

PILOT: NEWSLETTER – Risks in the Local Area

Summer 2023

We all want to know what is happening in our communities so we can help keep our loved ones safe. Whilst the MET attempts to use lots of different methods to communicate its work, (e.g. social media), there are still gaps in how we discuss youth related issues. Therefore, a newsletter is being trailed which will describe crime trends for violence and robbery, and will highlight useful resources. This is a pilot scheme that is still being developed, so all feedback is welcomed!



Created by: Sutton Schools Team

What can I expect in this Newsletter?

- Information on local crime issues impacting young people
- Brief summary of police activity addressing any identified problems
- Information on how to contact the police about issues
- Police and non-police resources designed to support young people

How often will this Newsletter be produced?

Newsletters will be produced at times when youth related issues tend to be at their highest. Currently reports are scheduled to occur quarterly, specifically for:

- Easter/Summer
- Halloween/Fireworks
- Christmas Festive period

Don't worry, this is not the only communication you will get from us. If there are any issues that arise in between these schedules releases, additional bulletins may be provided depending on the complexity of the problem.


Summer Holidays

As the summer holidays fast approach, I am sure our children are looking forward to enjoying some well-deserved time off from school. This extra time with friends is crucial for development, but can put young people at increased risk. There are a range of police and non-police resources available to support young people and help keep them safe. The below document identifies some of these resources, whilst also describing local crime trends.



Key Locations

1. **High Street** – This is a chronic location for crime due to its high footfall. There are regular patrols in this area to address these issues, but any concerning behaviour should be reported to police. Currently the greatest concern relates to girls from Croydon targeting young people in this area
2. **Wallington Area** – There are emerging robbery concerns in this area. There is enhanced intel development and specialist resources being placed in this area to identify potential suspects, but any concerning behaviour should be reported to police.

What should I be reporting? 

- Are there any people loitering in new locations, particularly around the Wallington area?
- Can you see increased litter in any location that suggests people are hanging around a location (e.g. gas canisters)
- Have you seen any drug dealing? If so, is it a new or on-going issue?
- Do any children report being approached and/or intimidated in any locations?

Signs of exploitation – what should I be looking for?

As the cost of living keeps rising, there is increasing pressure to work longer and longer hours just to afford basic necessities. This extra time away from our children, (combined with the lack of routine usually provided by school), means some children are at an increased risk of exploitation. Below is a list of potential signs to look out for which may suggest your child is at risk. Remember, if you are concerned about anything but don't want to go directly to the police, Crimestoppers is a great way to anonymously pass on information to us.

1. **Unexplained Money** – A child suddenly having unexplained money, clothes or expensive electronics may be a sign they are being exploited to deal drugs
2. **Multiple Phones** – Having more than one phone is often suspicious. Sometimes a second phone involved in drug dealing is referred to as a "burner"
3. **Older Friends** – If your child's behaviour is getting worse, they regularly go missing, and they have new, older friends, this may be a sign of grooming
4. **Lots of Train or Bus Tickets** – A child having lots of tickets to places outside of London may suggest they are involved in drug dealing in different counties (county lines)
5. **Unexplained Injuries** – Criminal groups will often use violence to scare and control children

Police Activity

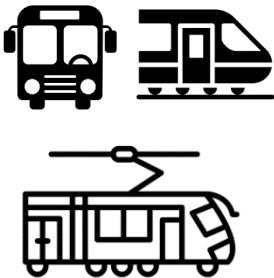
A range of resources are planned for this summer to help tackle violent crime and ASB issues in Sutton. Below is a brief summary of the pre-planned activities.



LOCAL RESOURCE: This year, the Safer Neighbourhood Team that covers Sutton Town centre has two additional Officers, which is key in tackling ASB and robbery issues in Sutton. They are working hard to tackle some of the issues, particularly around McDonalds and other eateries in the area, where young people frequently congregate.



SPECIALIST RESOURCE: Sutton Robbery team will be on patrol in plain clothes and in uniform over the summer in key areas including the Town Centre in Sutton. They are anticipating that there will be increase in crime due to the warm weather and children being off school, and are adapting their activity accordingly. They will also be running an operation in the Autumn term to identify groups of young people at risk of robbery, and/or perpetrators.



TRANSPORT SPECIFIC RESOURCE: Safer Transport Team have leading up to the school summer break been running an operation on bus routes, specifically targeting buses used by school children. They have been engaging with schools delivering key messages around the use of oyster cards and how using your card can help identify CCTV if you are a victim of crime. They have recently set up their own Police Fare Evasion Targeting Team, looking at supporting TFL. Working in partnership with the schools this should help reduce fare evasion, which is the leading cause of violence for TFL staff and decrease anti-social behaviour on bus routes.



SCHOOL SPECIFIC RESOURCE: Sutton Schools Team have been delivering presentations on robberies and personal safety at Sutton schools. They have been marking bikes and adding bike frame numbers to a Met wide data base in the school to help our children who are victims of crime. They will also be running a similar operation in the autumn term, focusing on mobile phones.



NOTE: Regular analysis is conducted to help identify emerging issues, and resources are then tasked to these areas, (relative to demand). Therefore, additional police activity will occur across Sutton if new issues are identified over the summer.

Resources & Reporting

The MET appreciates that some policing issues do not require a 999 response, but are still very important. Potential exploitation by gangs is a key example of this. The following page describes some police and charity resources that are available should you have any concerns.

How should I report issues?



SCHOOLS OFFICERS

Each school has a dedicated officer that works closely with teachers and young people to address criminal and safeguarding concerns. Their responsibilities include patrolling key areas after school to prevent robberies, delivering crime prevention workshops, and building a rapport with young people and the community. If you have any questions or concerns please approach your schools officer when you see them, or email the mailbox below:

EMAIL: SNMailbox.schoolsteamsutton@met.police.uk

Featured in the photograph: Sergeant Sarah Tynan
Schools & Youth Partnership

Charity Resources

Whilst the MET are working tirelessly to build trust and confidence with the public, we appreciate people may not always want to report issues directly to us. The police may also not be the most appropriate agency for some issues, (e.g. if you just want to find some youth activities for your children to keep them busy and prevent gang exploitation). A list of charity resources has been provided for your consideration. These resources are completely independent from the police, but work to provide services which help keep our young people safe.



FEARLESS

This is a youth specific version of Crimestoppers, which is a charity that you can report issues to. This includes grooming, drug dealing and intimidation. The information is then passed to the police, and is 100% anonymous, so there is no record of who told us. [Give information about crime 100% anonymously |](#)



BEN KINSELLA TRUST

Online and in-person workshops are provided to parents, teachers, children and schools officers for knife crime and gangs. This includes producing packs on the warning signs and causes of exploitation. It is a charity that is run by ex-met officer so they have a good understanding of issues. [The Ben Kinsella Trust |](#)



LONDON VILLAGE NETWORK

This is a non-profit organisation that offers activities for young people to keep them busy, with resources to also help with their mental health and careers. It is a phone app that is available to everyone, and it shows what activities are available in each borough. [Local Village Network - Mentoring and Opportunities- LVN](#)

Reporting

There are several ways you can report issues to the police, with each method having its own purpose. The following page will help guide you to the correct route, but if you're ever unsure, please seek advice from your local schools officer or police station, who would be happy to help.

