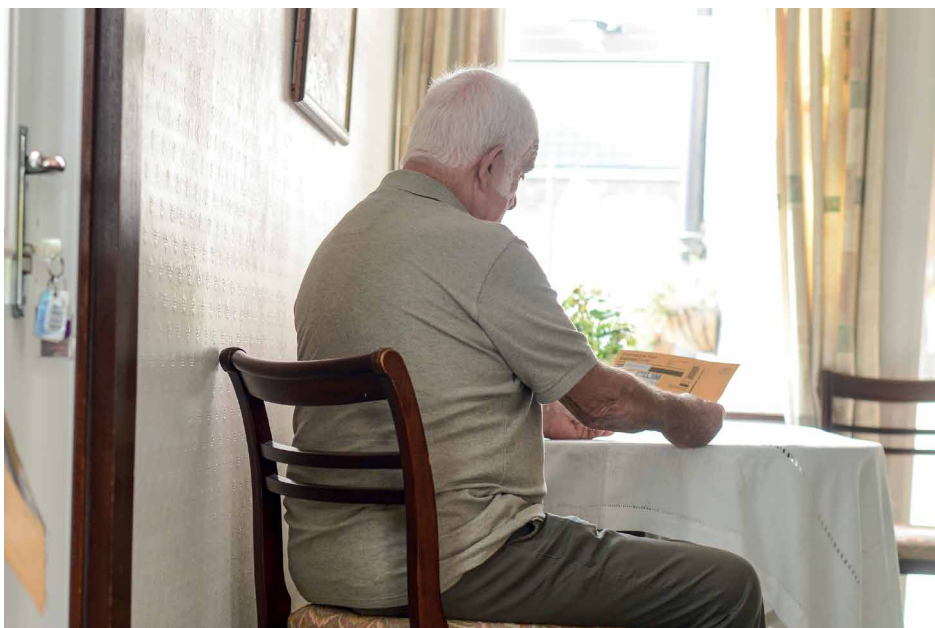


# saferbromley news

Your update on the Safer Bromley Partnership | Winter 2016



## Trading Standards get house back from rogue trader

A 78-year-old man from Orpington, conned out of his £250,000 house, was relieved to get it back thanks to action from Bromley Trading Standards. A Lincolnshire-based man was jailed for five years after being found guilty of conspiracy to commit fraud when he tricked the older gentleman into signing over his house in exchange for property repairs.

Mr B was cold-called back in 2013 and agreed with the caller that he needed house repairs though did not have enough money to pay for them. The conman hatched a deal whereby the householder would get the maintenance done in exchange for some of the equity in the house, while continuing to live there until he died. Mr B was coerced into signing paperwork which, unknown to him, signed over the entire house to the crook. He was forced to move out.

Trading Standards were alerted by a worried neighbour and undertook a lengthy investigation resulting in the conman being jailed and a happy ending for Mr B when his house was returned to him.

The Judge presiding over the case told the conman: "You, together with your co-conspirators, gained an elderly man's trust. You led him to believe you were helping him, but nothing could be further from the truth. You callously deceived him into transferring his house to you."

Cllr Kate Lymer said: "This was a disgraceful and shameful offence. Mr B showed tremendous courage to attend court and give evidence, and has since been recognised for his bravery by the Chartered Institute of Trading Standards with a Hero Award."

Trading Standards Rapid response: 07903 852090



## Welcome to Safer Bromley News

Safety and crime is never far from the news. Although we focus on this because it receives attention, statistics show that our Borough, compared to other parts of London, has a low crime rate.

This is positive news but we are working to make sure it stays that way and our partnerships play a crucial role in this. Partnership working is not just about the Police and Council acting jointly but maintaining strong, cohesive relationships with the Fire Service, Health, Probation and Housing Associations, for the greater good.

I would like to thank everyone for doing their bit to reduce crime in Bromley, including Street Pastors who I listened to outline their work recently; all the people who called the Police when needed; all those who have given evidence as witnesses and the countless other ways you have helped make Bromley a safer place to live and work.

