
Community safety update

January 2014



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

Have you got an opinion on crime and safety issues in Islington?

If so, make it heard. Come along to Islington's Community Crime Reduction Conference on Saturday 22 March at Islington Assembly Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD. This collaborative community event will give residents and partners an opportunity to have a say on the crime and safety priorities for Islington over the next 12-months and looks out how we can work together to reduce crime. Register your interest in attending by emailing cspu@islington.gov.uk. Further details will be provided in the next edition of the newsletter.

Fire stations will close following High Court ruling

Ten fire stations across London – including Clerkenwell – were permanently closed on Thursday 9 January after the High Court rejected legal arguments from Islington and six other London councils that cuts to the capital's fire service were flawed and should not go ahead. Islington, Southwark, Camden, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Lewisham and Greenwich councils sought judicial review of cuts that will also lead to the loss of 14 fire appliances and 552 firefighter posts.

Pre-Christmas operation sees underage alcohol sales

Five licensed premises in Islington were caught selling alcohol to under-aged volunteers in a pre-Christmas test purchasing operation by the Council's Trading Standards team. Volunteer Police Cadets visited 31 premises across the borough. Although it is disappointing that a sixth of those tested sold, this figure is lower than in previous operations and all 13 businesses who had been warned recently by Council officers passed the underage test. The Council takes underage sales very seriously and will be taking further action against those who sold to the Cadets, including a review of their licenses.

Late night levy consultation – last chance to have your say

Islington Council is consulting on the introduction of a late night levy to help pay for the policing and clean-up costs of late night drinking. If the levy is introduced premises licensed for sale after midnight will be charged an annual fee to contribute to keeping the borough cleaner and safer. Proposals for the extra funding include an additional uniformed presence on the weekends, additional policing operations and services to help clean up litter and graffiti. Visit www.islington.gov.uk/latenightlevy to have your say on the consultation before the closing date of **31 January 2014**.

Drug dealer arrested after being caught red handed in local park

During a joint patrol Parkguard (the Council's Parks Patrol Service) and local police arrested a man in Dartmouth Park, N19 after he was found in possession of a large quantity of class A and B drugs. The officers were responding to a call from a resident about a group causing a nuisance and noticed a male in the group discreetly crouch down and conceal something in the bushes. A search by officers revealed this to be class A drug amphetamine. After carrying out a full search of the man, officers found further class A drugs and Cannabis resin. The man was arrested for possession of Class A and B drugs and for possession with intent to supply.

Keep your presents safe – the New Year is a key time for thieves

Islington residents are advised to take care with their Christmas gifts, especially phones or electronic gadgets, with the New Year being an attractive time for thieves. Burglary increases at this time of year and packaging or cardboard boxes left outside addresses for refuse collection can be an advert to potential thieves of what may lie inside. Police are advising people to close and lock all doors, even side gates and to make sure valuables are out of sight. Parents are also advised to speak to their children about the potential dangers of using new mobile phones in public areas, where phone theft is high.

Tenants evicted for being in serious breach of tenancy agreements

The Council has evicted two separate tenants for anti-social behaviour and breaches of their tenancy agreements. The first eviction followed a police raid that discovered a cannabis factory in an LBI tenanted property on the Mitchison Baxter Estate. The tenant came to the attention of the Highbury House Area ASB team following reports from neighbours. The second eviction followed reports from several residents relating to nuisance caused by the tenant and her guests. The eviction was agreed in court after the female ignored several warnings asking her to change her behaviour.

Local youngsters grab share of money to help tackle gang violence

A group of local youngsters has been given the opportunity to help reduce youth violence after winning a share of £5,000 to deliver projects aimed at tackling gang violence in Islington. The funding was made available by the Safer Islington Partnership which comprises the Council, police, fire services, as well as a number of other local partners. A number of young people aged 13-19 applied for the grant and the five winning bidders were selected by a panel of young people to each receive £1,000. The winning bids come in many forms, ranging from football coaching and tournaments, dance and theatre performances and workshops and masterclasses aimed at making young people aware of the risks of getting involved in gangs. The project organisers will work alongside the Council's Community Safety and Targeted Youth Support teams to deliver the projects.

Human Trafficking event – learn about human trafficking and how to end it

The Council is running a free interactive community workshop on Wednesday 22nd January at the Town Hall to explore the impact of trafficking and what we can do about it. During the workshop you will hear from special guest speakers from the police, Barnardo's and 'Stop the Traffik' to learn how you can make a difference by fighting trafficking in your community, and how we can work together support victims of trafficking. For more information, or if you are interested in attending please email katie.furniss@islington.gov.uk

Don't get caught out by the 'Courier Scam'

Residents are advised to be careful as Police in Islington have received a number of reports from residents being targeted by an increasingly common scam. This involves a call from someone

posing as your bank, informing you that your card has been used fraudulently and asking you to call your bank to provide your bank details so that you can be refunded. However, the caller stays on the line, so rather than ringing your bank, you are still connected to the scammer where they take the card details and arrange for a courier to pick up the compromised card. If you receive a call like this the advice from the police is to end it immediately. For more details visit:

<http://content.met.police.uk/Article/Courier-Scams/1400010721410/1400010721410>

Don't fall victim to illegal money lenders: report a loan shark

Residents who have been a victim of loan sharks, or have any information about illegal lenders are asked to report it to the Illegal Money Lending Team for confidential help and advice. Things to look out for include: lenders threatening the borrower when they couldn't pay; bank cards being taken away as security; and the amount owed continuing to grow, even when payments are being made. Reports can be made in confidence to **0300 555 2222** or by email to reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk. You can also visit www.islington.gov.uk/moneyadvice for support and advice on any money worries.

Make a new year's resolution to cut down on risky drinking

Islington Council Public Health team have teamed up with local charity HAGA (Haringey Advisory Group on Alcohol) to encourage residents to start the New Year well by cutting down on irresponsible drinking. Excessive drinking has a huge impact on the borough, with residents who have been drinking more likely to be a victim of crime, or sustain alcohol-related injuries. There is a quick way to check that your drinking isn't risky at www.dontbottleitup.org.uk

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

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If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape or in another language, please telephone 020 7527 2000.

This newsletter has also been made available in Word format. In case of editing, the final PDF versions are available at www.islington.gov.uk/safetynewsletter or by emailing cspueteam@islington.gov.uk
