

# Summer 2007 Briefing



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## **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

### ***CRIME FIGURES***

In the performance year to date (April – July 2007), there have been notable falls in the number of wounding, personal robbery, theft of motor vehicle and common assault offences, each falling by more than 8%. There was, however, a small increase in the basket of overall British Crime Survey (BCS) comparator crimes and measures are being put in place to address some of the challenging areas such as criminal damage and theft from motor vehicles.

Last year in Haringey there were 1,400 fewer violent crimes than the previous year. There were also 4,500 fewer victims of crime and a 10 per cent reduction in the number of crimes committed by young people; demonstrating that the fear of crime is often disproportionate to the reality, particularly where there are high levels of unfavourable media coverage.

### ***JUNIOR CITIZENS***

The Junior Citizen programme was delivered during the week of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007 by the Safer Schools Partnership. The programme attracted 1,200 year six students and involved the delivery of health, safety and citizenship education. The central aim was to prepare the participants for the transition from primary to secondary school.

### ***SAY YES CHALLENGE***

The Community Safety Team is working in partnership with Leaders in Training (St Thomas More School), Crime Concern and Prudential on an innovative youth education project. This is a first for a London borough and its partners.

Over a twelve week period (September to December 2007) 60 students will work on social enterprises to propose a solution to a local crime or anti-social behaviour

problem. Each social enterprise will be supported by a business mentor to devise a practical solution, one of which will be implemented.

The September launch demonstrated clear enthusiasm and commitment from all involved. This challenge provides a range of community safety and business benefits as well as empowering local young people to contribute to their community.

### ***CUTTING CRIME 2008-2011: THE NEW HOME OFFICE STRATEGY***

The new Home Office strategy 'Cutting Crime – A new Partnership 2008-11' has recently been released. The strategy places great emphasis on addressing the areas of most harm (e.g. serious violent crime) and focusing resources and effort where they are most needed (e.g. on the poorest minorities; deep and persistent exclusion and the most prolific offenders). There is a stronger focus on victims, young people and on tackling underlying causes such as drug and alcohol misuse.

There is little in this strategy that is not already being done or proposed in Haringey. For example, we are already ahead with our joint strategic assessments and regular data provision, including the requirement to include ASB. Other key points from the strategy include a drive to make crime and disorder reduction a focus of every partner, alignment of resources where possible and specific recommendations for engaging the community.

### ***SUMMER UNIVERSITY***

In partnership with Neighbourhood Management and the Community Safety Team, the Youth Service ran a variety of activities during six weeks over the summer period. The activities included dance (street and salsa), vocals, cookery, wrestling, graffiti art, badminton, football, basketball, music technology, photography and beauty workshops. Two cohorts of NEETs (not in education, employment or training) young people also took an active part in the programme.

Evaluation is currently being undertaken to determine the numbers of youths who were engaged and to show possible impact on crime and disorder. At least 2,342 attendances were made by 512 youths – these figures will increase once the evaluation is complete.

### ***PEACE WEEK***

There were three themes for the London Week of Peace, which ran from 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September. These were Reconciliation, Collaboration and Celebration. Activities in Haringey included a football tournament bringing together young people from across the borough, a talent quest, the Peace Walk and the Peace Festival.

The winners of the talent quest represented Haringey at a pan-London talent contest in Trafalgar Square on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September. The runners up performed at the Peace Festival on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

The Peace Walk took place on 16<sup>th</sup> September and went from Turnpike Lane to Finsbury Park where the Peace Festival took place. The festival included a stage, showcasing a range of local acts as well as established artists, a peace wall for people to make their peace statements, a multi-faith exhibition and a children's area.

### ***OPERATION CURB***

This initiative is a London wide operation to tackle violence among young people. Under Operation Curb, each London borough will proactively target known offenders and increase patrols to reassure local communities.

Young people under 20-years-old who are involved in serious violence will be the focus of borough intelligence teams, who will seek to engage with and work with the youths to reduce their risk of further offending or of becoming a victim.

### ***OFF THE STREET LESS HEAT***

Off the Street Less Heat is a youth diversion project providing a safe environment for young people to engage in constructive activity between 8pm and midnight during the school holidays. The project is designed to improve relations between young people and the Police and to reduce youth disorder. Central to the success of this project is partnership between the Police, Youth Services and Neighbourhood Management. This project was delivered on the Broadwater Farm Estate during the Easter holidays, on the Campsbourne Estate and the Milton Road Estate during the summer holidays. Activities included workshops on sexual health, substance misuse and employment as well as sports.

### ***VALUE LIFE IV***

Value Life IV took place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Students from Gladesmore School were joined by other secondary school students to deliver a petition to Haringey Police and march through the heart of Haringey "Making their voices heard" in support of work combatting violent crime in Haringey. These young people won an award for their project at the London-wide Peace Awards Dinner in September 2007.

### ***SAFER SCHOOLS CONFERENCE***

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July the Haringey Police Safer Schools Partnership Team held a conference involving partners from the Police, Local Authority and Schools to share good practice around the schools in the borough. Discussions were held around the DfES document "Mainstreaming Safer Schools Partnerships".

### ***YOUNG MUSLIM LEADERSHIP PROJECT***

The Young Muslim Leadership Project was launched on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September, following a summer long engagement programme led by Haringey Racial Equalities Council and Mosques around Haringey. This work was developed and facilitated by the wider partnership of Haringey Council and Haringey police working alongside the community and voluntary organisations.

### ***POCKET GUIDE OF ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE***

A pocket guide of activities for young people was produced in May 2007. The guide was developed in response to concerns about whether local young people were aware of the services available to them after school (during the peak time for youth on youth robbery during 2006). In addition there were concerns as to whether frontline staff were able to signpost young people to such activities. The guide has been piloted by the Safer Transport Team and at various community events.

Further copies are due to be printed in September and will be distributed to schools, youth centres, Safer Schools Officers, libraries etc. The guide will be updated on a regular basis.

### ***HARINGEY POLICE AND COMMUNITY BOXING CLUB PERIPATETIC SCHEME***

During the summer holidays Haringey Police and Community Boxing Club provided a peripatetic training programme at Gladesmore School. Evaluation of the Police and Community Boxing Club demonstrated the positive impact that such training can have on young people's discipline and general behaviour as well as their physical health. Up to forty young people attended each training session.

### ***INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL TRAINING***

Three practical and refresher half-day training sessions around use of the Information Sharing Protocol have been held over the Summer, with more to follow. The purpose of this training is to ensure that all partner agencies are sharing information effectively and appropriately. Agencies that share information effectively will be able to deliver a more informed, more efficient service. For example, information sharing helps ensure continuity of care when several separate agencies are dealing with a client.

