

Policing Kent

our plans for 2008-11

For more news and information on Kent Police visit our website www.kent.police.uk

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New teams tasked to blitz neighbourhood crime

Neighbourhoods are set for a boost when new task teams take to the streets in September. The teams will be sent to hotspot areas across the county, helping to wipe out long-term issues such as anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

In total, six new task teams will be introduced around the county. Each team will be made up of one sergeant and five police constables, providing back-up and support to dedicated officers or neighbourhood policing teams already in place.

Chief inspector David Cooper said: 'Our current neighbourhood teams can't be in the right place all the time. Some problems cannot be tackled by an individual police officer or police community support officer.

'Our task teams will go in and out of problem areas, tackling the root causes and providing the appropriate level of enforcement to deal with individuals responsible for anti-social behaviour.'

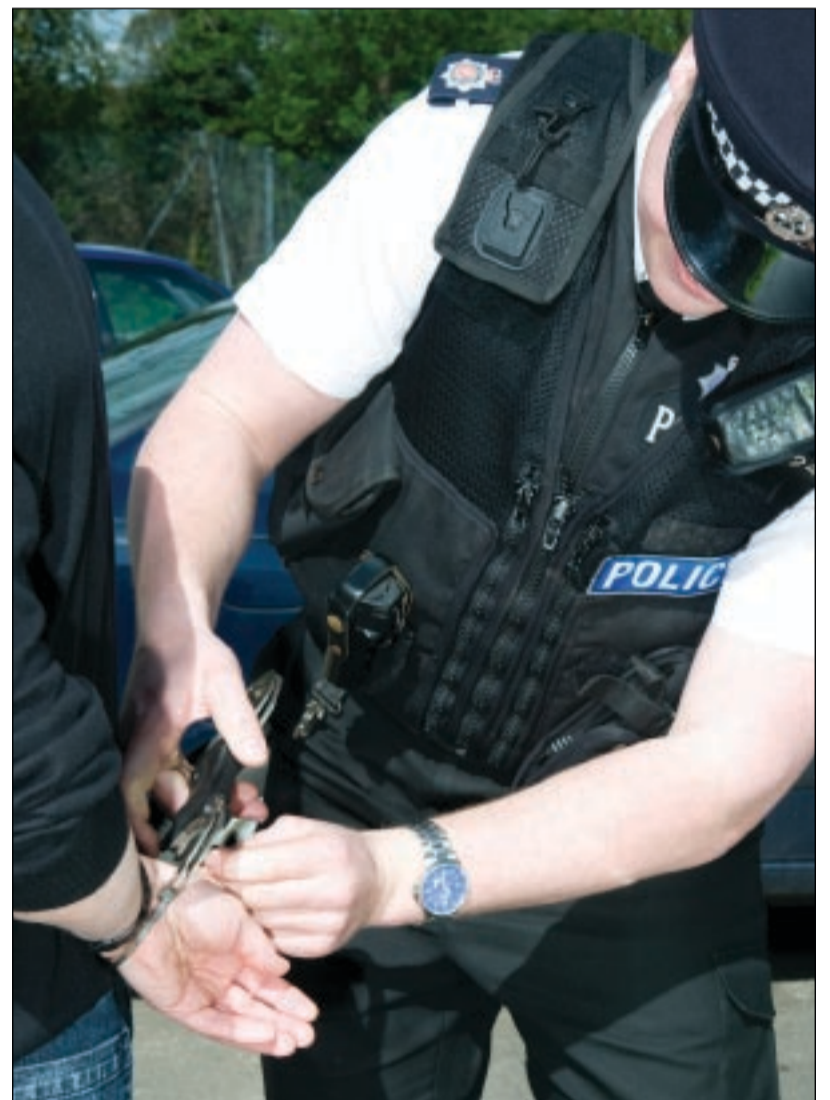
So far two pilot schemes in Rochester and Strood in Medway, and the Whitehall estate in Ramsgate, have proved a success. Communities were quizzed by surveys that looked at the affect of the new teams, with both pilots showing a drop in anti-social behaviour.

But residents will play their part too by influencing where the task teams should be placed and moved to. Any resident can join their local neighbourhood meetings, called Partners and Community Together – PACT.

These meetings give local people a chance to put their opinions and concerns to key partners, such as the police and district councils.

David Cooper explains: 'There are a wide range of issues that come from these local meetings, such as concerns over anti-social behaviour, groups hanging around or environmental issues, like litter or graffiti.

