

May 2021



Dear all,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my name is Inspector Cathy Thomas.

Due to internal restructuring that has meant an uplift in additional resources within the SNT strand I have been appointed as Inspector for Croydon SNT South, managing 16 South Croydon wards working alongside Inspector Steve Warnes, who continues to manage Croydon's SNT Central and North Wards.

I have been based at Croydon for approximately 5 years, posted to Croydon on promotion as Sergeant from Southwark to manage the Town Centre teams and later the Youth Offending Teams across South Area BCU. During this time I was promoted to Inspector, previously managing Partnership and Prevention across Bromley, Sutton and Croydon which incorporates within its remit Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Licencing, Faith and Hate Crime. I believe that my experience with in these roles has provided me with the grounding and knowledge to tackle the issues that matter most to you and I look forward to undertaking them in the months ahead.

Even in these challenging times, with the gradual lift of lockdown meaning that ward officers have undertaken aid to support dealing with Breach of Covid Regulations they have continued to conduct plain clothes and high visibility patrols, executed warrants, implemented Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Operations and continue to work in partnership with the council in your area to reduce Burglary, Motor Vehicle crime, Drug related offences and ASB.

Over the next few weeks all Dedicated Ward Officers (DWO's) will also be focusing their efforts on ensuring communities are safe as restrictions are lifted across the UK. This also includes specific operations targeting our open spaces i.e. parks in Croydon to decrease violence related offences including Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and ASB related issues. The good news is that as restrictions lift officers can begin to restart community engagement and will advertise each engagement and event through Social Media. Like myself they are very much looking forward to meeting with residents again!

ANPR Operation – targeting Drugs in South Croydon

Excellent work carried out by **PC Barry Swift** who led teams resulting in **6** arrests of which **2** were for Possession with Intent to Supply controlled drugs. Officers working with the assistance of Roads Traffic Police, Charlton ANPR team and bailiffs, implemented an ANPR operation across 2 sites in the New Addington area resulting in 94 vehicles being stopped, 6 arrests and 5 vehicle seized.



Inspector Cathy Thomas

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Multiple Warrants executed – Drug Arrests

SNT Officers have conducted numerous warrants throughout the South Croydon area.

In an address in New Addington officers found large quantities of cannabis, cash, along with a machete and 2 knuckle dusters resulting in 3 people arrested and charged.

With the assistance of our Territorial Support Group (TSG) and Violent Crime Task Force (VCTF) colleagues, multiple warrants were executed in the Shirley area resulting in

- the arrest of one male for Possession with Intent to Supply class A and Possession of class B.
- One male issued with an out of court disposal
- A linked warrant being conducted at an address in Kent where one male was arrested for cultivation of cannabis after a large amount of Cannabis was found.



Car Cruises/Motorbike ASB –Waddon, Purley & Woodcote SNT

SNT Officers with Road Policing teams using Police Solo riders have been dealing with a range of ASB issues across the wards, in particular the problem of car cruises and off road motorbike riders causing annoyance in Valley Park, Purley and South Croydon. Large scale operations led by **PS Dave Dickinson** and **APS Robin Lambert-Singer** have been conducted over the last 6 weeks resulting in

- 30 Section 59 notices issued for ASB
- 18 vehicles seized including 2 dirt bikes, and 1 quad bike.
- 20 Fixed Penalty Notices issued
- 4 arrested for driving under the influence of drugs.



A review of social media now shows that car meet organisers now refer to Croydon as “hot with police”!!

Weapons seized/found – Shirley, Purley and South Croydon

Officers continue to conduct weapon sweeps across Croydon to reduce violence related offences. **North Shirley SNT** conducting regular weapon sweeps in the Shirley area found a large Rambo style knife in a disused garage.

Officers from **Purley & Woodcote SNT** dealt with a couple of youths causing ASB on the ward with the assistance of their other ward colleagues. As a result of a drug search a large machete was found and the youths were arrested.



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