



Kensington and Chelsea

# Crime **and** Disorder

**Annual Report** June 2006



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

# Introduction

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This annual report gives an overview of the work of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) since the launch of its most recent Community Safety Strategy in April 2005, and the performance targets it has achieved.

In the past 12 months, the partnership has secured £1.3 million from various funding sources. These have included the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF), the Basic Command Unit (BCU), the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), Local Public Service Agreements (LPSA) and the Drug Action Team's (DAT) Partnership Support Grant. This money helped fund posts within the Community Safety Team as well as supporting a wide range of crime and disorder projects and initiatives within the statutory and voluntary sectors. Further details on individual projects are given throughout the report.

The Royal Borough's Community Safety Strategy focuses on four key aims and targets to help reduce crime in Kensington and Chelsea.

## **Those aims are:**

- Residents are and feel more secure in their homes and daily lives
- More offenders are caught, convicted and stop offending and victims are better supported
- Reduce the use of illegal drugs and the misuse of alcohol
- Young people are less likely to be involved in crime and disorder, either as victims or perpetrators

This report outlines the projects and initiatives that played a part in achieving these aims.

# Community and Race Relations

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The Community and Race Relations Officer has continued to develop a number of actions to address racial and homophobic incidents in the borough. A key area of work during the year was the distribution of third-party reporting packs to key Black Minority Ethnic (BME) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT) community locations. These will enable victims of hate crime (racist, homophobic, transphobic and domestic violence) to report the incidents somewhere other than a police station. Each pack contains a self-reporting form and a number of advisory leaflets.

Since July 2005 more than 2000 reporting packs have been distributed to reporting centres, community centres and faith premises. Although the use of the packs remains very low, there is scope to improve reporting of hate incidents.

An LGBT hate crime survey in December 2005 examined the crime issues that impact on members of the LGBT community.

The survey revealed a number of issues that will be reported more fully in a document entitled: The LGBT Crime Survey for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It will also be available on the Council website in the near future.

## The findings include:

- Almost one in five of the respondents (18 per cent) said they had been the victim of a homophobic or transphobic incident(s) in Kensington and Chelsea during the past 12 months.
- Almost two thirds of respondents (64 per cent) were not worried about crime in this area.
- The vast majority (96 per cent) felt safe "to some extent" when walking alone in the area during the day, while slightly less (80 per cent) felt safe "to some extent" after dark.

The survey results will help influence future action plans and services provided by a number of statutory and voluntary organisations in Kensington and Chelsea. These include the Community Safety Team, Safer Neighbourhoods Teams, Kensington and Chelsea LGBT Advisory Group and Victim Support.

# LGBT Advisory Group **Personal Safety** and Publicity Project

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The LGBT Advisory Group was formed in 1999. This year's work focused on the group's structure and funding and on developing personal safety campaigns. Two campaigns were supported on key dates for the LGBT community, including World Aids Day on 1 December when the group unveiled a personal safety leaflet.

## **Other key areas of work included:**

- Third party reporting
- **Advocacy with the police**
- **Monitoring reported hate crimes**
- **Personal safety issues**
- Advising on and helping with the hate crime survey

## Developing Assisted Reporting of Hate Crime (Training)

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Meetings held with key members of the community after the incidents of July 2005 identified several important areas for action. These included making sure assisted reporting centres were able to support third-party reporting. It was recognised that since community-based reporting centres were well placed to receive information, and already had key links with the community, they were likely to be among the first to receive such reports. A training package was developed and in December 2005 a number of people from local community groups and venues were given training.

Future work will include continuing to train members of community groups, highlighting the need for assisted reporting and developing links with hard-to-reach communities.

# Antisocial Behaviour

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The Community Antisocial Behaviour Action Team (CASBAT) has been set up jointly by the police and the Council to coordinate action on antisocial behaviour in the borough. Following staff changes it will in future work closely with the Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO) Unit that will also be based in the CST.

During the past year CASBAT has tackled antisocial behaviour in a number of different ways. The team's main aim is to find ways of addressing the problem or the behaviours that are more likely to have a long-term, positive impact on the individuals involved and their communities. Partnership work has played a very important part in delivering that aim. Liaison with agencies such as the Youth Offending Team (YOT), Social Services, education and housing has meant that all relevant information has been shared in cases involving youths, with both enforcement and support packages put into place. This close working will continue to grow in the coming year.

Of all the initiatives introduced by central Government over the past year, the most notable is the **Respect programme**. Its aim is to drive up standards of behaviour and lessen the fear and intimidation experienced by neighbourhoods across the country. Crucial themes include tackling problem families, strengthening and empowering communities through greater accountability of services, providing meaningful activities for children and young people and making parenting classes better and more available.

Local police say they have received six per cent fewer disorder calls in the past 12 months. The borough has also emerged as one of the top three in London in a public satisfaction survey on issues around feeling safe and being concerned about incidents of antisocial behaviour.

Many housing providers and registered social landlords (RSLs) are taking a strict stance on antisocial behaviour and have published strategies on how they will deal with issues and what residents can expect from them.

**Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABAs)** Low-level intervention has been used mainly in cases where young people have begun to come to the notice of various agencies. The young people are offered advice, assistance and support in an attempt to engage them in more worthwhile activities. ABAs, voluntary agreements made between the perpetrators, the police and housing providers, have been used to tackle low-level antisocial behaviour. In the past 12 months, 20 ABAs have been imposed on individuals in an attempt to change their behaviour. In most cases they have been successful; where they have not been successful some form of enforcement action has been taken.

**Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)** The borough's most prolific offenders have been dealt with using ASBOs in an attempt to protect the community from their antisocial and offending behaviour. An ASBO can be imposed either as a follow-up to a separate conviction or as a stand-alone order. In Kensington and Chelsea there are currently 18 **ASBOs in place on individuals who have been convicted of a range of offences including theft,** public disorder, general antisocial behaviour, prostitute carding and ticket touting. CASBAT has been granted five ASBOs against individuals whose conduct gave cause for concern in the past 12 months.

The clauses and conditions imposed in an ASBO are tailored to each individual case and are key to disrupting the perpetrators and their behaviour. It is also important to ensure that the terms are enforceable. ASBO conditions can include non-association clauses (preventing the person from seeing or contacting certain people), exclusion areas (spelling out places they are not allowed to visit), restrictions on behaviour and even a total ban from the borough. It is the local police sector teams who have to enforce the terms of each ASBO. Courts have imposed prison sentences of up to five months in cases where ASBOs have been breached, sending out a clear message to offenders that failing to abide by the orders and change their offending behaviour will not be tolerated.

**Closure orders** These are used to tackle closed drugs markets, where class A drugs such as heroin or cocaine are sold or used. More commonly known as 'crack houses', they cause serious nuisance to local people. It is a measure of success in Kensington and Chelsea that only three Closure Orders were sought in the past 12 months, since swift action in the past by partner agencies means that crack houses no longer afflict communities in the way they did five years ago. CASBAT remains vigilant about the volatile nature of drugs markets and ensures that police and partnership agencies act upon any information or intelligence on this subject.

The CASBAT team continues to train and support RSLs and housing providers in how to use the powers they have to deal with antisocial behaviour.

One multi-agency project helped to reduce the fear of crime felt by users of the Grand Union Canal towpath in north Kensington. They were concerned about people riding mopeds and bicycles along the towpath; the problem was solved by erecting staggered barriers at sites along the towpath to force riders to slow down and dismount.

Partnership work, early interventions, closer work with the PPO Unit and developing the Respect programme are set to be the main themes of work for CASBAT in the forthcoming year.

## CASE STUDY

A young person aged 11 was committing crime on and around the estate on which he lived, coming to the attention of police and housing providers on an almost daily basis.

Intervention work had failed, his parents had lost control, he was failing to attend school and he had been arrested for various offences, harassing local residents and shopkeepers.

The main conditions of an ASBO banned him from parts of the estate other than where he lived, but he still visited frequently. Other terms included:

- **Non-association with other known youths also coming to police notice**
- **Not to wear hoods to hide identity**
- **Not to use a scooter or be a passenger on one**

After ten breaches of his ASBO and further criminal offences, the situation was not looking promising, with few options open for a judge. The young person was finally sent on a fostering placement outside the borough and has engaged well, with no more arrests or breaches. He is now intending to go back to school. Imposing the ASBO has focused the different agencies on finding a solution and getting this youth back on track.

# Prolific and Priority Offenders Scheme

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In 2005 a Prolific and Priority Offenders Scheme (PPO) Coordinator was appointed within the CST. The role of the coordinator is to work closely alongside the Metropolitan Police to monitor the behaviour of some of Kensington and Chelsea's most prolific offenders.

The Prolific and Priority Offenders strategy is led by CDRPs and was implemented nationally in September 2004. Schemes nationwide are designed to tackle the behaviour of some of the country's most persistent offenders. Each borough in London has its own scheme consisting of three elements: Prevent and Deter, Catch and Convict, Resettle and Rehabilitate.

The Prevent and Deter strand is led by the Youth Offending Team and focuses on offenders under the age of 18. These offenders have come to the police's attention through their antisocial behaviour and offending. The main objective is to prevent them from becoming adult offenders by supervising them closely. Some of the many issues young offenders have to confront include drugs, educational, family and social problems. The YOTs work closely with a number of agencies, including Connexions, with the aim of providing structure and stability in these young people's lives.

The Catch and Convict strand is led by the police and focuses on all offenders. The police's role is to monitor their criminal behaviour and, with the help of the Crown Prosecution Service, ensure that crimes committed by the offender are dealt with in the courts within a set time.

The Resettle and Rehabilitate strand is led by the Probation Service. The service supervises all adult offenders who are the subject of an order imposed by the courts. The Probation Service tries to encourage these offenders to gain educational skills, find work and a home and address any drug or alcohol problems.

Members of the PPO Steering Group meet every two months to review the scheme. Representatives include staff from the above agencies as well as from the Tenant Management Organisation (TMO), which helps with any housing issues, and the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), which deals with drug concerns. There is also a representative from the Homeless Persons Unit, Social Services and Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP).

Partnership work is important in reducing crime. Putting the emphasis on a multi-agency approach and information sharing means information can be exchanged freely between partners. Although PPO members work hard to engage offenders, anyone who does not co-operate and continues to offend is 'fast-tracked' back through the criminal justice system. In some circumstances a prison sentence is the only way to protect the community.

With 24 offenders currently on the scheme, the figure is set to increase over the next year as the PPO team expands. Projects for the coming year include a health initiative through which offenders will be offered help to register with a GP and learn about diet, fitness and other health issues. PAYP and PPO are hoping to work together on a project to provide some of the younger offenders with constructive, educational activities.

## Further Information

Further copies of this annual report can be received on request from the Community Safety Team. We welcome any feedback on this document. Please contact us as per below:

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This document is also available in other formats, including large print, Braille, audio tape and other languages, on request.

# Appendices

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## KENSINGTON SECTOR

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