The training ensures that information sharing is in compliance with the Crime and Disorder Act, Data Protection Act, Human Rights Act and other legislation governing the process. The training was delivered in-house by the Community Safety Team and has been well received. A delegate from Environmental Services attended and then commissioned a special session of training for their Senior Management Team.

### ***ANNUAL REVIEW LAUNCH***

The Annual Review, 'Keeping Haringey Safe - across all our communities' was launched at the Shopping City complex, Wood Green, on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007. The Review outlines the ways in which Haringey's Safer Communities Partnership responded in 2006/07 to the challenge of tackling crime, drugs and ASB. The new format is concise and user-friendly. It has been praised by the Government Office for London as being very much in line with good practice. The launch was attended by the fire service, police safer neighbourhoods and safer transport teams, the council's community safety team, wardens and emergency planning; as well as Fred Ellis of Haringey's Community and Police Consultative Group.

### ***PARTNERSHIP DATA REPORT***

The fourth Partnership Data Report (PDR) covering the period January – June 2007 is nearing completion. As well as a comprehensive breakdown of crime, disorder and environmental issues in Haringey, the report contains recommendations for improvements. The PDR will be promoted to partner agencies and will be used to assist decision-making and planning around resources and priorities.

A wide range of partners have contributed to this report, including Police, London Fire Brigade, Primary Care Trust, various Council services, and many others. Haringey is currently producing the most comprehensive reports of this kind in London.

### ***LOCAL RESPECT AGENDA ACTION PLAN***

Work continues under the main strands of the plan which cover:

- Improving behaviour and attendance in schools (See section re Junior Citizenship)
- Activities for children and young people
- Strengthening communities (See ASBAT paragraph re GNAs)
- Effective enforcement and community justice (see ASBAT figures re enforcement and information re Dispersal Orders)
- Supporting families (see ASBAT paragraph re parenting worker)

There has also been further close working with RSLs in capturing the measures they are using to tackle ASB.

Currently, the Community Safety Team is coordinating partnership work to tackle issues around Bonfire night and Halloween, with relevant publicity to follow.

### ***HATE CRIME AND HARASSMENT***

The Hate Crime and Harassment Steering Group is currently overseeing the development of a third party reporting process. A draft plan is in place which has been sent out for consultation. The proposal includes utilising the system/agencies already in place with improved publicity and clear guidance on how to collate and refer information.

Operation Athena is an initiative which has been established for many years and is conducted by all MPS Boroughs on the same day twice a year. Activities include arresting outstanding suspects for Domestic Violence (DV).

Since April 2007 there have been five such operations and on average the Police have arrested 16 suspects and charged /cautioned 12 offenders. This has made a major contribution to local performance targets relating to DV.

Additional Athena operations have been proposed concerning outstanding hate crime suspects and are to be considered/agreed with the support of the partnership board.

Haringey continues to be represented within the pan-London Hate Crime Practitioners Forum.

## **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS**

### ***SAFER TRANSPORT TEAM***

These are new teams of PCSOs providing reassurance and increased visibility to commuters across the Borough focusing on transport hubs, aiming to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. The team is now fully up to strength with a Police Sergeant, an acting Sergeant and 18 PCSOs.

Since its launch in April 2007, the team has confronted over 1,000 individuals concerning ASB or suspected crime, a large proportion of these are known criminals involved in street robbery. Research has shown that Anti-Social Behaviour around the transport hubs within the Wood Green area and Seven Sisters area has been reduced by around 30% between April and June 2007 compared to the same period last year prior to the team being in place.

The Safer Transport team regularly works with a number of other key partners. They have carried out joint operations with BTP officers at Seven Sisters Tube Station and South Tottenham Railway Station to combat ASB, fraud offences and the carrying/use of knives. These operations have led to over 100 arrests for offences including fare evasion, public order, offensive weapons, drug offences, fraud offences and immigration offences.

### ***NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN***

Throughout the summer Haringey Police supported a national campaign to highlight that every neighbourhood has a named point of contact responsible for Neighbourhood Policing, accessible to community members, partners and stakeholders, listening to concerns and working together with them to find solutions.

Bespoke Safer Neighbourhood ward posters were circulated across every ward delivering a “what has your team done for you” message, highlighting three key successes by each team. Further posters were then circulated across every ward with the theme being “these are your team’s priorities, what can you do to help tackle them”. The next consultation round is due to take place in all wards in October.

### ***CANNABIS CAFES CLOSED***

The Tottenham Green Safer Neighbourhood Team identified the need for a partnership problem solving approach to tackle four premises in West Green Road that had been involved in dealing cannabis for nearly 10 years. They held a meeting to discuss the various options which could be pursued. A variety of tactics by the partners were used and as a result all the owners agreed to terminate leases with current leaseholders and close premises until new “legal” leaseholders could be found. One business is in the process of opening whilst the three remaining properties await legitimate usage. The good practice identified has helped develop a process for tackling similar properties if they are identified elsewhere on the Borough.

## **EMERGENCY PLANNING AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY**

### ***EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE***

The Emergency Planning and Business Continuity team has responded to a number of incidents and emergencies within the borough:

- Heavy rain and flooding on 20<sup>th</sup> July
- A water main burst in Alexandra Park causing flooding to homes in Radston Road on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

The service ensured that properties flooded, or at risk were provided with sandbags, and worked closely with the emergency services and others to restore normality to the affected areas.

The service coordinated the Council’s immediate response to the fire at the sports centre at Woodside High School, White Hart Lane on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

The Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Team continues to regularly test the Council's preparedness to ensure the best possible response. The team has now implemented a new radio system, which will allow improved communications with the emergency services and with other Councils across London.

### ***COUNTER TERRORISM***

The Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Team works closely with the Metropolitan Police Service to raise awareness of the terrorist threat. This has included:

- Educating staff about the signs of terrorist activity
- Cooperating closely to deliver training exercises for businesses

In response to the heightened terrorism alert in London after the attacks in central London and Glasgow, the Council worked closely with the police to take steps to ensure heightened vigilance.

### ***BUSINESS CONTINUITY***

The team has delivered a new framework for ensuring that essential Council services can be maintained during an emergency, and this is now being rolled out across the Council.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

### ***HEARTHSTONE EXPANSION***

The Council has provided funding to enable Hearthstone to expand its physical capacity from the current shop front location into the floors above. This will allow for extra interview rooms group work rooms. This will not only enable a more appropriate space for survivors and better office space but will allow other partners who have been unable to work with us thus far to join us in creating a more holistic service as well as providing group work and therapeutic solutions on site. One example is that IMECE will provide a Turkish-speaking Advice and Support service and others will follow. An increase in staffing, including a Senior Practitioner post, has been agreed to support the physical expansion.

