



## Central South BCU (Lambeth and Southwark) Partner Message – 12 November 2021

Dear all,

### **Working with communities to tackle violence**

On Friday we met with community activists, role models, youth workers and faith leaders in south London to speak about the work we are doing together to protect young Londoners. Violent crimes are reducing across London overall, we have had 3,600 fewer knife crimes this year alone, but we are still seeing a high number of young people being killed on our streets. This is unacceptable. Every single murder is one too many and there is so much more for us and our partners to do.

We are working hard to take knives off the streets, support and achieve justice for victims and problem solve and target the right areas with the right teams. But it is clear that if we are going to tackle teen violence and murders in London, everyone needs to work together; youth groups, youth services, businesses, the police and government. We are continuing to look at what we can do to build the trust we need in our communities to work with us in reducing violence against our young people.

Hear from partners supporting us with this work here: <https://bit.ly/3n3kiuc>

### **New operation launched to tackle violence against women and girls**

I wrote to you last week about the launch of our new *Violence Against Women and Girls* action plan and the significant activity which will be rolled out across the Met to support this. As part of this we have launched a new initiative called Project Vigilant.

This project tackles predatory offending around pubs, clubs and other night time economy venues. It is currently being trialled in Lambeth and Southwark where officers are deployed to identify and prevent offending in busy night-time spots. Watch this video to find out more about this work: <https://bit.ly/30kLrAa> or click here for the full details: <https://bit.ly/3F42dCm>

### **Celebrating Met officers and staff**

Throughout October we celebrated a number of officers and staff as part of Black History Month. We shared their inspiring stories and backgrounds and highlighted their achievements throughout their life and whilst with the Met. You can see all the stories we promoted here: <https://bit.ly/3D3hZNo>

Please do continue to share these inspiring stories with your partners and communities. Also, if you know of officers that have inspired you please let us know as we are always looking for opportunities to demonstrate the excellence of our organisation. You can send recommendations to [DMCMailbox-EngagementMessaging@met.police.uk](mailto:DMCMailbox-EngagementMessaging@met.police.uk)

## Ongoing inquest into death of four men

We are continuing to support the ongoing inquests into the deaths of four young men which began at the start of October.

Stephen Port was convicted of the murders of Anthony Walgate, Gabriel Kovari, Daniel Whitworth and Jack Taylor in November 2016 and is currently serving a whole life sentence. He was also convicted of multiple counts of sexual offences and administering a noxious substance.

The Met has been assisting the coroner for some months in providing statements and information required to aid the jury in thoroughly examining what happened.

We know some of the evidence given and statements made throughout these proceedings has caused and will continue to cause concern amongst some of our communities, particularly members of the LGBTQ+ community.

It is vital that members of the LGBTQ+ community trust the police and feel confident they are being provided with the best possible service. We will continue to work closely with our independent advisors, community partners and others to help us achieve this.

You can read more detail about our support to the inquests here: <https://bit.ly/3o9zK7u>

## Results

There have been some significant results across the Met over the last week, below are just a few examples;

- In April this year, officers from our Organised Crime Partnership Teams identified and arrested 5 men for money laundering and the supply of Class A & B Drugs. The key suspect, implicated in the supply of over 30kg of Cocaine and the laundering of over £100K, evaded capture at the time. Just before the weekend, he was arrested in Plumstead and subsequently charged with drug trafficking and money laundering.
- Yesterday officers from the Dog Support Unit pursued a vehicle which was linked to an individual known for shoplifting the day before. The vehicle failed to stop and the driver ended up decamping from the vehicle and making off on foot. He was apprehended and arrested by officers after a foot chase. The vehicle involved was displaying false registration plates and was discovered to be stolen. The driver also did not hold a driving licence, had no insurance and was confirmed as a named suspect for a shoplifting offence last month.
- On Monday, Met officers from our Operation Orochi team, in conjunction with Sussex Police, arrested the suspected operator of two individual drug-lines running between South London and Littlehampton. A search of his home-address identified the phone associated with the supply-lines, along with a significant quantity of heroin and cash. He was subsequently charged with being concerned in the supply of crack cocaine and heroin and possession of cannabis. He was remanded in custody.
- Yesterday officers in Newham pursued a vehicle linked to a violent incident. The driver of the vehicle decamped from the vehicle and made off but was detained by officers after a foot chase. The Dog Support Unit attended to assist in a search of the route the suspect had taken. Police Dog Logan discovered a large knife in a sheath along with a lock knife that had been dumped in a front garden. He then indicated two sealed bags, each containing dozens of wraps of white powder. The suspect was arrested for drug and weapon offences. Well done Logan.