'I'd really encourage residents who are experiencing problems to come along and tell us, so we can put the task teams in places where people need them.'



Action will be taken in priority hotspots

Did you know...?

There are 47 neighbourhood teams in Kent and Medway made up of 387 police community support officers and 190 police constables

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Protecting and serving the people of Kent

Kent Police Authority



Editorial

Welcome to our Policing Kent newspaper. This publication outlines our priorities and targets for the next three years and shows just some of the ways we are working to achieve this.

Our main focus will be on building public confidence, tackling crime, making communities safer, protecting the public and making the best use of our resources.

We both made a commitment to police council taxpayers last year to invest in neighbourhood policing. We are aware from our research that anti-social behaviour is a top issue for residents. Now every neighbourhood has a dedicated team. Our plan will build on this to make sure communities in Kent and Medway get value for money and the best possible policing in the forthcoming years.

If you would like a more detailed version of our Policing Plan, including all our targets, then please visit the Kent Police Authority website: www.kentpa.kent.police.uk or call **01622 677055**.



Michael Fuller
Chief Constable Kent Police

Ann Barnes
Chair of Kent Police Authority

What is neighbourhood policing?

Neighbourhood policing is a team made up of police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs), who work with volunteer special constables, local and county authority wardens, and partners.

How do I contact my neighbourhood team?

Find out who is looking after your neighbourhood. Contact your local team by visiting the Kent Police website www.kent.police.uk under **Your neighbourhood**.

Your chance to get involved

Fed up with problems where you live? Then why not join your local Partners and Community Together (PACT) meetings. Come along and tell police and partner agencies what it is you want to change. All suggestions are then taken from the meeting and considered by a panel – made up of local people – who decide the top concerns. The outcome affects what police and partner agencies are doing in your neighbourhood. Find out where your local PACT meeting is by visiting the Kent Police website.



Continued from front page

The teams will be funded as part of this year's police council tax rise. Chair of the Kent Police Authority Ann Barnes, who made the decision to provide the funding for the new teams, said: 'We need people equipped not just to provide a visible presence on the streets, but officers who can deal with any eventuality. We have to remember police community support officers play a very different role and will be working alongside task teams who will act as the enforcing arm of neighbourhood policing.'

So will these teams be called away to deal with other actions? David Cooper adds: 'Absolutely not. The task teams are specifically for local communities. Neighbourhood policing teams are set in place and won't go away. We need to improve quality of life for residents and reduce anti-social behaviour. This is another step forward, and we need to remember that we have never had so many police community support officers and police officers working specifically in neighbourhoods before.'

'At the end of the day this is about having locally-based teams for local issues.'



Already in action

North Kent's neighbourhood task team was set up 18 months ago. The team, the first in the county, is made up of one sergeant and nine police constables who work alongside local authorities and other agencies. Sergeant Pete Smith, who heads up the task teams, said: 'We do a lot of research before we go in and tackle a problem. It's really important that we talk to members of the public and keep them updated on what we're doing.'

'We might visit the homes of those involved, carry out stop checks, or make arrests. Our hotspot tasks vary from anti-social behaviour to low-level drugs. If there is a local problem we will deal with it. So far we've seen anti-social behaviour nearly halve in the areas we have taken action in.'

Out and about:

- Two large rival groups were gathering in a park in Dartford. The task team were called in to solve the problem. Ringleaders of each gang were identified, and home visits carried out. An anti-social behaviour order was also issued, banning an individual from the area.
- Nuisance bikes were being driven in residential areas. The task team carried out household surveys and discovered where the bikes were being driven. Images of the bikes were taken, and the owners and individuals driving them were identified and dealt with appropriately.
- A problem with criminal damage and anti-social behaviour was identified in The Hive and Wallis Park areas of Gravesend. The neighbourhood task team ran a high-profile five-week campaign in the area to target these issues, which resulted in 15 people being arrested and a 40 per cent drop in crime.



Target

Increase the number of people who know how to contact their neighbourhood team

Cracking down on stolen metal

Metal theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the UK.

Development demands in China and India have sent metal prices soaring, and criminals are cashing in on the increased value of aluminium, lead and brass. Increasingly house and church lead roofs, cemeteries and crematoriums with metal memorial plaques, and copper cable at railways, industrial and building sites are being targeted.

