

Bromley Borough Commander's Newsletter



December 2015

Season's greetings to you all and a thank you from all my officers and staff for all that you do with us, and within the community to make Bromley one of the safest boroughs in London. I am sorry that I have not been able to produce a newsletter over the last two months, there has just been too much going on, some of which I will outline within the newsletter itself. Clearly there has been the reaction to the Paris attacks and more recently to the events in Haringey. Both events had a significant impact on our local officers with additional patrols in central London and in key locations within the borough itself.

The Christmas and New Year period is always a good time for some reflection, both personally and organisationally. The Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe recently shared his thoughts with us on 2015 and I thought you might like to hear them. In March, police officer numbers reached a new high in London of 32,000, including more women and black and minority ethnic officers than ever before. In Bromley we are still above our target strength and I hope this will remain the case for many months to come. As part of the re-organisation of the MPS towards 2020, Met Detention was formed as a separate command so although there are still cells and custody facilities at Bromley police station, the officers and staff are no longer mine. In May, we had the General Election and my officers worked with Bromley Council to ensure it ran smoothly on the borough. June saw the BBC TV documentary, 'The Met' which gave a real insight into the challenges that police officers face on a daily basis. I had the added value of seeing many colleagues I know personally in starring roles and this led to many 'entertaining' feedback discussions. In August the MPS introduced CCTV in police vans, including here in Bromley, we have upgraded some of our CCTV in Custody and we have introduced body worn video for two of our emergency response teams on each borough. This will roll-out to all borough-based officers in due course.

Of course, there have been significant operational matters as well, some of which have challenged us in many ways. From the Rugby World Cup (seventeen matches in London attended by 400,000 international visitors) to the response to Paris, it has been a busy year. Despite this, there has been an almost 19% reduction in crime from the baseline year of 2011/12 which speaks volumes for partnership between the police, our partners and the community.

Operational policing update

As I have explained previously, the MPS was set a four-year target to reduce crime across seven crime types by 20% by April 2016. We are now just three months away from this date. Overall, the MPS is currently (23rd December) at -18.5% which equates to almost 76,000 less victims of crime. In Bromley, we are currently at -17% which means there are now 1,992 fewer victims of crime than there were in the baseline year of 2011/12. I'm hoping this continues to improve and get even closer to the target, not because it's a target but because it means there are less people who become victims of crime.

In relation to the different offence types, there is some very good news. Burglary is down by 26.2% (or 897 offences), criminal damage is at -11.4% (295 offences), robbery has reduced by 335 offences (-47.8%), theft from motor vehicle is down by 29.7% (622 offences) and theft from the person has reduced by 6.9%, which equates to 21 offences. Violence with injury offences have increased by 6.3% (119 offences) and theft of motor vehicle is up by 7.9% (59 offences) although the rise for this crime type is more significantly up in the last year.

We will continue to do all we can to prevent crime and arrest offenders.

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Good news for the MPS budget

The recent announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review appears to be good news for policing. The Chancellor stated there would be no cuts to police budgets in his statement and the Commissioner and Management Board are waiting to see what this means when the Home Office allocations are announced. We had expected cuts to our budget of between 25-40% and there had been plenty of discussion around what this would mean to policing, including the future of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) and the number of police officers in London. There has been and will continue to be discussion between the MPS and key partners regarding the future structure of policing but the current view is that we will continue with some of the proposed changes as it will make us more effective and enable us to meet future challenges.

There was excellent news for our PCSOs last week when the Commissioner announced that neighbourhood PCSOs would be saved. We have a commitment to making sure that every ward will continue to have a dedicated PCSO which means we will be keeping 629 PCSOs within neighbourhood policing posts. Many boroughs, including Bromley have more PCSOs than we currently need within our wards so we will need to redistribute some to reach the right number but overall this was welcome news to our communities and staff.

Other Bromley News

This year's Christmas Tree appeal has had a fantastic response with over 350 presents being donated by the community and my officers to disadvantaged children in the borough. My thanks go to all those who have contributed to make this happen, especially the Salvation Army for co-ordinating the collecting and wrapping.