### ***HEARTHSTONE FREEPHONE NIGHTLINE***

As described above, we successfully applied for government funding to expand the successful Hearthstone service with a Freephone weekend nightline 8pm -1am Friday, Saturday and Sunday night. The Nightline was launched in our 2 local hospitals which have permanent leaflet displays in both casualty and maternity departments (women are twice as likely to experience DV when they are pregnant or have just had a baby) We will analyse the impact of the Nightline with a view to continuation following the pilot period which ends in March 2008.

### ***LONDON RESETTLEMENT GROUP***

Haringey is one of the few authorities chosen by the Government to pilot a DV resettlement programme. Prisoners returning to live in Haringey from Holloway Prison will receive a pack containing information on domestic violence and women's services in Haringey. Hearthstone and the prison's DV worker will be working in partnership on the project. This project also involves Homes For Haringey.

### ***I SHALL SURVIVE 7th EDITION***

The 7th edition of "I Shall Survive" - Haringey's 2007 guide to DV services - was launched at International Women's Day in March. We have fully updated it and added symbols to help make the information more accessible. This leaflet, the Nightline leaflet and DVD "What's Love Got To Do With It" provide comprehensive information for survivors of domestic violence in Haringey.

### ***DV STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCES***

Each year we host 2 DV stakeholder conferences. In July, the conference saw local people, health workers, council staff, community and faith leaders and strategic partners engaged in a drama activity to demonstrate what can be achieved if partners all work together to stop domestic violence. Participants worked together following the drama to discuss and formulate ideas and possible solutions for the update of our DV strategy from April 2008.

### ***DV OUTREACH INITIATIVES***

We have an ongoing programme of outreach such as the "Drive Out Domestic Violence" open top bus that tours the borough each year during Peace Week. We have produced a DVD about DV services in Haringey that is available in 7 languages also posters, leaflets all of our publicity materials are also available on the council's website. Our DVD has also been chosen to go on the ITV community channel and website.

### ***DV and YOUNG PEOPLE***

The impact of domestic violence on young people is a very important issue. We have developed a number of initiatives, which seek to reach young people and break the isolation that they can often feel. Initiatives include:

- A successful joint bid that enabled us to set up a pilot counselling project for children and their mothers who are DV survivors
- "Ready to Explode" - DV information designed by young people for young people, 12000 leaflets and posters in community languages raising awareness of DV among young people distributed to secondary schools.
- EU funded, "Waiting in the Silence" project led by Police Safer Schools, supported by Haringey DV and Young People's Group ongoing in 5 secondary schools;
- Pupil Support are giving out DV information to young people What About Me (WAM) project update: the 12 week programme is now complete, and we have had great initial feedback from children, mothers and other professionals working with the families. An external evaluation was carried out, led by Dr Ravi Thiara, Senior Researcher at the University of Warwick. Dr Thiara will be talking to the children and mothers involved in the project, as well as looking at session plans, resources and children's artwork. An event was held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008, at the Cypriot Centre, to share Dr Thiara's report findings.

We are now starting to think about future funding options for the WAM project. We had originally hoped to pursue London Councils funding for this project. However, the allocations for the London Councils funding for work with children affected by domestic violence are less than the nia Project who ran the WAM pilot for us currently receives so alternative funding will need to be identified.



### **HEALTH SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Members of the DV Young People's Group led a symposium on domestic violence and its impact on children at the Whittington Hospital on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2007. We provided information on the harm caused to children who witness domestic violence, good practice on working with children living with DV and the benefits of screening for domestic violence in health settings.

Two groups of Community Paediatric Nurses and Student Health Visitors have attended Hearthstone for Domestic Violence awareness briefing and a presentation has been arranged for the Health Visitor Forum in the autumn.

## **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)**

### **GOOD NEIGHBOUR AGREEMENTS (GNAs)**

Earlier this year, both the Council and Homes for Haringey (HfH) signed up to the RESPECT standard for Housing Management. This gives an undertaking that service delivery to our tenants will always take into account provisions for tackling and dealing with incidents of ASB.

Within the RESPECT action plan is a recommendation that landlords should introduce **Good Neighbour Agreements** on estates. GNAs are seen as a way of improving community cohesion and address inconsiderate behaviour that may be demonstrated on estates. The agreement is not a replica of the tenancy agreement, it is half a dozen or so real issues that affect the quality of life of residents on a particular estate. For example, it may state that residents having a party should post details in the communal areas so that others are aware, or, that car stereos should be turned down when cars are approaching estates.

The ASBAT is leading on this initiative at Mountview Court, South Tottenham and with colleagues from HfH will be meeting with residents on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The Department Of Communities and Local Government is interested in how the ASBAT and HfH deliver on this project and will be writing about the 'Haringey experience' in a national Journal.

### **PARENTING WORKER ARRIVES!**

The Home Office (RESPECT Task Force) has provided funding for one year for the post of a parenting worker in the ASBAT. The post holder (Carol Ricketts) has now started and will be taking referrals from the team of the most prolific families engaging in ASB. The role of the parenting worker is to engage with the families and carry out parenting classes to improve skills to enable them to address the behaviour happening in the family unit. Families are advised that unless they engage with the parenting worker, they may face eviction from their home. In addition, the floating support services have agreed to fund two additional workers to work alongside Carol. Their role is to provide practical day to day support to the parents, such as ensuring children in the family are up and ready for school, ensuring that they do homework and are put to bed at a reasonable time etc. It is anticipated that the parenting programme will help to change behaviour in the long term and avoid the need for further enforcement action and families losing their homes.

### **AUDIT COMMISSION INSPECTION**

Earlier in the year the ASBAT were subject to inspection as part of the audit commission evaluation of HfH services and whether it is considered to be a good

organisation. The ASBAT are commissioned by HfH to respond to serious ASB incidents affecting their tenants. HfH had to achieve 2 stars if the government were to release money for improvements needed to the housing stock. The ASBAT were seen to meeting its service objectives and were commended in the handling of hate crime cases, particularly racial harassment. The report also quoted a letter that was recently sent by the Home Office where it stated that the ASBAT were operating above the national average in relation to enforcement action taken to protect residents. It is pleasing that HfH achieved the 2 star rating and that the ASBAT played a part in demonstrating that residents receive a good ASB service.

### ***JUNIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMME***

The end of June saw the ASBAT engaging with over 1500 year 7 pupils over a two week period. Held at the Spurs football ground, the team were approached to educate the youngsters about ASB, its affects and how to keep out of trouble. The team devised a picture quiz that pupils had to complete and describe the images that they had seen. The ASBAT enjoyed their involvement in the programme and both teachers and organisers have provided very positive feedback

### ***ASBAT / POLICE AGREE TO 3 NEW DISPERSAL AREAS***

During the last 2 months there have been 3 areas in the Borough that are now subject to Dispersal Orders (DOs). Dispersal Orders are used where there is a persistent problem with ASB which affects the wider community. DOs provide an immediate respite for residents who have been suffering the effects of the nuisance caused and allow the police to move on groups (2 or more people) who may be at risk of engaging in ASB. Orders last for 6 months but can be reviewed and extended. Normally, other enforcement action also takes place to deal with the main perpetrators whilst the DO is in place.

St Anne's Ward has seen large groups of eastern European men congregating outside Wickes, who have been harassing local residents. Up to a 100 men congregate in the area looking for work but have been using residents' private gardens to relieve themselves and leaving beer cans and food strewn across the area. These men have also been intimidating residents and particularly women. The St Anne's SNT have tried to deal with the problem but their requests for these men to move away from the area have been ignored. A Dispersal Order was granted and since then the SNT have made several arrests where the men have failed to leave the area. The SNT have reported that the area has improved significantly since the DO has been operating. The DO will be in place from 8/7/07 until 8/1/08

Both the West Green Ward and Tottenham Green Ward have been suffering from gang related issues. Groups of up to 20 youths gather and intimidate, harass, mug and rob local residents. The ASBAT have been involved in these reports and have taken out Anti -Social Behaviour Injunctions against the main perpetrators. Dispersal Orders have been agreed in Milton Road/Willow Walk (West Green Ward) and Grove Park Road/Beaconsfield Road/ Brunel Walk (Tott Green Ward). The DO for West Green Ward will run from 28/07/07 until 27/3/08 and for Tottenham Green Ward 25/7/07 until 24/1/08.

The DOs were agreed in partnership with the Police and on review by the ASBAT of evidence of complaints from local residents and businesses. Ward Members were consulted and are in support of the action taken.

### ***ENFORCEMENT FIGURES***

Since its inception, the ASBAT has taken the following enforcement action to protect Haringey residents:

- 120 Closure Orders (Crack House Closures - working in partnership with the police)
- 19 ASBOs
- 112 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- 114 Injunctions
- 28 Possession Orders/evictions
- 5 Dispersal orders (in conjunction with the police)

The Anti-Social Behaviour Action Team has a 98 per cent success rate in applying for Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) at Court.

## **YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE**

### ***PERFORMANCE***

The Youth Offending Service is measured against a set of 15 key performance indicators set each year by the Youth Justice Board as well as re-offending and quality assurance performance and compliance with National Standards. The YOS has consistently improved its performance and in 2006/7 achieved an overall performance of Level 4 (level 5 being the highest). We rose to 44th position nationally out of 156 YOTs, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in London. In terms of targets, the YOS is concentrating on the target that 90% of young people supervised by the YOS being in suitable full time education, training or employment. We have secured funding for a further year for the pre-16 years learning mentor on the basis her work has led to an increase in numbers of children and young people in education.

### ***PRIME MINISTERS DELIVERY UNIT***

In August, the YOS hosted a visit from 2 members of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit. The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit is part of the Treasury which works with government and national organisations to help them plan how to deliver key public service outcomes. The Unit is doing some work with the Youth Justice Board to help them plan how to reduce re-offending. The purpose of the visit was to improve their understanding of what the YOS does on a day to day basis, what information we use, how we work with partners and what would help in reduce re-offending. The YJB suggested Haringey as a YOS to visit as it is a level 4 performing London YOS. The 2 visitors met a range of staff including managers, parenting, substance misuse, ETE (education training and employment) and group workers, social workers and police officers. The feedback was that they found the visit very helpful, that they were given much food for thought and will use the information gained in their work with policy makers and the YJB.

### ***STAFFING***

There have been a number of staff changes this year and we are recruiting to drugs worker, education officer, group worker and social worker posts, Resettlement and Aftercare co-ordinator (part time) as well as an additional part time Roma support worker post to help with the influx of Roma young people and children who have arrived in the Borough. We will be losing a very experienced YOS police officer when she retires in October and one of our operational managers who will be joining the Ministry of Justice in October.

### **TRAIL BLAZE**

The cannabis awareness board game – Trail Blaze – developed by YOS drugs workers, continues to sell well and the feedback from other YOS teams has been very positive. Copies have also been sent to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and we hope to be able to submit it to the YJB for an award this year.

### **PENDARRREN TRIP**

The Prevention Team organised two trips to Pendarren for children and their parents. A total of 25 children and 20 parents participated in both trips and took part in activities including rock climbing and abseiling; canoeing, as well as team challenges. All the activities encouraged parents and children to work together helping each other while recognising each other's strengths. Follow up work continues with all the families.

### **SUMMER PLAY SCHEME**

The summer play scheme and sports academy took place over the summer holidays with 84 children between the ages of 4 - 13 participating. Although the numbers were lower than past summers, the behaviour of the targeted children and their parents challenged the workers' skills. Restorative approaches were used in both programmes with good results in the majority of cases.

### **PARENTING DROP IN SESSIONS**

The fortnightly parenting drop-in sessions moved to Milton Road Community Centre which was more accessible to parents in the Borough, but, unfortunately, due to issues there, we have now moved back to Keston. 2 parenting workers have attended "Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities" training.

## **DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM**

### **ALCOHOL STRATEGY**

#### ***NEW NATIONAL ALCOHOL STRATEGY – "Safe. Sensible. Social – The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy"***

The new strategy supersedes the strategy launched in 2004. The government says that the new strategy will ensure the laws and licensing powers introduced "to tackle alcohol-fuelled crime and disorder" are being used widely and effectively. It will also sharpen the focus on "the minority of drinkers who cause the most harm". These are:

- 18-24 year old binge drinkers
- Young people under 18 who drink alcohol
- Harmful adult drinkers who don't necessarily realise their drinking is damaging their physical and mental health

The ultimate aim is to reduce the harm to health, and caused by violence and anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol while ensuring that people are able to enjoy alcohol safely and responsibly.

The key actions in the strategy include:

- Sharpened criminal justice for drunken behaviour
- A review of NHS alcohol spending
- More help for people who want to drink less
- Toughened enforcement of underage sales

Trusted guidance for parents and young people  
Continued investment in communications campaigns to promote a new “sensible drinking” culture  
Public consultation on alcohol pricing and promotion  
Compulsory local alcohol strategies

Reactions to the strategy have been mixed, one of the obvious omissions is the lack of focus on alcohol treatment. Haringey has already developed its own local Alcohol Strategy which is up for renewal in March 2008. Reducing alcohol related harms across health and crime is one of the priority targets put forward for the new LAA. If this gets taken forward then the local Haringey Alcohol Related Harm Strategy will be updated to incorporate the key aims of the new National Strategy.

