

saferbromleynews

Your online update on the Safer Bromley Partnership | Winter 2011



Keeping vulnerable people safe

Safeguarding adults in our communities is a broad, challenging issue.

One aspect is our important work to reduce and prevent vulnerable members of our communities from becoming victims of crime, harm and abuse.

Bromley has a large number of older residents and they are often the targets of specific crimes such as distraction burglaries, bogus traders and lottery scams.

I have made protecting the vulnerable a top priority for our Public Protection Division. I want to ensure that in partnership we do all we can to stop people from becoming victims of these cowardly crimes.

Lastly, our Borough Commander is moving on and I want to thank him for his commitment to the borough and wish him well for the future.

*Cllr Tim Stevens
Chairman, Safer Bromley Partnership*



Picture shows (left) Halifax Bank Manager Jake Smith receiving a copy of Bromley Trading Standards' bank protocol from (right) Cllr Tim Stevens, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety.

Bank staff protect older people

Trading Standards works with banks to protect the vulnerable

Bromley Trading Standards is working closely with local banks through a new protocol to help prevent older and more vulnerable residents from handing over large amounts of cash to criminals for substandard work to their homes.

Rogue traders delivering overpriced, substandard home repairs often demand to be paid in cash and have even been known to take residents to their banks to collect it. Trading Standards wants banks to alert them to unusually large cash withdrawals by those who may be vulnerable to such scams so they have the chance to intervene and prevent residents being ripped off.

Launching the protocol, Cllr Tim Stevens said: "The Halifax was chosen for the launch following their outstanding contribution to the protocol which saved an elderly customer £18,000 (see page 2).

"We want to work together to stop criminals who prey on our older and perhaps more vulnerable residents. Always report any suspected rogue traders in your area straight away to Trading Standards."

Contact **Trading Standards' Rapid Response number 07903 852090**

For general consumer advice contact **Consumer Direct on 08454 040506**

Borough Commander on the move

As I move on to Southwark I reflect on my 5 years at Bromley and feel overwhelming pride. The strength of partnership working is awesome, and the Safer Bromley Partnership has been key to our success. We have reduced crime and disorder by over a third, and public confidence and satisfaction is at its highest levels. I've had the pleasure of working with some fantastic people, and I've led a brilliant team. I have also had a lot of fun.

With over thirty three years service I still have a lot of passion, energy and enthusiasm for policing. I relish the challenge this opportunity will give me. As a resident of Orpington I will keep a close eye on my successor.

I am proud of Bromley and the values we cherish. I remain a champion of you. I wish you all continuing success, striving to keep our wonderful borough safe, clean and green.

*Charles Griggs
Bromley Borough Commander*



Don't give criminals a gift

Christmas is a marvellous time for giving and receiving gifts. Follow the Safer Bromley Partnership's simple precautions so you don't 'give' them away to criminals!

Festive season safety tips:

In the Shops - Don't leave bags unattended in trolleys, on pushchairs or in fitting rooms, no matter how close they are.

In the Car - Use a well-lit safe car park and don't leave valuables on show inside.

In the Home - Keep presents out of sight and dispose of boxes for high value items carefully.

Find out more at: www.bromley.gov.uk/info



Working together for a safer London



Focus on public protection and vulnerable people

Bank briefed by Trading Standards

A quick-thinking bank cashier saved a Bromley resident £18,000 last year and his action resulted in a Dartford man being sent to prison for nine months.

The rogue trader had cold called an 81-year-old Halifax customer and persuaded him urgent roof repairs were needed on his house. When he accompanied the elderly man to the bank to transfer the money into his own account a cashier alerted Trading Standards using an

established process.

A quick response by Council Officers who wasted no time in visiting the bank meant that they were able to apprehend the culprit who was still waiting outside. At Croydon Crown Court Judge Downing gave his justified praise. He said: "It is a great credit to the bank cashier and Trading Standards Officers, whose vigilance is to be commended in protecting the vulnerable in our society."

Crime Prevention Advice on Film



A new DVD produced by the Safer Bromley Partnership together with Age Concern highlights top safety tips for older people. Though Bromley is a very safe borough, a high level of older residents can mean that people are more concerned about their personal safety. Around 100 residents attended a launch event in West Wickham this month to view the film which covers safety in the home and while out and about.

The message is that together we can help prevent criminals preying on more vulnerable residents. By following the advice, individuals and communities together can make a difference to how safe everyone feels, while sending out a clear message to potential criminals that Bromley is wise to scams and rogue schemes. For more information contact **Age Concern Bromley on 020 8315 1850 or email info@acbromley.org.uk**

Community heroes recognised



Many of us know someone who goes beyond the call of duty to make sure that Bromley is a **safe place to live, work and relax**. Why not nominate them for an award?

The Safer Bromley Partnership's good reputation is built on individuals from its core agencies – council, police, fire and health – who go the extra mile, working closely with a wide range of community volunteers who give their time freely to make Bromley such a safe and pleasant place. The deadline for nominations for the Safer Bromley Awards to recognise these local heroes is Friday 16 December with winners announced in February 2012. **Nominate your safety hero.**

Help at Hand



Sadly, Christmas can be a real trauma for some who live with domestic abuse day in day out, especially when alcohol can flow more freely. The message from Bromley Council and Bromley Police is: "Don't suffer in silence – there is help at hand". For advice on what to do, **visit [Domestic violence](#), call 0808 2000 247 or text 07963 479602.**

Tastes good and safe too!



Eating out is even more popular around the festive season so you may want to check up on your favourite restaurant to see how it fares in the hygiene stakes. Visit **Score on the Doors** and search to check out the star rating awarded following a visit from the Council's Food Safety Team. www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk

safer bromley partnership

The Safer Bromley Partnership includes Bromley Council, Police, Fire Service, Health, Probation and Housing Associations.

Working together to keep Bromley safe.

A happy and safe Christmas from the Safer Bromley Partnership



Bromley Neighbourhood Watch

Dangerous emails:

Don't forget that when you send an email you are doing so over the open internet. Therefore please do not send any personal information such as your bank account details this way. Find out more about scam emails at www.bnwa.co.uk/ and report any you receive to email@actionfraud.org.uk

Further information is at www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom