

Operational and Non Operational MPS Successes and Good News

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Operational Successes and Good News

14 February

Man convicted of shooting Lambeth PC

A man from West Norwood has been convicted of shooting Lambeth PC Paul Bennett.

Dwayne Reid was found guilty of GBH with intent and firearm offences and will be sentenced in March.

In April 2006, PCs Paul Bennett and Mark Guppy were carrying out a routine patrol in Peckham when they were passed by a Peugeot being driven erratically.

The officers followed the vehicle in their unmarked vehicle and were joined by a marked police car ahead.

The driver of the Peugeot accelerated hard and collided with a kerb. Two occupants then fled on foot and PCs Bennett and Guppy gave chase.

PC Bennett then heard a loud bang, and realising that he had been shot, activated the emergency button on his radio. Despite believing the suspects to be armed, PC Guppy admirably and without thought for his personal safety, continued the pursuit.

PC Bennett was shot in a glancing blow above his right knee and made his way back to the abandoned Peugeot.

PC Guppy continued the pursuit of Reid and with the assistance of PC Richard Hall, Reid was arrested. A second suspect was arrested nearby, having been spotted by officers in a marked police car. He was subsequently charged in connection with the investigation and later found not guilty.

PCs Paul Bennett, Mark Guppy and Richard Hall were awarded the Met's highest honour by Commissioner Sir Ian Blair for the bravery they demonstrated during this incident, receiving High Commendations in May 2006.

Operational Successes and Good News

14 February

Brent

Specialist domestic violence court opens

The first Specialist Domestic Violence Court in North London was launched 14 February with a special event at Brent Magistrates' Court.

In London last year, there were more than 101,000 incidents of domestic violence reported to the police, and the specialist court is being set up to ensure victims are better supported and protected, while bringing more perpetrators to justice.

The new court in Brent involves police, crown prosecutors, magistrates, courts and the probation service, along with specialist support services for victims, taking a joined-up approach to tackle domestic violence.

12 February

Transport OCU

21 arrests under Operation Labrys

Operation Labrys was aimed at reducing transport-related crime and disorder on buses and bus routes in the Hackney Borough. Arrests were made for a number of offences including robbery, pick pocketing, assault and anti-social behaviour.

Tactics included plain-clothes operations, high visibility foot patrols, mobile patrols and bus hopping exercises by Traffic Community Support Officers.

Transport OCU officers accompanied Transport for London Revenue Protection Inspectors who checked for fare evasion. In addition to the arrests, officers stopped 92 buses and checked 10,290 passengers.

Operational Successes and Good News

12 February Obscene Publications Unit Confiscation order

The Met's Obscene Publications Unit and Financial Investigations Unit (both parts of Clubs and Vice) have secured a £353,100 confiscation order against two men who produced illegal DVDs.

Russell Tyler and John Wilkins both pleaded guilty to various offences including money laundering and distribution of obscene publications. Both were sentenced to 21 months' imprisonment last year.

Tyler's part in the business was the 'accountancy' whilst his accomplice, John Wilkins, produced the illegal DVDs.

During the investigation the Obscene Publications Unit executed six search warrants and confiscated 15,000 films, nine computers, 18 external hard drives, DVD players and video recorders.

12 February Hillingdon PCSO's recover £6,000 worth of stolen property

PCSO's Carl Gates and Jonathan Halpin from Pinkwell Safer Neighbourhoods team recently spotted a suspect vehicle parked up in Waltham Avenue, Hayes. The vehicle had been mentioned in a recent 'Daily Briefing'.

They contacted the officer in the case who made arrangements for the vehicle to be recovered and for a forensic examination to be conducted. Inside the vehicle were two laptop computers and a large quantity of power tools - total value in excess of £3,000.

As a result of this seizure, one male has been arrested and has been released on police bail.

Operational Successes and Good News

9 February

Wandsworth

PCSOs commended for bravery

Two Wandsworth community support officers were commended for their bravery after they detained a man armed with a knife and prevented a breach of the peace.

On Wednesday, 24 January 2007, PCSOs Stephen Reeves and James Skipper were on anti-social patrols in Graveney ward, Tooting, when they heard over the radio a report of a violent altercation in Mitcham Road.

The PCSOs ran to the venue where a man was lying in the road covered in blood, with a 39-year-old man standing over him. The officers called for assistance and despite the potential risks to their safety, they moved in and detained the suspect. A police response team later arrived and arrested the suspect.

9 February

Merton SN team

PCSOs praised

PCSOs Richard Vanderpuje and Christopher Osmond from Cricket Green Safer Neighbourhoods team were recently praised by a member of the public.

On 11 January, a local man from Mitcham was crossing the road when he collapsed. He regained consciousness a while later to find Richard and Christopher by his side.

The PCSOs helped the man into a local barbers shop where they cared for him whilst waiting for an ambulance to arrive. The man mentioned that his wife was waiting for him in a local car park and that she would be worried. Richard quickly made his way to the car park and escorted the man's wife back to the barbers shop.

Richard later returned to the car park and left his details on the man's windscreen to avoid him receiving a parking ticket.

Operational Successes and Good News

8 February Haringey 100th closure order

In 2004, officers from the Proactive Drugs Unit working closely with partners began to look at addresses connected to Class A drug use and those that had become hives of anti social behaviour.

Section 2 of the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003, enabled the officers and the local authority to close down these premises, having a dramatic impact on the quality of life for many living in Haringey.

Alongside this, Haringey adopts a unique approach to tackling the supply and use of Class A drugs. Police officers together with the council's Drug and Alcohol Action Team and the Haringey Drug Advisory Service combined forces by providing a named drugs worker to anyone found inside a property during a closure.

8 February Lewisham SN team close cannabis factory

The Grove Park Safer Neighbourhoods team, executed a search warrant inside a premises on Wydeville Manor Road, Grove Park.

The third floor council flat, which was home to a couple and their three children was being used as a cannabis factory. A large quantity of herbal cannabis and the component parts of the factory were recovered.

A 31-year-old woman was arrested on the premises and a 31-year-old man later presented himself to Lewisham police station. They have both been bailed to return in April.

8 February Bromley Sapphire Unit Three jailed for Bromley rape

Three men have been jailed for the violent multiple rape of a 16-year-old girl in Queens Gardens, Bromley in April 2006.

Mohammedet Hassan and Geron Miller were both sentenced to an indeterminate period for public protection.

A 17-year-old juvenile (who cannot be named for legal reasons) was jailed for seven-and-a-half years and must also serve an extended license of five years.

Operational Successes and Good News

8 February

Robbery gang jailed

18-year-old Hashim Elhag of Elephant and Castle, 18-year-old Osaheni Eveuomwan, of Walworth and a 17-year-old youth also from Walworth have each been sentenced to three years detention in a young offenders institution after they were convicted of two counts of robbery.

The trio's modus operendi was to grab their victims and hold them in a bear hug whilst the other stole personal property. They used this method when robbing a 32-year old man of his bag and a 33-year-old man of his rucksack.

Their 33-year-old victim gave chase and saw the gang get into a black Renault Clio, he called the police and gave them a detailed description of the vehicle. Later that night police officers saw the vehicle, pursued and stopped it. A search of the Renault revealed property belonging to the victims.

7 February

Fulham SN team

Man sentenced under Dangerous Dogs Act

43-year-old Ancil Roy Williams of Shepherds Bush was today sentenced at Blackfriars Crown Court having previously pleaded guilty to being in charge of dog out of control.

Williams was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment, suspended for two years, ordered to register with the probation service and complete 200 hours community service. He also received a twelve month exclusion order which stops him from entering Wormwood Scrubbs Common, ordered to pay the victims £1,250 and disqualified from having custody of a dog for seven years.

The 61-year-old victim was out walking with a male friend and their two German Shepherd dogs when a dog with Ancil Williams attacked one of the German Shepherds. The victim tried to intervene and in the process received a nasty bite on her ear requiring sixteen stitches. The German Shepherd received puncture wounds to his leg.

Officers from College Park and Old Oak Safer Neighbourhoods Team in Fulham, who regularly liaise with local dog walkers, identified an address for Williams and a search warrant was executed during which another dog was seized.

Operational Successes and Good News

7 February

Middle Market Drugs Project

Three men sentenced - 35 years' imprisonment

25-year-old Jose Montoya of Brentford, 35-year-old Malik Ford of Maidenhead and 30-year-old Ceri Stokes also of Maidenhead have been sentenced to a total of 35 years' imprisonment following a Middle Market Drugs Project operation.

The trio were arrested when they were stopped inside a Mercedes on Kingshill Avenue, Hayes on 8 February 2006. A search of the Mercedes revealed a rucksack that contained three kilos of cocaine.

6 February

Specialist Crime Directorate

Nine years' imprisonment for rapist

36-year-old Andre Luiz Reitter was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment for one count of rape and two counts of indecent exposure.

6 February

Trojan Unit - Enfield

Four men jailed

Four men were sentenced for their involvement in an aggravated burglary in Southgate, which took place in April last year.

Three of the men were sentenced to six years in a young offenders institution and the fourth was given three and a half year sentence following an earlier guilty plea.

The victim had a firearm held to her head, a knife brandished at her and computer equipment and her car was stolen.

The men were spotted in the getaway vehicle by a Trojan Unit and arrested in possession of the keys to the victim's car, an imitation firearm, a scream mask, Balaclavas and a Halloween mask.

Operational Successes and Good News

6 February

Specialist Crime Directorate

Man pleads guilty to manslaughter

Mark O'Connell, aged 24 from Surrey, appeared for trial at the CCC on Monday 5 February 2007, charged with the murder of his father, Patrick O'Connell, in Kingston in May 2006.