## Local News and Results

### Excellent partnership work from our Gangs Unit, Proactive Team and Licensing Unit

Intelligence was received by the Gangs and Proactive team that gang members had made a reservation to hold an event at The Shard, inviting other gang members with whom they have established connections, with a guest list up to 300 people. It was understood that rival gangs would be attending the event with weapons. Local officers arranged a meeting with the Shard Management with a view to having the event cancelled. After outlining the risks, the Shard agreed to cancel the event.

It was also discovered by that a number of rooms had been booked for the event at the Shangri La Hotel and with following police advice the hotel cancelled these rooms. Venues within The Shard took the risks on board and amended their security plans. Thanks to fantastic partnership working we have avoided potential gang violence in Southwark.

### South Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Wards – Thief apprehended

Quick reactions were demonstrated by officers from South Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Safer Neighbourhoods Teams who were first on scene when an e-scooter was stolen outside the Canada Water Library minutes earlier. The suspect for the theft had also assaulted the victim. The suspect was arrested and the e-scooter recovered. The suspect who admitted the offences in interview and charges are imminent.

### Surrey Docks Ward – Predatory offender apprehended

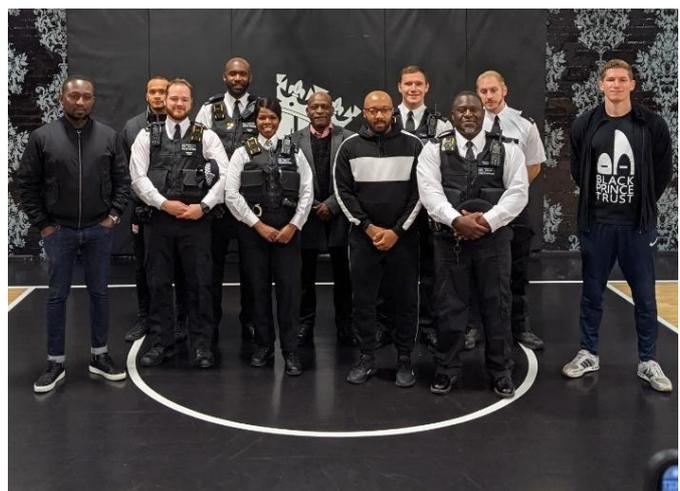
More great teamwork by officers from the Surrey Docks ward, who intervened following reports of a man behaving suspiciously towards women in Russia Dock woodland. A local officer went straight to the scene, tracked down and arrested the suspect. Police worked closely with the Predatory Offender Unit to ensure the suspect was bailed with conditions not to enter the entire SE16 area.

### Black History Month Event

Fantastic work by local officers who assisted in organising a Black History Month event in partnership with internal and external partners to celebrate black history. The event aimed to inspire and empower all present, including Michael Grace, son of Cherry Grace.

The event was very well received by all involved with Central South officers playing a key part alongside the Black Police Association.

At a time when trust a confidence in police is low across a number of our communities and our roles being questioned, the work these officers put in on this day and every day is making a huge difference to the community.



## **Neighbourhood Tasking Team West (NTT-W)**

Our NTT-W conducted an Electric Scooter Operation around Waterloo recently with a secondary objective to focus on robberies in the SE1 area.

In total 18 scooters were seized and one person arrested for assault on emergency worker.



## **Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) - Charges**

Good work this week by CAIT Team 3 who managed to secure 7 charges against a suspect. This was a protracted investigation, the child victim was aged 11 years and 6 of the offences relate to her. This was tough case for our officers to work on but their efforts paid off and a dangerous predator was apprehended.

## **Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) - Charges**

Officer from the CAIT team recently dealt with a harrowing case involving child cruelty. Police came across a 2 year old little girl who was found with marks all over her body, was underweight and hungry and subsequently had to be admitted to hospital. Her 4 year old sibling also had injuries and her 7 year old sibling gave an account of the abuse including assaults, withholding of food, feeding of lemons and dry bread etc and the children being forced to maintain stress positions.

The three children were taken into Police Protection immediately and placed with family members. This is very sad case but a positive outcome was obtained – the investigation resulted in 3 charges of child cruelty in relation to all three children and the children are now in a safe place. Our officers showed real grit and determination and carried out some outstanding work.

## **Sapphire Team 3 - Court Result**

This week a male was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for assault by penetration contrary to Section 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and possession of indecent images of children. The suspect who worked as a chef assaulted a vulnerable drunk female colleague in his flat after they had been drinking with colleagues in the restaurant following their shift. The sentencing is the culmination of an excellent piece of team work by Sapphire Team 3 who worked tirelessly to charge the suspect whilst in custody in May.