This is always a busy time of year at the INTU shopping centre in Bromley but this was compounded two weeks ago when a suspicious package led to a full evacuation. Good work by staff and the officers who attended ensured it went smoothly and without incident.

My officers continue to address the issues that cause the community concern. We have continued with our road safety campaign and continue to run short, sharp operations to combat speeding, uninsured vehicles and drivers using mobile phones. We are supported in this by our colleagues from Roads Transport Policing Command. Also, we have executed a number of search warrants and conducted proactive operations for drugs supplying over the last four weeks as part of our pre-Christmas policing plan. One operation in the south-east of the borough resulted in over 200 wraps of cocaine / heroin being found.

In terms of crime prevention, there has been a short-term increase in burglary, no doubt because of the darker evenings so please don't leave valuables on display and ensure your property is secure. There is also a spate of theft of vans, predominantly Fords so please take care of yours if you have one.

Once again, I wish you all a very happy Christmas, whether you celebrate it or not and please accept my best wishes for 2016.

Chris Hafford
Borough Commander



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Contacting the police in Bromley

There are a number of ways that you can contact the police.

If a crime is currently taking place and you are in immediate danger, please always dial 999.

If you wish to contact the Metropolitan Police Service and it is not an emergency, please call our non-emergency number, 101. You can request a visit from a local officer within 48 hours via this number too.

Certain categories of crime or incidents committed in the London area can now be reported over the internet, as long as an urgent response is not required. Please visit the MPS website for further information – www.met.police.uk

You can also contact any of our Neighbourhood Policing Teams by telephone or email – visit the MPS website www.met.police.uk, type your postcode into the team finder and you'll be directed to your local team's webpage which contains their contact details.

In non-emergency situations you can visit any Front Counter:

- **Bromley Police Station**, High Street, Bromley, BR1 1ER has a front counter open 24 hours a day
- **Penge SNT base, Maple Road, Penge**, SE20 8RE is open:

Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) between 11 am - 7 pm (closed 3pm- 4pm).

- **West Wickham SNT base**, 9 High Street, West Wickham, BR4 0LP is open:

Monday and Thursday:	1pm - 4pm
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:	10am - 1pm

There are also currently four Contact Points across the Borough. Contact points provide a convenient opportunity to speak to the local police face to face. They are an alternative to visiting a police station front counter for non urgent issues. These are:

- **Biggin Hill SNT base**, 192-194 Main Road, Biggin Hill, TN16 3BB
- **Cray Valley SNT base**, 43 - 45 High Street, St Mary Cray, BR5 3NJ
- **Green Street Green SNT base**, 49 High Street, Green St Green, BR6 6BG

Their opening times are:

Wednesday and Thursday evenings:	7pm - 8pm
Saturday afternoons:	2pm - 3pm

- **Orpington Library** The Walnuts, Orpington, BR6 0TW
Tuesday 11-1pm, Wednesday 11-1pm, Thursday 3.30-5.30pm.



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A/Inspector Andy Buckley

Contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the North East Neighbourhood

Bickley	020 8721 2610
Bromley Town	020 8721 2859
Chislehurst	020 8721 2612
Mottingham & Chislehurst North	020 8721 2889
Plaistow & Sundridge	020 8721 2613



Inspector Ian Brown

Contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the South West Neighbourhood

Biggin Hill	020 8721 2820
Bromley Common & Keston	020 8721 2607
Darwin	020 8721 2603
Hayes & Coney Hall	020 8649 3548
West Wickham	020 8721 2608



Inspector Phyllis Rooney

Contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the North West Neighbourhood

Clock House	020 8721 2615
Copers Cope	020 8721 2772
Crystal Palace	020 8721 2604
Kelsey & Eden Park	020 8721 2616
Penge & Cator	020 8649 3541
Shortlands	020 8721 2614



Inspector Toby Noar

Contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the South East Neighbourhood

Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom	020 8721 2605
Cray Valley East	020 8284 8113
Cray Valley West	020 8721 2611
Farnborough & Crofton	020 8721 2606
Orpington	020 8721 2729
Petts Wood & Knoll	020 8721 2609