### ***Funding for Brief Alcohol Interventions***

Reducing Alcohol related harm and encouraging sensible drinking was identified as one of the key national priorities for action in the White Paper *Choosing Health*. 15 M per annum was made available to PCTs within their general allocation from 2007/08 onwards to improve commissioning and delivery of alcohol interventions. This money was not ring fenced and was, therefore, down to the discretion of the local PCT as to whether they would use the money for this purpose. Following a paper presented to the Haringey DAAT Partnership Board –we are pleased to announce that Haringey PCT decided to use this allocation for brief interventions work. The DAAT are now busy setting up a pilot scheme at the North Mid and within primary care to do this much needed work. Given the upward trend alcohol related hospital admissions for men and women, mortality rates from liver disease in males and alcohol related recorded crimes this is most welcome. Haringey DAAT is one of the few partnerships to have been allocated this money.

## ***DRUG STRATEGY***

### ***Consultation on new drug strategy- Drugs: Our community, Your Say***

This current National Drug Strategy is up for renewal in March 2008. The government released *Drugs: Our Community, Your Say* consultation document in July 2007 to seek views on how best to tackle drug related harms and hence inform the next drug strategy. The proposed strategy has five broad themes:

- Young people, education and families
- Public information campaigns
- Drug treatment and social care support for drug users in re-establishing their lives
- Protecting the community from drug-related crime and offending
- Enforcement and supply – Tackling supply at all levels

The priorities above are not dissimilar to the existing strategy. The DAAT will be putting together a response to the consultation which will be widely disseminated for further comment to members of DAAT, Wellbeing, SCEB and LSCB throughout September 2007 before final submission to the Home Office by October 19<sup>th</sup> 2007. The Haringey DAAT Coordinator along with managers from local treatment services were invited to take part in the London Focus group, organised by MORI on behalf of the Home Office to further inform the strategy. The DAAT were also involved in the recent RSA Commission on Illegal Drugs and Communities and Public Policy. The recommendations in this report are now being taken forward with Haringey DAAT being proposed as one of the possible pilot sites.

## ***NEEDS ASSESSMENT***

The DAAT is currently preparing for the annual drug treatment needs assessment for 2008/9, the findings of which will inform the Adult Drug Treatment Plan in 2008/09. The assessment will be carried out in October 2007 and the findings will be presented to the DAAT Board in December 2007.

### ***NEW SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH***

#### ***Step Ahead @ In-volve***

Following the successful re-tendering of Haringey's young person's Tier 3 substance misuse service, the contract was awarded to Involve. The service has now been renamed Step Ahead @ In-volve. This new service will work with young people who are aged between 13 and 21 and have drug or alcohol related issues. A launch is planned early next year.

#### ***CDP Blenheim – EBAN***

In September 2007 the new Adult Crack Service opened in Haringey. This much-needed service will provide drug treatment as well as complementary therapies for those people who have crack problems. The service is currently operating from temporary premises in Reform Row while the new office space is being prepared in Bruce Grove. The service is due to move to its permanent location in January 2008 when there will be a formal launch of the service.

#### ***CELEBRATION – TEN YEARS FOR SHOC***

The local service for female sex workers is ten years old this year and has recently moved to new premises in Stroud Green. They will be celebrating this at an event on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The service, commissioned by the PCT and the DAAT, provides sexual health advice and screening, support and general advice, needle exchange, fast track prescribing service and most recently has established a court diversion scheme.

#### ***USER INVOLVEMENT***

Service User Involvement in Haringey is now well established with the main drug agencies represented at monthly meetings. Service users are now attending strategic decision making meetings such as the DAAT Partnership Board, the Treatment Task Group and the Joint Commissioning Group. Service Users recently conducted their own service user survey and presented the report and findings at the DAAT Partnership Board in September. Service users recently had training around presenting an argument and working with strategic partners to enable them to work more effectively at all levels. The training was provided by Groundswell, experts in service user involvement for homeless people.

#### ***CARER INVOLVEMENT***

Since the interim report of last year around the needs of substance misuse carers in Haringey, further work has been done to implement some of the recommendations. A pilot carers' support group has been running since January 2007. An evaluation of this pilot will be presented to the DAAT Partnership Board later this year. The DAAT took part in Carers Week in June 2007 -touring the libraries and engaging people with information and advice brought the issues of drug and alcohol carers to the wider community.

#### ***PUBLISISING THE SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL USERS IN HARINGEY***

On the last Saturday in June all drug and alcohol treatment providers in Haringey came together to promote the services available to local people in the borough. The agencies brought leaflets, flyers and other information and freebies and there was even a chance of some auricular acupuncture! Well over 250 people visited the

stalls on that day. The successful event was reported in Addiction Today the trade press for professionals, a copy of the article is attached. Pictures in the article highlighted the work done by all the agencies in Haringey on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June suggesting that the “award for the most proactive Drug/Alcohol Action Team” should “unarguably” go to Haringey for their efforts on that day.

### ***DASH MOVES TO CENTRAL LOCATION***

In early June the main drug treatment service in Haringey moved from the edge of the borough in Stroud Green to a more central location in Wood Green. Now in the middle of the High Road drug users can drop into DASH more easily, and the service is now open on a Saturday! To celebrate the opening of their new offices DASH had a launch where partners from the police to HAGA were invited to see the work that DASH has been doing.

### ***NEW SERVICE DIRECTORY FOR THE DAAT***

The DAAT has produced an A5 booklet called “Drug and Alcohol Services Directory”. Here readers can find all they need to know about the services available in Haringey as well as other useful numbers. The booklet can also be downloaded from the web at [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk)

### ***NTA WORKFORCE AGENDA GETS UNDERWAY IN HARINGEY***

As part of delivering the workforce development agenda from the NTA the first of 12 NVQ sessions was run by Westminster Kingsway College in July 2007. The first day was very well attended by 16 members of staff currently employed by Haringey drug and alcohol treatment agencies.

### ***KHAT AND THE SOMALI COMMUNITY***

An incident reported recently in the Crouch End and Hornsey Journal newspaper highlighted the issues around the danger of abusing Khat – a drug used by many in the Somali community in the borough. A drug, currently legal in the UK but banned in many other European countries can lead to mental health problems and in this case contributed to a domestic stabbing incident. Marion Morris, the Strategy Manager for Haringey DAAT who has been working closely with the community for some time now, said that to resolve this issue housing, education and employment needed to be looked at for this community.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

### ***SMOKE FREE LEGISLATION***

#### **Update since implementation (1<sup>st</sup> July 2007)**

Following the implementation of the Smokefree Legislation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007, we are pleased to report very good compliance rates for Haringey in terms of non-smoking, and this is reflected overall for England where the statistics show similar high levels of compliance. With respect to the proper signage in place, compliance levels are somewhat lower.

During the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> August, around 1000 premises were visited in Haringey. These visits were to ‘higher risk’ premises where it was considered that there may be more likelihood of offences taking place. This included all pubs, clubs, restaurants and other licensed alcohol / entertainment premises, takeaways, cafes and catering situations generally. Checks were made that the correct signage was in place and that there was no actual smoking taking place against the provisions, or

evidence of smoking taking place. Levels of compliance in Haringey have been around 98% for no smoking in enclosed or substantially enclosed public places, and 81% in respect of proper signage in place. Officers have been providing additional signage to premises visited and ensuring that this is displayed. We are now in the process of revisiting to ensure signage compliance.

A further exercise is now to be commenced looking at 'other risk' premises mostly in the retail sector and additionally some workplaces such as offices. Officers on routine commercial inspections (Food, HSW, and Trading Standards) have also been assisting in this process

### ***CLEAN SWEEP- St Anne's and Haringay Wards***

Officers from Enforcement and Warden Service have been visiting the target Wards on a daily basis during the clean sweep week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> September.

3 early morning patrols were carried out in the Passage to discourage dog owners who allow dogs to foul the area. 3 lunchtime patrols were also carried out. Officers spoke to all dog walkers and explained the role of Enforcement Services in creating a clean and safe community for all. Ducketts Road was visited twice daily to help reduce incidents of waste dumping. 13 advisory letters were hand delivered to residents who appeared to be causing some of the issues in this area.

An operation "Stop it" was carried out along Seven Sisters Road in partnership with the Local SNT, 30 vehicles carrying waste of some sort were stopped and checked to ensure they are complying with relevant waste carrier legislation. Only one carrier was unlicensed and received a fixed penalty fine of £300.

A combination of 300 warning letters and Notices were hand delivered to private addresses in the ladders area concerning eyesore front gardens. Also 12 Notices were served on residents of the Passage to cut back overgrown foliage. 13 Notices have been served on businesses to supply information on how their waste is disposed; as evidence exists they may be acting illegally.

### ***OPERATION STOP IT' GATHERS MOMENTUM***

In the last three months numerous 'Stop It' operations have been conducted with the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams around Haringey. These operations have been very productive both for the Haringey Council's Enforcement Service and the Met Police.

'Stop It' operations involve the stopping and searching of vehicles carrying waste. This is an ongoing initiative to tackle unlicensed waste carriers, under which we will:

- Stop and check waste carriers
- Issue fixed penalty notices or instigate prosecutions where appropriate
- Educate and advise
- Work with Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams
- Conduct out of hours hot spot patrols

On 24 May 2007, Haringey Council's Enforcement Service, along with our partners at the Metropolitan Police, Woodside Safer Neighbourhood Team, carried out the latest Operation Stop It, targeting unlicensed waste carriers. In just one hour, 30 vehicles travelling along White Hart Lane N22 were stopped and the owners questioned. Two vehicles were issued with £300 fixed penalty notices for failing to supply evidence that their waste was being transported legally. The remaining 28 vehicles were given guidance notes in relation to carrying waste.



### **Partnership working results over the last 3 months**

- 137 vehicles stopped
- Six £300 fixed penalty notices issued
- Two prosecutions pending
- 90% of vehicles carrying waste were compliant
- Drivers of all other vehicles that were stopped were advised and educated
- One vehicle seized due to dangerous condition has now been crushed

### ***BABY FOOD CONDEMNED***

Following seizure of the powdered baby food on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007 a successful application was made to Tottenham Magistrates Court on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2007 for the Condemnation of the food. Officers are in the process of trying to contact the (absent) food business operator to complete the investigation and deal with outstanding issues. Once this is been done the Enforcement Service will review of the enforcement options available prior to making a decision.

The Food Standards Agency is pursuing the manufacturer of the powdered baby food which is based in Uganda.

### ***OWNER FINED FOR PLANNING CONTRAVENTION***

On the 29 May 2007 the owner of Sirwan Food Centre located on Lordship Lane, N22 was found guilty by Tottenham Magistrates Court for failing to comply with the requirements of an Enforcement Notice.

In January 2005 an application was submitted seeking permission for the erection of an electrical shutter canopy to the front elevation. The application was refused by the Planning Department. Further revised applications were submitted by the owner of the shop but they were also refused by Development Control.

However the owner of the shop installed the metal electrical shutters without the appropriate planning permission. In February 2006 Planning Enforcement served an Enforcement Notice on the property and owner. The notice gave the owner until the end of June 2006 to remove the electrical metal shutters. The notice advised that if the shutters were not removed within the stipulated time the matter would be referred to the courts.

The requirements of the notice were not complied with and after the expiration of the Enforcement Notice the shutters had not been removed. The owner elongated the matter by attempting to negotiate with planning enforcement not to take him to court and initially pleaded not guilty. However on the day of the trial the owner decided to attend court and plead guilty.

The owner was fined £350 and ordered to pay £300 costs

### ***GOLF CLUB FIRE- POLLUTION ADVICE***

Following a fire late evening on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007, officers from Enforcement Service attended Muswell Hill Golf Course Clubhouse and buildings following contact from the Health Protection Agency. Concerns centred around the integrity of a diesel storage tank at the above site following the fire. The golf club shares a boundary with Alexandra Park Secondary School and the tank had been destroyed in the fire. Around the site of the fire a pool of oily black water was discovered close to the

school boundary. It was agreed with the club management that the water should be pumped out as soon as practicable to prevent damage by oil contamination. The staff and pupils were not at risk. The incident has been reported to the Children's & Young Peoples Service.

### **ENFORCEMENTS - TRADING STANDARDS**

#### **SUCCESSFUL TACTICS IN REDUCING UNDER AGE SALES IN CROUCH END (JOINT OPERATION BETWEEN TRADING STANDARDS AND POLICE)**

As a result of public concern about under age drinking in Crouch End earlier this year, Trading Standards and Police held a meeting to discuss the best approach to the problem. It was agreed that the Crouch End Police Safer Neighbourhood Team would visit shops individually and talk to the owners; they would also hand out letters reminding them of their responsibilities and warning them of the consequences of selling to under age purchasers. These visits were carried out after Easter; shop owners were given letters and were asked to sign to confirm they had received them. This tactic seems to have been effective. On 8 June a joint test purchasing operation was carried out in Crouch End, and all the shopkeepers refused to sell to the test purchasers.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME GROUP: OPERATION TAILGATE (23)**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Partners involved during operation Tailgate (23) were:

Metropolitan Police Officers from Street Duties Team, Haringey Council Street Enforcement Wardens (SEW), UK Immigration Officers, Department of Working Pensions fraud investigations officers (DWP), TV Licensing officer, Public Carriage Office and Haringey Council Tactical Enforcement Officers.

