



Community safety update

May 2013



We won't let crime and anti-social behaviour blight the lives of local people and working with the police and the community, we'll take decisive action to make Islington safer for everyone.

Cllr Paul Convery
Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety

Arrest following fatal stabbing in Highbury

A murder investigation is underway after the fatal stabbing of 16-year-old Derek Boateng on a bus stopped at the junction of Highbury New Park and Holmcote Gardens, N5, at about 3.10pm on April 23. A 15-year-old boy has been charged, and is in custody awaiting trial.

Any witness or anyone with information is asked to contact the incident room on 020 8345 3734, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Police patrols have been increased in Highbury and the surrounding area.

Overall fall in youth violence and robbery

New crime figures show serious youth violence in Islington fell overall last year by 42 per cent. There were 102 fewer incidents of serious youth violence in 2012/13, almost two fewer crimes every week. Youth violence fell by 20 per cent, and overall robbery fell by five per cent. However, any level of crime is too high and the recent tragedy in Highbury underlines the need for the police, councils, schools and families to keep working together to stop knife crime. Stopping youth violence and reducing mobile phone robbery remain top priorities for the council and police for the next year.

Action taken after knife sales to underage teenager

Islington Council is taking action against three Islington businesses which sold knives and a meat cleaver to a young person aged under 18. The test purchase was carried out by council Trading Standards officers and Islington police, with a 17-year-old volunteer.

Crackdown on crime with Operation Red Kite

Islington police and council joined forces for Operation Red Kite, a two-day crackdown on crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) on April 18-19.

Weapons sweeps in Mildmay and Highbury East found kitchen knives, scissors, a screwdriver and cannabis. Hedges were cut back to help remove hiding places.

Police carried out a warrant aimed at tackling the handling of stolen goods, which resulted in an arrest for fraud and immigration offences.

Teams checked 26 licences and unlicensed premises, finding an illegal shisha café which will now face further investigation. A restaurant was also warned for breaching its licence.

Support was offered to beggars and rough sleepers and advice given about increased

enforcement against aggressive beggars.

Anti-social behaviour line takes almost 12,000 calls in first year

Islington Council's reporting line was set up to make it easier to report ASB, and it took almost 12,000 calls - more than one call every hour - in its first year.

Complaints we have handled include: late night noise from pubs and clubs in Islington; noise and litter from unauthorised hot dog sellers in City Road and Upper Street; groups of people causing noise and nuisance on estates at night; barking dogs; and complaints of loud music. We have helped thousands of residents with everything from noisy neighbours to harassment.

See below for how to report ASB.

Man with Class A drugs worth £100,000 jailed for five years

Islington police executed a drugs warrant on an address in N7, and found large amounts of cash, and over a kilo of heroin and crack cocaine. A man on the premises was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs, and pleaded guilty.

New drugs helpline

A new campaign called 'Say Something' is promoting the telephone number for substance misuse services in Islington. The campaign is targeted at drug users, young people, and anyone concerned about the drug use of a friend or loved one. By ringing 0808 800 0019 callers can seek advice and/or be directed to treatment or support. An updated website www.islington.gov.uk/drugs offers advice, and posters will appear around Islington in April in tube stations, bus shelters, and community venues. If you know an appropriate place for a poster, or have any queries please contact Natalie Soffer, Natalie.soffer@nclondon.nhs.uk or 020 7527 8134.

Hate crime community conference a success

More than 100 people attended a hate crime conference at Finsbury Park Mosque, organised in partnership between the mosque, the police and Islington Council. It was attended by members of the community, senior police officers and politicians. Speakers included a representative from the Muslim Police Association; Jeremy Corbyn MP and the Chairman of the Trustees of the mosque; and members of the congregation spoke about the impact of hate crime.

Extra focus on tackling domestic violence

Islington council and police are working together to focus on the perpetrators of domestic violence (DV) and bring even more of them to justice. This follows a rise last year in reported DV incidents. If you know someone who is suffering domestic violence, the Domestic Violence Helpline is on 0808 2000 247. Respect – aimed at people who commit domestic violence – is on 0808 802 4040.

Restorative justice helps neighbours settle disputes

Neighbourhood Resolution Panels help resolve ASB issues by bringing people together in a neutral place to talk about anti-social behaviour - what's happened, who was affected, and what can be done to improve things. A recent meeting looked at a dispute involving noise in Junction Ward, and was attended by affected residents, the social landlord, a council noise officer, and a community volunteer who mediated. An agreement was drawn up to help resolve the problems and those who attended felt it was a good start to resolving the issues and helping everyone move on. For more information about Neighbourhood Resolution Panels or to discuss possible referrals please call Alison Blackburn on 0207 525 4051 or Tracy Duligall on 0207 527 4125.

Fake Trading Standards scam hits vulnerable residents – *spread the word*

A man posing as a Trading Standards officer has visited vulnerable residents in Islington who have previously been victims of scams; telling them he can help them get compensation. This man carries ID and has been known to call himself Chris Martins. Please spread the word – also note a Trading Standards officer would never turn up unannounced at someone's home. You can call Contact Islington on 020 7527 2000 to check the details of anyone claiming to be from Trading Standards.

Community safety contacts

Cllr. Paul Convery, Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety
Email: Paul.Convery@islington.gov.uk Telephone: 020 7527 3090

Reporting anti-social behaviour to the Islington ASB team:

Telephone: 020 7527 7272 Online: www.islington.gov.uk/reportasb

We will respond to your report as soon as possible, certainly within 24 hours. Our officers can make visits between 4pm and 2am Sunday to Thursday, and 5pm to 4am Friday and Saturday. During office hours, council tenants and leaseholders should report ASB to the ASB team at their Area Housing Office, on the phone or in person, and Housing Association tenants should report ASB to their landlord. Out of office hours, all residents should report ASB on 020 7527 7272.

Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team (police): Contact details for your local SNT and dates of local meetings at http://content.met.police.uk/Page/TeamFinder?scope_id=1257246764070

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