviour; this figure has increased by 3% since the 2006 survey and is one of the highest levels in London.



The Safer Kingston Partnership wants to reduce the perception of anti-social behaviour even further. One way in which we are doing this is to use a multi-agency problem solving approach to develop Partnership responses to identified problems. Working together to resolve anti-social behaviour problems allows us to address the causes of those problems in a more effective way.

If you are concerned about anti-social behaviour contact the Safer Kingston Partnership ASB Co-ordinator or your local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Reducing violent crime and anti-social behaviour in Kingston Town Centre at night

Reducing violent crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre has been a key priority for the Safer Kingston Partnership. A number of different initiatives have been implemented, including; marshalled taxi ranks and mini-cab kiosks, Night-time Town Centre Manager, Best Bar None, and Behave or Be Banned.

As a result of these initiatives and proactive policing, Violence against the Person offences in Grove ward, which contains Kingston Town Centre, decreased by 45% between 2004/05 and 2008/09.



Drugs awareness and education

Drug awareness sessions have been delivered to 180 classes across all of Kingston's Secondary Schools. These sessions looked at the laws relating to drugs and the consequences of their use.

For more information on drug laws, drugs and their effects visit www.talktofrank.com.

You can also get advice if you want to stop taking drugs or are worried about someone else.

Domestic Violence and Hate Crime

All forms of Domestic Violence and Hate Crime are unacceptable. We want to raise the awareness of domestic abuse and hate crime to increase victims' confidence to report. We will work to ensure that victims and their families receive support appropriate to their needs and perpetrators are held accountable and brought to justice.

Drug Misuse

Our objective is to reduce the availability of drugs through education, publicity and enforcement. For those individuals using drugs a wide range of treatment opportunities is available; with support to re-integrate those who stop taking drugs back into the community. There will be a focus on providing treatment to drug dependant offenders to prevent the cycle of drug misuse, offending and prison.

Violence against the Person

We want to continue to reduce violence against the person in Kingston and prevent people from becoming victims or perpetrators of crime; addressing the perceptions of violence so everyone feels safe in Kingston. The Partnership will also be looking at the overarching themes of fear of crime, counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

The full plan is available at www.kingston.gov.uk/safer_kingston_partnership.

Kingston News and return this, Freepost, to the Safer Kingston Partnership, or complete the survey online at www.kingston.gov.uk/reducing_crime by 15th November 2009. Your response will help to inform our 2009 Strategic Assessment and contribute to making Kingston an even safer place to live, work and visit.

Crime by and against Young People

Young people staying safe is an important issue for the borough. We want to ensure that young people don't become victims or perpetrators of crime. We will use preventative work to help stop young people from becoming involved in offending; and provide support to young people who have already become involved in crime and anti-social behaviour to stop their offending behaviour. We will educate young people about alcohol and drugs to help them stay healthy and safe; offering treatment to those young people who need it.



Have Your Say

The Partnership wants to know what you think about crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

Please complete the Reducing Crime Together questionnaire inside Safer

The Partnership has set out the priorities it will be focusing on in the Safer Kingston Partnership Plan, which covers the period 2008-11. The Partnership Plan is reviewed annually through a Strategic Assessment process which identifies Partnership priorities by combining analysis of partnership information with results from community and partner consultations.

The six priority areas identified are listed below along with an outline of how we are addressing these areas.

Anti-Social Behaviour

We will work in partnership using problem solving techniques to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in the borough and we will aim to prevent people from becoming victims or perpetrators.



Alcohol Misuse

Our aim is to reduce the levels of alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour. We will provide advice to Kingston's communities and visitors about sensible drinking; highlighting how to access support services to reduce the harm caused by problematic drinking.



Be Safe and Stay Safe



Fire Safety

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.

The London Fire Brigade carries out free home fire safety visits for residents in the Royal Borough of Kingston. 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 a member of your family or a friend (please check with them first), contact the London Fire Brigade by:

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

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

Crime Prevention

You can prevent yourself from becoming a victim of crime by taking a few simple precautions. Further advice on preventing crime can be found at **www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention** or by contacting the Crime Prevention Officer on **020 8721 5880**.

Home

- Keep your home secure; make sure windows, doors and other access points such as gates are locked.
- Remove temptation; never leave your keys in sight of the front door and where possible keep valuables out of sight.

Car

- Keep your vehicle locked and secure; even if you are leaving your car unattended for only a few seconds.
- Never leave items on view in the car; remove laptops, sunglasses, radios, Satellite Navigation devices and anything else you value from the car.

Personal Safety

- Plan your journey home. Stick with a friend and keep to main routes to get home.
- Stay alert; be aware of what is going on around you.

Christmas

- Don't put presents under the tree until Christmas Eve. Don't leave wrapped presents in view from windows.
- Don't hide expensive presents and other items in sheds or garages.
- Don't leave the packaging of expensive presents outside with other rubbish. This may attract burglars to your home.

- Note the serial numbers of new electrical equipment and the frame numbers of new bicycles and then register them **free** at **www.immobilise.com**

Sensible Drinking

Alcohol can be enjoyed by most people in moderation without causing any problems. However, drinking too much regularly can be harmful. 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 equivalent to 1 pint of strong lager or 2 small (125ml) glasses of wine. If you are going out drinking here are some tips that could help stop you getting drunk and into dangerous situations:-

- Eat before you go out or earlier that evening.
- Take a break and pace yourself with soft drinks throughout the evening.
- Avoid large rounds and don't try and keep up with friends who drink more than you.
- Drink water throughout the evening and just before bed to keep you hydrated.
- Don't mix alcohol with drugs of any kind.
- For more advice on sensible drinking visit Drink Aware, **www.drinkaware.co.uk**, or Know Your Limits, **units.nhs.uk**.

Useful Contacts

Anti-Social Behaviour

Safer Kingston Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator - **020 8547 5031**;
if your property is owned by the Council or a Housing Association contact your Estate Manager.
Environmental Services Contact Centre; for calls about graffiti, abandoned vehicles, as well as other environment related issues - **020 8547 5929**

Environmental Health; for calls about noise, pollution, animals, food safety and quality and licensing - **020 8547 5536**

Domestic Violence

24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline - **0808 2000 247**
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**

Kingston Racial Equalities Council - **020 8547 2332**

Other Useful Contacts

Safer Kingston Partnership - **020 8547 5039**
MET Police Non-Emergency number - **0300 123 1212**
Crime Stoppers - **0800 555 111**
Victim Support Kingston - **020 8547 3202**

Dial 999 if someone is in immediate danger, or if a crime is taking place.