The aim of this operation was to tackle identified problem locations throughout the borough in a joined up proactive approach.

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#### The Synopsis of this operation.

- 1) Nine £300 fixed penalty notices were issued to businesses that did not have a trade waste contract, and could not provide us with the transfer notes to show how they dispose of their commercial waste.
- 2) Four £ 75 fixed penalty notices were issued for littering offences.
- 3) One £100 fixed penalty notice was issued for carrying out repairs to a vehicle as part of a business on the public highway
- 4) One £100 fixed penalty notice was issued for selling cars on the public highway
- 5) Five Section 34 notices were issued to businesses requiring waste transfer notes.
- 6) Two untaxed vehicles were reported for removal
- 7) Two vehicles carrying waste were stopped and checked for a waste carriers licence

- 8) Four businesses failed an inspection carried out by officers from the public carriage office
- 9) One mini cab business was found to be operating without a licence and will be prosecuted.
- 10) Two vehicles were issued with unfit notices by the public carriage office
- 11) One male was arrested for possession of class A drugs
- 12) Two males were found to be working whilst claiming benefits
- 13) 135 people are to be checked by DWP to see if any are working & Claiming.
- 14) One male was arrested for breach of the peace
- 15) One male was arrested for handling stolen goods.
- 16) Two people were arrested for immigration offences.
- 17) Fifteen unlicensed payout gaming machine were disabled and contents seized
- 18) Nine premises had unlicensed alcohol confiscated
- 19) Several boxes of counterfeit cigarettes were confiscated
- 20) Two people had goods confiscated for illegal street trading
- 21) Seven notice was issued for failing to purchase a TV licence
- 22) 40 people were moved on for loitering
- 23) One report was sent to the environment agency with a view to prosecution
- 24) Eight premises were issued with notices for not having a TV licence.

### **COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

#### **LONDON UNDERGROUND FINANLISES 'GREEN' NORTHERN LINE CENTRE**

The largest Sedum green roof in London has been installed on a London Underground Commercial building within the borough. The building in Archway Road is nearing completion and houses the main control operation for the Northern Line. The roof is some 1900 square metres in area ; about half a football pitch. Sedum is a low growing succulent with thick fleshy leaves. Sedum roofs have numerous benefits including: reduction of storm-water run off: Reduced heat loss: reduced solar gain, Improved acoustic performance and protection of the roof from UV light.

### **TACTICAL ENFORCEMENT**

Managing agent fails in appeal against conviction for refusing to supply information. On the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007 an agent was unsuccessful in his appeal Wood Green Crown Court. The agent appealed against two fines imposed on him In January 2007 or failing to respond to a formal notice on two separate occasions. The first fine was for £750 for failing to reply to the first notice and the second find was for £1,250 for failing to reply to the second notice.

### Background

Back in January 2007 The Managing Agent of the units used for vehicle repairs at 2 – 4 Upper Tollington Park, N4) was found guilty by Tottenham Magistrates Court for failing to comply on two separate occasion with a formal notice issued to him by Enforcement (Tactical) officers from the Environmental Crime Group. The Sc 16 Notice under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 requested information on any person who has an interest in the land 2 – 4 Upper Tollington Park, N4. He was obliged to respond to the Council in writing, failure to respond in writing is an offence punishable by prosecution

The notices were served on the agent as part of an investigation to identify the owner of a substantial quantity of contaminated waste which was being unlawfully stored on the land. Complaints from local residents and business stated that substantial items of contaminated waste were being stored on the land. The waste caused damage to the residential and commercial properties and also had an adverse affect of the local area. At that hearing he pleaded not guilty and the matter went to trial at Tottenham Magistrates Court.

At the end of the trial he was found guilty of two separate offences of failing to comply with a Formal notice. He was fined £750 for the first offence, £1,250 for the second offence and ordered to pay £1,367.00 costs a total of £3,367.00 the Courts also placed a collection order on Mr. Johnson.

The agent's appeal was dismissed by the Crown Court and he was ordered to pay additional costs of £479.85. To date he has paid a total of £2,000 fines and £1846.85 in costs. The individual who was responsible for depositing the waste was eventually found and prosecuted and the waste cleared from

### ***PLANNING ENFORCEMENT***

The Planning Enforcement Project commenced in March 2007 has been running for six months. The Project was a result of a proposal put forward to PASC (Planning Action Sub Committee) to reduce and manage the open Planning Enforcement cases by two thirds within four to six months. To do this the project was broken into three phases. At the start of the project there were a reported 1531 open cases.

Under the four year rule, any case which has not been subject to formal (Enforcement Notice) action is immune from legal action.

- 489 cases received
- 311 cases closed (immune)
- 178 requiring further enforcement action

In the first phase of the project all 489 cases were originally deemed to fall within the four year rule, however after examination of each case a percentage of the cases were deemed not suitable to close under this rule and as a result require further investigation.

Phase two addressed cases that were received from 2004 - 2006. There was a reduction in the amount of cases referred to the two Heads of DC for closure. This was due to some cases requiring enforcement action. Cases are still successfully being closed however it was always envisaged that the second phase of cases may require additional investigation, this is due to specific issues such as access inside

properties to establish the alleged breach, certificate of lawfulness applications or requests to owners for information on the planning status of a property

To date 951 cases in total have been closed on the project and the remaining 580 cases require further investigations. At least 90 percent of the remaining cases have had action taken by planning enforcement. We have recently reviewed the remaining cases and are now dealing with them in order of priority. We are addressing cases which have the most detrimental to the environment / amenity. Cases involve Article four areas, conservation areas, listed / protected buildings, breaches which are unlikely to be granted permission without substantial modification. It is hoped that a substantial number of the remaining cases will be resolved and closed without the need for formal enforcement action. However investigations into planning enforcement can usually be a lengthy process with or without taking formal action it. Judging by previous analysis of closed cases we envisage that at least half of the remaining cases can be resolved by December 2007.

### **REGULAR CASES**

From July 2007 until September 2007 Planning Enforcement Team have received 263 new cases. We have seen an increase in the quantity of cases received through this quarter. Previously the legal department was drafting Enforcement Notices but after a recent review the enforcement officers are now drafting Enforcement Notices. In this quarter alone Planning Enforcement have served 37 Enforcement Notices. In addition the section has been successful in obtaining 6 prosecutions against unlawful developments. The team have also issued 5 Simple cautions to individuals who pleaded guilty to planning control breaches.

