IMPORTANT INFORMATION for 16th February 2012

CRIME NEWS

Nuisance phone call received by NHW member in Thornton Heath. Male with Scottish / Northern accent, rang asking about postcode lottery. Phone number was 08000 681041 which is a company called LBM marketing, They are known for making nuisance calls. Often these types of firms ring on behalf of major companies.

If you want to know who is ringing you, (apart from international ones) just Google the whole phone number, and see if anybody else has made a complaint against this number, or visit the website www.whocallsme.com and add your comments to their database.

Two bogus callers this week, one in Broad Green where three 29 year old white males claiming to be Police officers stole cash and jewellery from a 71 year old male. In West Thornton two 35 year old white males claimed to be repairing a neighbour's fence and requested entry to the rear garden. One suspect stole cash while 62 year old infirm victim was keep talking outside.

10 ARRESTS IN CROYDON MAJOR NEW CRACK DOWN ON GANGS

Police in Croydon have arrested 14 people so far as part of a major new crack down on gang crime by the Metropolitan Police Service.

Officers from Croydon carried out a series of raids at addresses across the borough, which have resulted in 14 arrests for offences including possession of drugs with intent to supply, handling stolen goods and robbery.

This significant operation, which is being spearheaded by a newly formed Trident Gang Crime Command, sees the beginning of a step change in how the MPS tackles gang crime in the capital and forms a key part of the Met Commissioner's total war on crime.

Hundreds of police officers will be taking part in the operation which sees suspected gang members being pursued for a series of crimes, including assault, robbery and drugs supply in a refreshed approach to help stop young people getting killed or seriously injured.

One thousand officers will now be dedicated to tackling gang crime in London with the creation of a central Trident Gang Crime Command as well as the introduction of local task forces across London. The new command will retain responsibility for the prevention and investigation of shootings, but will now work more closely with boroughs to proactively tackle gang crime.

The new command will be enhanced with additional specialist resources from the MPS, including Operation Connect and the Serious and Organised Crime Command (SCD7). It will take responsibility for real time monitoring of gang activity across London and work with new 'Grip and Pace' centres to coordinate and task corporate resources, both overt and covert, quickly at the relevant places.

19 priority boroughs, of which Croydon is, one, will have dedicated gang crime task forces to deal with local gang crime, and will work with their partners to implement diversion and prevention activities. Other boroughs and specialist commands will also be required to have more of a focus on gang crime.

The new approach builds on the good work already seen in the MPS and ensures all the expertise and skills in the service are brought together and used in a more targeted and effective way. It will see better and more consistent use of intelligence to identify and prioritize the most harmful gangs and gang members, while spotting young people on the periphery who can be referred to other agencies for help in keeping away from crime.

MPS Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe said: "This is a step change in how we tackle gang crime in London. It will allow us to identify and relentlessly pursue the most harmful gangs and gang members. It will help us identify young people on the periphery of gangs and work with partners to divert them away.

"Although we are now nearly doubling the number of officers dedicated to tackling gang crime, the police can not do this alone. It is vital we work with the public, local authorities, charities and other agencies to prevent young people from joining gangs in the first place."

According to MPS intelligence systems there are an estimated 250 active criminal gangs in London, comprising of about 4,800 people. Of these gangs 62 are considered as high harm and commit two thirds of all gang-related crime.

The gangs range from organised criminal networks involved in Class A drugs supply and firearms, to street-based gangs involved in violence and personal robbery. This relatively small number of people is responsible for approximately 22% of serious violence, 17% of robbery, 50% of shootings and 14% of rape in London.

Gangs exist in and around all parts of the capital but are more prevalent in about 19 London boroughs. They are made up of mainly young people, aged between 18 and 24 years, but officers have seen even younger children involved in or on the periphery of gangs.

Commissioner Hogan-Howe added: "The vast majority of young people in London are law-abiding, good citizens who make a positive contribution to our communities. However, there are still too many young people who are, or could get involved in gangs.

