



Dear Watch members,

Welcome to the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter. We hope you will enjoy the contents but would also like to hear from you if you have any preferences on topics to include, feedback on the current format or your own good news story. If you do, please let us know using the contact details above.

Your Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch brings neighbours together to tackle crime and promote a sense of co-operation in their local community. Each watch is led by a co-ordinator whose role it is to arrange meetings and act as a point of contact for the council and police. Police *Safer Neighbourhoods Teams* support Neighbourhood Watch by helping set up new watches, offering crime prevention advice, and acting as a point of contact for any non-urgent information about crime in your local area. Westminster City Council supports the administration of all Westminster watches, writes this newsletter, and arranges an annual meeting.

If you would like to know the contact details for your local *Safer Neighbourhoods Team*, or have any general queries about Neighbourhood Watch please contact us on neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk or 020 7641 2117.



Olympic Games 2012

We want everyone to enjoy the 2012 Games and make the most of what Westminster has to offer this summer. To make sure our residents, businesses and visitors stay safe and enjoy the Games, the Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Service has worked hard with the police to ensure that we are doing everything possible to prepare the city and make sure that levels of crime and disorder are kept under control this summer.

We will send information and advice to businesses in the city ahead of the Games to make sure they are prepared, and visitors to the city will be able to use our 'make the most of the Games' information and maps to make sure they stay safe and enjoy Westminster. Throughout the summer, staff will be out and about in Westminster helping people stay safe.

You can find out more at www.westminster.gov.uk/safegames

Westminster Voice

Your views are important to us, and we want to know if you are concerned about any crime and disorder or community safety issues in Westminster. One way to let us know your thoughts is through the Westminster Voice, which is a series of anonymous online surveys specific to local areas. The surveys which two simple questions about your concerns and are very quick to



complete. Westminster Voice surveys help us to quickly get a picture of what matters most to you. If you would like to register to take part in your local Westminster Voice, please contact neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk. All we need is your email address and postcode.

Your Choice

We know that in some areas in Westminster, people are concerned about gangs and serious youth violence. In response, we established the 'Your Choice' programme in 2011. It is a multi-agency programme which builds on the principles of early intervention, information sharing and personal responsibility. It allows young people to make a real choice – to take up the services on offer and become upstanding members of our community, or to face a range of enforcement options.

Your Choice benefits from bipartisan and cross borough support as we work closely with our neighbouring boroughs in Brent and Kensington and Chelsea.

The programme will:

- Improve the identification of gang members and make more effective use of shared intelligence through a multi-agency gang team.
- Provide targeted prevention programmes to stop young people from becoming involved in gangs in the first place. This will be achieved through early intervention work in schools with year 6 and 7 pupils, as well as providing targeted employment and training support. The aim of this is to get young people not currently in education, employment or training who are at risk of offending into sustained employment.
- Provide interventions to divert young people from gangs, through cross-border gang mediation, gang exit support and support to families in dealing with their children's involvement in gang activity.

With choices come consequences and young people who choose to continue to associate with gangs and related offending will be subject to a range of enforcement methods. In addition, those who join the 'Your Choice' programme will be subjected to possible sanctions if they repeatedly refuse to co-operate, such as the possibility of eviction, parenting orders and anti-social behaviour orders.

The team has worked hard at securing funding for 2012/13 which will enable us to run a number of initiatives over the coming year. These include the gang exit programme and the Fresh Start programme which helps to get young people into employment. Early interventions programmes will be rolled out across all schools in Westminster and an Integrated Gangs Unit will be established. The team will be made up of voluntary and statutory partners including police, probation, local authority, flexible gangs workers and voluntary sector gang exit support workers to develop a joint approach to enforcement and interventions.



Crime Reduction News

Illegal street trading

Following recent concerns over the amount of street performing and illegal street trading in central Westminster, council officers have been working with partners to tackle these problems. Some of the successes of this work include noise abatement notices being issued by our noise team and over 50 performers being warned by our local Westminster Wardens.

In the Westminster Bridge area we have been working with the police to deal with gambling on the street and illegal street trading. So far there have been at least eight arrests made for gambling and two for wilful obstruction of the highway. These operations have also resulted in the seizure of six ice-cream vans, more than 20 hotdog or peanut trolleys and a large quantity of property from other unlicensed street vendors. Plans for future operations are being developed with both Lambeth and Westminster police to deal with crime and disorder issues on Westminster Bridge.

Reporting non-emergency crimes

101 is the number to call when you want to contact your local police and it is less urgent than a 999 call, for example:



- If your car has been stolen.
- If your property has been damaged
- If you suspect drug use or dealing in your local area.
- To report a minor traffic accident.
- To give the police information about a crime in your area.
- To speak to the police about a general query.

101 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week across England and Wales.

ASBO in Pimlico

Following a large number of complaints from the local community regarding a resident in Pimlico who was excessively and persistently feeding large flocks of pigeons, the Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Service successfully obtained a three year ASBO.

The ongoing nuisance had been continuing since 2010 and despite efforts to intervene, the individual concerned continued these activities causing great harassment and distress to the local community. The ASBO will remain in force until 2014.

Youth disorder in Abbey Orchard

The Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Officer for Vincent Square has been working in partnership with Peabody Housing Trust and the Safer Neighbourhood Team to target individuals engaged in anti-social behaviour in the Abbey Orchard area. A number of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts have been issued and Notices Seeking Possession have been served on a number of residents.

Responsible dog ownership

The Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Officer and Westminster Warden for Churchill have been working together to devise a project to promote responsible dog ownership within the community by raising awareness in the two local primary schools.

This will be delivered in assemblies by the local team (Local Warden, Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Officer, Local Police and Animal Warden) to describe what we do and how we work together on dog control issues. A presentation by Battersea Dogs Home will form part of the assembly which will be ended with the launch of a competition for children to design posters with the 'pick it up' message. The winners will receive prizes of cinema and bowling vouchers and the top prize will get to come along to Battersea Dogs Home to spend the day working with the dogs.



Your Watch

If you don't already know who your co-ordinator is or to find out about how to start up a watch in your area, contact Westminster's Neighbourhood Watch office on 020 7641 2117 or e-mail

neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk

Watch Online

Find out more about Neighbourhood Watch and crime prevention through the following websites:

Home Office Crime Reduction Website:

www.crimereduction.gov.uk

UK Neighbourhood Watch Trust:

www.neighbourhoodwatch.net

London Neighbourhood Watch Association:

www.inwa.org

Neighbourhood Watch Info:

www.nwinfo.co.uk

Metropolitan Police Crime Prevention Advice:

www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention

What you report *can* make a difference

You and your neighbours know what should be going on in your area and, importantly, what should not.

The police and council won't necessarily know what is going on in your area unless you tell them and the more reports they receive on a particular issue, the more evidence they have to action it. If you witness a crime or anti-social behaviour, please report it.

Westminster City Council

To speak to Neighbourhood Watch officers at Westminster Council, call 020 7641 2117 or e-mail neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk

To report problems with street lighting, noise, graffiti, roads etc to the council, phone 020 7641 2000 or online at

www.westminster.gov.uk

Metropolitan Police Service

Call the switchboard numbers of your local police stations to get in touch with your local Crime Prevention Officer and *Safer Neighbourhoods* team. Please check the website for opening times on

www.met.police.uk/westminster

Paddington Green 020 7402 1212

Marylebone 020 7486 1212

West End Central 020 7437 1212

Charing Cross 020 7240 1212

Belgravia 020 7730 1212

Harrow Road 020 7402 1212

St John's Wood 020 7486 1212

To report non-urgent anti-social behaviour to the police, phone 0300 123 1212

Contact your local *Safer Neighbourhoods* team or police station (details above) for non-urgent crime, community issues and long-term problem solving.

In an emergency (i.e. where there's an immediate threat to people or property) dial 999

Westminster Neighbourhood Watch is delivered by Westminster City Council in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police Service and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.