He pleaded guilty to manslaughter and the plea was accepted by the court.

The case is adjourned to 16 April 2007 for sentencing.

6 February

Hillingdon

Officers recover £200,000 of plant equipment

On 29 January 2007, two officers from Hillingdon Borough attended an address in Wallingford Road, Uxbridge after receiving information that a stolen JCB digger was at the location.

As a result of their subsequent enquiries, five items of plant machinery value £200,000 were recovered from the location. One item had been stolen from Scotland.

One man was arrested at the scene in relation to handling the stolen goods.

This was an excellent piece of work as plant theft results in millions of pounds being lost each year by the construction industry, many goods are often shipped out of the country to the Middle East and other locations.

The two officers who initially attended the venue were PC Damian Goddard-Lane and PC Lee Symons.

Operational Successes and Good News

5 February

Paedophile Unit

Paedophiles sentenced for conspiracy to rape

Three men have been sentenced to a total of 27 years after Internet chat evidence has been used for what is believed to be the first time in London to prove an offence of conspiracy to rape a child.

David Beavan was sentenced to 11 years for conspiracy to rape including a number of offences under the Protection of Children Act. Alan Hedcock and Robert Mayers were both sentenced to eight years also for conspiracy to rape a child and a number of offences under the Protection of Children Act.

The Metropolitan Police's Paedophile Unit began investigating and as a result of forensic computer examinations, established evidence of online conversations between the two men. This detailed the specific identity of the two girls to be targeted, aged 13 and 14, and described how they would kidnap them after school, take them to a local woods and rape them.

5 February

Specialist Crime Unit

Two people jailed for deception

A 32-year-old man and 20-year-old woman were charged with deception and sentenced to 12 and nine months' imprisonment respectively.

Szopa and Grzegorzko conned two Polish men out of their money after promising them work in the UK. On 26 January, police were called to a bus station at Heathrow Airport. Both victims, aged 39 and 45 had arrived in the UK at Gatwick Airport after they had been promised work by a man whom they had been in contact with over the Internet and telephone.

At Gatwick Airport they were met by Szopa and Grzegorzko and after paying them £500 cash, they were driven to an unknown location and abandoned.

Both victims managed to catch a bus to Heathrow, where they called police.

Whilst police were being informed of this allegation, a car matching the description from the victims containing Szopa and Grzegorsko had been stopped by police. The two were arrested in connection with the allegations made.

Operational Successes and Good News

5 February

Westminster

Man jailed for knife attack

Robert Butler has been jailed for six-and-a-half years after he stabbed a man following an argument.

He was sentenced at the Old Bailey having pleaded guilty to GBH. Butler attacked Paul Brady following an argument over fitness training. Butler armed himself with a large knife and sent Brady a text asking him to meet him.

As Mr Brady came out onto the street, he was stabbed by Butler causing extensive internal injuries. He was airlifted to the Royal London Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery. He was in hospital for 11 days.

Following police enquiries, Butler handed himself into police where he was arrested and charged with attempted murder.

5 February

Lewisham SN team

Three women charged under new Fraud Act

The Rushey Green Safer Neighbourhoods team arrested and charged three women under the new Fraud Act with fraud by false representation and also being in possession of an article to be used in fraud.

The women were using bogus charity donation forms for the charity Handicap International while canvassing members of the public for donations.

They all appeared at Greenwich Magistrates' Court on 29 January 2007 and were bailed to appear again on 12 February 2007.

2 February

Preston Safer Neighbourhoods team

Dangerous dogs raid

The Preston Safer Neighbourhoods team executed a warrant at an address in Wembley.

PC Simon Underwood from the Preston SNT led the operation with support from his colleagues in the Dog Support Unit and the RSPCA.

A 51-year-old man was arrested for racially aggravated criminal damage and for having dogs dangerously out of control in a public place, he was taken to Wembley Custody Suite.

Two Rottweilers were also seized by police and taken to an MPS location for dangerous dogs. Inspector Mike Beaman from the RSPCA was present to assist police and check the condition of the dogs.

Operational Successes and Good News

2 February Barking Flying Squad result

On 25 January 2007, two men were sentenced following their involvement in a linked series of cash-in-transit robberies in East London.

Matthew Samuels, age 31 and Stewart Yates, age 27 were sentenced to nine and six years' imprisonment respectively.

Both men were charged with attempted robbery of £25,000 from Securicor at Barclays Bank and two counts of robbery from Securicor at Toys R Us and Travel Care.

The suspects were identified following the sighting of the same getaway vehicle at two separate armed robberies. Enquiries by officers from the Flying Squad at Barking identified the location of the vehicle and a pro-active operation was established.

On 19 September 2006, SCD7(5) KZ supported by assets from SO11 saw both men drive to Epping High Street where they put on Balaclavas before attacking a Group 4 cash-in-transit delivery to Travel Care.