Community safety advisor Trevor Kennett said: 'Metal theft is an attack on a community. There are safety implications, especially if manhole covers are removed or copper is stolen from live railway cables. Cash is associated with this crime, and we're teaming up with one of the county's largest metal stockists to get an insight into buying and selling.'

Specific training for officers and neighbourhood teams aims to crack down on the thefts.

Trevor Kennett added: 'We're aware this is a growing trend. The public need to know it can happen where they live, and they should report it as it can affect their quality of life.'

'If you spot something suspicious, particularly where metal may be of value, contact Kent Police.'



Criminals will start to feel the heat

Thermal image cameras are helping to locate missing people and deter criminal activity. Kent Police is using seven handheld cameras capable of detecting various heat sources.

Sergeant Howard Chandler said: 'The cameras are invaluable in situations where police are searching for someone who is missing, or where people need to be rescued.'

'The cameras, which use technology to detect heat signals from people or hot sources like car engines, are also useful in helping to track those trying to escape from the scene of a crime during the middle of the night.'

'Over the next year we will find even more creative uses for these cameras and build on the success this equipment has brought in locating and disrupting criminal activity.'



Making ultra-light work of thieves

A new high-tech initiative looks set to catch criminals in the act. Police will pilot a clear-marking DNA-style liquid, called SmartWater, on properties and personal items such as mobile phones. The SmartWater also comes as a spray system that marks an intruder during a break-in, linking them to the scene of the crime.

Now police have set up two SmartWater custody suites in Tonbridge and Sittingbourne so that every person brought into custody will be scanned using ultraviolet light. This highlights any traces of the SmartWater spray, and police can link this to the registered owner of the property. Nationally, homeowners are already using this, as are a number of large businesses and schools. If the pilots prove successful then there are plans to roll out ultraviolet areas in every custody suite countywide.

Crime reduction project manager Julie Argent said: 'SmartWater is already out in the community, and Kent Police can detect it on offenders and link them to the scene of the crime. We will be urging homeowners to mark their property, such as mobile phones and sat navs, and we will be encouraging other businesses to adopt the Association of Chief Police Officers SmartWater spray system. The liquid will provide evidence, placing an individual at the scene of the crime and will act as an irrefutable forensic link. This will allow us to identify offenders and items of property. There is no escape.'

Target

Reduce the number of vehicle crimes, burglaries and robberies

Ensuring justice

Making sure a criminal is punished involves more than just the police. A number of agencies, including magistrates, Crown Prosecution Service and Prison Service, work under the Kent Criminal Justice Board. The board is made up of top chiefs from each agency, and aims to ensure justice when offences have been committed.



Don't chance it bike teams warn motorists

Motorists - watch out. Kent Police have launched 12 new motorcycle patrols. Their focus is on road safety and the prevention of speeding and vehicle anti-social behaviour.

Kent Police and their partners have already reached a national target for 2010 of reducing the number of those killed or seriously injured by 40 per cent.

But drivers should still think twice about their behaviour as more high-visibility patrols and new unmarked motorbikes will be introduced, equipped with the latest video technology.

Inspector Alex Jones said: 'Our unmarked patrol bikes will be very difficult to spot, and we can catch thrill-seekers unaware.'

Almost 100 people were killed in road crashes on Kent and Medway's roads last year with an additional 200 cases treated as life threatening. Senior forensic collision

investigator Mark Lamb said: 'We will be running campaigns to educate the public on speeding, seat belts, drink and drug driving and mobile phones. Those who drive using a mobile phone have the same impaired concentration as a drugs or alcohol user - it's a major problem.'

It's a stark statistic that riders account for one per cent of the vehicles on the roads, but tragically more than 25 per cent are seriously injured or killed. Police are set to launch a summer safety campaign with the aim of reducing motorcyclist casualties.

Mark Lamb said: 'To prevent injury crashes, people should reflect on how they use the roads - and social attitudes need to change. We all need to take responsibility by respecting the roads and each other. If you're a good driver then you just drive - nothing else.'



Did you know...?

- On a typical weekday more than half a million people travel in a vehicle in the county
- 7.8 million vehicles crossed the Channel in 2007
- Kent and Medway is home to the third longest strategic road network in the country
- In 2007 there were around 5,391 road traffic crashes in Kent and Medway - an average of 15 a day

Target

Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents

Avoid a crushing blow



If you're planning on driving an uninsured vehicle, then beware. Last year around 5,236 vehicles were removed from Kent and Medway's roads, with 2,134 crushed.

