

SAFER SCHOOLS & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second Safer Schools and Youth Engagement Newsletter! We hope you have a happy and safe Summer Holiday! Please remind your child when out to be vigilant of their surroundings and to be conscious of their personal safety such as not having personal possessions on display.



JULY 21

HARD CALLS SAVE LIVES

Knife crime is a topic that strikes fear in the hearts of every parent and is something that our schools team are highly focused on.

The Safer schools Teams have delivered numerous weapons workshops to young people from year 6 to year 11. We often hear during these sessions that the reason that they or their mate may carry a weapon is for their own protection. **Carrying a weapon does not make them safer, it makes them more vulnerable.** Many children also tell us that even if they knew someone was carrying a knife they wouldn't tell anyone due to the fear of the consequences for telling but also because they have a misconception that everyone does it and it's almost now acceptable.

Our team have carried out numerous knife arch operations at schools and colleges as well as public places. Thankfully it is very rare that weapons are found during these operations. These knife arches are then followed up with weapon sweeps in the vicinity to check for any discarded weapons and again very rarely are they found – any that are get seized and destroyed. You may have heard about the charity **Crimestoppers** which is a **completely anonymous platform** for you to provide information that could ultimately save the life of your child or someone else's child. Please have a look on their website as they are currently running a campaign around this:

www.hardcallssavelives.co.uk . You can also call them on **0800 555 111**.



Did you know that Crimestoppers also have a platform specifically aimed at young people called Fearless? The Fearless platform gives your child a safe place to give information about crime, and is 100% anonymous and untraceable. This takes away the fear of reprisals for telling someone, and gives the power back to your child to do the right thing. Fearless is accessible via link: www.fearless.org

STOP & SEARCH is an important tool used by officers in the prevention and detection of crime. To find out more please have a look at the following link: <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/stop-and-search/>

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS – police in Havering, Redbridge and Barking & Dagenham have been working closely with local authorities and other partner agencies to develop and implement proactive work in order to reduce violence against women and girls. Examples of this work have included our licencing team working with venues as part of the “Ask for Angela” campaign and our Safer Transport Teams patrolling school bus routes. Our schools team have been delivering presentations around “consent”, and increasing awareness and encouraging reporting of sexual offences and harassment. We've also increased patrols in hot spot areas across the three boroughs and in parks and open spaces. For advice on safety please visit <https://www.suzylamplugh.org/personal-safety-out-and-about>

THINGS TO KNOW:

#LISTEN



Surveys have told us that there is a low level of trust & confidence in the Police among some young black men between the ages of 16 and 25 years. With that in mind the initiative #Listen has been created. This is a focused engagement survey that is accessible using the above QR code.

VOLUNTEER POLICE CADETS



We are still actively recruiting young people for the VPC. If you'd like more information, please contact the co-ordinator for your Borough:

Havering:

Anthony.Kiddle@Met.Police.uk

Barking & Dagenham:

Amanda.J.Miller@Met.Police.uk

Redbridge:

Mark.Colyer@Met.Police.Uk