### **HEAVY ENFORCEMENT- TAILGATE OPERATION**

Officers met at Wood Green Police Station for a briefing on the proposed work schedule for this Tailgate Operation 4<sup>TH</sup>-7<sup>TH</sup> June 2007. Officers who contributed to the four day operation were, Metropolitan Police Officers from Street Duties Team, Street Enforcement Officers (SET), Street Enforcement Wardens (SEW), EDF theft of power officer, UK Immigration Officers, HM Revenue and Customs officers, LBH Housing Benefit Investigators and Heavy Enforcement Officers (HET)

### Summary of Action

- 25) Immigration did checks on 60 people
- 26) One arrest was made by Immigration for a male who had overstayed his rights to be in the United Kingdom.
- 27) Nine vehicles were removed for being offered for sale on the public highway
- 28) One £100 fixed penalty notice was issued for being offered for sale on the public highway
- 29) Two individuals were issued with £100 fixed penalty notices for carrying out repairs to vehicles on the Public Highway contrary to sections 4 & 6 (1) of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.
- 30) Five untaxed vehicles were reported for immediate removal.
- 31) Four vehicles carrying waste were stopped and checked for waste carriers licence.

- 32) Two £300 fixed penalty notices were issued to drivers of vehicles for Failure to Produce Waste Carriers Licence contrary to section 34 Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- 33) Nine unlicensed payout gaming machines were disabled and the contents were seized.
- 34) Seven Section 34 Environmental Protection Act duty of care notices are to be served on businesses requiring them to provide proof of their waste contracts. Failure to provide these will result in £300 fixed penalty notices being issued.
- 35) One £100 fixed penalty notice were issued for not using the prescribed waste receptacles contrary to section 47ZA & 47ZB of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- 36) Three £300 fixed penalty notice was issued to a business that did not have a commercial waste contract.
- 37) Five premises had unlicensed alcohol confiscated.
- 38) One electricity box was changed for being broken, no meter reading could be taken.
- 39) Ten people had items confiscated for Illegally Street Trading. One person will be interviewed for this offence with a view to prosecution.
- 40) One vehicle was served with a fixed penalty notice for being on the highway without an MOT

## ***NOISE ENFORCEMENT***

### ***APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2007 - Out of hours Enforcement Response team***

The team have dealt with 4,794 complaints about noise and served 73 noise abatement notices and issued 229 written warnings

Performance, even at a projected 9,000 complaints per annum, has been good with 98% of complaints about noise receiving a response within 1 hour (90% within 30 minutes) and 97% receiving an assessment visit where required within 2 hours (78% within 60 minutes)

There has been an increased emphasis on working to resolve noise issues, especially those which are business related. Meeting with business proprietors who may not have been present at the time of an incident and working with them to identify a solution has proved useful to both sides

The number of teams operating within our busiest times has been increased and this will continue into the winter, a time during which we generally receive fewer complaints. This will enable response times to be good even during the busy weekend periods and festivals.

From October 2007 the noise response service will be available throughout the weekend with no service between 5am and 10am.

The noise website has been remodelled and now contains new information. Enquiries about noise through the website are now imported directly into the M3 database although we still only take complaints about noise which need a fast response by telephone. The M3 database has now been operational for over 12 months and is enabling improved information storage and sharing

New provisions, recently finalised through London councils under the London Local Authorities Act 2004 will enable breaches of a noise abatement notice to be dealt with by administrative penalty [Fixed Penalty Notice] rather than as a criminal prosecution. Implementation is expected in early 2008.

In the next couple of months the team will be re-locating and they will have just one base for their operations rather than the current arrangement of a Monday to Friday day office and a weekend / out of hours base. This will bring efficiencies to the operation.

Joint working with Homes for Haringey has enabled action to be taken against noisy tenants in co-operation with the Tenancy Management Officers

### **HOME INFORMATION PACKS**

For some years the government has been aiming to make the process of house purchase less difficult for buyers. One of the problems has been that buyers have to carry out a number of enquiries, including structural surveys and local authority searches; these cost money which is wasted if a sale does not take place. It can sometimes happen that if there are several buyers who end up not buying a house they have all spent money on surveys and searches on the same property.

The government's suggested solution was to make it the seller's responsibility to make these enquiries and then provide the resulting information to the buyers. This would mean that there was only one set of expenses. Part 5 of the Housing Act 2004 made it a requirement that sellers would have to provide this information, known as a Home Information Pack ( 'HIP'). It was planned that this would apply to all residential property from early summer 2007, but the government then made a series of last minute changes to the scope of the requirements and their timing, so that local authorities were unable to provide meaningful advice to the public.

The current position is that all 4-bedroom properties had to have a HIP if they were first put on the market on or after 1 August 2007, and all 3 bedroom properties from 10 September.

Putting a property on the market means making it available for a member of the public to buy, and normally implies some sort of advertising.

The responsibility for providing a HIP normally lies with the estate agent if there is one; if there is not then the seller will have to provide it. That individual is referred to as a 'Responsible Person'.

There is certain information which HIPs must contain and some other information which they may have. They may not have anything else, and in particular the packs must not have any advertising material. The compulsory material includes evidence that the seller has the right to sell the property, and the optional material includes a report on the condition of the building. Originally, packs had to have this report, but the requirement was dropped at the last minute.

The required (ie compulsory documents) are:

- A home information pack index
- An energy performance certificate
- A sale statement , providing some basic information , including the property address, name of the seller, nature of the interest being sold and whether it is registered or unregistered
- Evidence of title eg copy of the Land Registry entry
- Special information if the property is leasehold or commonhold
- Search results from the local land charges register
- Search results from the 'local enquiries' eg re possible development in the area
- Search results relating to drainage and water matters

Enforcement of the Act is a duty on local weights and measures (Trading Standards) authorities .

Officers have powers to see and take copies of any document in a HIP. It is an offence to obstruct an officer in the course of his or her duty, and there is a maximum fine of £5000. A 'Responsible Person' who actually fails to provide a HIP at all does not commit an offence, but does breach a duty and is liable to a fixed penalty, currently set at £200. Unlike fixed penalties for matters such as dropping litter, this is not enforceable in the Magistrates Court. Persons who do not pay can only be pursued through the County Court as a civil debt. Estate agents who do not comply with the law risk being reported to the Office of Fair Trading, who are likely to treat this as an 'undesirable practice'; this could lead to persistent offenders being banned from estate agency work under section 3 of the Estate Agents Act.

The civil penalties are not much deterrent in themselves as they are less than the likely cost of compiling a HIP. As far as enforcement is concerned, it is intended to follow the suggestion made by LACORS. Their view, as expressed in August was that Council trading standards services will generally take action only in cases where there has been deliberate fraud or repeated offences, so the likelihood of a HIPs action against a private individual will be very rare.

In Haringey we would be looking to investigate complaints from buyers ; it is too soon to know how many we might get.