

www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

Listening to Youth Concerns

Tackling youth knife crime is not only addressed using enforcement operations. Safer Neighbourhoods teams across London are using many methods to engage with young people about a range of issues to raise awareness and get them directly involved in voicing their concerns and contributing to making their local community safer.

Some teams have now set up youth panels where young people in the community can talk directly to the police about their concerns over crime and anti-social behaviour. Ward panels are encouraged to set at least one youth priority that they and the police are committed to resolving. Through this, young people are

working in partnership with the police and other members of the community to make a real difference to the area where they live.

SN4P (Safer Neighbourhoods for People) is a youth engagement project whereby young people take photographs of places where they feel either safe or unsafe and work with their local Safer Neighbourhoods team to address their concerns.



For more information on the work of the police with young people, visit

www.met.police/youngpeople

For more information on Safer Neighbourhoods, visit
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Information Update

August 2008 – Knife Crime

Safer Neighbourhoods teams help fight knife crime in your community

The Metropolitan Police is committed to reducing serious youth crime among a minority of young people who persist in carrying and using weapons.

This is being carried out through a range of activities under Operation Blunt 2 including enforcement operations, intelligence-led prevention activity and diversionary initiatives in partnership with the local community, schools, British Transport Police, TfL (Transport for London) to name but a few.

Safer Neighbourhoods teams are playing a key role in this activity, listening to community concerns and working in partnership to carry out operations and initiatives



Scan arch operation

that address local issues and find lasting solutions.

Activities by Safer Neighbourhoods teams across London include high visibility patrols, use of scan arches and wands, stop and search operations, and preventative projects such as delivering awareness around knife crime

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to school pupils, and setting up and supporting youth initiatives such as the Kickz football scheme, Junior Citizen and youth clubs.

Input and support from local communities is vital in the work of the Safer Neighbourhoods teams in tackling and preventing youth violence. Communities and police working together can make London safer.

Safer Neighbourhoods teams, Safer Schools Partnership Officers, Safer Transport teams and Special Constables, have been carrying out a number of anti-knife crime operations.

Safer Neighbourhoods teams have been working alongside Volunteer Police Cadets in the drive against knife crime. Officers and cadets in Lewisham recently carried out a weapons sweep of a local park aiming to actively seek and remove weapons that have been hidden for future use. The officers discovered a knife, screwdriver



Weapon sweep operation

and a metal bar hidden in the park. These operations are excellent in not only removing weapons from the streets, but providing high visibility policing by local officers.

Cadets are also taking part in test purchase operations to identify retailers who are selling knives to under 16s.

Safer Schools Partnership officers and teachers are working together to help control knife crime in secondary schools. Officers are assisting with lesson plans that raise awareness of the consequences of carrying a knife.

Officers and teachers at some schools are carrying out

regular weapon sweeps of school buildings and grounds looking for concealed weapons.

Scan arches and wands are being used at some schools to locate possible concealed weapons, and a new initiative known as weapons clinics will provide those young people found in possession of a weapon with an opportunity to speak with an officer about the dangers and criminal consequences of their actions.

600 pupils at Salesian College in Wandsworth passed through scan arches set up at the main entrance, during an initiative carried out by Schools Officers. Both teachers and pupils were positive and supportive and the college requested the initiative showing that they are being proactive in the fight against knife crime and keeping students safe.

The Met has 185 dedicated Safer Schools Partnership Officers in schools and colleges across London.

In May, the Met launched a new initiative in partnership with the

Mayor and TfL that will see high visibility teams of crime fighters dedicated entirely to policing bus hubs and the immediate vicinity, confronting crime and anti-social behaviour as it happens and reassuring the travelling public.

An additional 440 uniformed officers will be used to establish the new teams, each comprised of one sergeant, one police constable and seven PCSOs. They will also be supported by 1,600 Special Constables.

The new teams will be an additional resource used to build on the success of the Safer Transport teams and Safer Neighbourhoods teams, and will be used to step up patrols and operations on the transport system carrying out initiatives such as stop and search and knife arch operations at stations and other transport hubs in partnership with TfL, British Transport Police and the Met's Transport Unit.

The new teams will be introduced through three phases over 12 months.