Thanks to their hard work the public will be kept safe from a dangerous sexual predator for a long time.

## **Community Safety Unit (CSU) Team 1 - 17 arrests in one weekend!**

Officers from CSU Team 1 worked hard to achieve an evidence-led (victimless) prosecution for Actual Bodily Harm in very chaotic circumstances where a female experienced a beating resulting in her eye swelling severely. Thanks to local officers, the CSU was successful in persuading the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to charge despite the victim covering up for the perpetrator. Officers are still working with the victim in this case which has finally led to her engaging with police and seeking help.

Officers from CSU Team 1 worked as part of Op Vigilant to achieve charges for Grievous Bodily Harm with intent after a female suspect stabbed her partner three times. The officers did well to demonstrate to the CPS that the suspect's defence was insufficient.

A CSU Team 1 officer worked hard with a victim of threats who was fearful of repercussion by the perpetrator's wider family. Despite the wishes of the victim to withdraw, the officer took steps to provide the victim with support and put in place a number of stringent conditions in order to give her the time and space to seek advice from domestic violence charities and consider whether supporting a prosecution is right for her.

Officers worked hard to investigate a case where a female was in custody for assaulting her partner along with another minor offence. After tracking down and speaking to a range of witnesses, it transpired that the detainee used reasonable force in the circumstances.

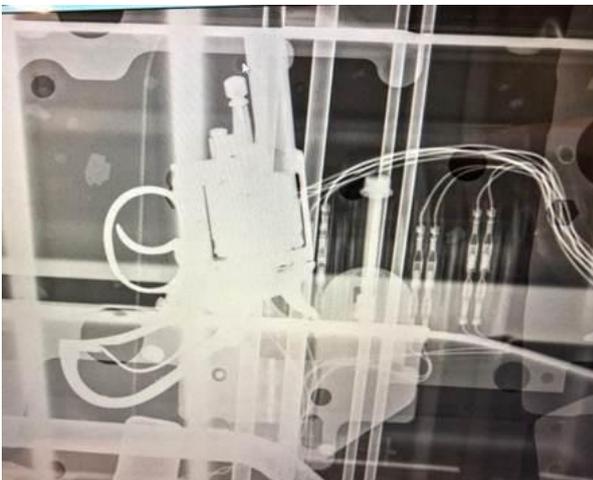
The officers demonstrated great empathy and it transpired the suspect may actually be a victim of abuse.

Arguments were put forward to the Crown Prosecution Service about not proceeding with a charge for the other minor offence considering the detainee's lack of previous involvement in criminality of any kind and otherwise good character. I'm confident that this will have gone some way to recouping some confidence in our service by someone who may in reality be a victim of abuse.

### **Op Elie - Firearm recovered**

Local officers carried out a weapon sweep earlier this month on the Sackville Estate SW16 and recovered a Skorpion Sub-Machine Gun with half a magazine of live ammo and a handgun containing 2 spent rounds. A quantity of shotgun cartridges and live sub-machine gun rounds were found in 2 vehicles. Both vehicles were recovered for further examination and yesterday a further two viable firearms were discovered in secreted inside the vehicles.

This is just a small sample of the firearms recovered in the last 4 weeks by the Op Elie Team, the Violence Suppression Unit and our Gangs and Proactive Teams.



### **Emergency Response - Team D West**

Lots of good work from the team over the last few shifts with officers seizing a knife from a boy trying to rob people on the South Bank.

An officer chased off a male after coming across a fight in Brockwell Park. This resulted in a long foot chase and when the officer finally caught the male he was found to be in possession of multiple snap bags of cannabis

Another officer chased a male in Norwood who had discarded a knife en route. The knife was located by a police dog and the male arrested.

### **Police Cadets - Black History Month - Lingfield Race Course**

On Sunday Southwark and Lambeth Police Cadets supported an event organised by a local officer.

The event, which marked the end of Black History month was held at Lingfield Race Course and celebrated the talents and achievements of young people from across London.

The event was run in partnership with the charity 'Take the Reins' and aimed to promote diversity across the racing industry and support young people to follow their dreams.

The event, which also saw the attendance of Mounted Branch, brought together a huge number of people despite the awful weather and was declared a terrific success.



I hope like me you can appreciate the hard work and commitment shown by officers in Lambeth and Southwark. There is some remarkable work being carried out 24 hours a day and much of it goes un-noticed by the public. Above are just a few examples of the type of work being undertaken every day by your dedicated officers on Central South Area.

Kind regards,

Colin Wingrove  
BCU Commander Central South (Lambeth and Southwark)