

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first of a new City of London Police Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter for residents and businesses. We are your dedicated local teams, and we want to keep you informed with crime prevention advice and community updates. As this is the first edition, we thought it would be helpful to start by introducing your teams and provide some understanding of how we operate.

Neighbourhood Policing divides the square mile into what we call 'sectors' and 'clusters of wards'. We do this to plan and make best use of our police officers and keep your community at the forefront of all our activity, with an emphasis on problem solving, demand reduction, and close partnership working. We are keen to resolve community issues for the long term with all of our partners. Dedicated Ward Officers lead on crime and disorder within each of six clusters. There are now 18 Dedicated Ward Officers who work across different times, reflecting the changing demand here in the city, for example with our night time economy. The east sector contains 12 wards across the three Clusters of Liverpool Street, Monument and Fenchurch Street. The 12 wards are Coleman Street, Bishopsgate, Broad Street, Cornhill, Lime Street, Aldgate, Portsoken, Langbourn, Candlewick, Bridge, Tower and Billingsgate. The west sector contains 13 wards across its three clusters of Bank, Barbican and Fleet Street. The 13 wards are Farringdon Without, Castle Baynard, Farringdon Within, Queenhithe, Vintry, Dowgate, Bread Street, Cordwainer, Walbrook, Cheap, Bassishaw, Aldersgate and Cripplegate. We have made changes to the Neighbourhood Policing section of our website with more improvement coming including maps, photographs of your respective Dedicated Ward Officers and more information about local policing – further updates to follow soon!

We also have a Partnership and Prevention Hub, where neighbourhood crime data is analysed to identify trends, helping us to create proactive strategies for crime prevention. The Hub enables our Dedicated Ward Officers to tailor their efforts to the specific needs of the areas they cover effectively. The Hub also contains subject matter experts focusing on different areas to problem solve and work with partners to improve the service we deliver. For example, there is a mental health and suicide prevention subject matter expert, who represents the City of London Police at various national and local forums, and develops suicide prevention initiatives, including plans for people who are known to be at risk. There is also a homelessness and rough sleeping subject matter expert, who again coordinates work with partners to address what is a long standing and highly emotive issue here in the city. Then on Hate Crime, our subject matter expert drives local activity and community engagement, developing relationships with religious groups, victims of hate crime, and other communities that may find it harder to communicate with our service.

High Visibility Days

On 14 September, together with the City Security Council, we held a High Visibility Day. These are what we call operational deployments, demonstrating the importance of collaborative security partnerships here in the City. The operation centres around high visibility reassurance with our officers patrolling across the city to motivate and build relationships between the private and public sector and to promote the city as a safe place for businesses, residents, and commuters. Neighbourhood officers supported the operation with crime prevention and engagement hubs, overt or carried out openly and covert patrolling, as well as night-time economy activities. These days will continue to run quarterly over the next 12 months.



Youth Independent Advisory & Scrutiny Group (YIASG)

This year we've introduced a brand new Youth Independent Advisory and Scrutiny Group or YIASG, which provides us with valuable insight into the views, experiences and critique of policing through the lens of a young person. Creating a YIASG offers the City of London Police more external, independent scrutiny of our policing. In keeping with our Policing Plan 2022-2025, it also helps us to improve local services, shapes what we do for young people, and improves organisational structures and processes.

Through YIASG, we want to establish a network of young, independent advisors and/or critical friends, who can offer their personal experiences, challenge where appropriate, and offer constructive feedback to improve our performance. If you would like to get involved or learn more please drop us an email using YIASG@cityoflondon.police.uk

CityINTEL

We use an innovative incident and communication platform to enable the fast-time sharing of information between police and private sector businesses. The aim is to improve communications and shared situational awareness across the city landscape, through briefings on forthcoming events and live, spontaneous incidents. Messages can be swiftly circulated to individual premises, geofenced areas (a virtual perimeter), and more widely when required. The timely sharing of such information, for example, during a period of protest, assists a wide range of decision-makers on their security considerations. You can [read more about the platform and partnership on the City Security Magazine website](#).

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/.



Walk & Talk Scheme

The Neighbourhood Team recently introduced Walk & Talk; this initiative invites women (over 18) who live, work or travel through the City to accompany local female officers on a walk and have an open, frank, and constructive conversation on what more we can do to improve safety for women and girls. Once registered, you will be assigned a female officer who will contact you directly to arrange a time to meet; this will be in an open space and could involve walking your route to work for example. You can sign up by emailing walkandtalk@cityoflondon.police.uk or via [Eventbrite](#).

Schools Programme

This year, Neighbourhood Officers started a new programme with city schools and Life Skills Education. The initiative, which is delivered by Officers, utilises workbooks, presentations, videos, role play and Q&A sessions to teach young people the importance of positive choices and understanding risk(s), both physical and online.



Team Updates

A Citizens in Policing Coordinator role has been introduced in the Team to manage both Special Constabulary resources and Force volunteers and understand how they can be utilised more effectively to support local problem-solving initiatives, thus improving confidence across local policing – welcome PC Tom Quirke!

We are developing a Performance Framework based on the National Police Chiefs Council National Neighbourhood Policing Outcome and Performance Guidelines to ensure accountability in what we do. The Framework is being designed in consultation with our Force Performance Management Unit, and will be reflective of the City's unique demographic, but will seek to ensure the following (not limited to): increase in confidence and trust; targeting those who cause the most harm to communities; and effectively utilising problem-solving methodology to address community issues/concerns.

