

Neighbourhood Watch CROYDON

CroydonEye
Summer 2017



Trading Standards Update

Trish Burls-Principal Officer, Trading Standards

One of the main aims in Trading standards, as a consumer protection team, is to prevent crimes from happening. However try as we might to reach all areas of the community with our messages and warnings there are still people that we're failing to reach.

Cold calling in all its forms continues to be a problem for us. It could be a telephone call, supposedly from your bank, a would - be workman at your door or an e-mail popping up in your inbox alerting you to a supposed problem with your pc. Most of us know to be on our guard; never to deal with cold callers and never to click on a link in a suspicious e-mail. But what about those that don't know?

That's where you come in. We need your help – again – in identifying those people you know, who may be less aware than you, who maybe live alone or are isolated, who might not receive our prevention messages or our alerts regarding latest incidents. Together we can try and raise awareness levels, giving people the confidence to say no, to hang up, and to make enquiries about uninvited callers.

Over the coming months we're going to be putting together some more information packs for our friends and colleagues in the community and asking you to help us spread the word. If you're willing to help, drop us a line on the following e-mail address and we'll be in touch: trading.standards@croydon.gov.uk

In the meantime, here are some of the latest warnings regarding issues that are happening now, or based on previous reports, are about to start their rounds again:

Wine investment fraud and recovery - Recovery Room fraud is a method where criminals contact victims of previous frauds, often by cold calling, and claim to be able to recover previously lost funds for an upfront, advance fee. When Recovery Room fraudsters contact victims of wine investment fraud they will usually claim to be a legal professional such as an insolvency practitioner or a representative of another investment firm.

Last year, victims of investment fraud lost on average £32,000 each as fraudsters employed increasingly advanced psychological tactics to persuade victims to invest.

Bogus workmen - With the new season comes an inevitable return of an old con. Bogus tree surgeons, drainage operatives and fraudulent roofers will target the unsuspecting householder, using persuasive



tactics to try and part a householder from their cash. Residents are reminded to never deal with cold callers and to seek three quotes before agreeing to any work at their home.

Courier fraud - When you're contacted by telephone by someone pretending to be from your bank or building society asking you to give your card details over the phone. They arrange for a courier to pick up your bank card to take it away 'for evidence' or to have it destroyed. In reality, the card is collected by the fraudsters to withdraw money from your account. NEVER give your bank details or your bank card to anyone.

If you had a paper copy delivered by your co-ordinator, next time could you receive this newsletter via email?
If YES please let your NHW Co-ordinator know (their contact details are on the back of this newsletter).

Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association
Email: nhw@cbnwa.com
Website: www.cbnwa.com
Charity no:1087760

Hello!
Chief Superintendent Jeff Boothe, MET Police

I assumed my role in command of Croydon borough taking over officially on 10th December 2016. I know the town inside out, having been to school, grown up and lived with family in the north of the borough. I previously served in the equivalent position in Bexley, after more than two decades with the British Transport Police.

My first impressions are I've got a dedicated team, who are really enthusiastic in a very busy borough. Key priorities are around vulnerability, we've got to really focus around safeguarding children. It won't be lost on you that the recent HMIC [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary] inspection noted it was an area we need to work . To achieve this we need to work effectively with partners. For me it's to look at how I can work with the local authority [Croydon Council] because they've got ambitious plans for the future, where they see Croydon going, and my job is to get a better understanding of that vision and see how we can provide a policing service that complements that. Working with our partners in the business industry, Croydon BID who are doing a great job. We all know that Westfield is round the corner, it is looking at wider partners and seeing what they can do to make the perceptions of Croydon improve.

Domestic abuse is really high up my agenda and I'm meeting local authority leaders on how we can better tackle that area, manage the actual under-reporting, as I think there is still a high degree of under-reporting. For me, how do we manage or reduce the number of young children going missing is a key priority. Alongside this we also have acquisitive crime such as; burglaries, robberies, which have a direct impact on people.

Also, our confidence levels aren't as good as they could be but, positively, our satisfaction figures are very, very high.

One area we really need the support of Neighbourhood Watch Croydon is with our initiative called Met Trace. This is where we deliver marking kits to residents in high burglary areas. The owners then mark their property with a unique liquid that is only used for that persons property. The idea is two fold, one is that anyone we arrest for burglary (or theft related offences) has any property they have, or at their own home address checked to see if it has come from a burglary where Met Trace has been used. We can trace any property that has been marked as part of Met Trace right back to that house. Secondly it is to act as a deterrent, because the resident should display Met Trace stickers at their address. In the areas of Croydon that we have delivered Met Trace to, we have had a 41% decrease in burglaries over the last 12 months. The Met Police also has a 100% conviction rate at court for cases involving Met Trace or Smart Water. Please visit the Neighbourhood Watch website (www.cbnwa.com) for details on how to purchase Smart Water packs at a discounted price.

I thank you for all the work you do to support your local police.



Donation Appeal
NHW Croydon- Executive Committee

Did you know that Neighbourhood Watch Croydon is a charity that relies heavily on donations? Would you be prepared to make a donation to enable us to continue our work?

You can make a donation via bank transfer to:

Lloyds plc
Sort code 30-92-45
Account No 03049348

Or a Cheque made payable to "CBNWA" sent to:
The Treasurer – CBNWA
c/o 24, Fernhurst Road, Addiscombe, Croydon , CR0 7DG

If you wish to gift aid your donation, our gift aid form is on our website www.cbnwa.com under "forms and documents".

If you wish to set up a direct debit, you can do this online (for some banks) or obtain a form from your bank. Our bank details are shown above.

We regret we are unable to acknowledge individual contributions. This newsletter is delivered or emailed to every residential address in a NHW area in the Borough of Croydon.

Thank you for your support.

Going away this summer?

Here are five tips from the Met Police to help you keep your home and belongings stay safe while you're away.

- 1)If you're off on holiday and wish to post anything on social media, make sure your posts aren't public and that they're only seen by your friends.
- 2)Leave lights and a radio on a timer to make the property appear occupied.
- 3)Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property.
- 4)Consider asking your neighbours to close curtains after dark and to park on your drive.
- 5)Remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries.

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Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's details: