

Email Update from Inspector Hicks 20 March 2017 for Carshalton and Clockhouse Local committee 25 April 2017.

I've been asked to provide an update on behalf of my Safer Neighbourhoods Team for the next Local Committee. Please see details below and attached.

First of all I'd like to draw your attention to the crime figures. Last year was a particularly good year in terms of crime reduction for my teams right across the six wards that comprise my cluster. This was particularly pleasing as it coincided with the end of the previous Mayor's MOPAC (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (UK)) Challenge to cut certain key offences by 20%. Over these 4 years the MOPAC7 crimes across my wards fell by almost 30% with the pace of that reduction accelerating: good news !! From your perspective, the Carshalton wards performed particularly well and proved that they were some of the safest wards in the whole of London; again good news!!

That level of sustained performance has proved difficult to maintain as you will note from the figures. Crime across significant parts of London has been following an upward trend and sadly my wards have noticed minor increases too. That said, I would like to point out that Carshalton South & Clockhouse continues on a downward trend, although progress has decelerated. I anticipate that at the end of this performance year, 31st March, Carshalton Central will, based on current trends, see a marginal rise in crime: clearly bad news !! However, albeit this is not good news I would invite you to put some perspective around this:

- Crime has come down significantly since 2011/12
- Last year was especially good
- Where you see large percentage rises carefully look at the actual number of offences and you note that in vast majority of cases they are still low numbers
- Both Carshalton wards continue to be very safe and suffer low levels of crime and ASB

At the last Local Committee at Hillcrest Halls a problem of youths gathering behind the building to abuse nitrous oxide (laughing gas) was highlighted. Apparently even though the youths abuse this substance in order to become intoxicated their behaviour rarely manifests itself in ASB at this location. However, abuse of nitrous oxide is dangerous and can result in fatality. The team investigated the possibility of installing a temporary CCTV camera but the location did not lend itself to this. I briefed the team to increase patrols on The Mount and pay particular attention to this location with a view to talking to youths abusing nitrous oxide in order to identify them, try to identify where they were obtaining it, to highlight the dangers and educate their parents about their children's habits. We supported this by contacting Woodcote High School, supplied them with useful information and asking them to raise the profile of the dangers to the students. We also highlighted this to our colleagues at Croydon Police and asked them to get other Croydon schools to spread the

word. We will continue to monitor this issue and I would ask that if you see any children abusing nitrous oxide that you contact the police immediately to give us an opportunity to speak to children and parents at the time and do our best to safeguard their wellbeing.

On a different subject, I anticipate that in the next few months I will be recruiting two more Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs) to support PC Syed & PCSO Kehoe and PC Evans & PCSO Palermo. This is more good news. DWOs will be strictly ring-fenced so will not be abstracted, and there are many many reasons why SNT officers find themselves working elsewhere or doing other things. When this happens DWOs will focus more of their time on problem solving, crime reduction, visible patrol and engagement and less on crime investigation. Of course crime investigation is important but it is time consuming and responsibility for this will shift to other officers. Last year we took the decision to move all SNT officers and staff back to Sutton from the several remote parade sites across the borough. This did have some benefits but equally it was not greeted with enthusiasm by the community. We have listened to those concerns and reviewed our decision. In the last few weeks the DWOs have moved back to remote bases, Crosspoint House, Wallington in the case of my officers/staff, and importantly this enables them to spend more time on their wards.

Kind Regards

Ian

Ian Hicks

Inspector

East Cluster SNTs