

Operational and Non Operational Good News Summary

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Operational Good News

22 November

Southall raid nets UK's largest haul of pirate Bollywood DVDs

A raid by the Southall Broadway Safer Neighbourhoods team and Ealing Council's trading standards has netted more than £5 million worth of counterfeit goods, including the largest haul of pirate Bollywood DVDs in UK history according to Ealing Trading standards officials.

Officers raided 10 units at the Shurgard self-storage site on Uxbridge Road and scored half a million items. The estimated 13 tonnes of merchandise included around 200,000 counterfeit Hollywood, Bollywood and pornographic DVDs, cover sleeves, blank DVDs, CDs, fake Nike and Timberland trainers and counterfeit sports clothing. Around 75 per cent of all DVDs seized were Bollywood titles.

Four people were arrested under sections of the Trade Marks Act 1994, the Video Recordings Act 1984 and the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988. Three cars and over £6,000 in cash were also seized.

22 November

Flying Squad recovers £1.2 million in stolen watches

Officers from the Barnes Flying Squad have arrested two men on suspicion of stealing 70 watches during an armed robbery on an antique shop in W1.

The robbers escaped with the £1.2m haul in a van which was later recovered by police in Bromley.

The men were arrested on 16 November 2006 following an investigation by the Barnes Flying Squad and SCD11.

Officers recovered a loaded firearm and what is believed to be the proceeds from the robbery. Both have been charged with conspiracy to rob and firearms offences.

Operational Good News

22 November

Man sentenced to 10 years for robbery and other offences

Tinho Gomez Damiao, aged 21, of Mitcham appeared at Kingston Crown Court on 10.11.06 and was sentenced to five years for attempted robbery, robbery and two counts of having an imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

He reappeared at Kingston Crown Court on 17.11.06 and was sentenced to a further five years for burglary and wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Damiao was sentenced under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the sentences will run consecutively. They are indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for Public Protection.

22 November

Met Police & TfL operation to tackle uninsured drivers

1320 uninsured cars taken off the road by the Metropolitan Police and Transport for London.

Uninsured drivers are the drivers most likely to be involved in a hit and run. This is what recent research has found, and it is for this reason that the Metropolitan Police and Transport for London (TfL) have joined forces in a colossal clampdown on uninsured drivers in London.

'Operation Foist' launched on 23rd October 2006 has seen officers from the Met's Traffic Unit seize 1320 uninsured cars in just under four weeks - all in the boroughs of Hackney, Haringey and Newham.

Of the 1320 cars seized, Traffic officers have seized two Porsches, valued in excess of 150K, a BMW Z4 and a Hummer. Arrests have also been made, for a variety of offences including possession of Class A drugs - one car contained half a kilo of crack cocaine and £12,000 in cash. A number of robbery suspects were also arrested (including a man wanted for robbery since 2005).

Operational Good News

20 November Economic and Specialist Crime Unit Home Office employee jailed for misconduct

A former Home Office employee has been jailed for two years for misconduct in a public office and facilitating illegal entry into the UK.

Collins Okello pleaded guilty to four counts of misconduct in a public office and one count of facilitating the commission of a breach of immigration contrary to the Immigration Act 1971.

The conviction comes after a joint investigation by the Met Economic and Specialist Crime Unit and the Home Office Operational Integrity Unit.

In 2000 Okello was employed by the Home Office in Croydon and was responsible for deciding whether persons should remain or be removed from the UK.

20 November Specialist Crime Drugs trio jailed for 62 years

Three men have been jailed for a total of 62 years for conspiracy to supply cocaine with a street value of £9.5m.

Geoffrey Hyde and John Paul Town both received 22-year jail sentences each and Fransico Ibanez-Cantero received an 18-year sentence. All had pleaded not guilty.

The men were arrested in February 2006 following an investigation by the Serious and Organised Crime Command Projects Team, part of the Specialist Crime Directorate.

Officers raided the Hyde Haulage Yard in Chertsey where they saw the drugs' haul being unloaded from an articulated lorry into a white van.

Seventy-seven kilos of cocaine was concealed within a metal structure under a lorry carrying salad produce from Spain.

Operational Good News

20 November

Haringey cracks down on crime with help of high-tech camera equipment

Haringey officers have launched a crack down on crime across the borough by utilising the latest high-tech camera technology in an effort to tackle anti-social behaviour.

On the 20 November, Operation Aventail targeted a number of offences over a five-day period using unique head-mounted cameras worn by Safer Neighbourhood officers.

Being used for the first time by Haringey's SN teams the cameras, which are the size of an AA battery, are mounted on to police headgear. Officers can then patrol as usual with the cameras recording digital images to a special utility belt.

The equipment, which costs around £1,800 per pack and is funded by Haringey Council's Safer Communities Partnership, will be used to gather evidence and should any offences be captured the images will form part of any future court proceedings.

17 November

Wildlife Crime Unit Operation Charm

The Met has re-launched an operation to tackle the illegal sale of endangered species.

Operation Charm will see a tough new focus on Chinese medicine practitioners selling goods that are made from, or even claim to be made from, endangered species.

The Met's Wildlife Crime officers have been contacting businesses all over London with an Operation Charm Sticker Scheme, so that businesses can display a sticker supporting the campaign.

While most of London's Chinese medicine retailers are reputable and do not sell illegal items, there is a growing market in products that are destroying some of the world's most charismatic and endangered animals.

Operational Good News

17 November

Bromley

Drug factory closed down

Bromley Borough Support Unit (BSU) executed a search warrant at a house in Bromley.

The BSU, supported by the Air Support Unit (ASU) entered the property just as a man leapt from a first floor window. The suspect ran through the gardens of neighbouring properties and into a nearby Golf Course. Officers contained the vicinity and arrested the man with the assistance of the ASU and a local Dog Unit.

Inside the property a large quantity of cannabis plants at various stages of growth, lighting, air vents, fans, fertilizers and quantities of chemicals were discovered.

17 November

Access to Home Office/British Transport Police Partnership Graffiti Database for All SN Teams

An arrangement has been made with BTP for BOCU level access to the Home Office/BTP Partnership Graffiti data base for all Safer Neighbourhood teams. Officers can search graffiti tags which are persistent in their ward and input intelligence on the same. It is appreciated that some individuals on borough and BIU's may already have a personal access and password to the database. They can still continue to use this access and the BOCU level access will assist in reducing demand on BIU's inputting from crimint as SN teams can input direct.

Operational Good News

17 November

Islington

SNT close down DVD factory

The Nags Head Safer Neighbourhoods team from Islington Borough executed a warrant at an address in Haringey.

Working under Islington's Operation Hawkbit, officers believed the occupants of the property were operating an illegal DVD factory and supplying to illegal sellers in the area.

Inside the property, officers found just under 2,000 DVDs with an approximate street value of £10,000.

The sale of counterfeit goods in the Head has historical links and Operation Hawkbit looks to balance local issues as well concentrating on criminal networks that support organised crime, especially with regard to the production, supply and distribution of counterfeit goods.

16 November

Lewisham

Flying Squad arrest armed gang

Four men were sentenced to a total of 38 years imprisonment on Friday 10 November 2006 at Blackfriars Crown Court.

On Tuesday 20 December 2005, three men robbed a Securicor van and made off with a cash box containing £25,000. During the robbery, the Securicor guard was assaulted.

Officers from the Flying Squad at Tower Bridge stopped a car shortly afterwards in Brockley and arrested Fenton, Stone and Tavernier.

Shortly after, officers stopped another car and arrested Sylvestre.

During the arrests officers recovered all the money taken in the robbery as well as disguises and a loaded sawn off shotgun.

Operational Good News

15 November Enfield Sapphire Unit Illegal Immigrant convicted of rape

A 35-year-old man who subjected his wife to a degrading ordeal of false imprisonment, assault and rape was sentenced to a total of 13 years at Wood Green Crown Court on 10 November.

The man, an Albanian illegal immigrant, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for rape and five years for grievous bodily harm to be served consecutively. He also received a four-year sentence for false imprisonment to be served concurrently.

A investigation was launched by officers from Enfield's Sapphire Unit in conjunction with officers from the borough's Community Safety Unit that led to the man being charged with rape, GBH and false imprisonment on 1 February 2006.

On passing sentence, the Judge believed that the length of the sentence should act as a deterrent to others who commit acts of domestic violence. He also recommended that he be deported after serving his time in prison.

15 November TOCU success in combating transport related crime

The Transport OCU (TOCU) together with Transport for London Revenue Protection Inspectors (RPIs) have conducted a high visibility policing operation in Tower Hamlets Borough, which resulted in several arrests and prosecutions.

The TOCU team from North East Route Team A, consisting of police officers and TOCU PCSOs, worked in support of 15 RPIs targeting the Route 25 bus, which travels from Oxford Street to Ilford through Mile End Road.

The 25 bus travels along a priority crime route bus corridor, which the team targeted from 11am to 7pm. The RPIs stopped Number 25 buses outside the Blind Beggar Pub in Mile End Road and checked all passengers.

These checks resulted in five people being arrested for criminal offences – theft, threats to kill, breach of bail, and two people who were wanted on warrant.

Operational Good News

15 November

Serious Crime

Man jailed for abuse to stepdaughter

A 40-year-old man was sentenced to 12 years at Inner London Crown Court, convicted of rape and indecent assaults on his 12-year-old stepdaughter.

The child had been left in the suspect's care whilst her mother was engaged in running her business between the UK and Ghana.

The complex enquiry led officers to travel to Ghana to secure evidence, which led to the conviction of the man.

14 November

Wandsworth

Burglar detained by off duty police officer

On Saturday, 4 November 2006 at 06.15 hours, an off-duty police officer was on his way to Wandsworth police station, when he saw Bryan O'Gorman at the entrance of The Convent Co-operative Ltd housing trust in Chesterton Close, Wandsworth.

O'Gorman asked the plain-clothes officer if he would help him lift some bags over a fence. He was in possession of three plastic bin liners containing electrical goods.

The officer produced his warrant card and took hold of O'Gorman's sleeve while he called in for support. O'Gorman became aggressive and threatened to assault the officer if he did not let him go.

The officer detained him until a police response unit arrived at the scene and they arrested the 28-year-old on suspicion of burglary. He was charged with burglary on Sunday, 5 November 2006.

Operational Good News

14 November

South Eltham Safer Neighbourhoods Team put off Christmas criminals

On the run up to Christmas, residents of an area of Eltham's North Park are aiming to reduce and deter theft in the area by using the latest in DNA marking products to mark their personal property.

As part of a police-backed crime reduction initiative supported by Greenwich Council, some 400 homes in the North Park area are to receive SelectaDNA marking kits, subsidised by security firm Selectamark.

SelectaDNA is a water-based adhesive with a locked in DNA code, in addition to unique microdot and UV marker protection that cannot be replicated or decoded. The product can easily be applied onto personal items, dries within a minute and is visible using an ultra violet lamp.

Operational Good News

14 November Camden Drug dealers jailed

Five drug dealers have been jailed for over sixteen years in total.

Officers from the Camden Crime Squad and the Holborn and Covent Garden and Bloomsbury Safer Neighbourhoods team arrested them after an intelligence-led operation lasting four months.

Angelita Forsyth was sentenced to four years for supplying Class A drugs, namely crack cocaine and heroin. Tennetta Reid and Teresa Hyman were both sentenced to over three years for supplying Class A drugs. All three have also received five-year ASBOs and a recommendation for deportation after serving their sentences.

Michael Gowie and Cherrie Robinson were jailed for three years and six months and two years and six months respectively.

14 November Sutton Man charged with attempted murder of police officer and Arson

On 1 November 2006, a man allegedly set alight his house, escaped the fire and took to the streets armed with a knife.

He was challenged by police officers and during their attempts to restrain him he stabbed a uniformed police officer. The knife connected with her webbing belt below her Met vest with such force of that the knife bent on impact.

Due to the knife connecting with the officer's belt, she was unhurt in the attack.

DI Catherine Owen, Sutton Police Station, said:

"We were on scene quickly. We marshalled our officers at all times to shield the public and we acted decisively when opportunities arose to tackle the offender.

Operational Good News

13 November

Four men sentenced to a total of 45 years for a series of violent armed robberies

Four men have been sentenced to a total of 45 years imprisonment having pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob, in connection with a series of vicious armed abductions between September and December 2005.

TP Crime Squad said: "This gang were one of the most violent street robbery gangs to operate in London in recent years. They used extreme violence on their victims, who were put through a terrifying ordeal. Most were abducted and threatened with guns or knives. Some victims were subjected to serious assaults. I would like to take this opportunity to praise the dedication of my team which led to these arrests and convictions."

10 November

Middle Market Drugs Project seizure

The SCD7(8) Middle Market Drugs Project arrested two men for possession with intent to supply in excess of 200 kilos of cannabis resin.

Officers from the Middle Market Drugs Project stopped a vehicle and discovered the drugs in the rear of the car.

The driver was arrested and during a search of his home address officers discovered what is believed to be a further five kilos of cannabis, two kilos of cocaine, one kilo of amphetamine sulphate and one kilo of ecstasy.

Approximately £100,000 cash was also seized.

6 November

Sutton

Operation Rachel leads to stolen mobiles

Sutton Borough with the support of the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit have run a successful proactive operation targeting business premises in Sutton High Street engaged in the handling and re-programming of stolen mobile telephones.

Seven arrests have been made for a variety of offences involving handling stolen goods and money laundering.

32 mobile phones have been seized, of which 50 per cent have been either reported stolen or have been blocked by the airtime provider. A number have been identified as being stolen as a result of street crime.

£25,000 in cash was also seized from one of the business premises.

Operational Good News

3 November

Clubs and Vice

Sex traffic gang sentences

A gang of six Malaysian and Vietnamese men were sentenced to a total of over 17 years in prison for trafficking women from Malaysia into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation and controlling prostitution for gain.

Thanh Hue Thi and Kenny Low pleaded guilty to controlling prostitution for gain and conspiracy to traffic women for the purposes of prostitution in to the UK. Thi was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for trafficking and two and a half years' imprisonment for controlling prostitution.

Low was sentenced to three and a half years' imprisonment for trafficking and two years for controlling prostitution.

3 November

Bromley

Man pleads guilty to 1996 rape

A 40-year-old man will appear for sentencing at Croydon Crown Court on 1 December 2006, in respect of a rape committed ten years ago.

David William Clark from West Kingsdown, Kent, appeared at Croydon crown Court on 27 October 2006, pleading guilty to raping a 36-year-old woman at the cricket ground in Watts Lane, Chislehurst, Kent, in December 1996.

