



Metropolitan Police Authority

Local Policing Summary Bexley

People across London want more information about policing in their local area.

In particular you want to know how policing is delivered locally, how the police are performing and what the priorities for the police are, together with information about your local officers and how to contact them.

This local policing summary aims to do just that. By providing detailed information for each borough, the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) aims to keep you more informed about trends and developments in your area, and reassure you that we, and your local police, listen to what you tell us about the problems in your community.

Working in partnership to reduce crime

This annual local policing summary is produced by the MPA. Made up of 23 members who scrutinise and support the work of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), our role is to ensure that the views of Londoners are taken into account when deciding policing priorities and that London has the best possible police service to protect our communities.

Although the Authority does not have any responsibility for operational policing, it is responsible for monitoring how well those services are delivered.

It is the Authority's job to ensure the Metropolitan Police perform to the best of their ability and are accountable to the people of London. The MPA also works to make sure local communities have a say in how they are policed.

Crime is at a ten year low in London

Primarily, the MPA exists to

- hold the Commissioner rigorously to account for improving the operational performance of the MPS
 - transform community engagement to help Londoners secure more responsive policing
 - work with the MPS to achieve cultural change throughout the service so that everyone in London can gain and retain confidence in policing
 - drive the MPS to make the most effective, efficient and cost conscious use of all its resources
-



Metropolitan Police Authority

The MPA sets and monitors the police budget, which includes agreeing the level of council tax that you pay towards policing, and appoints senior officers to the MPS.

The MPA also sets annual priorities and targets for the police and we hold them to account for their performance against these.

The Authority has achieved real benefits for the people of London. We now have record numbers of police officers – over 31,000 - working to keep the capital safe, and London was first to introduce Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), with over 4,000 now providing extra public reassurance and tackling anti-social behaviour in every ward across London.

If you would like more information about the ways in which the MPA works or would like to make any comments, please visit the Authority's website: www.mpa.gov.uk or contact us on 020 7202 0202.

Looking back on 2007/08

Summary performance achievements

The MPS has achieved a number of successes against the objectives and targets set for 2007/08. The majority of the priorities and targets set by the MPA were met, particularly in terms of sanction detections, criminal justice and terrorism.

Some of the performance achievements between April 2007 and March 2008:

- the overall sanction detection rate reached 25.1% against a 24% target. The MPS continues to show increases year on year;

(Sanction detection – where an offender has been identified and a legal action / 'sanction' has been taken.)

- the MPS exceeded its target for offences brought to justice (OBTJ) obtaining 209,107 against a target of 197,200;
- the MPS achieved a reduction of 8.8% for recorded crimes that compare to those surveyed by the British Crime Survey (BCS). This exceeded the reduction target of 5.5%.

However, some targets were not met, most notably:

- gun enabled crime decreased by 1.4% against a 5% reduction target;
 - public satisfaction across the MPS was 77% against a 82.5% target;
 - the gap between the satisfaction of White victims (78.8%) and Black and Minority Ethnic victims (71.8%) was 7 percentage points. This missed the target of a 5.3 percentage point gap.
-

Setting policing priorities for London

Policing London Business Plan 2008/11

The three year business plan sets out how the MPS will deliver against the policing priorities of government, the Mayor of London and the people who live and work in London. Targets are set and monitored throughout the year to ensure the MPS continues to reduce crime and increase public safety.

The strategic priorities in the plan are to:

- make our services more accessible and improve people's experience of their contact with us
- make our neighbourhoods safer through local and city-wide problem solving and partnership working to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and road casualties
- enhance our counter terrorism capacity and capability
- plan for, and effectively police, major events in London and prepare for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- reduce serious violence and protect young people
- disrupt criminal networks and reduce the harm caused by drugs

To find out more, log on to the MPA website www.mpa.gov.uk/reports/policingplans.htm

Have your say on policing in London

Public consultation plays an important part in setting the policing priorities for London.

The MPA is considering the priorities for 2010/11 and would like to know what you think the police in London should be focusing on.

Have your say on policing in London by taking part in this year's consultation questionnaire - log on to the MPA website

www.mpa.gov.uk/reports/policingplans.htm

to complete an on-line questionnaire or call 020 7202 0063 to leave your contact details and we will post you a paper copy.



Bexley: local information



Message from Borough Commander Tony Dawson

“Last year Bexley Police, working with partners and the community, reduced assaults and other violent crime for the second year running. But we know that the public still do not feel safe enough, so we continue to concentrate on reducing assaults, burglaries and anti-social behaviour. Much of the violence and anti-social behaviour in the borough is fuelled by young people being sold alcohol. We have worked very effectively with the London Borough of Bexley to develop the most rigorous licensing regime in the country. Together we have initiated reviews of over 24 licensed premises, and the council have closed or radically changed the licensing conditions of many off-licences, supermarkets, pubs and clubs.

“We believe that violent crime has fallen in Bexley for a number of reasons: the tough approach to licensing; the Safer Neighbourhoods teams deal strictly with off-licences selling alcohol to young people; and we target the most violent troublemakers and take them to court whenever possible. “

How did Bexley perform during 2007/08?

Robbery of personal property	↓ 27 offences or -7.0%.	Target achieved
Residential burglary	↑ 139 offences or +12.6%.	Target missed
Theft from vehicles	↑ 381 offences or +32.0%.	Target missed
Theft or taking of vehicles	↓ 44 offences or -4.9%.	Target achieved
Theft of pedal cycles	↑ 43 offences or +37.4%.	Target missed
BCS criminal damage	↓ 591 offences or -14.8%.	Target achieved
BCS total	↓ 485 offences or -4.5%.	Target achieved
Gun enabled crime	↑ 4 offences or +8.5%.	Target missed

Looking forward

Borough priorities are set through consultation with the public (Safer Neighbourhoods events, 'Have your say' public survey), the police, and other agencies involved in crime reduction in your area.

Priorities for 2008/09

- 5.2% reduction in youth violence and 5% reductions in knife crime
- ensure that gun crime does not rise above the current level
- 1.7% reduction in serious acquisitive crime, 1% reduction in residential burglary
- 1% reduction in robbery, 1.5% reduction in theft of MV and 2.6% in theft from MV
- challenging targets for sanction detection rates across specific crime types

Bexley: local police initiatives



Operation Strike

In June 2008 Bexley police conducted a series of raids across the borough to tackle serious and violent crime. The raids, code-named Operation Strike, involved over 30 officers visiting a number of addresses in Bexley to arrest suspects wanted in connection with on-going investigations into violent crimes.

Bexleyheath's Criminal Investigation Department led the operation with assistance from local Safer Neighbourhoods teams.

Of those arrested, 11 were taken into police custody for a range of crimes including actual bodily harm, grievous bodily harm and public order offences.

Detective Inspector Pete Thomas, in charge of the boroughs investigation team said, *"The morning raids have proved very successful in terms of arrests and will send a clear message to those who commit serious crimes in Bexley... I am committed to putting the victims first ...and making our community safer. Violence in any form is unacceptable and we want to reassure the public of our commitment to tackling violent crime and bringing offenders to justice"*.

Partnership working: getting involved

Help us to understand the community's views on policing in your area

The MPA has a statutory duty to consult and engage with the communities of London and to give a voice to local people on policing, priorities, concerns and the future direction of the MPS. Therefore the MPA has established Community Police Engagement Groups (CPEGs) in each of the 32 London boroughs (in some London boroughs these groups are known as Community Safety Boards (CSBs) or Community Police Consultative Groups (CPCGs)). The primary aims of the CPEGs are to consult with their local police, Safer Neighbourhoods Panels, the MPA and key stakeholders in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships about strategic policing, including consultation on the annual policing plan development, implementation of Neighbourhood Policing, and crime and disorder reduction.

CPEGs are intended to be representative of the local population, and more particularly those groups that interact with the police in disproportionate numbers. Their activities are not limited to committee work but include active community engagement in neighbourhoods and with local groups.

If you would like to get involved in your local CPEG you can find out more information at www.mpa.gov.uk/partnerships



Partnership working: getting involved

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are ordinary members of the local community appointed to make sure that the welfare of people detained in police stations is maintained. They call at police stations unannounced, speak to detainees and write short reports about their visit. Their recommendations can require the police to make improvements in this area.

ICVs play a valuable role in maintaining public confidence in this important aspect of policing. They work with others as part of a local panel and help the MPA, which oversees custody visiting in London, to make sure that detainees are treated appropriately and that their rights are respected.

ICVs must be aged 18 or over. If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved, please visit the MPA website or call freephone 0808 100 1036.

www.mpa.gov.uk/partnerships/icv/recruit.htm

The MPA Stop and Search Community Monitoring Network (CMN)

Stop and Search measures are useful in the fight against crime, but they are also controversial powers for many people. The MPA supports Stop and Search Monitoring groups in all 32 boroughs and facilitates a London wide CMN as a means of building and sustaining trust and confidence in the appropriate exercise of Stop and Search powers.

The work of these groups is crucial and they rely on the input and involvement of volunteers. If you would like to get involved in a local or pan-London group to monitor and influence the way Stop and Search is used in London, please call 020 7202 0233 or email

stopandsearch@mpa.gov.uk for more information.

Useful contacts

Metropolitan Police Authority

020 7202 0202

www.mpa.gov.uk

Metropolitan Police Service

Bexley police stations

020 8301 1212

<http://cms.met.police.uk/met/boroughs/bexley/index>

Safer Neighbourhoods info

www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods/

Victim Support—0845 303 0900

www.victimsupport.org.uk

Crimestoppers

0800 555111

www.crimestoppers-uk.org.uk

Talk to Frank

(Drug abuse helpline)

0800 776 600

www.talktoFRANK.com

Anti-social Behaviour Actionline

0845 605 2222

National Domestic Violence helpline

0808 200 0247

www.crimereduction.gov.uk/dv/dv01.htm

In an emergency always dial 999