Crime Prevention Advice

In each newsletter we'll be introducing you to a member of the team, and in every issue we will highlight a crime type in the city to raise awareness and give you advice to reduce the risk of becoming a victim. This month we want to talk about 'Phone Snatching', whereby criminals will approach you from behind on bicycles, mopeds or electric bikes, sometimes mounting the kerb. Here are six steps to keeping yourself and your belongings safe.

1. Be aware of your surroundings. Stay alert!
2. When you don't need to use it, keep your phone out of sight, and consider using hands free.
3. When using your phone stand away from the roadside, perhaps near a building or wall so that no one can come up behind you.
4. Record your phone's IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) number by keying *#06# – this can be provided to the police and your service provider and your phone can be blocked if stolen.
5. Install a tracking app and better secure your phone with a password and biometric authentication, such as fingerprint, voice or facial recognition.
6. If your phone is stolen or you witness a phone snatch, report it to the us ASAP – consider asking local businesses for assistance.

Find out more about our work in this area and [how we recovered 400 stolen mobile phones](#).

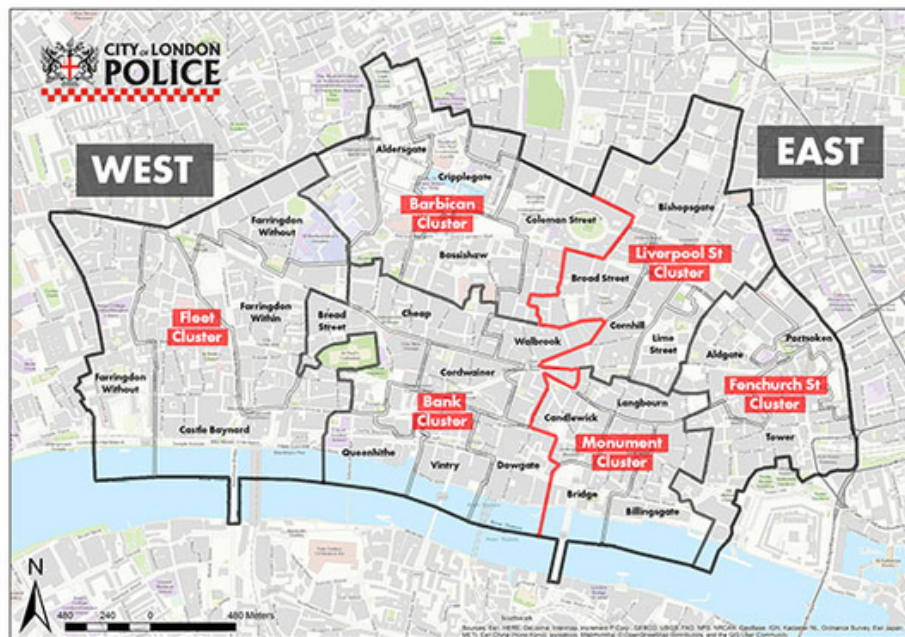
You said, we did...

At Cluster Panels, via Elected Members and online, residents have raised concerns about the anti-social use of bicycles and bicycle-enabled crime. We are pleased to announce that in response, the Force has re-launched a Police Cycle Team. The team focus on hotspot priority crime areas, and better our local response and interception capability.

Another concern of residents and businesses is antisocial behaviour in the City (in its various guises). In response to this, the City of London Police, together with departmental leads across the City of London Corporation, have jointly formed the ASB Strategic Group. There has been an overall reduction in ASB year on year, however by bringing partners together and reviewing data, we will help better understand issues, hotspots, and trends, and be able to focus local resources more effectively.

Cluster Panels

These community meetings are intended to be made up of local people, business representatives, police and other stakeholders, who come together to assess Cluster concerns, identified through community engagement and crime/ASB analysis, and establish priorities for policing in that area. The panel gives direction and local advice to the Neighbourhood Team, although some priorities will require partners to take the lead. The Panel should decide upon 'promises' or actions for the area and be actively involved in problem solving community issues. Sergeant Tim Osborn is currently reviewing the structure of Cluster Panels and is keen to receive feedback from current attendees, as well as non-attendees as to how we could make them more accessible and representative of our communities moving forward - tim.osborn@cityoflondon.police.uk.



Upcoming Cluster Panels

Bank Governors Hall, 31st Oct 2023 at 1pm

Barbican Golden Lane Community Centre, 24th January 2024 at 6pm

Fenchurch St Portsoken Community Centre, 11th Oct 2023 at 3pm

Fleet 12 New Fetter Lane, 17th January 2024 at 4pm

Liverpool Street Tower 42, 11th October 2023 at 12pm

Monument Gracechurch St, 26th October 2023 at 3pm

Cuppa with a Copper

85 Fleet Street 11 October 2023, 10am to 1pm, with PC Ellis Howe and PC Jack Gibbins



Give us your feedback

Alongside this new newsletter, we have opened a community survey to collect your opinions so that we, and The City of London Corporation who are our Police Authority, can understand the policing issues that matter to you the most. All your answers will be treated in confidence. The findings will be reported anonymously and be used to improve how we deliver our service: [complete the community survey](#).

In the next newsletter...

- SaBA Days of Action: A Safer Business Action Day is a joint approach by police, business, private security, Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs) and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), working in partnership to focus resources into a designated location to create a significant impact to reduce crime
- Hate Crime Awareness Week with the City of London Corporation
- Crime Prevention Roadshows update
- Neighbourhood officers supporting the Licensing Team
- Neighbourhood Crime Day of Action

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

barbican.cluster@cityoflondon.police.uk

fleet.cluster@cityoflondon.police.uk