

Newsletter

Hillingdon Safer Transport Team

October 2009

New Additions to the Hillingdon Safer Transport Team



This year has seen the arrival of three police officers, one Sergeant and five new PCSOs. The three newest additions to our team are PCSO Charlotte Yates, PCSO Darren Pontnoy and PCSO James Rowlands. PC Sy Kazmi and PC Richard King have joined the team after transferring from Hillingdon's response teams.

Also, we would also like to say goodbye to PCSO Tom Corbett, PCSO Lindsey Barnes and PCSO Stewart Walker who have all left the Safer Transport Team to become Metropolitan Police officers in other boroughs.

Pictured (from left to right): PCSO Darren Pontnoy, PCSO James Rowlands, PCSO Charlotte Yates and PC Sy Kazmi

Change Starts With You - Your Chance to Make a Difference

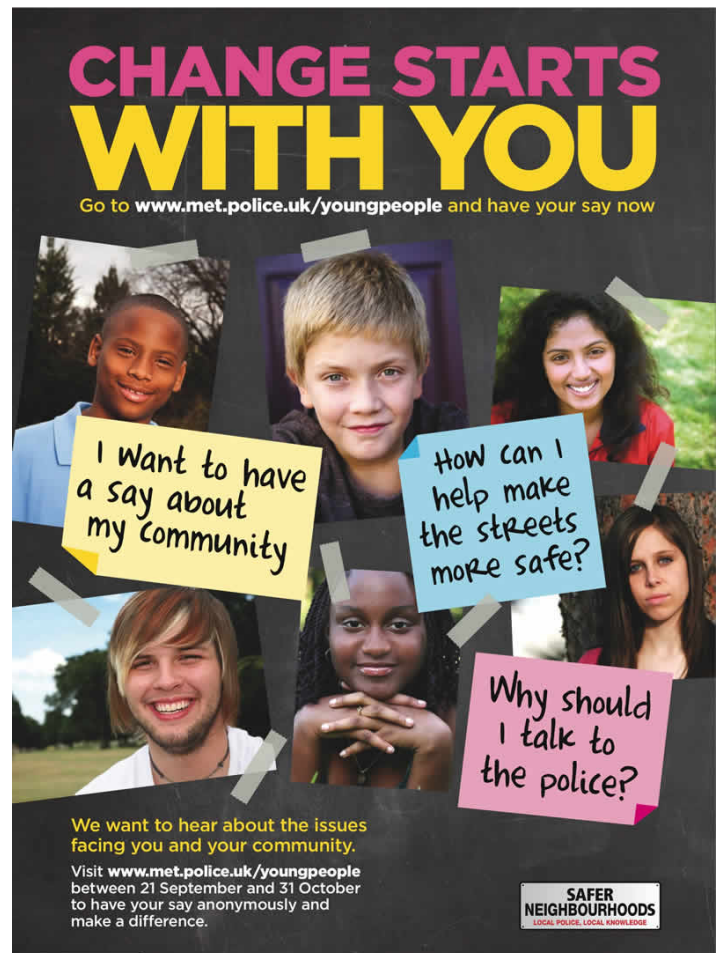
'The Change Starts with You' campaign is designed to encourage young people to voice their concerns anonymously to the police.

Please encourage any young people you know to complete the online survey. We want to hear about issues they face and in the community. The survey needs to be completed between the 21st September and 31st October 2009 and they can have their say anonymously.

Click on the link below to access the survey where they can tell us about their school journey, where they may feel unsafe and when, and their concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour in their area. The information they provide will be passed on the Safer Neighbourhoods team to help make the community a safer place.

It takes just a few minutes, is completely anonymous, and can help make a difference to where they live and go to school.

<http://www.met.police.uk/youngpeople/>



CHANGE STARTS WITH YOU
Go to www.met.police.uk/youngpeople and have your say now

I want to have a say about my community

How can I help make the streets more safe?

Why should I talk to the police?

We want to hear about the issues facing you and your community. Visit www.met.police.uk/youngpeople between 21 September and 31 October to have your say anonymously and make a difference.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS
LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

METROPOLITAN POLICE Working together for a safer London

Great STT News in Hillingdon

The team have been working very hard this year and we have many great success stories to share with you. Firstly, we would like to mention to you that it was announced this summer that Hillingdon were one of the best performing Transport Teams in London.

In September we carried out an operation with TfL and the Ealing and Harrow STTs on the 140 bus, which spans through three London boroughs. The aim was to reduce theft, pick pocketing, fare evasion and anti-social behaviour on the route and targeted areas known for such activity, including The Grapes and Hayes & Harlington station. The 10-hour operation led to five arrests (one for possession of an offensive weapon), fifty stop and accounts/searches, and 50 penalty tickets issued for fare evasion.

In other news, PCSOs Anthony Ladyman (pictured) and Gurps Saran heroically rescued a drowning female victim in the Grand Union Canal in Hayes back in July. The PCSOs were on patrol in Hayes and noticed the female in the water. They safely pulled the struggling victim out of the



canal and brought her to the side of the bank where they utilised their emergency life saving training. STT Sergeant Dave Turner said: "It was good to see that the officers assessed the situation and took the necessary action to bring the woman to safety. This was possibly a life threatening situation and their actions need to be applauded."

Lastly, three men were stopped for attempted pick pocketing (also known as dipping) on a U4 bus. PC Sy Kazmi and PCSOs Robin Bingham and Gurps Saran responded quickly when a U4 bus alerted police. The victim, a 92 year male was not harmed and his property was restored to him. One suspect was arrested for suspected robbery, which is under investigation.

Combating pick pocketing on buses remains one of our priorities so please keep your valuables close to you and secured in a zipped bag.

Pictured Left: PCSOs Andy Sarney and Charlotte Yates offer crime prevention advice on a 140 bus. Pictured above: PCSOs Sanj Salhotra and Anthony Ladyman by the Grand Union Canal, Hayes.



A Special Thank You

The Safer Transport Team would like to say a special thank you to Metroline bus driver, Vikki Pell.

The route 140 driver acted professionally and efficiently to help reunite a Mother with her five year old daughter who had been accidentally left on the bus. The little girl had travelled on Vikki's bus route from The Grapes bus stop on Uxbridge Road - where the Mother alighted - all the way up to Fairies Corner bus stop on the junction of North Hyde Road in Hayes, where a passenger alerted Vikki of the distressed little girl.

Vikki made special efforts to calm and assure the

child whilst she waited for the arrival of the police, sitting her in the drivers' cab. Shortly after, PCSOs from the Transport Team arrived and assisted with the little girl.



Vikki is 21 years old and has worked for Metroline on the 140 route for 18 months and hopes to become a police officer for the Met. She recently signed up for 'Bus Beat', an initiative from Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police to encourage bus drivers to become Special Constables.

STT in the Community

The team has been actively engaging with the community in a number of activities around the borough to provide people with information on safe travel, to raise awareness of robberies and knife crime to school pupils and to build strong links between police and the community, which is an integral part of the Safer Transport Team.

Team members, PCSOs Val Renouf and Paul Lockhart will also be hosting a number of crime prevention days in the next few months around the borough. There they will offer specialist crime prevention advice on personal safety and provide



information on Oyster Cards and Freedom passes. You can also approach them with any concerns in relation to bus travel.

The 'Zip It' campaign launch has coincided with the start of the school year. The campaign is designed to encourage people, especially school children to look after their valuables, keeping them safely secured in their bags. PCSO Gina Acuna will be visiting schools in the borough to offer crime prevention advice to the new year sevens. She will also talk about the appropriate use of Oyster photocard as 11-16 year olds are offered free travel from TfL and are therefore likely targets for robberies.

If you have any concerns or issues you would like to raise with the team, please do not hesitate to contact us or click on the link to email us at stt.hillingdon@met.police.uk

Stay Safe during Halloween and Guy Fawkes

We'll be working in partnership with the Safer Neighbourhoods teams to tackle to anti-social behaviour associated with Halloween and Fireworks night, helping everyone to travel safely during festivities. The Safer Transport team will be conducting high-visibility patrols in the evenings on bus routes and areas associated with anti-social behaviour to provide reassurance to the public and deter criminal activity. We work closely with the bus companies and Operation Bustag (Transport Operational Command Unit - Met Police) to identify those committing crimes on buses in and around Hillingdon.

If you have any concerns about Halloween in your neighbourhood, please contact your local team on 01895 251212.

Read our advice to ensure a safe and fun Halloween/Guy Fawkes Night on the London Bus network:

- Make sure you know where your children are going and when they are expected to return home. If they are carrying their Oyster cards and other valuables, please ensure they keep them secure throughout the evening.
- It is illegal for under-18s to buy or carry fireworks, and they should not be used to cause a nuisance. This may lead to serious injuries or an arrest and/or £80 fine.
- Please drink alcohol responsibly. You are reminded that drinking alcohol or carrying an open container of alcohol is banned on all London Transport. Parents should discourage their children from drinking alcohol.
- It may seem like harmless fun to throw eggs and flour, but it can also cause people a lot of distress as it is difficult to remove. It can also be classed as criminal damage, which can lead to an arrest and/or £80 fine.
- And lastly, have fun! Stay in groups and look out for one another and stick to well lit routes.