"We want to prevent young people getting involved in gang offending so we and other agencies are offering ways out to support young people. However, those who refuse our offer of help will be pursued and brought to justice.

"Getting involved in gangs can ruin a young person's life. With a criminal record it can be harder to get a job or into further education, while being involved in violence can lead to getting arrested, sent to prison, seriously injured or even killed.

"We're not concerned with peer groups or just friends who may 'hang around' and we have no intention of criminalizing an entire generation. Our focus is on violence and criminal behaviour associated with gangs and gang members."

If you have any information about gang crime or those involved call Crimestoppers - an independent charity - anonymously on 0800 555111. In an emergency always dial 999.

TWO NEW DISPERSAL ORDERS

1) SOUTH NORWOOD

From Monday 13th February to Sunday 12 August 2012, a new dispersal order for groups is in force, which covers the following area:-

Sylvan Hill (West side with exception of the grounds of No 8: Knights Millennium YMCA), Auckland Road (West side) Cypress Road (North side), South Norwood Hill, Teeside Gardens, Grange Hill, Grange Road (East side), Beulah Hill, (South side), Church Road.

2) NEW ADDINGTON

From Friday 10th February to Thursday 9th August 2012, a new dispersal order for groups is in force, which covers the following area:-

Parkway, Salcot Crescent, Arnhem Drive, Queen Elizabeth Drive, King Henry's Drive (southside), Godric Crescent, Calley Down Crescent, Overbury Crescent, North Downs Road (includes King Henry's Drive Tramstop).

During the times and dates specified above, a constable / PCSO may give one or more of the following directions:

- **Tell people in a group to disperse** (either immediately or at a stated time and in a stated way).
- **Tell people who don't live in the affected area not to return to the affected area** or any part of it for such a period (not exceeding 24 hours) from when the direction was given, as he / she may specify.
- **Tell people who don't live in the affected area not to return to the affected area** or any part of it for such period (not exceeding 24 hours) from when the direction was given, as he / she may specify.

If you are under 16 you may not be allowed to be here between the hours of 9pm and 6am unless you are under the effective control of a parent or responsible person over the age of 18. You may be removed to your home or place of safety if more appropriate.

CROYDON POLICE NOW ON TWITTER

Croydon police have today launched its own Twitter account so that residents, workers and visitors to Croydon can be kept up to date with what their local police are up to.

@MPSCroydon will be 'tweeting' regular updates in relation to policing, crime and safety on the borough, from appeals, news, arrests, and events in Croydon.

Croydon Borough Commander Chief Superintendent David Musker said:
"Being more open and transparent with the public about what we do and how we do it is something I strongly believe in. Using Twitter, we'll be able to open up a real dialogue with people that wouldn't normally get in touch with us. It also gives the public the opportunity to get up-to-the-minute updates on incidents and crime that's happening in their area.

"We should absolutely be engaging with the public that we serve in this way to show to them what we are doing. But we'll also be listening to what they are saying - this is a two-way conversation and we want to get feedback from the public so that we can learn and improve as well."

To get Croydon police tweets, you will need to sign up to Twitter, then search for @MPSCroydon to follow us.

EMAIL SCAMS

Persistent scammers claiming to be Natwest Online Banking and requiring you to click on the link due to errors in your security information. Last week the link led to a website in France which was reported as a scammer. This week the link has been redirected and now leads to a website in Romania which has been reported but is still online at present.

There is also a scam email claiming to be from the BBC lottery! This asks you to forward your personal details to an email address in Israel so that the scammers can use your details to set up bogus accounts in your name.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH OFFICE Telephone: 020 8649 0168

The Office will be manned Monday to Friday mornings next week. The answer phone will be available for messages outside these times. Please do not report any crimes on this number, as the office is not continuously manned. In an emergency always call 999. **For non-urgent crime reports please call 101.**