

SOUTH OF THE BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE

4 FEBRUARY 2009

SAFER KINGSTON PARTNERSHIP

Acting Superintendent John Pendleton and Marion Todd, Safer Kingston Partnership Manager, attended the meeting on behalf of the Safer Kingston Partnership.

An explanation was given about the role of the Partnership, which comprised of representatives from Kingston Council, Kingston Police, the Metropolitan Police Authority, the London Fire Brigade, the Health and Probation Services, all of whom play a key role in policy development. Other services from the voluntary sector, business communities etc also played an important role in delivery of Partnership objectives.

It was emphasised that this was an opportunity for people from the neighbourhood and Councillors to access senior representatives of the Partnership and to influence strategic thinking. In no way was it intended to replace local problem solving activity and engagement with Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Ward Panels.

Questions were invited and views gathered about the role of these services in relation to crime, disorder and substance misuse. Issues raised included the following and, in responding, the Safer Kingston Partnership representatives emphasised the importance of services working together to address many of these issues.

- **The proposed base for the South of the Borough Safer Neighbourhood Teams**

It was explained that negotiations were still on-going in relation to the siting of the base for the local Safer Neighbourhood Teams, and it was hoped that an announcement could be made in the next few months.

- **Concerns about youth crime, in particular affecting shops on Tolworth Broadway**

In relation to publicity about disorder on Tolworth Broadway, Acting Superintendent John Pendleton explained that a number of people had now been arrested and charged and that the group appeared to be newly formed around individuals who had recently moved to the area. Tolworth businesses had been provided with an Alert Box system in 2008 which enabled them to give each other early warning of incidents of crime, disorder or anti-social behaviour. Marion Todd explained that, in relation to such incidents, early information sharing took place on a regular basis between agencies. Action

plans, aimed at changing the behaviour of the perpetrators, were then developed and reviewed monthly.

A key preventative initiative was the work of the Youth Inclusion and Support Panel (YISP) which had been successful in reducing the numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system. The YISP worked with any young people thought to be at risk of offending or engaging in Anti-Social Behaviour, including the siblings of known perpetrators, and devised multi-agency action plans to meet their specific needs.

- **The 'Bottle Marking' Scheme**

This scheme was aimed at tracking the origin of alcohol sales, in particular proxy sales, to young people who are underage and identifying the premises responsible. It was confirmed that the Partnership had applied for, and received, additional funding to extend the pilot beyond the initial area and part of this work would take place in the South of the Borough Neighbourhood.

- **Slow response rates and perceived poor customer service as a result of the use of Call Centres and the lack of local knowledge on the part of their staff.**

Acting Superintendent John Pendleton explained that, as a result of the MetCall system and the introduction of the **new Single Non-Emergency Number – 0300 123 1212**, 999 calls were now being answered faster than ever before. **He urged members of the community to use the Single Non-Emergency Number unless a crime is actually in progress or someone is in immediate danger and to cascade this message to local people.**

- **The very timely response (within 24 hours) to a call made to an off-duty Safer Neighbourhood Team**

It was explained that the new national 'Policing Pledge' set clear targets on customer service, including a 24 hour response time for queries to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Kingston Police were now operating a 'buddying' system so that Safer Neighbourhood staff from another Team will aim to respond to calls, within 24 hours, when the Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team is off duty

- **The role, and perceptions by young people, of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)**

It was explained that one of the major advantages of PCSOs was their ability to enhance the Police community intelligence gathering capability. PCSOs were also engaging with young people in the Neighbourhood who were involved in sports diversionary projects.

- **The increase in burglaries nationally and locally**

Whilst Kingston Police had recently arrested and charged 13 people for burglary, the wider community had a responsibility to try to prevent crime through basic crime prevention measures. Acting Superintendent John Pendleton explained that some 70% of the Borough's Theft from Motor Vehicles was as a result of car doors being left unlocked. An increasing trend in burglary locally was 'Letter box' burglaries where the burglar used a fishing rod to access both **the keys to a house and a vehicle.**

- **Perceptions of safety - Attention was drawn to some of the factors which could impact on perceptions of crime in a Borough as safe as Kingston e.g. damaged bus shelters, light bulbs which were not replaced.**

Marion Todd highlighted the key role residents and the local community could play in helping the Partnership influence perceptions of crime - by emphasising the low crime levels in both the Neighbourhood and the Borough as a whole. Whilst Kingston was one of the safest boroughs in London, the very low crime figures were often distorted when expressed in percentage terms.

- **Concerns about vehicle speeds on the A243 Leatherhead Road and in Bridge Road and the need for enforcement;**

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams had been trained in the use of Pro-laser 3 Speed Guns; Automatic Number Plate Reader operations were undertaken on a regular basis; and the new Police Area Car, which was scheduled for delivery by the end of March and which would be in daily use, was being fitted with additional Automatic Number plate recognition technology. Community members were urged to bring to the attention of the Safer Neighbourhood Team such issues when they arose.

In summary it was explained that the Partnership is required to produce a Partnership Plan which is updated annually if new trends emerge. Current priorities were Anti-Social Behaviour; Alcohol & Drug Misuse; Violence against the Person; Crime by & against young people; and Hate Crime & Domestic Abuse. Whilst these were the over-arching priorities, the community could be reassured that the Partnership had targets for, and was measured on, all the major crime types through National Indicators.

The representatives thanked the Committee for allowing them the opportunity to hear people's thoughts & issues which concern them in their Neighbourhood. The comments made will be reported back to the Partnership and fed into their strategic thinking.

Further Information

For further information about the Partnership, please contact Marion Todd, Safer Kingston Partnership Manager, 0208 547 5039. Marion.Todd@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

Further information can also be obtained by visiting the website at:

http://www.kingston.gov.uk/browse/community_people_and_living/safer_kingston_partnership.htm

In an emergency always call 999. An emergency is when a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, someone is injured, being threatened or in danger.

Unless it's an emergency, use the Single Non-Emergency Number to contact the Metropolitan Police Service on **0300 123 1212**.

For non-emergency Ward matters, or to find out about community events, Panel meetings, Street Briefings etc **in your Ward** contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team at:

<http://www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods/boroughs/kingston/saferneighbourhoods.htm#00AXFX>.