

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames SAFER SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Protocol between Kingston Learning and Children's Services Kingston Secondary Schools Metropolitan Police Service - Kingston

This protocol seeks to clarify the role of the police officers working within Kingston's schools and the local community, and the working practices for a multi-agency partnership approach. The aim of this protocol is therefore to ensure that the young people, staff, parents and visitors to schools have a safe environment in which to study, work and visit, and where young people can develop to their full potential.

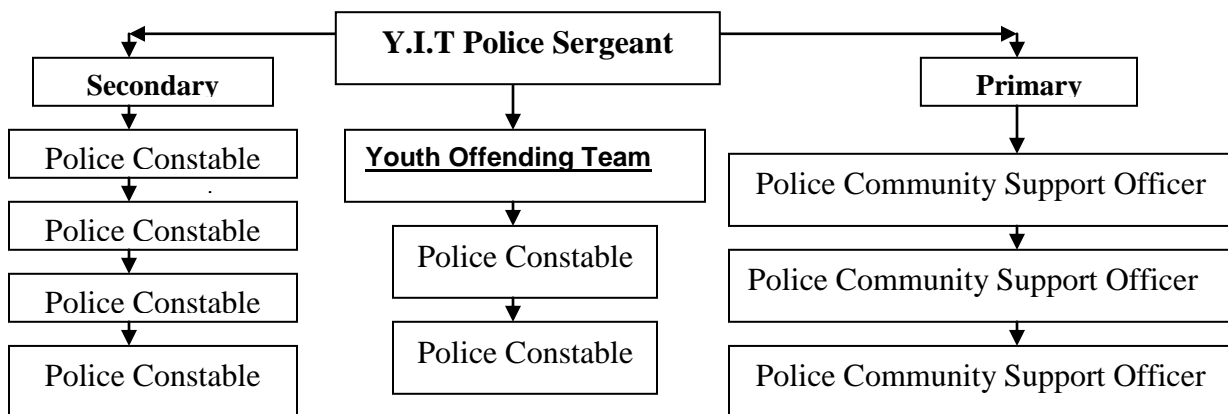
This protocol has been agreed following a consultation process that involved Kingston Learning and Children's Services, Kingston Secondary Schools, Metropolitan Police Service - Kingston and other partner agencies. This protocol is a 'live' document that will continue to evolve. It will be reviewed formally every twelve months. The review will be conducted by representatives of the local partner agencies with the intention of identifying whether or not the agreement remains current and effective, and ways in which it can be improved.

Definition of a Safer Schools Partnership - SSP

"An SSP is a formal agreement between a school or partnership of schools and police to work together in order to keep young people safe, reduce crime and the fear of crime and improve behavior in schools and their communities. This will involve a police officer or police community support officer regularly working at a school or across a number of schools on a full time or part time basis."

Delivery of SSP for Kingston Borough

Responsibility for the delivery of SSP on Kingston Borough is that of Kingston Police Youth Involvement Team (Y.I.T). This team is a dedicated youth engagement team who oversee youth provision on behalf of the police service. This team is structured as;



The team works within the model of Safer Neighbourhoods and they have three core areas of responsibility for all young people on the Borough 18 years of age and under. Namely;

1. Youth Crime
2. Youth Education
3. Youth Diversion

Safer Neighborhoods has at its core the ethos of partnership working whereby the community will determine local priorities. Working closely with the Kingston Learning and Children's Services and Kingston Secondary Schools, the Youth Involvement Team will be undertaking a variety of methods of consultation to ensure correct delivery of the SSP to meet national, Borough and individual needs.

Protocol objectives

These objectives aim to support the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes and will be achieved through a multi-agency problem solving approach.

Working in partnership:

- to provide an environment which improves pupils' motivation and attitudes to learning;
- to ensure that all members of the partnership follow restorative and problem-solving principles and operate within a multi-agency approach to reduce incidents of crime, antisocial behavior and substance misuse;
- to enhance existing partnership arrangements; and
- to share and inform best practice.