The woman was walking up Summer Hill from Chislehurst Rail Station carrying shopping bags. She turned into Watts Lane and was grabbed from behind and pulled through a hedge on to the cricket ground. There she was subjected to a violent attack and rape.

DNA evidence was obtained at the time of the initial investigation and stored on file.

Clark was arrested earlier this year for an unrelated matter in Kent. As is routine, he gave DNA, which proved a match to the 1996 offence. He was arrested and charged on 11 August by police in Bromley.

Operational Good News

2 November

Homicide and Serious Crime

Two men each sentenced to 30 years for murder of Richard Holmes

Two men have been convicted at the Central Criminal Court of the murder of 21-year-old Richard Holmes in Chingford.

Carl Dobson aged 23, a musician, of Stratford, was sentenced to life imprisonment with minimum tariff of 30 years.

Anthony Green aged 35 of Chingford, E4, was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum tariff of 30 years.

A third man, Dwayne Mahorn aged 24, a recording artist, of north London, was found not guilty of the murder.

The convictions follow an investigation by the Met's Homicide and Serious Crime Command.

1 November

Operation Sapphire

26 years for teen rapists

Four Lewisham teenagers have been jailed for a total of 26 years for their part in the rape and false imprisonment of a 14-year-old girl in 2005.

The 14-year-old victim was subjected to catalogue of violence and sexual assault including rape at the hands of Onyeneke, Clarke and Wallace. She was also prevented from leaving a park by James Brown. Finally escaping her ordeal, she made her way home and police were called.

What was a complex investigation to identify all the men involved was launched by Operation Sapphire at Lewisham.

Detectives followed up the 'street names' of the suspects and enquiries soon led to five young men being arrested within a short period of time.

Forensic evidence linked Onkenye and Clarke to the crime.

Operational Good News

2 November

Trident

Man jailed for Quilliam murder

Michael Blake has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Daniel Quilliam and will serve a minimum of 30 years.

Officers from the Trident Murder Investigation Team arrested Blake in April 2005.

On 12 April 2005 Blake, who was the former boyfriend of Daniel Quilliam's girlfriend, bombarded her with texts and calls in a bid to renew their relationship.

Mr Quilliam became annoyed and repeatedly grabbed his girlfriend's mobile telephone to terminate the calls.

Daniel and his girlfriend were later shot at in their car. One witness saw three people with hoods up walking towards the car firing a gun.

When officers searched Blake's home they found a notebook he had marked as belonging to "Kraver - YGB", identified as his street name and aligning himself with the Young Ghetto Boys.

Inside were a series of rap style songs. One contained the details of a shooting that described exactly the murder of Daniel Quilliam. In court, Blake admitted he had written the lyrics.

1 November

Brent SNT teams up with British Transport Police during Operation Cancer

As part of the second phase of Operation Blunt, on 26 October at Willesden Junction Station, police in Brent, including the Kensal Green, Harlesden and Stonebridge Safer Neighbourhoods teams and six officers from response teams, worked alongside British Transport Police, Immigration and Revenue Officers during a search arch operation.

Officers asked random passengers to walk through the search arches as they entered or exited the stations.

If the alarms were set off, officers used a search wand to identify the location of the object sounding the alarm. They then searched the individual if they believed they had reasonable grounds to do so.

The operation resulted in arrests for a serious sexual assault, immigration offences, suspicion of theft, possession of an offensive weapon and a racially aggravated offence.

Operational Good News

1 November

Camden

Man jailed for GBH

On 27 October 2006, Alan McAlavey was jailed for an indefinite period for grievous bodily harm, and has to serve a minimum of three years before he is eligible for parole.

In March 2006, Camden officers on patrol witnessed a fight between a man and woman outside the Devonshire Arms Public House.

On arrival, officers found the woman, aged 22 years, had sustained multiple stab wounds and administered first aid. LAS took her to the Royal Free Hospital where she was treated and later discharged.

The man, aged 44 years, was arrested at the scene on suspicion of attempted murder and later charged with Section 18 grievous bodily harm with intent.

Officers from the Community Safety Unit at Holborn Police Station investigated the incident.

1 November

Man sentenced to eight years imprisonment for a rape he committed in August 2000.

Duncan James Empson aged 32 of Reading was sentenced to eight years for a rape he committed in August 2000

The victim who was 44 years old at the time of the attack was out for the evening in Camden, she had been drinking with her partner at The Black Horse public house in W1 and upon leaving discovered that she did not have any cash, so left her partner to find a cash machine. As the victim entered Hanway Place she was approached by two men, one of them Empson and the 2nd a male who has never been identified.

In December 2005, Empson was cautioned by Thames Valley Police for assault and a DNA sample taken. When the DNA was added to the national data base it was identified that it matched the DNA of the suspect in the outstanding rape in Camden. Officers from Camden CID attended Empson's home address on 16/3/06 where they arrested him and took him to Holburn Police Station. On 16/3/05 he was charged with the rape and appeared at Highbury Magistrates Court on 17/3/06.

On 2/6/06 Empson pleaded guilty to the rape and was remanded in custody.

Operational Good News

31 October

Counter Terrorism

Achine which 'sees' through clothes boosts terror fight

New anti-terror technology launched today included the latest version of a machine which can see through clothes to detect weapons and explosives.

The Tadar machine uses "millimetre wave" technology to scan a body's natural radiation.

It "sees" through clothes and provides an image of a naked body on a computer screen, while dense objects such as guns, knives or explosives appear as black outlines.

A spokesman for manufacturer Smiths Detection said that, unlike its predecessors, the latest Tadar machine gives a real-time, moving image.

The machines, launched at a conference where Home Secretary John Reid delivered a keynote speech.

The spokesman said Tadar could be used in airports and other transport systems, courts, prisons, embassies, power stations and even schools.

31 October 2006

South Ruislip SNT helps elderly resident

South Ruislip Safer Neighbourhoods team has recently helped out an elderly repeat victim of crime.

The 82-year-old local resident has had various parts of her vehicle damaged since July 2006. The most recent report relates to the tyres being slashed on her vehicle.

PC Jo Allen contacted a local tyre dealer on the victim's behalf and spoke to Mark Moriarty, the manager of the Motor Inn in South Ruislip who kindly agreed to replace the damaged tyres at no cost when he found out about the circumstances.

Two youths have subsequently been arrested for the offences.

Operational Good News

31 October

Cold case review secures an 11 year sentence

43-year-old Greig Strachan, an ambulance controller of North London was sentenced to 11 years' for the attempted rape of a woman in Islington in 1993, following a cold case review of the crime in 2005.

On Friday 8 January 1993, the then 29-year-old victim (now 41) returned to her home in Islington in the early hours of the morning following a night out with friends. Having fallen asleep the victim was suddenly woken by her duvet being pulled from her and a stranger pinning her down. This stranger was Greig Strachan.

Greig Strachan attempted to indecently assault and rape the victim. When she struggled he repeatedly punched her as well and continued to molest her. Strachan then forced his tongue into his victims mouth but she bit as hard as she could, forcing him to recoil giving her opportunity hurt him in the groin and head butt him. At this Strachan fled the flat.

The flat was forensically examined as part of the original investigation but a fingerprint that was found was unsuitable to secure identification.

In 2005, the case was reviewed by the Operation Sapphire Cold Case review. With the advances in fingerprint identification Strachan was identified as the perpetrator.

31 October

Operation Trident

Launch of new promotional video

Popular culture's obsession with guns and glamour gets a shake up as the Met's Operation Trident hosts the launch of a stark new promo video created by internationally renowned music video director Jake Nava.

The Metropolitan Police's Trident initiative is taking an unconventional approach to targeting young people to dissuade them from becoming the gun users of the future by bringing together a top music industry director and 'grime' music collective Roll Deep's for their antigun crime track "Badman".

The track draws on the Roll Deep's personal experiences of friends who have been affected by gun crime to explore the negative effects carrying and using a gun can have.

This hard hitting track is complimented by a compelling reality based video directed by Jake Nava, who was brought up in Hackney before moving to America to direct music videos for stars such as Beyonce ("Crazy in Love") and Kelis ("Milkshake").

Operational Good News

30 October

Specialist Crime

Three sentenced for importing cocaine to the UK

Three people were sentenced to a total of 22 years for their involvement in a criminal network importing cocaine to the UK.

The investigation was led by officers from SCD7(12) who conducted an investigation spanning six countries and across two continents.

The cocaine was being imported from Columbia through Europe to the UK. It was brought into the UK disguised within bedding used for babies cots and transported through various fast parcel service companies. The team seized two packets containing a total of six kilos of cocaine.

The operation was instigated after receiving intelligence from HM Revenue & Customs Officers.

30 October 2006

Newham CCTV crack down reaps results

A joint approach by Newham police and the council to target the use of CCTV footage has resulted in nearly triple the number of arrests in the last six months compared to the same period last year.

The staggering increase shows that 159 arrests were made in Newham from April to September this year through CCTV referrals in contrast to 54 made in 2005.

Evidence and incidents seen using the council's CCTV Control Room has also doubled in six months with 433 incidents witnessed on CCTV in 2006 compared with 215 last year.

Operational Good News

27 October 2006

Anti-corruption result

An ex-detective constable was today sentenced to three years and three months' imprisonment at Kingston Crown Court.

The ex-officer pleaded guilty to a number of deception offences earlier this year. The ex-officers co-defendant, who also pleaded guilty to a number of deception offences, was sentenced to two years and eight months.

The offences relate to the deception of persons in relation to property transactions.

No personal details of the two defendants can be provided at this stage - by order of the court - to protect the integrity of further legal proceedings.

The officer resigned from the MPS following his guilty pleas.

26 October 2006

Operation Sphere success

Operation Sphere is in its sixth week of operation and it is continuing to increase the operational capacity of the MPS, reduce school time-related robbery and increase public reassurance.

During the times the initiative is running only one B/OCU recorded any robberies and even that figure was lower than normal. All are reporting good feedback from the public.

Detective Superintendent Steve Cassidy, Hammersmith and Fulham, said:

"I was really impressed with the levels of enthusiasm and motivation that the Operation Sphere officers brought with them. In most cases we paired them with local officers and both benefited from an exchange of knowledge. We reduced robbery in the periods that they were on the ground. We enjoyed this operation and we would welcome them back anytime."

Operational Good News

24 October 2006

£1,000,000 confiscation order

The London Regional Asset Recovery Team (RART) has secured a confiscation order of £1,077,700 against 46-year-old Siraj Patel, from Leyton.

The order was made on 10 October 2006 at Southwark Crown Court where Mr Patel was also sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment after he was convicted of selling counterfeit goods, including brands Timberland and Burberry to various retail outlets across London.

Mr Patel must pay the order within six months or face a further seven years' imprisonment being added to his sentence.

Mr Patel was summonsed for offences relating to the Trade Marks Act 1994 and Trade Descriptions Act 1968 after officers from Hackney's Trading Standards seized counterfeit goods at a premises belonging to him. He pleaded guilty but in 2005 was soon summonsed again for identical offences.

A financial investigation conducted by RART revealed Patel had made a vast profit from selling counterfeit goods. The proceeds of Patel's criminal activity exceeded £1million and enabled him to purchase two residential properties and a large commercial premises in east London.

Operational Good News

23 October

Man jailed for cold case rape

Javid Iqbal has been jailed for four-and-a-half years having been found guilty of a rape committed against a prostitute over 15 years ago.

Iqbal was identified through the National DNA database and has been placed on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

The victim, aged 24 at the time of the attack, had been working as a prostitute to earn money in order to support her young child.

In October 1990, she accompanied a fellow prostitute to work the Bedford Hill area of Tooting Bec, SW16. She approached a car containing two Asian men, one of them Iqbal, and engaged them in conversation. The other man got out of the car and Iqbal drove her away from Bedford Hill into a car park where he raped her twice.

The allegation was fully investigated at the time of the offence, but regrettably a suspect was not identified.

The crime scene stain relating to the victim that had originally been examined in 1990 by the Forensic Science Service was retrieved and underwent new advanced forensic examinations resulting in a profile being obtained. This profile was searched against the National DNA Database and Iqbal was identified.

Non – Operational Good News

22 November

Top marks for IPLDP recruits

The Met's Training and Development team and their students continue to make a positive impression during their Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP) training at Havering College.

The college recently awarded two recruits for their efforts on the course. PC David Cross was named Metropolitan Police Student of the Year and PC Diane Cowan picked up the Police Endeavour Award – both students collected their award from former Olympic champion Colin Jackson.

The recruits have also been engaging the college students in their role-plays.

IPLDP will be rolled out across the Met in April 2007.

21 November

AC Ghaffur wins award

Assistant Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur, head of Central Operations, has received an award for "Asian Leadership for Diversity" at the Asian Who's Who International awards held at the Grosvenor Hotel in London.

He has been given this award for his Communities Together work in response to the bombings on the 7 July 2005.

Mr Ghaffur was also named in the Public Sector Power 100 last week.

Non – Operational Good News

21 November

Met goes the extra mile in Green purchasing

Going the extra mile in "green" purchasing has led to the Met being highly commended in the Extra Mile Award category of the Mayor of London's 2006 Green Procurement Awards. The award is for innovation in creating a sustainable workplace.

The award is a new category in the annual Green Procurement Awards which recognise outstanding achievement in creating a sustainable workplace.

The Met, which was shortlisted as one of 12 finalists, has been recognised for its efforts in green purchasing which go over and above expenditure on recycled products.

Environmental Manager Emma Devenish was presented with the award at City Hall (20 November) by the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone.

Accepting the prize, she said:

"I am delighted to receive this award on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Service. We recognise that as a major employer and service provider to Londoners the Met has a big responsibility to meet in helping to protect the environment. That is why we have developed a proactive environmental strategy which seeks to reduce the impact of our activities on the Capital. Our aim is to continue to work actively alongside our suppliers and contractors to improve our environmental performance."

16 November

Haringey West Green Safer Neighbourhoods team news

West Green SN team have been awarded a Community Development award from the community they serve on the Broadwater Farm Estate. The award was to recognise their outstanding contribution and support to young people, sport and the community as a whole.

PCSOs from the team have developed relationships with the local primary schools. They now attend school assemblies and give talks about crime and crime prevention, and help with the football coaching of year six students.

'Operation Stop It' is a partnership operation involving Haringey Council and the West Green SN team, who have worked closely to combat fly tipping in the local area. Both SN officers and council staff regularly patrol the areas affected and have been stopping vehicles carrying waste. If the drivers are found to be carrying waste without a license they are handed a Fixed Penalty Notice of £300. Since 'Operation Stop It' began in April there has been a dramatic decrease in this type of offence.

Non – Operational Good News

16 November

Lewisham

Perry Vale SN team mobile marking initiative

On Wednesday evening officers from Lewisham Borough's Perry Vale Safer Neighbourhoods team provided security marking for mobile phones at Forest Hill train station.

PCSOs Helen Bezer and Ben Cowden marked mobiles, ipods and DVD players with postcodes and also offered members of the public UV pens to take home to mark other goods.

PS Phillip Moore, PC Jay Gasson and PCSO Henry Groves interacted with members of the public by handing out crime prevention leaflets and SN contact details.

This initiative was well received by commuters and members of the local community and is another fine example of Perry Vale Safer Neighbourhood team continuing to build strong working relationships with the local community.

16 November

Stars of the Silver Screen

The big screen is to return to Welling for the first time since 1961, thanks to the determination of some young students from Welling School.

The School Council has succeeded in getting funding for the setting up of a cinema in the school. Its successful bid was led by Emma Hunt, aged 15, and proves that young people in the borough can work with others to identify needs and get great results.

Students on the School Council suggested that the local Safer Neighbourhood teams should hold a 'Have a Say Day' at the school. They also helped organise the event, involving both the East Wickham and the St Michael's Safer Neighbourhood Teams, staff from Bexley Council and the Bexley Community Safety Partnership.

As pupils voiced their concerns, many suggested that there was a need for a cinema in the area. The East Wickham Safer Neighbourhood Team looked into the feasibility of the idea and drew up a business plan. They reported back to the School Council and the only issue they identified was the high initial set-up cost. The School Council was not put off and successfully applied for funding to the Youth Capital Fund and the Youth Opportunities Fund.

Non – Operational Good News

16 November

Good news from Church Street SNT

On 4 November 2006, a team of over 30 officers, led by Church Street SNT, dealt with a brothel on their ward. This was a four-storey establishment, which was reported to be employing up to 12 prostitutes. It had previously been dealt with by CO14, and the team were concerned with the reports that it was trading again. The risk assessment noted a likelihood of weapons; hence a shield equipped team facilitated entry and took control of those inside.

All ladies found inside the address were spoken to in a room designated for the purpose by a lady officer with the assistance of a lady interpreter to investigate any possibilities of false imprisonment or trafficking. No such concerns were apparent. Eventually, after over 6 hours, seven ladies and three men were arrested. The seven ladies were all found to be in breach of their landing conditions and will be deported this week. The three men are on bail while their possible involvements in assisting in the management of a brothel are investigated. Over £2000 was seized and a court has authorised that police retain it pending investigation under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

The operation was organised by PCs Laura Smith and Matt Tinkler. Special appreciation is also due to members of the Special Constabulary who assisted in the search and in maintaining the security of the thirteen persons found on the premises.

Non – Operational Good News

16 November

Team Sutton Keeping The Streets Of Cheam Safe

On Friday evening three PCSO'S were on their beat in Cheam when they stopped a group of youths in possession of alcohol.

After calling for backup the rest of the SNT arrived on scene and made a search on one of the youths only to find a Flick Knife disguised as a cigarette lighter, after the youth was arrested for possession of an offensive weapon the arresting officer interviewed him and found out he had bought the knife at a shop in Cheam (MALLIGA).

On Saturday morning the arresting officer showed the weapon to his Inspector and two of his seargents, they decided it would be a good idea to run a test purchase and arrest operation on the shop. On entering one of the team 5 officers purchased a knife in which the shopkeeper sold him without hesitation, the shopkeeper was then arrested. Later searches on his shop found more knives in the proximity that the keeper was more than likely going to sell.

The shopkeeper was interviewed and bailed.

All in all this was a great result for Team Sutton, and shows excellent team work and communication skills from the stop made by PCSO Rob Side-Bottom to the arrest made by SNT and the intelligence led operation by TEAM 5.

Non – Operational Good News

16 November

Edgware youths give knife crime the red card

In order to combat knife crime at the potential starting level Edgware ward have introduced a youth forum, with some of the ideas relating to Operation Blunt which have gone to print in the form of a red card (similar to a ref's red card).

The similarity of the referee's card being used is to give a red card to knife crime. Ten Thousand of these cards are going to be given out to all of the schools in the Borough. The card reads as follows:

Carry a knife at your own risk:

You Could be arrested, sent to prison for 4 years and get a criminal record.

A criminal record can affect the rest of your life – stopping you from getting a job, going to college or traveling abroad.

If you carry a knife you are more likely to be a victim. You could be scarred for life, maimed or even killed.

Don't slash years off your life by carrying a knife:

The Youth Forum started by Edgware Safer Neighbourhood Team has caught the imagination of the rest of the borough and the local authority. This is being hailed and a good innovative practice and is likely to be rolled out across the borough. It is our hope that this can become a much bigger project and launch Met Wide.

Non – Operational Good News

14 November

Greenwich's second year of Payback

Community Payback moved into its second year in Greenwich as part of an ongoing initiative between the Met's Safer Neighbourhoods teams, London Probation and Greenwich Council in this unique approach to rehabilitate offenders.

The initiative is part of range of activities undertaken by members of the Safer Greenwich Partnership with the aim of continuously improving safety in the borough.

The London wide Community Payback scheme means that offenders repay local residents by doing unpaid work supervised by London Probation staff, alongside Safer Neighbourhoods officers and staff from local councils.

This partnership has seen offenders tackling quality-of-life crimes and issues identified by people living and working in the area as the concerns that most affect their daily lives and feelings of security. Tasks have included removing graffiti and litter; pruning bushes and trees to improve visibility; and improving security by making footpaths safer.

3 November

Commissioner's commendations

The Commissioner paid tribute to the outstanding bravery, professionalism and dedication of Met staff and colleagues from other forces across the country in a special ceremony on 2 November 2006.

Over one hundred people were presented with Commissioner's commendations or Higher Commendations for their extraordinary work following the July 2005 London bombings and the Asian Tsunami. These awards are the highest that the police service can bestow.

The ceremony also recognised colleagues from other forces for assisting the Met as it dealt with the unprecedented murder enquiry following July 7th. Detectives Whendie Backwell from Hampshire Police, Andrew Jenkins from South Wales Police and Stephen Smith from West Midlands Police were all present to receive their commendations from the Commissioner for outstanding professionalism, commitment, compassion and dedication to duty. All three officers worked in the Resilience Mortuary.

Non – Operational Good News

Force chiefs on board for new police IT era

Quantum leap in collaboration between the 43 police forces in England and Wales is set to take effect, with all forces now signed up to the new national police IT strategy, Ailsa Beaton, Metropolitan Police CIO and one of the strategy's chief architects, has told Computer Weekly.

The Information Systems Strategy for the Police Service (ISS4PS) was launched last month to address concerns - raised after the investigation into the Soham murders - that police IT was too fractured to fight cross-border crime effectively. The ISS4PS will be managed by the new National Policing Improvement Agency.

The increased terrorist threat has made the need to collaborate even more urgent, she said, making senior police officers increasingly aware of the need to create common processes between police forces that can be supported by national computer systems.

Ailsa Beaton said:

"There is absolutely a need to work together against terrorism, if you look at the recent incidents, they have not just happened in one place but have happened all over, so we must work together. And that includes doing some things in the same way, so that when police officers go from place A to place B they have a clearer understanding of what they should be doing when they get there."

Non – Operational Good News

1 November

Camden's youth citizen panels

Camden Borough are giving young people the opportunity to make a valuable difference within their community - by launching the first-ever Safer Neighbourhoods youth citizen panels.

In May this year, Camden held a "Speak Up" event for youths. This gave them the opportunity to voice concerns about community safety and to present ideas on how to improve both this and the relationship between young people and the police.

Enthusiasm and interest from young people wanting to take part in future forums and panels grew and youth citizen panels are now on seven Safer Neighbourhoods teams on the borough.

The youth citizen panels will work closely with their respective adult citizen panels and Safer Neighbourhoods team to offer community directed policing by identifying and setting local priorities.

Seven of the panels were launched in October and the remaining eleven panels will be set up in the future. The current seven are; Kentish Town, Camden Town with Primrose Hill, Cantelowes, Hampstead Town, Kilburn, Haverstock and Gospel Oak.

Non – Operational Good News

31 October

SCD detective is invited to Downing Street

DC Nicholas Strivens from SCD5's Northwood's Child Abuse Investigation Team was invited to 10 Downing Street for his contribution in safeguarding children.

He is one of many police officers from a variety of forces and charity organisations across the country who have been invited to meet the Prime Minister on Monday 30 October 2006 for a reception in recognition of their work.

In 2004, DC Strivens investigated the case of a man who had alleged he was the victim of serious sexual abuse at the hands of a Catholic priest.

The allegations dated back as far as the early 1960s when the victim was an altar boy. In October 2004, the priest was charged with four counts of gross indecency with a boy under 14 and one count of indecent assault.

He stood trial at Isleworth Crown Court in July 2005 and after a 2 week trial was found guilty on all charges. Judge Lowen, commended DC Strivens for his tenacity, diligence, professionalism and detective ability. The priest was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, placed on the sex offender's register and disqualified from working with children.

26 October

Junior Citizens Event in Lewisham

This two week event organised by Lewisham Borough Police in partnership with various agencies, is to be held at the Mansion House, Beckenham Place Park, Beckenham, and will begin on Monday the 30th October 2006, at 09.30 prompt. Junior Citizen events began in 1986, and now cater for over 50,000 Year 6 children in London's schools. Police officers, working in partnership with various organisations, provide children with the opportunity to take part in a series of real-life situations.

The events aim to raise awareness, providing children with the knowledge and skills to cope with the dangers of everyday life, e.g. Road Safety, Rail Safety, London Transport and Personal Safety (Stranger danger) etc etc.

This is one of the largest partnership events held within the Metropolitan Police and is always over subscribed by those schools wishing to attend and take part.