

Conservative Group	<p>Please can you provide an update about the future of Wimbledon Police Station.</p> <p>Unfortunately, I have no further news on this matter and await a decision from MOPAC.</p>
Conservative Group	<p>What is the Borough Commander doing to reduce vehicle damage and car and catalytic convertor theft? This type of crime appears to be increasing and is making residents feel unsafe.</p> <p>There is information on the MPS website on catalytic converter theft and how to prevent/report it (link below).</p> <p>https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/catalytic-converter-theft/</p> <p>I have included a leaflet with this document on what we are doing locally in Merton to combat this crime.</p>
Conservative Group	<p>Do the police have any plans to do more engagements in schools to warn children of the consequences of criminal behaviour, particularly among teenage boys?</p> <p>SW Youth Engagement Team have ongoing programmes in secondary schools which Safer Schools officers (SSOs) present to students. We regularly give presentations on knife crime, drug abuse, child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, staying safe on social media, keeping safe on the streets (especially with regards to street robbery). SSO focus their presentations on current issues, which they identify in collaboration with individual schools. We work with external organisations who present on issues affecting children (e.g. VAWG and consent).</p> <p>Additionally we have Youth Engagement and Diversion Officers (YEDOs) whose role is to focus on children on the cusp of criminality or those who are particularly vulnerable. They will often try to work with groups of young people around specific topics, e.g. teenage boys displaying signs of harmful sexual behaviour will receive an input on consent.</p>
Conservative Group	<p>What actions have been taken to stop MOPED related thefts across the BCU?</p>

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	<p>Theft of mopeds is an issue across the MPS. In order to address this, we are taking a number of steps:</p> <p>Prevention: DWO's and PCSO's conduct leaflet drops at addresses where mopeds can be seen outside. The leaflets provide advice on how to prevent moped theft. This includes, use of immobilisers, placing mopeds in a locked garage or out of view from the street.</p> <p>Reaction: We have specially trained officers on each response team who are able to pursue vehicles in order to catch offenders. Traffic officers will respond and assist local officers.</p> <p>Investigation: The investigating officer collates evidence including review of CCTV where time parameters allow, tracking devices, ANPR, Intelligence.</p> <p>It is important we continue to work with our partners to put preventative measures in place (CCTV, adequate lighting, crime prevention advice) to drive down these crimes.</p> <p>There has been a marked increase of theft of motor vehicles within Merton in the last months, with 337 more vehicles stolen this year when compared with the previous 12 -24 months. It is difficult to interpret this data properly due to reduced crime levels during Covid. Even so, the figures do highlight the need for us to address this issue, in partnership.</p> <p>Theft of motor vehicles is one of the neighbourhood crimes the new Merton Neighbourhood Superintendent will focus on, utilising intelligence led policing, to target prolific offenders in order to the reduce the volume of these offences.</p>
Conservative Group	<p>Schools across the country have reported rising levels of misogyny connected to the influence that Andrew Tate and other online influencers have on young men. What more can be done to prevent this and what actions have been taken by the MET so far considering that the Mayor of London has made tackling violence against women and girls a priority?</p> <p>Tackling VAWG is one the Met priorities and something I have been involved in over a number of years. Some of this is detailed within the Turnaround Plan.</p>

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	<p>We have a comprehensive local plan (see attached) as well as a multiagency VAWG board, which coordinates all activity.</p> <p>In relation to tackling misogyny within schools, this requires a partnership approach, but the activity of SSOs is detailed above.</p>
Conservative Group	<p>Previously you have said that adults with mental health issues are that most prevalent issue that officers encounter, is this still the case, and has there been any change to how officers treat adults with mental health issues over the last few years?</p> <p>Data Sept – Dec 22 (South West)</p> <p>All Mental Health incidents – 325</p> <p>S136s – 206. Our recent digital 434 form data highlights a 5 hour & 30 minute average waiting time per incident for a handover with health services. There are still gaps in this data, but based on what we know, the amount of officer time waiting with a person under S136 is 1091 hours for this period.</p> <p>In addition to the above, the rise in health generated welfare checks conducted by police has been exponential.</p> <p>In 2017, the 136 Pathway was introduced. This led to changes in how public services manage mental health in the community and mental health settings.</p> <p>The most significant change was that A&E became a place of safety for people detained by police under S136 of the MHA. This led to a marked increase in officers waiting to hand responsibility of a detained person to health staff. In an acute mental health setting acute setting, staff are better equipped to manage the subject and release the officers much sooner.</p> <p>There is a support line for officers to use prior to invoking Section 136 so they can seek professional advice when dealing with someone in crisis. It is mandatory for police officers to seek professional advice prior using S136MHA where the circumstances allow them to do so.</p> <p>We are looking at a range of options in partnership with health colleagues, to reduce demand on policing and ensure better care for people in mental health crisis.</p>

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<p>Conservative Group</p>	<p>In September 2020 you said that the BCU has invested heavily in the Violence Suppression Unit and the Burglary and Robbery Teams, yet these issues are still of primary concern, along with vehicle theft, to residents. What has been the result of this investment after more than two years?</p> <p>Robbery The SW BCU outperforms most areas of London. We currently detect around 10% of all robbery offences, which is the second highest in the MPS.</p> <p>Offences continued to raise in the run up to Christmas and reached a high of 38% increase across the BCU. Heavy investment has taken place, predominantly in Merton (Mitcham hotspot) which has seen successes. Our increase has now reduced to 30%, with the last 7 days seeing the lowest recorded figures across London. Between 24th February and 3rd March there were 3 robbery offences recorded in Merton and our average has dropped from a peak average of 11 to 3-5 a day across the BCU.</p> <p>Approximately 50% of all robberies occur in Wandsworth, with the other boroughs having a fairly equal share.</p> <p>Burglary The BCU has one of the highest reductions in burglary across the MPS, currently 18%.</p> <p>However, challenges remain around identifying and prosecuting offenders. To address this we have created a dedicated burglary team. A review in March will be conducted as performance has remained stagnant at 4.2%. Police intend to invest more staff in this area of business.</p> <p>We are currently reviewing our approach to prolific offenders, utilising the Cambridge Harm Index to quickly identify prolific offenders, who we will focus on to reduce crime levels.</p>
<p>Conservative Group</p>	<p>How many vacancies are there now for Dedicated Ward Officers?</p>

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	<p>There is currently one DWO vacancy and two PCSO vacancies across all of the Merton wards.</p>
<p>Conservative Group</p>	<p>What actions can be taken to prevent nuisance offences like graffiti etc that are not serious but drag down the appearance of a neighbourhood?</p> <p>There are different options available to combat this; use of NOMAD cameras (police portable cameras) as well as Council CCTV portable cameras in areas where there are issues with graffiti and ASB in an attempt to either deter offenders from engaging in these behaviours or identifying those that do.</p> <p>My officers have conversations with the council on a weekly basis in order to stay on top of these issues and target problems at the earliest opportunity.</p>
<p>Cllr Usaama Kaweesa</p>	<p>Please can the Borough Commander outline to members what specific steps are being taken by Police teams in the south west, and particularly in Merton, to restore residents' trust and confidence in officers given the recent revelations regarding the number of officers under investigation; the scandal involving those officers who were mistakenly recalled to active service while under investigation; and the conviction of David Carrick?</p> <p>Two parts to this answer – internal and external</p> <p>Internal (i.e what we are doing to identify and tackle unacceptable behaviour, attitudes and standards within the organisation) – see the attached Turnaround Plan. This will remain a focus for me. I intend to introduce an Ethics Board, which will identify thematic issues from local misconduct data, which will be addressed via staff engagement and additional training, focusing on the skill set of supervisors and their approach to unacceptable behaviour. This will also allow us to focus on specific teams, if and where a pattern of behaviour becomes apparent.</p> <p>External working in partnership with MOPAC and the LAs in the SW BCU to take an evidence-based approach to improving confidence. This takes the form of Borough based confidence delivery groups (due to meet the first time within the next month). This group will have police, MOPAC, LA, and potentially members of public scrutinising operational delivery of confidence plans. Further, the BCU has regular briefings with IAG chairs to brief on internal misconduct issues.</p>

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	<p>Can we have an update on the progress made to reinvigorate the ward panels and the previously discussed requirement to include at least one open meetings in their annual schedule.</p> <p>PS James Peppitt is conducting a deep dive in to how ward panels are currently operating and how we can improve and measure impact.</p> <p>This includes; average attendance, whether the panel is a fair representation of the community, how information is shared with the community, how effective the panel is at deciding priorities which impact the majority of the community.</p> <p>It is important we get this right and I know James would welcome suggestions.</p> <p>It is possible to conduct an open meeting. It may be a better to hold an additional public meeting so we can keep meetings aligned with the agenda. This becomes difficult in a public meeting as people tend to raise problems personal to them (Crime reports, neighbour disputes etc). However, the ward panel is open to all so if anyone wishes to attend, they can contact their local SNT who will put them in touch with the chair.</p>
Cllr Paul Kohler	<p>Are there any plans to return to providing SNTs in wards not within easy reach of either Wimbledon or Mitcham police station with a base from which to operate?</p> <p>My teams work out of 3 offices in Merton. Mitcham Police Station, Wimbledon Police Station and The One O'clock Club (a small office in Wimbledon Park).</p> <p>As part of the Commissioner's desire to create the Strongest Ever Neighbourhood Function, colleagues from the Property Services Department are beginning a review of the estate strategy.</p>
Cllr Paul Kohler	<p>Could you briefly outline your role, and that of the SW London BCU collectively, in ensuring the Met is swiftly released from special measures and what if any timeframe currently exists.</p> <p>Much of this covered within the Turnaround Plan. This is still in draft and out for public consultation. The Commissioner will publish an updated plan in April 2023.</p>

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	<p>The Casey Review will provide an action plan, which we will need to respond to locally.</p> <p>There are a number of extra Lead Responsible Officers at DSU level and an uplift of two Detective Chief Superintendent's within the central Public Protection Delivery Unit. There are 465 additional officers as well as police staff to strengthen our response to these crimes.</p> <p>The strengthening Neighbourhood project will support this work and improve local knowledge of vulnerability.</p> <p>This will allow the BCU to improve its service delivery, identify risk, and safeguard at an earlier opportunity. With my background in safeguarding, I will remain focused on this area.</p>
Cllr Paul Kohler	<p>To what extent are the failings in the Met highlighted by Sir Mark Rowley an issue within the SW London BCU and what is being done at a BCU level to address issues such as misogyny & prejudice?</p> <p>Please refer to the previous answer- details the implementation of an Ethics Board. Staff engagement and training is key. I will be asking for assistance from partners with specific skills and community members with lived experience over the coming months.</p>
Cllr Paul Kohler	<p>To what extent are local perceptions of an increase in minor crime (such as theft from vehicles) borne out by the evidence and is this limited to reported crimes or is any form of self-reporting study conducted at a BCU level.</p> <p>Whether a member of the public calls 999/101 or reports a crime online, the reports feed in to the same data set which available on the MPS website.</p> <p>Merton remains a safe place to live but there is undoubtedly a perception of rising crime, which is borne out by the data.</p> <p>Total notifiable offences have gone up by around 5% in Merton over the last 12 months with 1399 crimes recorded. However, over the last 3 months, the levels have dropped again by around 11% with 3159 TNOs recorded.</p> <p>We are currently undertaking 'street-a-week' which involves officers focusing on a street each week, speaking with residents at every address and talk to them about the ward,</p>

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	<p>how they can contact us, where meetings they are able to get involved in and also details about joining NHW.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch Monthly Bulletin provides crimes figures for specific streets which allow the community to gain an insight into crime figures in their local area.</p>
Cllr Paul Kohler	<p>There is a widespread perception that the police have neither the time, nor the resource to investigate such minor criminality and there is consequently little incentive to report such crimes, apart from when a crime reference number is required for insurance purposes. Is this fair and what would the Borough Commander say in response?</p> <p>We have finite resources and many competing demands. However, we are committed to solving local crimes for local people, using locally based officers wherever we can. There is current a review under the Turnaround Plan about what priorities neighbourhood officers should focus upon but the Commissioner has made it clear that solving local crimes, even if considered minor, is an important element in increase confidence in the police.</p>
Cllr Paul Kohler	<p>Given the limited resources available to her how does the Borough Commander think issues such as speeding, and graffiti be addressed at a borough level.</p> <p>See above. Also partnership should play a big part in tackling these issues. In the case of speeding, our colleagues in Roads and Traffic Command have the specialist equipment and training to tackle offences of this nature. We do, on occasion, set up Community Speed watches which deter speeding. Graffiti is often a part of wider ASB behaviour and we work closely with colleagues to Merton Council to prevent, deter and stop ASB.</p>
Cllr Paul Kohler	<p>Can we have an update on what is being done to address the spate of muggings and bullying in the borough.</p> <p>Please refer to previous answer re robbery.</p> <p>There has been lots of work to combat the rise in robbery offences we have seen in the Borough over the past few months, which is reviewed regularly to ensure effectiveness.</p>

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	<p>DSU O’Sullivan chairs the bi-weekly Merton Violence meeting where police and partners share information and work collaboratively.</p> <p>Recent tactics include: Weapon sweeps NOMAD camera deployments to hot spot areas, Increased patrols in hot spot areas- Op Nightingale Knife arches at schools. Increased collaboration with LA CCTV staff</p> <p>This list is not exhaustive. Robbery remains an absolute priority for us here in Merton and we will continue to do everything we can.</p> <p>Further to all of these actions/tactics, we have been making sure that prevention and safeguarding is at the forefront of our mind, engaging with our prolific offenders and depending on age their families to make sure we can identify the root causes of their decisions to commit these offences.</p>
<p>Cllr Paul Kohler</p>	<p>Are there any updates, or a timeframe, on the fate of either Wimbledon or Mitcham police station?</p> <p>Please refer to previous answer</p>
<p>Cllr Paul Kohler</p>	<p>Is there anything specific the Borough Commander would like councillors, the council, or residents to do to assist in addressing any of these issues or generally.</p> <p>My team and I are in regular contact with partners from the council and Safer Merton so we can better understand each other’s needs. There are monthly tasking meetings to delegate actions and address ASB/Crime trends.</p> <p>Inspector Martin has a weekly meeting with colleagues in the council to discuss outstanding issues or requests for assistance.</p> <p>I am still meeting people across the partnership, but I am confident I can build on the successful relationships already in place.</p>

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