They threatened the guard with a hammer and made off with £6,000. It was here that both men were intercepted and arrested close to the scene.

1 February Tower Hamlets Operation Sapphire Man charged with rape of sex worker

On the 18 January, Taofiq Laguda from Kilburn was sentenced at Southwark Crown Court where he was given an indeterminate sentence for public protection and seven years for the rape and unlawful imprisonment of a 24-year-old local sex worker.

On 8 March 2006, the victim was working in the Commercial Street area of Whitechapel, when in the early hours she was approached by a car.

The driver propositioned her for sex, as a result, she got into the vehicle and they drove to a nearby alley in Old Montague Street where he stopped the vehicle.

Whilst in the vehicle there was an argument over what services would be offered for what amount of money. Laguda locked the vehicle doors, turned the engine off, and took the keys out preventing the victim from escaping and then she was raped.

Operational Successes and Good News

1 February

Lewisham

Priority Crime Tasking Team

Lewisham Borough has introduced a system of fast response vehicles crewed by an experienced team to deliver a robust approach to robbery investigations and to combat the increasing number of false allegations. The team is called the Priority Crime Tasking Team.

These vehicles will attend all robberies on the borough and carry out immediate detailed investigations. This will include taking the victim for a tour of the area to try to locate the suspects, gathering forensic evidence such as fingerprints or DNA and recovering CCTV footage.

Victims are given a business card that contains mobile phone numbers for the team. This gives them immediate access to an officer who knows about their case and is able to take action if the victim sees the suspect again or has any additional information to pass on.

1 February

Lewisham SN team

Operation Community Payback

Community Payback is an initiative in partnership with the National Probation Service in London and local authorities. Its aim is to enable offenders subject to community orders with an unpaid work requirement, to make reparation to local communities as part of the Safer Neighbourhoods programme, while supervised by London Probation and Metropolitan Police staff.

The location was highlighted by members of the local community as being a road that they felt unsafe to be in. This was mainly due to the significant amount of graffiti, overgrown foliage and poor lighting.

This operation was successful in clearing foliage, graffiti was painted over and lighting improved.

Operational Successes and Good News

31 January Specialist Crime Directorate Indeterminate life sentences for youths

Two youths from Barking and Dagenham were sentenced to indeterminate life sentences on the basis of the future threat they posed to the public.

Both youths pleaded guilty at court.

On 21 May 2006, the seventeen and eighteen year olds who cannot be named, repeatedly stabbed a man they befriended in a pub causing him to suffer life-threatening injuries. They were arrested after officers followed a blood trail to a nearby flat.

31 January Bromley Safer Transport Team

Bromley is proud to announce the formation of the first dedicated Safer Transport Team of police and PCSOs for bus routes in Bromley. This is the first team of this type to become operational in London.

The launch on Monday 29 January was a month early, ahead of other boroughs with the first team of nine PCSOs that will target bus routes

The second team will be launched in the next few weeks.

31 January Coulsdon SN teams Cannabis factory closure

On 25 January, Coulsdon West and East Safer Neighbourhoods teams carried out a joint drugs search warrant at a residential address in Birchfield Close, Coulsdon.

A small hydroponics factory was uncovered in the upstairs bedroom of the property and a quantity of cannabis plants were recovered by police.

As a result, a 56-year-old man was arrested for the production of herbal cannabis and has been bailed to return on a future date pending further inquiries.

Operational Successes and Good News

31 January Sapphire Unit Woman charged with wasting police time

On 4 December 2006, a woman reported to police that whilst out walking in Balaclava Road Surbiton, she was approached from behind and then seriously sexually assaulted by a man.

After four weeks of intensive enquiries and detective work, officers could find no evidence to support the allegation and afterwards the woman admitted no such incident had occurred.

On 23 January 2007, the woman was arrested by the Sapphire team and charged with wasting police time. She appeared at Kingston Magistrates' Court, where she entered a guilty plea.

She was conditionally discharged from court for two years and ordered to repay the Met £700 compensation and court costs of £75.

30 January Tower Hamlets Robbery Squad Robbery conviction

An 18-year-old man was sentenced to five years at a youth detention centre after having been found guilty of robbery.

John Mullan and his accomplice, who was brandishing a large knife, demanded money from their victim, a 19-year-old man returning to his car.

They threatened him with the knife and Mullan encouraged his accomplice to stab the man. They took about £50 in cash and the keys to the car.

The victim tried to fight back, and disarmed the man with the knife. Mullan then picked up the knife and tried to stab the victim several times, before making off in the victim's car.

Operational Successes and Good News

29 January

Specialist Crime Directorate

Man jailed 16 years for smuggling cocaine

A Kenyan who smuggled £2million pounds worth of high purity cocaine through Heathrow in the bellies of wooden statues has been sentenced to 16 years in prison, after pleading guilty to the importation of cocaine.

Mountaga Camara, age 39, packed 22kilos of cocaine into statues and sent them to Heathrow before collecting them six days later.