Outcomes for schools, police and the community:

- to positively engage young people, challenge unacceptable behavior, and help develop a respect for themselves and their community;
- to reduce crime, public disorder and bullying within the schools and our community;
- to help tackle truancy, reduce exclusions and increase school attendance allowing young people to get the most out of life and develop skills for the future;
- to reduce the fear of crime amongst pupils, teachers and other staff, and the wider school community; and
- to improve the safety of the school and its community for pupils, teachers, other staff, parents, visitors and neighbours.

Outcomes for young people:

- to support the raising of the pupil's standard of attainment and enable them to gain their full potential in life; and
- to raise the profile of citizenship and the role of individuals and the wider community to improve positive activity and assist pupils to become confident in contributing to the community.

The objectives will be achieved with the support of

- a multi-agency management steering group involving representatives from all partners and chaired by a representative from Kingston Police Service. As per model shown above.

The objectives for the police officer (Safer Schools Officer's - SSO) are to:

- continue to improve relations between the police, the school and its community, with particular emphasis on the relationship with the pupils;
- deliver police related education across all key stages;
- assist in the identification of pupils at risk;
- increase safety and reduce crime within the school and its community;
- assist in developing an overall safe learning environment in the school and accelerate access to police support at times of need.

The SSO in liaison and negotiation with school staff will:

- work directly with young people to increase their knowledge of the police service and to develop an effective partnership with the school community
- adopt both a proactive and reactive response to problem solving in order to reduce crime and disorder within the school community thus improving the environment for young people to learn;
- act as a dedicated investigation liaison officer;
- participate in multi-agency initiatives to improve the school learning environment;
- attend staff, governor and parent meetings as appropriate and agreed;
- investigate crime and deal with offences as appropriate within the school;
- assist in a partnership approach to any incidents of bullying and truancy;
- assist in a partnership approach to the delivery of PSHE and Citizenship education;
- undertake school beat patrols;
- assist school staff in the management of potentially violent situations;
- exercise discretion in the arrest of pupils within the school with due regard to National Crime Recording Standards (see Crime Recording in Schools – NCRS Paper 21/2006) and as agreed with the school;
- work in partnership with a members of staff so that the police officer may operate in ways in which assist staff, where possible, in carrying out their roles effectively; and work with young people to assist them to help deliver a safer and more secure school community, and to ensure that their views are actively taken on board in developing the partnership.

Kingston Secondary Schools in liaison with the SSO will:

- work with the SSO to create and maintain a safe school environment;
- plan and implement strategies to reduce the risk of offending and anti-social behavior in the school and its wider community;
- work with the SSO to report and disseminate intelligence relating to activity of concern among pupil base;
- develop positive relationships with young people, parents / carers and other appropriate agencies and the wider community;
- work with parents, families and carers to support them in understanding and implementing approaches to the reduction of crime, victimisation and violence;
- work in partnership with the SSO to improve young people's understanding of the consequences of crime;
- work with young people who experience victimisation and are fearful of the effects of others' offending behaviour to support them in developing coping strategies and skills;
- work with young people at risk during transition periods, helping to develop coping skills and self-confidence; and
- work with the SSO and administrative staff to provide the required monitoring and evaluation data.

School staff (in line with Governors guidance) will:

- report all criminal incidents to the Head Teacher who will then liaise with the SSO
- assist in a partnership approach to dealing with all incidents, including bullying and truancy, and work with the SSO to agree an approach for involving them in its resolution and school staff will preserve evidence of an offence whether physical or from a witness whenever practicable, and will seek the advice of the police officer if required. Continuity of exhibits and property will be given priority. Any exhibits will be brought to the attention of the police officer for them to be dealt with according to police procedures.

Information Sharing

- the sharing of information will be covered by an Information Sharing Protocol established by the Strategic Steering Group in line with existing policy set by RBK.

Signed on behalf of

Kingston Learning and Children's Services

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Printed Name:

Role:

Date:

Kingston Secondary Schools

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Printed Name:

Role:

Date:

Metropolitan Police Service - Kingston Borough

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Printed Name:

Role:

Date: