

Local Policing Summary Westminster



Introductory message from Boris Johnson Mayor of London and Chair of the MPA

I promised Londoners that I would work tirelessly to make their city and their local communities safer. This is what I have set about doing - working with the police to tackle knife crime, putting more police on the transport network, and working to boost the number of special constables.

Crime is now at an all-time low, but there is still much more to be done. Working with the Commissioner we will go further - addressing the complex long-term causes of youth crime, ending violence against women, and giving Londoners back confidence in their day-to-day safety.

It is important that Londoners can know how well their local police service is performing and what the priorities are in the coming year. This annual local police summary sets this out, providing you with information about policing in your borough. I hope it will help to improve your confidence in the police, show you the activity that is taking place, and help to reduce the fear of crime.

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
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Metropolitan Police Authority

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

Policing London Business Plan 2009/12

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 service more accessible and improve people's experience of their contact with us, especially victims and witnesses
- make our neighbourhoods safer through local and city-wide problem solving and partnership working to reduce crime, ASB and road casualties
- disrupt more criminal networks and reduce the harm caused by drugs
- reduce serious violence and protect young people
- enhance our counter terrorism capability and capacity
- plan for and effectively police major events in London and prepare for the 2012 Olympics
- lead and manage our Service to ensure the most efficient, effective and economic use of all the resources entrusted to us

For more information please visit www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/policingplans.htm

Looking back on 2008/09

Summary performance achievements

The MPS has achieved a number of successes against the objectives and targets set for 2008/09. The majority of the priorities and targets set by the MPA were met, particularly in terms of tackling serious violence, reducing serious acquisitive crime and disrupting criminal networks.

Some of the performance achievements between April 2008 and March 2009:

- the MPS achieved a reduction in gun crime of 25.8% or 753 fewer crimes. This exceeded the 3% reduction target;
- the MPS achieved a reduction in youth violence of 9.8% or 2209 fewer victims. This exceeded the 6% reduction target.
- the MPS achieved a reduction in serious acquisitive crime (residential burglary, robbery and motor vehicle crime) of 7.7% or 17,000 fewer crimes. This exceeded the 4% reduction target.

However, some targets were not met, most notably:

- public satisfaction across the MPS was 77.7% against a 78.9% target;
 - the gap between the satisfaction of White victims (78.6%) and Black and Minority Ethnic victims (74.0%) was 4.7 percentage points. This missed the target of a 3.8 percentage point gap.
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Westminster: local information

Message from Borough Commander Simon Bray



"The city of Westminster is one of the most famous places in the world. It draws visitors from around the globe and every day, hundreds of thousands come to work in the heart of government, diplomacy, international commerce, renowned retail outlets and the entertainment industry. Nearly a quarter of a million people live in the City, representing over 50 nationalities and speaking 120 different languages.

"Our ambition is to make the city of Westminster safe for all. Westminster Borough Operational Command Unit (BOCU) continues to work closely with Westminster City Council and other partners. The enduring priorities of deterring and preventing terrorism, tackling serious acquisitive crime, including smash and grabs, reducing violent crime and addressing youth crime and disorder shape the BOCU focus. Local joint problem solving, including tackling open drugs markets, crack houses and other serious drug issues, feature heavily in the work of Safer Neighbourhoods teams, backed up by specialist expertise."

How did Westminster perform during 2008/09?

Residential burglary	↑	49 offences or +3.4%.	Target missed
Total robbery	↑	213 offences or +12.9%	Target missed
Theft from vehicles	↓	102 offences or -3.1%.	Target missed
Theft or taking of vehicles	↓	165 offences or -21.7%.	Target achieved
Youth violence	↓	32 offences or -4.8%.	Target missed
Knife crime	↓	9 offences or -1.7%.	Target missed
Gun crime	↓	68 offences or -66.0%.	Target achieved

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 2009/10

- 1.8% reduction in serious acquisitive crime
- 5.0% reduction in most serious violence, 5.0% reduction in serious youth violence
- Ensuring that gun crime does not rise above current level, 5.0% reduction in knife crime
- challenging targets for sanction detection rates across specific crime types

Westminster: local police initiatives

In April 2009, three men were sentenced at Southwark Crown Court to over 15 years for conspiring to smuggle a tonne of skunk cannabis into the UK. The three opened bogus business accounts at mailbox companies. They used forged driving licenses to open the accounts at different premises around central London. Boxes of skunk cannabis were sent through the postal system from Holland and delivered to the accounts. This continued for nearly three years until 23rd November 2007 when a package was intercepted by customs and Westminster Crime Squad. One of the three men was arrested and as a result of further investigation the other two were also identified and arrested.

The three received sentences between three and half and nine and a half years. Westminster Payback Unit has now instigated the confiscation of any proceeds of crime made by the three men. Investigating officer, Det. Sgt. Richard Baker from Westminster Crime Squad, said: "These men were smuggling drugs into the country for several years without interference, making substantial profits from their drug trafficking. As a result of extensive enquiries over an 18 month period we have successfully dismantled this network and in conjunction with customs officers closed this route of supply."

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 2011/12 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/publications/policingplans

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



Partnership working: CPEGs

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. To this end Community Police Engagement Groups (CPEGs) exist in each of the 32 London boroughs (in some 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 local police, Safer Neighbourhoods Panels, the MPA and key stakeholders in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships about strategic policing. This can include consultation on developing the annual policing plan, implementation of Neighbourhood Policing, and crime and disorder reduction.

CPEGs are intended to be representative of the local population, especially those groups that interact with the police in disproportionate numbers. Their activities 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: Stop and Search

Stop and Search Community Monitoring Network

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 Community Monitoring Network 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.

Partnership working: ICVs

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are 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 volunteer their time 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.

As part of its commitment to community engagement, the MPA is keen to ensure that Londoners are aware of the existence of the ICV Scheme. In 2008/09 a range of awareness raising activities took place including information evenings for the general public, redevelopment of the ICV web pages to provide broader information on the scheme, including visual images and the airing of a specially commissioned radio ad on Choice FM. Further developments, including the use of social networking, are planned for 2009.

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 free phone 0808 100 1036.

www.mpa.gov.uk/partnerships/icv/get-involved

Useful contacts

Metropolitan Police Authority

tel. 020 7202 0202

Minicom. 020 7202 0173

www.mpa.gov.uk

Metropolitan Police Service

Westminster police stations

0300 123 1212

www.met.police.uk/westminster

Safer Neighbourhoods info

www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

Victim Support—0845 303 0900

www.victimsupport.org.uk

Crimestoppers

0800 555111

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

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.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

In an emergency always dial 999
Non-emergency dial 0300 123 1212