

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING **NEWSLETTER**



Welcome to the Neighbourhood Policing Christmas newsletter with some of what we have been doing recently and crime prevention advice for the festive season.

The City of London Police is stepping into Christmas with a comprehensive policing plan to combat crime, ahead of the busiest festive period since the global pandemic. The prevention of violence against women and girls is at the forefront of the City of London Police Christmas message, with thousands of revellers out celebrating in the Square Mile.

A number of safety initiatives, aimed at keeping women safe, will be running through the Christmas period and into the New Year, including:

- The Walk and Talk scheme led by Neighbourhood Policing, where women visiting, working or living in the City of London can 'Walk and Talk' with an officer, to share their thoughts on safety and on areas which they have concerns about.
- Ask for Angela is an initiative that provides people with a phrase to use to get help from staff if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable in licensed premises, such as bars and clubs. Officers carried out testing in licensed premises across the City and 72% of them passed recognising the code word and providing appropriate checks and advice.



- Initiatives aimed at getting people home safely, including clamping down on unlicensed minicabs and a taxi marshalling service at Liverpool Street station.
- A night safety hub at St Botolph's church hall, in partnership with Eastern Cluster Business Improvement District. People can use the facility as a haven and to get any medical assistance they may need.
- Spiking training workshops for licensed premises staff on what to do if someone reports a drink spiking. Police Officers will have test kits on certain nights so anyone concerned can have their drink tested.

Bag thefts

Licensed premises in the City are frequently targeted by criminals stealing property. Bags and coats left unattended at Christmas gatherings also give rise to expensive personal belongings being stolen. Please stay vigilant while enjoying the City nightlife.

Phone snatches by suspects on pedal cycles and mopeds

The force's phone snatching operation has led to the crime being cut in half and the robust approach will continue during the festive period. Be aware of your surroundings and avoid using mobile phones while walking around.

Parcel theft

Several residential buildings have recently been targets for parcel theft from reception areas. To prevent this from happening we would ask you to be careful when entering buildings and ensure you are not followed in and to make sure you do not give access through intercom systems to anybody you are not expecting.



Protect business premises during the festive season

With little or no one visiting the offices over the break the risk of burglary increases.

- CCTV cameras can act as a deterrent and help to identify suspects. Please be sure to check all cameras are working and recording footage prior to closing for the holidays.
- Have security personnel either on foot or vehicular survey the entire property, visiting at random times to check the interior of exterior of the property, therefore criminals cannot use a routine to exploit.
- Key Holding: This is a process of allowing a trusted security company or staff personnel to have a key to your property, they will have this so that they can attend your building to check if any incidents are reported. Make sure there is a contact number on display in case police or other emergency services need access.
- Make sure staff do not leave high valuable items including electrical and Jewellery in the office during the closure period.

Online Shopping Fraud

In its role as the National Lead Force for Fraud, the City of London Police is also warning consumers to be vigilant when shopping for an online bargain during the Christmas period. As consumers search online for bargains and gifts for loved ones, fraudsters are seeing this as an opportunity to trick people with the promise of great deals and big cash savings. The sad reality is there will also be tens of thousands of people across the UK whose Christmas will be damaged, and in some cases destroyed, after discovering they have fallen foul of heartless criminals who specialise in tricking internet users with the promise of great online deals and big cash savings. To stop fraudsters in their tracks, be cautious of where and from whom you're buying, especially if it is technology at a reduced price.

Rough Sleepers

If you are concerned about a rough sleeper, please report this online using the Streetlink website: thestreetlink.org.uk. This will alert Outreach Workers who can visit them. The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) is activated when temperatures fall below 0°C and ensures councils open additional emergency accommodation for people sleeping rough.

Driving under the influence of drink and drugs

We are cracking down on drink and drug driving in the City this Christmas. Making the decision to get behind the wheel under the influence can ruin lives. If you are having a few drinks make sure you know how you're getting home. Drink driving is not an option. Drivers caught over the limit risk up to six months in prison, an unlimited fine and a driving ban.

Neighbourhood Policing update

Inspector Joe Easterbrook has moved on and we await his replacement. We now have a new sergeant with PS Claire Geldhart on the East Cluster and PS Tim Osborn remaining on the West Cluster.

Neighbourhood Officers secured a Closure Order for premises occupied by squatters in Minories resulting in a noise and anti-social behaviour complaints from neighbours. This followed a Closure Order for similar reasons in Vine Street earlier in the year. Over the festive period please be vigilant of your property if it is vacant, regularly check access points and notify police of any suspicious behaviour around unoccupied premises.

Working with Crime Squad Officers a prolific thief was convicted of numerous offences including breaches of criminal behaviour orders, receiving a nine-month prison sentence.

Neighbourhood Officers organised several Crime Prevention events at business premises throughout the City to highlight current crime trends and give the opportunity for workers in the City to engage with officers, and free Bike Marking Events are continually offered at premises by our Community Support Officers.

During this busy time of year Neighbourhood Officers have been assisting with high profile events and protests in addition to their work with the Licensing Team at the end of the week visiting premises and providing high visibility patrols.

With the Middle East conflict and increasing tensions in the United Kingdom Neighbourhood Officers have been engaging with residents, businesses and religious organisations to offer reassurance and provide a visible presence. Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs) held additional Cluster Panel Meetings to address any specific concerns. DWOs organised a webinar hosted by Superintendent Duffy for security and facilities managers of business organisations in the City of London to provide information about public order policing.

Nextdoor

Nextdoor is our online residential engagement system. Dedicated Ward Officers regularly provide updates on local policing activity, upcoming events (including Cluster Panel dates), patrol routes (so you can come and say hello!) and crime prevention advice. If you're a City resident, we encourage you to follow us at nextdoor.co.uk/agency/city-of-london-police/.

You can also keep up to date on City of London Police news via facebook.com/cityoflondonpolice and twitter.com/CityPolice.

Contact

Call 101 for non-emergency enquiries, and 999 in an emergency. Your local DWOs can be contacted as follows:

bank.cluster@cityoflondon.police.uk

fenchurch.cluster@cityoflondon.police.uk

liverpoolstreet.cluster@cityoflondon.police.uk

monument.cluster@cityoflondon.police.uk

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