

15 November
Camden
FIU seize £360,000 in assets

On 9 November, an ex council employee was ordered to have his assets, totalling £360,000, seized by Wood Green Crown Court.

John Baptiste, 57, of Sydenham, Lewisham, was convicted on 16 March 2007. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for false accounting and theft, for stealing £620,233.79 from accounts under his control whilst employed by Camden Council.

The asset seizure is a result of confiscation proceedings brought by the Camden borough Financial Investigation Unit, under the Criminal Justice Act, 1988.

Assets seized from Baptiste include property in the UK and Grenada. Failure to comply will result in Baptiste receiving a further prison sentence of three years.

14 November
Specialist Crime
Man jailed for indecently assaulting child

On 6 November, a 36-year-old man was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity, at Wood Green Crown Court.

Ala Uddin was also placed on the Sex Offenders register indefinitely, and will be deported back to Bangladesh after he has completed his sentence.

The conviction follows an investigation led by DC Clive Strachan from SCD5.

Uddin claimed to be a religious teacher and was employed by the victim's father to teach his children twice a week. Uddin indecently assaulted the 12-year-old boy during these lessons until the victim made an allegation in May 2007.

Uddin was arrested and remanded in custody until the trial.

The victim's family has since been moved to another borough due to the attention they received from the local community, for supporting the prosecution.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
OPERATIONAL GOOD NEWS

14 November

Kingston

Life saved heroically by Kingston PCSOs and Officers

On Saturday 1 September 2007 PCSOs Coughlan and Reynolds were on duty walking along the Riverside Walk where they saw a male sitting at the bottom of the steps which led directly into the River Thames. They approached the male who confided in them that he felt suicidal. PCSO Coughlan proceeded to talk to the male and persuaded him to come away from the water's edge. The male agreed to do so however as he was about to get up he collapsed into an epileptic fit, towards the water.

PCSO Coughlan caught the falling man and held him just out of the water. The collapsed male was still in danger of falling in but was now in risk of taking PCSO Coughlan with him.

PCSO Reynolds assisted in trying to keep the male out of the water and the two were hanging onto the last step trying to save the falling man and themselves. PCSO Coughlan radioed for urgent assistance whereby PC Brown and PC Maan were literally meters away came to assist. They took hold of the unconscious male, who was still having an epileptic fit, and managed to drag him up, onto the pavement above.

The officers gave emergency first aid to the male and awaited for the ambulance to arrive. He was taken to hospital with no serious injuries.

14 November

Alibon Safer Neighbourhoods

Traffic arrest leads to drugs find at KG

PC Christine Hagan from Alibon Safer Neighbourhoods Team (Barking & Dagenham Borough) had been investigating a traffic offence relating to driving documents.

On the 9 November 2007 she and two other officers attended an address in the Heathway Dagenham to arrest a suspect for a deception relating to false information. On arresting the female a wrap of what appeared to be cocaine was found on the floor. A further search revealed a further 53 wraps, these were a mixture of Cocaine and Heroin. The female suspect and her boyfriend were arrested for possession with intent to supply.

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OPERATIONAL GOOD NEWS

13 November
Specialist Crime Directorate
Rapist jailed for nine years

On 9 November a 19-year-old man was sentenced at Kingston Crown Court to a total of nine years' imprisonment for the rape and robbery of a lone woman in Twickenham.

On 18 June, a 28-year-old woman was about to enter a subway under Chertsey Road (A316), Twickenham, near the junction with Jubilee Road, when a man approached her.

The suspect - later identified as Michael Graham Sidwell - jumped out at her, wielding a large knife in his right hand. He demanded she hand over her money and held the 8 - 10" knife close to her face in a threatening manner.

He again said, "Give me the money", so the victim handed over her purse. Having opened it and looked inside, Sidwell demanded that she give him more as he had seen her stop at a cash point. She explained that it was to check her balance and that she had not taken any money out, but Sidwell continued to be aggressive.

The victim pleaded with him to put the knife down and not to hurt her, but he forced her further into the subway before proceeding to indecently assault her. She struggled and continued to plead with him to let her go. Still brandishing the knife, Sidwell forced her to perform a sex act on him.

As soon as he had left, the distressed victim called a friend and asked her to call police. Officers arrived at the scene and the subway was subjected to a full forensic examination. With the assistance of the victim, an e-fit facial image of the suspect was produced.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
OPERATIONAL GOOD NEWS

12 November
Waltham Forest
Off-duty PCSO secures arrest of three suspected robbers

PCSO Fateh Faiz, of Markhouse Safer Neighbourhoods Team, witnessed the robbery of a female near Leyspring Road E11 on 7 November as he returned home from a prayer session at nearby Leytonstone Mosque.

PCSO Faiz, aged 21, intervened immediately. He found himself surrounded by the youths, but unperturbed, attempted to detain one of the suspects.

The suspects made off, but PCSO Faiz continued to take control of the situation.

He ensured the victim was left in the care of a member of the public, before following the suspects on foot. As he continued his pursuit, PCSO Faiz called the borough's Priority Crime Unit direct from his mobile phone to direct officers to the location.

Officers arrived on scene and arrested three male suspects in connection with the attack.

9 November
Croydon
Operation Azuma result

Two brothers have been sentenced to a 12-month community order and 100 hours unpaid work for attempted handling of stolen goods, at Croydon Magistrates Court on Friday 2 November 2007.

Mohamed Fraaz Bhatti, 27-years-old and Mubeshar Bhatti, 23-years-old, both from Norbury Avenue both pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing on 26 October.

Both men worked at the second hand mobile phone retail outlet Jazz Call Communications in North End Croydon. Police arrested them on 26 September as part of Operation Azuma, a covert operation run by police in Croydon to tackle street crime by limiting the demand for stolen goods.

They were then charged with four separate charges of attempted handling stolen goods on 19 October.

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OPERATIONAL GOOD NEWS

9 November
Operation Trident
Two jailed after gun fight

Wayne Ebanks and Moses Oyebanjo have been jailed following an investigation by Operation Trident.

The men had been engaged in a gun battle on a housing estate in Battersea in February 2007.

They discharged at least three rounds at each other and Oyebanjo sustained an injury to his back.

After extensive enquiries and identification of key witnesses officers were able to arrest and charge both men.

Officers used special measures to protect the identities of the witnesses at court with the full support of the justice system.

Both men were sentenced on 8 November at Kingston Crown Court to 10 years' imprisonment.

9 November
Homicide and Serious Crime Command
Violent man sentenced for GBH

On 5 November John Donovan was jailed for seven years for grievous bodily harm (GBH) at the Inner London Crown Court.

In July 2006 Donovan threatened to kill the victim Thomas McGurk. Fearing for his life Mr McGurk left work early, at this point John Donovan arrived accompanied by his uncle, William Donovan, and tried to run Mr McGurk over killing his dog in the process.

John Donovan aimed his car at Mr McGurk a second time, knocking him into the air. In an attempt to flee his attackers, the victim climbed into a nearby scrap yard. John Donovan gave chase armed with a machete. Whilst running the victim fell, at which point John Donovan attempted to stab him with the machete. The victim managed to shield himself but subsequently received large cuts to his arm.

Police sirens were heard nearby so John Donovan returned to his car and drove away. He was stopped and arrested by police after a short car chase.

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OPERATIONAL GOOD NEWS

7 November
Islington
SN officers recover 80,000 DVDs

Safer Neighbourhoods officers in Islington have charged two people after 80,000 counterfeit DVDs were recovered.

The Nag's Head Safer Neighbourhoods team, working in partnership with the Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT), found the DVDs at two addresses in Hackney.

Officers, acting on intelligence that the premises were being used for the sale and distribution of counterfeit DVDs, executed two search warrants on the morning of Friday 2 November 2007.

Ming Si, age 42 and Hong Mei Quo, age 20 were charged with six counts of possession of counterfeit DVDs with intent to trade and possession of counterfeit goods DVDs respectively.

They have been remanded in custody to appear at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court.

7 November
Paedophile Unit
Five men arrested as part of a sex offender network

The Met's Paedophile Unit and Child Abuse Investigation Teams have arrested five men who were part of global child sex offender network. The suspects were arrested for possession, manufacturing and distribution of indecent images of children.

As part of the Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP's) Centre's Operation Koala, 46 suspects were arrested in the UK in operations involving 22 police forces around the country with more arrests expected in the near future.

The five men between the ages of 23 and 61-years-old were arrested separately and have been bailed to return at a later date.

Police also seized property from an address in Greenwich, which is currently under analysis.

The Met's Paedophile Unit and also the force's Child Abuse Investigation Teams made the arrests as part of the Met's Operation Safetynet.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
OPERATIONAL GOOD NEWS

7 November
Clubs and Vice Unit
Pentameter 2 raids arrests

Officers from the Met's Clubs and Vice Unit have arrested a 29-year-old Lithuanian woman suspected of running an escort agency advertised on the internet.

The woman was arrested at the agency's headquarters in Cumbrian Gardens, Brent, on suspicion of controlling prostitution and money - laundering as part of Operation Repollo.

Police also raided 11 addresses across London thought to be have been used by the agency as brothels. Two further arrests were made - a 24-year-old Albanian man on suspicion of money laundering and a 33-year-old man, also Albanian, on suspicion of immigration offences.

All the addresses were searched and over £90,000 in cash was seized from four addresses. Police are currently speaking to 12 female victims who worked for the agency whose website advertises the services of women, providing a service from 11am to 3am.

The arrests were part of the national Pentameter 2 operation, launched at the beginning of October, which aims to rescue and protect victims of trafficking and to identify, disrupt and arrest those involved in criminal activity.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
OPERATIONAL GOOD NEWS

6 November
Transport OCU
Operation Chicago 4

The Transport Operational Command Unit, with British Transport Police (BTP) and Transport for London (TfL) have made 314 arrests at the conclusion of Operation Chicago 4.

The two-week joint policing initiative in south east London deterred and detected offences such as robbery, theft, ticket fraud, fare evasion, drug dealing, aggressive begging and anti-social behaviour and disorder on the bus, railway and tram network in south east London.

The operation, in its third year, ran from 10-13 October and was repeated the following week on 17-20 October and targeted Lewisham, Lambeth, Croydon and Southwark; BTP further covered Bromley.

Transport OCU police officers carried out bus hopping and patrols across the network from Lambeth to Lewisham during key hours in the evening and towards the end of the working week.

5 November
Newham
Paedophile jailed

A paedophile who attempted to meet a 12-year-old he groomed over the Internet has been jailed for three-and-half years following an investigation by the Newham Sapphire team.

Police were alerted to the attempt after the child's mother interrupted one of their online conversations.

The child had been using a children's website when Alan Coleman (who was pretending to be a child) began to chat online. As the conversation continued, Coleman tried to arrange a meeting.

Police arrested Coleman in April this year and seized 145 indecent images of children from his computer.

He was charged with 19 counts of child sex offences, including the original offence of attempting to meet a child with the intention of committing a child sex offence. He was also charged with making indecent photographs of children and pleaded guilty to 12 offences in total.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
OPERATIONAL GOOD NEWS

5 November
Haringey
FIU confiscate drug traffickers assets

The Financial Investigation Payback Unit in Haringey has successfully confiscated an asset worth £46,536.26 from Richard Stuart Harris on the 4 October 2007.

On 29 August 2006, Harris was imprisoned for drug trafficking following a trial at Wood Green Crown Court after being caught trafficking drugs in Haringey by a dedicated team tasked at patrolling high crime areas, led by PS Paul McGregor.

DC Mark Harris leading the financial investigation discovered that the defendant had benefited £502,495.00 from his criminal activity and owned 48 Pennine House, South Mall, Edmonton N9 0TG, which was mortgaged.

5 November
Fulham
Man receives life imprisonment

On Friday 2 November 2007, at Blackfriars Crown Court Gerard Harnett was sentenced to life imprisonment having been convicted of aggravated burglary and two counts of sexual assault.

He received the life imprisonment sentence based on these convictions and his previous offending history.

On 22 April 2007, a 27-year-old woman was woken by an intruder in her house in Fulham. He threatened her with a knife and proceeded to sexually assault her.

She managed to disarm the man and chased him out of her property. However, the man soon returned armed with a plank of wood and threatened the victim again, demanding his phone, which he had left behind at the scene. The victim stood her ground and managed to chase him away again.

5 November
Transport Operational Command Unit
Operation BusTag's 2,000th arrest

The MPS Transport Operational Command Unit and Transport for London have this month achieved a landmark 2,000 arrests for criminal damage to London's buses - through the award winning Operation BusTag.

Since BusTag's inception, the BusTag team has tripled its arrest rate of offenders of bus criminal damage, which takes the form of graffiti, window etching, seat and window damage, and arson.

The key to their successful investigations is through applying a forensic-style methodology to CCTV image identification.

Over 95% of the 2,000 cases dealt with by BusTag have resulted in serious consequences for the offender, such as police reprimands, and court sentences ranging from fines and community service to imprisonment.

Operation BusTag is a CCTV investigation unit, which was set up in November 2004 by the Met's Transport Operational Command Unit (TOCU) which works in partnership with, and is funded by, Transport for London (TfL).

2 November
Production of counterfeit DVDs
Brockley SN Team

On 24 October, the Brockley Safer Neighbourhoods team supported by the Ladywell, Telegraph Hill, and New Cross SN teams carried out raids on three addresses in New Cross Road, Wilshaw St, and Pearson Avenue.

This intelligence-led joint agency operation was led by the Lewisham Trading Standards officers and also involved officers from Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT) and Department of Works & Pensions (DWP).

As a result of the operation more than 20,000 items were seized including vital master discs, a master computer and 160 DVD burners. It is estimated that working 12 hours a day, the team could have made roughly £15,000 to £100,000 per week.

At the time of the operation two men were seen to jump over a balcony in Wilshaw Road but they were quickly arrested by PC Greg Poynter.

2 November
Bethnal Green SN Team
Seizure of blank birth certificates

Following an audit check on sheds on the Avebury Estate E2 by the local Housing Association, staff found twenty-four blank birth certificates. They liaised with officers from the Bethnal Green North Safer Neighbourhoods team who then arrested two men - aged 27 and 51 years - for handling stolen goods, whilst they were observing the garage.

The men were also arrested for criminal damage.

2 November
Paedophile Unit
Paedophile jailed for 19 years

Daniel Lambert from Tottenham has been jailed for 19 years having been found guilty of 21 counts of childhood sexual abuse.

Lambert ran riding stables in Bedwell Road, Tottenham. He gained the trust of young children before abusing them.

Eight of those he abused, now all adult women, gave evidence against him.

1 November
MPS Wide
Operation Safer Homes launched

Operation Safer Homes was launched on Thursday 25 October targeting known and wanted burglars across London.

Burglary remains at a 30 year low for London, a historic achievement for the organisation. Historically we have seen burglary rise at this time of year with the longer nights, houses are in darkness, burglars seize on this opportunity.

To ensure that the Met continues to reduce household burglary, Safer Homes has been launched, which is an enhanced drive to find and arrest wanted suspects.

Each of the 32 boroughs have been carrying out early morning raids on their local burglars. The operation will continue until the end of December.

The operation is being supported by colleagues within the Forensic Science branch who are enabling us to process the forensic evidence speedily, in some cases, within 24 hours.

1 November
Hackney
Operation Bantam success

On 29 October, Rohan Miles, 28-years-old, from Frampton Park Estate, pleaded guilty at Snaresbrook Crown Court to the following charges:

- 1) Possession of a prohibited firearm
- 2) Possession of 7x 9mm ammunition
- 3) Possession with Intent to Supply Class A (Heroin)
- 4) Possess of Class A (Crack)

Sentencing has been adjourned and he remains in custody.

The case follows an operation carried out by Hackney's Proactive Firearms Unit, Operation Bantam. Officers carried out a search warrant at an address in Tullis House in August.

Property recovered by officers included class A drugs (heroin and crack), herbal cannabis, seven 9mm bullets, and a self loading pistol.

1 November
Hackney
Operation Bantam successes

Recently the Proactive Firearms Unit had a notable success when officers stopped a 24-year-old man whilst driving his car in Rendlesham Road, E5. The man was subsequently taken back to his home address in Colvestone Crescent, E8 where the property was searched under the authority of a firearms warrant.

Officers recovered a self-loading pistol containing rounds of ammunition in the magazine. The man was arrested and taken to a police station to be interviewed.

The man has since been charged with possession of a firearm, possession of ammunition, and two charges of being prohibited from possessing a firearm and ammunition having served a period of imprisonment.

29 October
Newham
Seizure of weapons and drugs

Officers from Newham's Crime Squad, supported by CO19, have recovered a large haul of ammunition, weapons and drugs following an operation in Stratford, E15 last week.

A firearms warrant was executed at a residential address where officers found approximately 20 bags of cannabis, CS spray, a large quantity of combat knives, machetes, flick knives, a stick sword, and a stun gun with approximately 15 rounds of ammunition.

The two adults at the address, a 26-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman were arrested and later charged with possession of ammunition, possession of a stun gun, possession with intent to supply cannabis and possession of CS spray.

29 October
Redbridge
Endangered fish seized

Officers from the Met's Wildlife Crime Unit have seized a shipment of a live endangered species at an address in east London.

Working with police in Redbridge borough, HMRC and the National Wildlife Crime Unit, an address in Barkingside was searched and eleven live Arowana fish were seized.

A man was also arrested at the address on suspicion of keeping an endangered species for the purpose of selling.

The fish are worth up to £2,000 each and are much sought-after for aquariums and by keepers of exotic fish. In parts of the Far East, they are considered to bring good fortune.

The raid at the home address of a dealer who specializes in selling exotic species for fish collectors, followed the receipt of information they had had been imported from Singapore by air.

The fish seized are about 18 inches long, but can grow considerably larger depending on the exact Arowana species.

29 October
MPS Flying Squad
SmartWater used to combat cash-in-transit robberies

The Flying Squad are asking officers to think SmartWater when they make arrests, after Group4Securicor introduced the liquid to their cash boxes.

The Flying Squad has been working with the cash delivery industry for over a year to look at ways the number of robberies can be reduced, following a rise in offences.

Operation Vanguard has been developed by the Flying Squad and the move to introduce SmartWater by Group4Securicor is another major step.

The crime-fighting tool means that when a box is opened by robbers, they and the notes will be covered in a liquid that is completely unique to that box.

29 October
Hackney Downs SN Team
Three-month closure order

Officers from Hackney Downs Safer Neighbourhoods team worked in partnership with operation crackdown and Hackney Homes to secure a three-month closure order on a crack house on Mothers Square in Clapton.

Officers raided the address in September and found a substantial amount of crack cocaine and herbal cannabis along with £5,000 in cash that was hidden in various parts of the house. The closure order was granted on 17 October.

The SN team had received calls from local residents as the address generated high levels of anti-social behaviour due to constant activity throughout the day and night. The address also acted as a safe house for other local drug dealers.

29 October
Clubs and Vice Unit
Raid reveals child prostitution

Following a recent tip-off, officers from CO14 Clubs and Vice Unit carried out a raid on a brothel premises in Lordship Lane, Tottenham.

The raid uncovered a 17-year-old Romanian girl being exploited as a prostitute, who was removed into a place of safety under police protection. Also at the premises were two further Romanian girls and two Lithuanian girls all of whom were over 18-years-old.

A 38-year-old Turkish woman, Denicz Demiroglu, was found to be managing the premises and immediately arrested. A search of her home address found over £5,000 in cash that was seized under POCA, and a quantity of class A and C drugs.

Dermiroglu has been charged with four counts, including controlling prostitution for gain, money laundering and possession of cocaine and cannabis.

A 46-year-old Romanian man was also arrested for facilitating child prostitution during the raid and has been bailed pending further enquiries.

The raid was part of operation Pentameter 2, which aims to rescue and protect victims of trafficking and to identify, disrupt, arrest and bring to justice those involved in criminal activity. Pentameter 2 is an ACPO led, national, multi-agency operation, involving a wide range of stakeholders.

26 October
Territorial Policing
Launch of the Patrol OCU

Territorial Policing Modernising Operations (TP Mod Ops) will now be known as the Patrol OCU.

The change is to reflect the fact that the original remit of the OCU in dealing with C3i-related issues such as the roll out of Integrated Borough Operations (IBOs) and work associated with the Demand Management Best Value Review has been completed.

As a result of the work already being undertaken, the OCU will move towards a more patrol centred focus.

25 October
Waltham Forest SN Team
Anti-social behaviour Arrests

On 19 October, Waltham Forest Safer Transport Team (STT) led an operation to target youths who cause anti-social behaviour on the borough's public transport. The team carried out high-visibility patrols at Walthamstow Bus Garage between 1pm and 7pm.

Acting on intelligence, the operation, code named Butler, involved identifying suspects engaged in street crime and disorderly behaviour to reduce incidents, provide public reassurance, and improve passenger and staff safety.

The STT were joined by officers from the Met's Territorial Support Group, Borough Tasking Unit, British Transport Police and street wardens.

A total of four arrests were made, including two arrests for robbery, one arrest for a public order offence and one arrest for possession of an offensive weapon, possession of a class A drug and theft.

The Walthamstow STT is made up of 18 police community support officers, two sergeants and one police constable and is funded by Transport for London.