Please take time to read the articles in this newsletter which, amongst others, include advice about fire safety and how London's Blue Light Services are aiming to make London the safest city; young people's attitudes to personal safety; crime statistics and a cautionary account of an elderly resident's alarming experience of a rogue trader. It is a stark warning to us all to be alert to different scams, particularly where trusting and vulnerable family, friends and neighbours are concerned.

**Cllr Kate Lymer**  
Portfolio Holder for  
Public Protection and Safety

## Crime Summit Special

Find out how the Partnership works together with residents for a **Safer Bromley**



London Fire Commissioner Ron Dobson, London Assembly Member Gareth Bacon, Bromley Fire Borough Commander Dan Cartwright and Cllr Kate Lymer (left to right) at the Crime Summit.

## Crime Summit: Bromley is safe place

**Bromley's Annual Crime Summit at the Civic Centre this autumn attracted around 100 people including partners such as Police and Fire, as well as residents, councillors, businesses and representatives from local organisations.**

Organised by Bromley's Safer Neighbourhood Board, it featured a keynote speech from London Fire Commissioner Ron Dobson on 'Blue Light Collaboration on Crime'; an update on crime statistics from Police Borough Commander Chris Hafford and the launch of a short personal safety film made by members of Bromley's Youth Council with help from the Council's Youth Support Team.

Find Bromley Safer Neighbourhood Board on Facebook [www.facebook.com/BromleySNB](http://www.facebook.com/BromleySNB)



### Together, let's keep children safe

Everyone has a role to play in protecting children and young people from abuse and neglect. We encourage you to act on your instincts and contact Bromley Council if you have concerns about a child. If you have a feeling something is not right, report it. You don't have to be absolutely certain about what is happening.

People are sometimes reluctant to make a report fearing they may be wrong or that it could lead to an unnecessary family break up. However, information is gathered from many sources, your report would form part of a bigger picture.

#### Act on your instinct

**If you think a child or young person under the age of 18 is being abused or neglected, call Children's Services 020 8461 7373 / 7379 / 7026. Outside of office hours contact us on 0300 303 8671. If you are seriously concerned about a child's immediate safety, dial 999.**

**Bromley Youth Council is a representative forum supported by Bromley Council to enable young residents to have a voice in local decision making and to take part in campaigns to address issues that affect them.**



### Playing it Safe

**Bromley Youth Council has been looking at young people's attitudes to personal safety in the Borough and online.**

Bromley Youth Council will soon be launching a new short personal safety film aimed at younger people. The film, written, produced and acted by local young people will address three main issues: peer pressure, internet safety and reporting crime. Scenes demonstrate what happens when young people succumb to pressure from friends to act inappropriately, how befriending strangers online can result in devastating outcomes, and the consequences of not reporting a crime. The film will be posted on YouTube and Youth Council members will approach schools to raise awareness of these issues.

The Youth Council backed up their campaign with findings from a survey which showed that despite the fact that many young people who took part thought Bromley was safer than most places, they still worried about crime. The survey also revealed they had concerns about their personal safety in a number of situations and that they were unsure about their rights and responsibilities around reporting crime.

Linda King from Bromley's Youth Support Team said: "We hope that using the medium of video will be a very accessible way to get practical safety messages across to young people in an increasingly digital age."



Find Bromley Youth Council on facebook  
[www.facebook.com/Bromleyyouthcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/Bromleyyouthcouncil)

### Clampdown on fly-tippers

Fly-tipping and other enviro-crimes are Safer Bromley Partnership priorities. Police and Bromley Council are teaming up as part of the 'Fly-tippers - we're watching you' campaign to clamp down on fly-tipping and other waste crimes. Collaboration on 'stop and search' operations allows vehicles

to be checked and unscrupulous traders apprehended before they dump waste to avoid disposal fees. Traders carrying waste must produce a waste carrier's licence or their vehicle could be seized and they may be fined. Other measures include CCTV surveillance, Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), prosecution and intelligence gathering. Report fly-

tipping and enviro-crime to the Police and tell the Council too. A description of the offender, vehicle registration or photo is useful. There are rewards up to £500 if evidence leads to prosecution.