To avoid such a calamity befalling your uninsured car, Kent Police are alerting members of the public with the reminder that they have 14 days to pay up and claim their vehicle - before it's taken away and pulverised.

Every day police patrols and automatic number plate recognition technology identify illegal, stolen or uninsured vehicles, and owners' outstanding penalties or arrest warrants.

Chief inspector Phil Hibben said: 'Uninsured vehicles are more likely to be unroadworthy and driven by people who have committed other offences - and around £30 is added to average vehicle insurance policies to cover their cost. Removing uninsured vehicles tackles criminality, and makes our roads safer.'

Sailing to Olympic horizons

Around 50 young people, aged between 11-16 years, are making a splash in Whitstable and Dover in a bid to reduce anti-social behaviour. A new coastal project for the summer teaches disadvantaged young people sailing skills and water-based activities.

Police and partners, including the Kent People's Trust, the Royal Yachting Association and Sea Scouts, set up the project known as the New Horizons Kent Coastal Inclusion Programme last year, and additional sites including the Isle of Sheppey, Thanet and Bewl Water are planned.

Chief inspector Mark Harrison said: 'This is a mentored fun and constructive activity. The London Olympics are on the horizon, so let's inspire young people to realise that anything is achievable.'

Target

Reduce anti-social behaviour so people feel safer

Substance tracing goes mobile



New handbag-sized technology is the latest tool being used to spot traces of illegal drugs. A portable drugs detection machine means police officers can take the kit on patrol to swab a person or surface area.

The machine identifies dangerous Class A substances, such as cocaine, and can also spot explosives. It comes complete with a sensor that can even analyse air vapour and will accompany police visiting pubs and clubs, railway stations, schools and workplaces to carry out random drug swabs.

The machine, originally designed for airports, was piloted last year.

Police constable Lee Oakley said: 'This piece of kit is more user-friendly and smaller than other drug detecting machines. Hopefully, more of these machines will be brought in during the next year as they allow greater freedom. Officers can swab more areas, resulting in more drug hits. We're also able to provide results in seven seconds - extremely useful when we visit schools and workplaces.'

An eye for drugs use

A new scheme has trained 250 landlords, housing officers and neighbourhood teams in recognising litter left by drug users.

Police constable Goff Pain said: 'Needles are obvious but items such as tin foil and wraps aren't so easy to spot to the untrained eye. Drugs litter has a direct link with crime. If we have more people provide samples for testing we can find out who is using drugs and where, and most importantly fast track them into treatment.'

The scheme looks set to expand. Goff Pain added: 'Kent can offer this service as we have drugs detection machines. During the next year we will target health and safety departments, leisure centres and environmental agencies. They could all help identify locations for drug use.'

Dealing with drink disturbance

If you are drinking irresponsibly - police can seize your alcohol.

Under-age drinkers and troublemakers contributing to alcohol-related crime or nuisance can be excluded from public places such as town centres. The exclusion can last for 48 hours under new powers introduced to reduce alcohol-fuelled rowdiness.

Earlier this year, police carried out a half-term week campaign to tackle public drinking seizing 364 litres of alcohol. 28% of this was from under 15-year olds. Alcohol can also be removed from adults who are found drinking with anyone under age.

Police continue to work closely with Trading Standards in targeting alcohol retailers.

Sergeant Ady Poole said: 'We want to tap into this culture where people gather and drink, and our new neighbourhood teams are advising us of the hotspots. If people fail to comply we can arrest them and use the evidence towards an anti-social behaviour order, known as an ASBO.'

'Parents, schools, Trading Standards and individuals themselves all have a responsibility to assist us in tackling under-age drinking.'



Target

Reduce alcohol and drug-related violent crime at night

Target

Reduce the number of groups and individuals causing a problem in public places

Getting to grips with groups

Fact-finding teams have been studying the links between youth street gatherings, anti-social behaviour and crime.

Emerging results show young people believe a lack of interesting appropriate activities, poor transport links, and no meeting places were main contributing factors.

The research, assisted by young people and adults, has been undertaken by Kent Police who teamed up with the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University to hold workshops and surveys.

Chief inspector Mark Harrison said: 'Nationally groups and gangs are becoming an issue. We know it's the minority of young people that cause a problem, and this isn't about stopping young people enjoying themselves. Statistics show that adults make up half of the anti-social behaviour orders we issue. Our research will provide a more in-depth understanding of group behaviour, its motivation and how it's organised.'

Young people can have a say

Calling all young people who want to have their say in policing.

Why not join our youth panel and tell us what you think of policing where you live.

If you are aged between 11-16 years, live in Kent and would like to join the Kent Police Youth Panel then email:

youth.panel@kent.pnn.police.uk or call **01622 654664**

Dangers of online world

Social networking sites, such as Facebook and My Space, attract millions of users. But it is important to be aware of the dangers – from identity fraud, to being enticed by strangers.

Police constable Martin Carter said: 'We know young people from the age of four are web users. Chatrooms, online forums and social networking sites are popular among young people who use the internet unsupervised. Very often this is harmless, but youngsters can be exploited.'

Both schools and parents have a role to play in making sure young people are aware of the dangers online. The 'Think u know' awareness programmes involve Kent County Council and were designed by the UK's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, offering online safety guidance.

Some websites have a 'report abuse' button, allowing the user to report directly to the CEOP Centre, which can disrupt paedophile rings.

Martin Carter added: 'With sites such as Facebook, My Space and financial sites targeted by identity fraudsters, we may all be just clicks away from a cyber crook.'

'We should restrict distributing our personal information, addresses, photographs and dates of birth. Basic offline security steps, such as shredding personal information, also reduce fraudsters' opportunities.'

For more advice on keeping safe online visit the Kent Police website or www.ceop.gov.uk www.thinkuknow.co.uk



Improved services for domestic abuse victims

A new multi-agency approach involving the health service, Kent County Council and Crown Prosecution Service aims to reduce domestic abuse.

Support is a priority. One-stop shops allow people to talk with different agency representatives. Specialist domestic abuse advisors can be found at Citizen Advice Bureaus, while increased screenings at NHS hospitals will also have an impact.

Increasingly, an awareness of safety in relationships is being taught in schools.

Detective superintendent Lee Catling said: 'This is about recognising domestic violence injuries and having a duty of care. There are cases where eventually this type of abuse can lead to homicide so it's important we share the information with our partners.'

To encourage people to report cases, specialist courts in Maidstone, Sevenoaks and Sittingbourne will speed up cases and offer reassurance to victims giving evidence in an appropriate environment.

Lee Catling added: 'This isn't just a job for the police. People may feel uncomfortable calling the police, so a partnership approach is a solution. Each organisation has a vital part to play.'

Target

Reduce victims of domestic abuse

For support services near you call the Kent Domestic Abuse information line on **0845 603 6813**, open 24 hours, seven days a week

Crime doesn't pay

Police retrieved almost £3 million in criminal assets during the last year. Criminals who funded lavish lifestyles are now paying the price as a specialist team claimed houses, cash and flash cars as proceeds of crime. Police aim to recover £2.53 million during the forthcoming year.

Reassuring watch over our waters

A new state-of-the art police boat has been launched to protect Kent and our national border.

With a wide range of functions, the 53-foot boat, named Princess Alexandra III, has advanced technology to counter terrorism, people trafficking and smuggling. As a high-visibility patrol, it will also operate alongside the UK Border Agency to tackle illegal entry and rogue shipping, while identifying vessels on the river also counts among its capabilities.

Refurbished last year, the boat is based in Sheerness and will improve community policing by acting as a 'mobile police station' on the water. A crew of three man the vessel that can carry a firearms team and specialist teams of up to 16 people.

Kent Police currently has two high-speed rigid hull inflatable boats used for intercept work, but this is the first marine police boat since 1995.



Target

Achieve national standards for protecting the public

You call – we respond

A new approach will improve how police deal with and respond to 999 and non-emergency calls.

Since January, police have handled 241,064 emergency calls – all answered within 10 seconds. Now calls will be graded as 'immediate', 'high', 'requires a scheduled appointment' or 'no attendance required.'

Detective superintendent Dan Murphy said: 'We've tried the system in South and Mid Kent, monitoring our service quality and communication with the public, and how we follow-up cases. Now if the call doesn't require an immediate response locally-based officers can make scheduled appointments where appropriate.'

'In the same way, if we're dealing with a high-risk call and unable to send a patrol within the hour then we will get back to the caller.'

The new approach has proved successful and will be rolled out countywide by the end of the year.



Who's keeping a watch on Kent Police?

Who oversees your policing and makes sure it does a good job for you? And who will check the target boxes in this newspaper are reached? Well, the Kent Police Authority does exactly that.

The Authority is an independent body made up of 17 members including councillors and local people who regularly meet with senior officers.

It also plays an important role in monitoring Kent Police's performance all year round and is responsible for appointing the Chief Constable and handling complaints against senior officers.

The watchdog ensures taxpayers are getting value for money by setting the police budget and any increases in the police council tax. It's all spearheaded by Chair, Ann Barnes.

Target

Reduce the number of offences carried out by violent, sexual and dangerous offenders

Protecting the public's peace of mind

More police officers will be brought in later this year to help supervise known violent, sexual and dangerous offenders in the county.

The team will actively monitor offenders and assess any risks to communities. The officers will work closely with the Probation Service and Her Majesty's Prison Service, as well as sharing relevant information with agencies such as social care, health, housing and education services.

Target

Work with Essex Police to improve savings and increase the number of front-line officers

Counties unite for better policing

It's just over a year since Kent and Essex police forces joined up in a bid to improve services and reinvest savings into the front-line.

The initiative has attracted government grants and led to sizeable savings for reinvestment. Kent Police now has the use of a new helicopter, and marine units are also working side by side in the Thames estuary. Both Forces can call on specialist vehicles, technology or expert teams when required.

Chair of Kent Police Authority Ann Barnes said: 'Both Authorities and Forces are extremely pleased with how our joint working is progressing. We're now able to deliver a much better policing service to taxpayers on both sides of the river that's value for money. Initiatives include our shared helicopter and use of specialist vehicles. But, most importantly, we can call on each other for resources where appropriate and I'm confident this project will bring even more benefits over the coming years.'



Kent and Essex so far:

- The investigation into the murder of missing Essex teenager Dinah McNicol last November involved police officers and staff from both Forces
- Joint operations to tackle street-level drugs included shared use of drugs detection equipment
- The number of criminals identified and arrested when using the Dartford Crossing has increased thanks to the use of automatic number plate technology by the two Forces

Win a night at Chilston Park Hotel

What do you think of our Policing Kent newspaper? Write to the Kent Police Authority with your comments, and you could win an overnight stay at a four-star 17th century country house set in 250 acres in Lenham, Kent.

A winner will be selected at random. Closing date 5 September 2008. Employees of Kent Police and Kent Police Authority are not eligible to enter.



Our Policing Plan

If you would like a copy of our Policing Plan outlining our targets contact Kent Police Authority on **01622 677055** or download a copy from our website: www.kentpa.kent.police.uk

Alternatively write to:

Kent Police Authority
Gail House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6NB
Or email: kpaenquiries@kent.pnn.police.uk

This publication is available in large print, other formats and languages. Contact us on **01622 677055**

Look after your neighbourhood



You can join your local neighbourhood watch and work with your local council and Kent Police to keep your road safe. Contact your nearest police station or visit the Kent Police website www.kent.police.uk

Report crime online

You can report the following minor crimes online via the Kent Police website <https://reportacrime.kent.police.uk>

- vehicle crime, except stolen vehicles
- criminal damage
- stolen property

In an emergency – can we call on you?

Kent Police is looking for volunteers to play a supportive role should an emergency occur in the county. If you can put by a few hours to help, from providing phone support to providing refreshments to staff, then sign up and call **01622 653212** to find out more.

Join Kent Police?

If you're interested in becoming a police officer then keep an eye on the Kent Police website.

Or why not join the Special Constabulary as a trained volunteer. To find out more about becoming a Special call **0500 787700** or email: specials.recruitment@kent.pnn.police.uk

এ নথিপত্র বিকল্প মাধ্যমে পাওয়া যাবে এবং বিভিন্ন ভাষায় বর্ণনা করা যাবে। দয়া করে এ জন্য কেন্ট পুলিশকে অথরিটিকে 01622 677 055 এ নাম্বারে যোগাযোগ করুন।
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Useful numbers

Dial **999** in an emergency, if there is a threat to life or public safety, or a crime may be in progress

Call **01622 690690** for all non-emergencies or to report a crime other than a crime in progress

Call Kent Crimestoppers anonymously with information about crime on freephone **0800 555 111**

24 hour National Domestic Violence freephone helpline **0808 2000 247**, run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge

Kent Homophobic Incident Reporting Line – **0800 328 9162**

Kent Racial Incident Reporting Line – **0800 138 1624**

Deaf and speech impaired: Report a crime by texting **60066**