29 January

Wandsworth

Use of mobile technology

Police in Wandsworth have teamed up with a mobile phone forensics expert to tackle street crime. Officers now have the technology to instantly acquire data from mobile phones to establish the identity of the owner and help build evidence against criminals.

Radio Tactics Ltd, from Southampton, describe the three-month pilot as a way of 'taking the fear of crime back to criminal', and we hope, the revolutionary initiative could change the face of police front line forensics.

Officers in Wandsworth Borough now have the facility to process SIM cards and mobile handsets, which previously would not have been examined. The Radio Tactics ForensicSim and ForensicMobile Toolkits are on hand to examine the SIMs and handsets straight away, providing instant full data acquisition and a comprehensive report of all the data extracted.

Operational Successes and Good News

29 January

Collision Investigation Unit

Man guilty of death by dangerous driving

A 25-year-old man pleaded guilty to death by dangerous driving on 26 January 2007.

Jenner Ramirez Jaramillo was travelling at least 50 mph in a 30 mph zone in August 2004 when he struck a 71-year-old man as he tried to cross the street. The man died from his injuries shortly thereafter.

Jaramillo failed to stop the car and abandoned it nearby. Through the use of forensic samples, the driver was traced after he had been arrested for a drugs supply offence in March 2005.

Officers from the collision investigation unit at TDJ Chadwell Heath arrested Jaramillo and he was sentenced to three years and four months' imprisonment.

He will be deported to Columbia once he has served his sentence.

26 January

Specialist Crime Directorate

Second man charged with murder of Nisha Patel-Nasri

Jason Jones, aged 35 from London E1 was charged with the murder of Nisha Patel-Nasri in Sudbury Avenue on 11 May 2006.

Tony Emmanuel aged 40 of East Ham, is also charged with the murder of Nisha Patel-Nasri.

A third man remains on bail pending further enquiries returning to a north London police on a date in February 2007.

26 January

Op Maxim operation

Seven arrested

Operation Maxim officers have arrested seven people in a proactive operation targeting a criminal network involved in making forged passports.

They raided five houses in Hackney as part of the operation, arresting four men and three women.

An initial search of the properties has recovered a number of passports, other types of identity papers, money and equipment associated with the manufacture of counterfeit documents - several computers, scanners and printers.

Operational Successes and Good News

26 January

Specialist Crime Directorate

17-year-old girl charged with murder of Tracy Ann Meade

A 17-year-old girl (aged 16 at time of alleged offence) will appear in custody at CCC accused of the murder of Tracy Ann Meade (aged 39) on 31 May 2006 in SE25.

Patrick Dawkins, aged 20, (aged 19 at time of alleged offence) appeared on bail 20 February 2007 at Croydon Magistrates Court charged with perverting the course of justice.

Police were called around to a garage area at the rear of flats in Warminster Rd, SE25, to reports of a woman stabbed.

She was taken to Mayday Hospital but pronounced dead shortly after arrival. She was Tracy Ann Meade, a mother of two from the South Norwood area.

25 January

PCSO detains burglar despite being threatened with a hammer

On 5th January when PCSO Hannes Meiring saw a male acting suspiciously on a river bank backing onto private dwellings. He approached the male and saw that he appeared to be putting a quantity of jewellery into a ruck sack. The first reaction of the suspect was to threaten Hannes with a hammer which he had with him.

Hannes backed off which gave the suspect a chance to run away. Hannes gave chase, but had to back away on a second occasion when the man turned and ran towards him with the hammer. When the suspect turned again to run away Hannes continued following. An excellent radio commentary given allowed police units to arrive on scene after a 1/2 mile chase.

As police arrived, the male discarded the hammer allowing Hannes to detain him and hand him over to the arriving officers.

The jewellery had come from a nearby burglary. The male was also wanted for questioning following DNA traces at two other nearby burglaries. He has since pleaded guilty to two burglaries and asked for 16 further offences to be taken into consideration. Irregardless of this, the actions taken by PCSO Hannes Meiring on the day, were far and away above those that are expected.

Operational Successes and Good News

25 January

Bromley Sapphire Unit

Convicted paedophile jailed for rape

A man was convicted of raping an 18-year-old man at knifepoint in Crystal Palace Park. Roy King was arrested on 30 July 2006 and was charged with rape and sexual assault.

On Saturday 29 July 2006, King befriended a young man and offered him a place to stay for the night after he missed the last train home from Charing Cross railway station.

King flatly denied any responsibility or involvement in the offence. During his trial, after being confronted with CCTV and forensic evidence, that position changed and he claimed that he had consensual sex with the victim.

On the 25 January 2007, the jury unanimously found him guilty of rape and sexual assault. King has been remanded in custody and will be sentenced on 2 March 2007.

King is a convicted paedophile, whose offending history dates back to 1979, and who also has previous convictions for failing to comply with the terms of the Sex Offenders Register. He has eleven previous convictions for 25 offences. Nine of those offences are of a sexual nature and includes serious sexual offences against young children.

25 January

Wandsworth

Burglary convictions

A 26-year-old man was sentenced to thirty months' imprisonment for three counts of burglary.

Alex Klos burgled the home of a 72-year-old man in Battersea. Klos was not there when police arrived but was identified by a trail of blood he left at the scene.

Arek Klos, of Mirabel appeared at Blackfriars Crown Court on 7 January 2007 and was sentenced to thirty months' imprisonment for three counts of burglary.

Operational Successes and Good News

25 January

Paedophile Unit

Man sentenced for possessing indecent images of children

A 53-year-old man has been sentenced to 21 months in prison having pleaded guilty to possessing over 13,000 indecent images of children.

The Met's Paedophile Unit arrested Peter Craig Miller last September after they raided his home in Hammersmith.

Miller's home is owned by the Avonmore Primary School, where he worked as caretaker.

He had previously pleaded guilty to 11 counts of making, possessing and distributing indecent images of children in December. The images ranged between levels one and five - the majority of which were level one.

Miller had accessed websites to download images as well as entering chat rooms and sharing images with others. He owned several computers, and stored the images on a range of media including discs, memory cards and an external hard drive.

25 January

Cold Case Rape Investigation Team

Man found guilty of 1992 rape

Ricky Brown, a 33-year-old man from Kent, has been found guilty of a rape committed in 1992.

DNA evidence linked Brown to the rape of a 49-year-old woman in Orpington after detectives from the Cold Case Rape Investigation Team reviewed the case. Scientific advances led to the DNA profile obtained at the time identifying Brown as the offender. He was arrested in August 2005.

Brown met his victim at a launderette. She had agreed to have a drink with him but as they were walking she became concerned after they had entered an alleyway.

She tried to walk away from him but he grabbed her and put his hand over her mouth. She fell to the ground and Brown threatened her that he had a knife and indecently assaulted and raped her.

Operational Successes and Good News

25 January

Cold Case Rape Investigation Team

David Decoteau convicted today of rape in 1996

A 45-year-old man who falsely imprisoned a shop assistant, threatened her with a gun and raped her has been convicted at Southwark Crown Court.

David Decoteau, of Camberwell, was found guilty of rape, indecent assault, false imprisonment, robbery and possession of a firearm with intent to commit robbery. He has been remanded in custody and sentencing will take place on 15 March 2007.

The victim, a 24-year-old woman, was working at Ann Summers, Queensway, London at 10.30am on Monday, 25 March 1996 when Decoteau entered the shop and asked for assistance. The victim went over to assist him when he grabbed her and put his hand over her mouth. He pulled a handgun out of his jacket and threatened to shoot her if she made a sound.

24 January

Transport OCU

Officers foil street robbery

Transport OCU Sergeants Nick Milbourn and Dave Watson recently came to the assistance of a man being robbed in the early hours of the morning in Newham.

As the two officers from North East Area carried out their pan London mobile patrol, they witnessed two men robbing a man while their three companions stood close by.

The gang had been travelling on a bus and followed their intended victim when he got off at Romford Road.

On the arrival of the police officers, the three other gang members fled the scene as well as the fourth member who was helping to carry out the robbery. The fifth member who was trying to snatch the victim's bag was oblivious to the police presence.

The officers pulled the offender away from the victim and arrested him. The second suspect was found in a nearby road and also arrested.

Operational Successes and Good News

24 January Lewisham Pub drugs test

On 20 January 2007, Lee Green, Lewisham Central and Rushey Green Safer Neighbourhoods teams carried out a joint drugs operation at The Station Hotel Public House, and The George Public House.

This operation involved customers being tested for traces of controlled drugs as a pre-condition of entry to the public house. These operations were carried out with the full support of both licensees.

As a result of the operation, 37 people were swabbed as they entered the venues and an amount of cocaine was seized.

A 19-year-old man, Fraser Caryle, was charged with possession of a knife and appeared at Greenwich Magistrates' Court on 24 January 2007.

Omar Brown, 25-year-old man was arrested for being wanted on warrant for failing to appear at court for a motoring offence. He was bailed to appear at Bexley Magistrates' Court.

A 27-year-old man from Catford was also arrested and received a formal caution for possession of a knife.

23 January Off Duty Police Officer detains violent robber

On 23 January an off-duty Harrow Police Constable, PC Dominic Pepper was travelling home in his private vehicle and witnessed two males violently attacking a male victim and attempting to steal his laptop bag.

PC Pepper intervened and detained both males. A short scuffle ensued in which one suspect made off. He was known to the officer personally and enquiries are in hand to arrest him. The other suspect was arrested for violence attempted robbery and assault on a police officer and conveyed to Colindale Police Station. The off-duty officer sustained minor injuries.

Operational Successes and Good News

23 January Bromley Man jailed for firearms offences

James Brand fired a gun at a man's leg after an argument at the Chelsfield Public House in Orpington.

In the interview, he denied the offence, but was identified by witnesses as the gunman and charged.

He was sentenced to eight years for possession of a firearm whilst committing an indictable offence, 14 years for wounding with intent to do GBH and one year for possessing ammunition without a licence.

23 January Waltham Forest Mini Operation Athena

Nine people were arrested in connection with domestic violence offences in Waltham Forest following a one-day crackdown by the Community Safety Unit.

The arrests were made on 18 January as part of Operation Mini Athena and also targeted perpetrators of racial crime and other hate crime.

The intelligence led initiative, got underway at 6am and involved some twenty officers.

Of the nine arrests, five were made for assault, two for breach of Non Molestation Orders, one for racial harassment and one for sexual assault.

Operational Successes and Good News

22 January

SO16

Two PCs became lifesavers

Two PCs became lifesavers when they resuscitated a man who had collapsed at the Myanmar Embassy last week.

PCs Pete Watts and Denise Bond from the SO16 Counter Reconnaissance Team were policing at the event when an elderly man collapsed at the party.

PC Watts immediately placed the man in the recovery position. He then began CPR as the man has stopped breathing. PC Bond brought a first aid kit and the facemask and airway were immediately used.

Paramedics soon arrived and asked PC Watts to continue CPR while they set up their equipment. The officers continued to assist the paramedics with preparing equipment, monitoring plasma bags, and recording time and frequency of 'Defib' shocks.

After a short time the man was transferred to St Mary's Paddington where he remains in a serious but stable condition.

19 January

Crime Squad in Tower Hamlets
Stalker sentenced to nine years

Maria Marchese, aged 45 from east London was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment at Southwark Crown Court today after being found guilty at the same court of attempting to pervert the course of justice and two counts of harassment in relation to a 44-year-old doctor.

She was also found guilty of one count of harassment and making threats to kill against Deborah Pemberton, 31 years, of the Dorset area.

In October 2002 the victim, a consultant psychiatrist from St Clements Hospital in east London, and his former partner, began receiving silent phone calls and threatening text messages to their mobile phones. Shortly after their family and friends also began to receive similar phone calls and texts.

In November 2002 the victim, a keen speed-boat competitor, began to receive death and bomb threats, often linked to his boat house moored in the east London area.

Operational Successes and Good News

19 January

Barnes Flying Squad/TSG

Armed robber sentenced to eight years in prison

An armed robber who committed over eighteen robberies before he was arrested by officers from Operation Vanguard has today been sentenced to eight years' in prison.

24-year-old Shaun Partleton of Purley Oaks, Croydon targeted betting shops, post offices and an off-licence in Lambeth during a six-month period during 2006.

He was arrested after unarmed officers chased him following a robbery at a betting shop in Streatham Hill, SW2 in December 2006. He had taken a minicab to the bookmakers, asking the driver to park in Blairderry Road while he walked to the shop.

Partleton had his hood up and was wearing a home made mask to disguise his features.

19 January

Barnet

Five jailed for violent burglaries

Five men have been jailed for their part in two violent aggravated burglaries committed in August 2005.

Frank Agyeman (jailed for seven years), Daniel Mooney (jailed for seven years and 10 months), Eric Damoa (jailed for seven years), Charles Antwi (jailed for two years) and Nigel Prescod (jailed for five years) had violently robbed a woman in her own home in NW9 when looking for drugs and money.

Patricia Osei Assibey was held at knifepoint by Prescod and Damoa, but escaped by jumping from the third floor window. The injuries she sustained as a result of jumping have left her permanently disabled.

Later that month Damoa returned with Mooney and Agyeman. They forced Sophia Ofusu-Asiedu (Patricia's 13-year-old daughter) and Yaw Adutwum to the floor under gunpoint. The neighbours called police after they heard the screams.

Mooney was seen to leave the flats in Antwi's car and was arrested after a pursuit assisted by the Air Support Unit.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

8 February

Commendations to be awarded today by AC Tarique Ghaffur

Assistant Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur is commending the joint working practice of the HM Courts Service, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Traffic Criminal Justice OCU at Marlowe House, Sidcup in a special ceremony on Thursday 8th February 2007 at New Scotland Yard.

The centralisation of the Traffic CJU OCU at Marlowe House was implemented in 2003 to provide a pan London processing service for traffic prosecutions, personal injury collisions, fixed penalty offences and aspects of police collisions. They have also provided an enforcement service for police safety cameras.

Working in partnership with the HM Courts Service in London and CPS this forms the basis of the London Traffic Prosecution Scheme. Together this effective consultation process known as the gateway courts system has resulted in an increase of cases being brought to court.

6 February

Secondary schools link up with Safer Neighbourhoods website

Secondary school pupils across the capital now have a new direct line to the police through which they can express their concerns about local places and issues that make them feel unsafe. Through the new online survey on the Metropolitan Police's Safer Neighbourhoods website, young people can tell police about areas on their school journey and in their neighbourhood that cause them concern.

The information will be used by local Safer Neighbourhoods teams who will work with the community and partners to find long-term solutions to the problems.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

1 February

Bexley Street Pastor Scheme

The Street Pastor Scheme was officially launched in Bexley and will see volunteers from churches going out into Bexleyheath at night, offering reassurance and assistance to anyone visiting the town centre.

They are a group of specially trained pastors working to provide support to people in Bexley through a network of volunteers. They will work in small groups with young people and others who may benefit from pastoral care.

The scheme already operates successfully in towns across England with more than 500 fully trained pastors taking to the streets a night. Recent figures have shown a considerable drop in street crime in town centres when the Street Pastors are on patrol.

Wearing their high visibility uniforms, the Street Pastors have already taken to the Broadway at night. They first stepped out on 22nd December when they visited pubs and clubs offering weary revellers someone to talk to as they made their way home.

The scheme will work closely with the police, providing them with a different insight into activity in the Broadway during the evening.

30 January

Brent Borough Commander's Commendation

Brent Borough Commander's Commendation and Awards Ceremony took place on Monday 22 January 2007 at the Wembley Plaza Hotel.

56 members of the Metropolitan Police Service and four members of the public were invited to the evening ceremony where Brent Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Mark Toland commended them for outstanding acts of bravery, professionalism, dedication to duty and performance of the highest level.

Members of the Senior Management Team read the commendations and the guest of honour, England and London Wasps Josh Lewsey MBE, presented the awards.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

30 January

Police in Ealing raise money for charity

Police in Ealing Borough recently donated £944 to a Northolt School and an organisation, which supports ex-servicemen who have lost limbs or their eyesight during active service.

The money was raised following a raffle at Ealing Borough Police Christmas party.

The money raised was split equally between Mandeville School, and the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association (BLESMA) based in Romford.

Mandeville is a school for pupils with severe learning difficulties and who may have additional physical, medical and/or sensory disabilities or autism.

The school was subject of a burglary on 14 September 2006 and a 29-year-old man was charged and convicted of the burglary last December.

Investigators, DC John Greenfield and DS Mike West, who also organised the Christmas party, felt it would be very rewarding that some money raised during the raffle should go to the school to help replace or renew equipment stolen in the burglary.

DC John Greenfield, who served in the Armed Forces before joining the MPS, suggested that some of the money should also go to supporting the excellent work BLESMA currently does for those members of the armed forces who have lost limbs or eyesight serving with the armed forces.

29 January

Bromley Common and Keston SNT receive commendation award

The Bromley Common and Keston Safer Neighbourhoods team received a commendation from Bromley Borough Commander Martin Greenslade and the Deputy Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Tony Owen.

The ceremony held was at The Warren on 18 January 2007.

The commendation was awarded for "enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism in promoting Safer Neighbourhoods policing within Bromley Borough".

Non – Operational successes and Good News

29 January

Media invite to view firearms educational package

Media representatives were invited to attend a presentation by Chief Superintendent Bill Tillbrook OCU Commander for the Specialist Firearms OCU (CO19), on 31 January 2007 at CO19's South London base.

The educational package is the version that is being delivered to stakeholders, including Police Community Consultative Groups and Independent Advisory Groups.

25 February

Motor workshop for youngsters in Barking

Twelve teenagers from Barking had a unique opportunity to get their hands dirty at a mobile motor workshop scheme launched on 25 January 2007.

Pioneered by Thames Ward Safer Neighbourhood residents, the initiative sees local officers join forces with the local Council and ex-offender Mark Riches, in an effort to divert youngsters from choosing a criminal path as Mark once took.

This innovative, joint approach saw the lucky twelve utilise equipment provided by Orbit Training Ltd, a mobile workshop set up by Mark, now 40 years, which is based on the principles that helped him reform from his colourful past.

The programme, which runs on Thursday evenings for the next five weeks, works from a vast purpose built truck equipped with tools, ramps and computers to provide valuable skills in motor and bike mechanics

24 January

IMPACT Nominal Index wins award

The Home Office and Association of Chief Police Officers IMPACT Nominal Index (INI) database has won the prestigious e-Government National Award in the central government 'Team' category.

The INI database enables an officer in one force to quickly establish whether any other force holds information on a person of interest in any of their main operational systems: crime, custody, intelligence, domestic violence, firearms and child protection.

Non – Operational successes and Good News

24 January

CafeWatch launched in Westminster

CafeWatch, a partnership initiative with the council and local retailers, has been launched in Westminster in a bid to reduce anti-social behaviour.

The initiative will see a co-ordinated approach to offer crime prevention advice to customers.

1,105 allegations of theft of personal property were made to police in Westminster between April and December 2006 by people who had been eating and relaxing in cafes and restaurants across the borough.