Report at [www.bromley.gov.uk/envirocrime](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/envirocrime)



## Bromley exceeds crime reduction target



**Bromley has come through the four year 'MOPAC 7' crime reduction challenge with flying colours. Crime is down by 21 per cent in Bromley across the seven specified crime types. This compares favourably with an average of 17 per cent fewer crimes across London.**

"We talk in numbers and percentages but the important thing to remember is that each statistic refers to a person in the Borough who has been a victim of crime," said Police Borough Commander Chris Hafford. "So with our total of 9,282 offences, this means 2,468 fewer victims than four years ago which is clearly a good thing. But this is only part of what we do. The number of Total Notifiable Offences recorded in Bromley is just over 20,000 and this is also reducing from 21,000 last year. Bromley is one of only four Boroughs with a reduction in these offences which include crimes associated with drugs and public order.

"Conversely, there have been increases Londonwide in sexual offences and hate crimes. Bromley has seen 47 of the former amounting to a 14 per cent increase, as well as a rise in the latter since the EU Referendum in June."

The Metropolitan Police Service has saved some £600 million towards the 2020 target and has a further £400 million to save. This has been achieved by reducing staff numbers, selling inefficient buildings and other efficiencies to maintain numbers at 32,000 Police officers across London. Bromley currently has 440 officers, over strength by 20 officers and 20 PCSOs, although this will change in the coming months.

"We have been using the extra officers to do things differently," said the Borough Commander, "developing initiatives such as our Met Trace and Town Centre Teams for Bromley and Orpington as well as establishing teams for intelligence and development and to improve investigation standards. We are in a good place to meet the challenges that lie ahead," he concluded. "I have a motivated and committed workforce who will continue to work in partnership and listen to our communities to continue to make Bromley even safer."

## Met Trace makes its mark

**An invisible liquid – Met Trace – which enables residents' belongings to be identified under UV light is having a significant impact on crime in areas where it is widely used.**

In households covered during phase one of a campaign during which local Police distributed free kits, residential burglary has dropped by 37.5 per cent in the areas covered. Bromley Police handed out 3,681 Met Trace kits during this initial phase, aiming to reach 85 per cent of homes in areas considered at higher risk of burglary, such as Cray Valley East, Cray Valley West, Anerley and Crystal Palace. Buoyed by the initial success, a second phase has seen Police distribute 2,500 kits, with another 1,440 to go, in new areas including West Wickham, Petts Wood and Knoll and Penge and Cator.

Trevor Lawry, Bromley's Deputy Police Borough Commander, said: "Applying a traceable liquid which cannot be removed and is only visible under UV light along with notices to warn would-be criminals that this is in use has proved successful in preventing burglary in areas where sufficient homes take up the offer. I hope that many more residents will use the kits especially now we have demonstrated their worth here in the Borough."



## Good Neighbours Stop Rogue Traders

Residents of Bromley can make a real contribution to keeping vulnerable people safe – and get a certificate and medal for their trouble. Donna rang the

Trading Standards Rapid Response number when she spotted some men on her neighbour's property. She was concerned as he had previously been a victim of a rogue trader. When officers investigated it was apparent that, although no criminal offences had been committed, the over-enthusiastic trader had arranged to carry out property repairs totalling thousands of pounds when only a small repair was wanted. Officers helped the resident cancel the contract. Presenting the award to Donna, Rob Vale, Head of Trading Standards and Community Safety, said: "Without Donna's intervention, there was potential for this person to become overwhelmed and anxious at what he had agreed to." [www.bromley.gov.uk/roguetraders](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/roguetraders)

## Plan tackles community safety issues

Members of the Safer Bromley Partnership are committed to ensuring Bromley remains one of the safest places to live and work. The Partnership has set out its strategic priorities to tackle community safety issues over the next three years. The focus will be on:

- Domestic Abuse
- Preventing Violent Extremism
- Reducing Reoffending
- Serious Youth Violence including gangs
- Enviro-crime and related anti-social behaviour



## London aims to be safest city

London's blue light services are working together to make London one of the safest cities in the world.

London Fire Commissioner Ron Dobson told the Bromley Crime Summit audience that, with further collaboration between emergency services and local authorities, he believed making London a safe global city is eminently achievable.

"We want to respond in the most appropriate, effective and efficient way and increase knowledge of safety regarding fire, crime and security," he said.

"Collaborative working and prevention are at the heart of this mission. The London Fire Brigade's (LFB) move to the Home Office aligns the governance of the Fire and Police services so supports working this way. Now we want to increase visibility and communication between the LFB, Metropolitan Police Service and Local Authorities. This approach will also help reduce public expenditure through prevention of unnecessary response, secondary investigations and on-going health care, as well as increased intelligence on fire related incidents and crime."

Commissioner Dobson acknowledged that Bromley's Borough Commanders already work well in partnership

to reduce the risk of emergencies and bring together Borough based knowledge and expertise. Delivery of a range of youth engagement projects such as Cadets, Local Intervention and Fire Education (LIFE) programmes make a real difference. School visits and work with juvenile fire setters so they appreciate the consequences of their actions help too. Sharing intelligence to reduce antisocial behaviour fire-related incidents is also well developed in Bromley.

"We want to build on this good work and make sure people and communities know about safety to help prevent them becoming a target so some emergencies will not occur in the first place," added the Commissioner.

More information and advice at [www.london-fire.gov.uk/FireSafety.asp](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/FireSafety.asp)

## Scam alert

**Keep a look out for trusting and vulnerable family, friends and neighbours.**

Criminals are still targeting Bromley residents through a variety of scams as well as rogue trading offences. Trading Standards and Police are working together to put a stop to their antics, but we need your help.

### Don't forget:

- Anyone attempting to gain information or bank cards is committing FRAUD.
- Neither the Police, or any bank, will ever ask for your bank details or bank cards and will never need to collect them.
- Police will never ask you to withdraw money from your account to help investigate a crime. **This is FRAUD.**

### At the door step:

- Say NO to any uninvited sales people or any workmen.
- Criminals will convince you that you need work completed.
- Reputable traders will be happy to make an appointment at a time to suit you and they will NEVER insist on cash payments.

**If you receive a bogus call end it,** and if possible, use another phone to call Police. If you don't have another phone, consider asking a neighbour to call Police for you as the criminals will try to keep the line open. Phone someone whose voice you recognise.

**WHERE POSSIBLE USE A SEPARATE PHONE AND DIAL 101 OR 999 IN AN EMERGENCY. Or, contact Trading Standards on the rapid response number 07903 852090 (24 hours).**

## Fire safety tips at home

- ✓ Make sure you have smoke alarms on at least every level of your home.
- ✓ Smoke alarms save lives, but only if they're working. Test them regularly.
- ✓ Stub cigarettes out properly and dispose of them carefully. Put them out. Right out.
- ✓ Plan your escape route and make sure everyone knows how to get out in a fire.
- ✓ Take extra care in the kitchen and never leave cooking unattended.
- ✓ Do not overload electrical sockets and watch out for faulty and over-heating electrical equipment, wiring and cables.



## Be safe, be seen

**Calling all cyclists:** as the nights draw in, make sure your cycle is fitted with adequate lighting and choose hi-vis clothing. Check your cycle is in good working order and if you have any doubts contact your local bike shop.

More information about cycle safety and free cycle training visit [www.bromley.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/roadsafety)

## saferbromley partnership

The Safer Bromley Partnership includes Bromley Council, Police, Fire Service, Health, Probation and Housing Associations working together to keep Bromley safe.

Contact us at:  
[community.safety@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@bromley.gov.uk)  
Follow us on Twitter: [@saferbromley](https://twitter.com/saferbromley)