

talking

# point

Camden Community & Police Consultative Group Newsletter

[www.camdencpcg.org.uk](http://www.camdencpcg.org.uk)

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engagement  
at work in  
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## Tackling hate

**The main theme at the last CCPCG public meeting was Hate Crime. Over 50 people attended the meeting and heard how Camden Council, the police and other agencies were working together to encourage reporting and improve prevention and detection.**

The rise in the reporting of Hate Crime was welcomed by everyone as a good thing. People often fail to report when they have been victims of Hate Crime. Because many people have greater confidence that they will be taken seriously by the police the number of reports have increased.

Third Party Reporting has also helped increase reports. Pioneered in Camden by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Forum, Third Party Reporting allows people, who might not be comfortable talking to the police or council, to report to an inde-

pendent organisation such as the LGBT Forum and other non-police groups and locations around Camden.

From March 2009 to 23 March 2010 1,019 Hate Crime reports had been made. Police reports have shown a 12.7% increase in Hate Crime, with a detection rate of 57.4%, the fourth best

detection rate in London. Homophobic Crime rose 25.3% with a 52.2% detection rate.

To help prevent Homophobic crime Liz Willows from the LGBT Forum showed a trailer for their education video, "Treading on Eggshells", which has been widely distributed to Camden schools, deals

with transphobic bullying and young people.

Though Disability Hate Crime is not identified as such, the police have a special team to investigate abuse against those with learning disabilities.

### WHAT IS HATE CRIME

Hate Crime is when someone harasses or abuses you because of your race, colour, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or ethnic background

### HATE CRIME REPORTING DETAILS

If someone harasses or abuses you or someone you know because of race, faith, sexual orientation, disability, gender or age:

contact the Metropolitan Police on **0300 123 1212** (or **999** if you or someone else is in immediate danger). Camden Police also have a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Crime reporting and intelligence line: **0800 328 2509** (answer phone)

To report all Hate Crime to the Camden Council Hate Crime Hotline: **0800 138 1661**

Camden also has independent third party reporting for people who do not want to speak to the police directly:

- Camden Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Forum  
To report and get support in response to homophobic and transphobic crime or abuse tel: **020 7470 8760**  
[www.camdenlgbtforum.org.uk](http://www.camdenlgbtforum.org.uk)
- To speak to Camden Victim Support tel: **020 7388 9550**

*Talking Point* is the newsletter of the Camden Community & Police Consultative Group, an independent charity concerned with community safety. If you would like to be added to the CCPCG mailing list please Email: [admin@camdencpcg.org.uk](mailto:admin@camdencpcg.org.uk), Tel: 020 72785459 or write to us: 16 - 18 Whidborne Street, London WC1H 8EZ

### IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS

**The CCPCG is constantly looking for ways to better engage with Camden's many communities. Public meetings have always been one of the most popular means but, increasingly, other forms of communication are becoming important.**

The Group now has an email database of more than 380 groups, individuals, businesses and officials, which it uses to disseminate information and alerts instantaneously. For the past eight years, the Group also has maintained a website, which contains information about community safety from a wide number of sources.

Peter Ward, CCPCG administrator, said: "Over the past year, we have begun forwarding news releases from the police to our database so that our members are kept as up to date as the press. The Council and police have also introduced a number of new bulletins and publications, which I upload onto our website."

**Those who are very up to date can follow the CCPCG via Twitter for the very latest news ([twitter.com/ccpcg](https://twitter.com/ccpcg)).**

# London-wide engagement report



by Janine Griffis

**Four times a year on behalf of the CCPCG, I attend meetings at Scotland Yard organised by the London**

**Communities and Policing Partnership (LCP2). The LCP2 represents all of the 32 community engagement groups in London and promotes good practice between the engagement groups, the Metropolitan Police Service and the Metropolitan Police Authority. I also serve as Vice Chair of LCP2.**

The meetings at Scotland Yard are chaired by the Assistant Commissioner for Territorial Policing and the Commissioner usually attends the first part of the meeting to take questions. I find these meetings hugely informative and try to feed back what I have learned

into our Group meetings and the work that we do. For example, recent presentations have focussed on improving the Met's handling of sexual offences and mental health, two topics that we now want to look at more closely in Camden over the coming months.

At our last meeting a few weeks ago, the new Assistant Commissioner Ian McPherson gave a sobering summary of the challenges facing the Met over the next few years. Cuts are coming, he said, though no one knows how large. While maintaining his commitment to front-line services and Safer Neighbourhoods, he said that the scheme may not be sustainable in its current format, at least not in every ward in every borough. He said single patrolling was helping to

free up manpower but that the Met would have to work smarter by using its resources more effectively.

We also discussed the Met's response to the Home Office report on the policing of public protests, following the contentious G20 events. In brief, the recommendations included: improving the way that the Met communicates with protestors and the press; making sure that the tactics used are proportional; assuring that all officers are clearly identifiable; and improving training.

We witnessed firsthand the need for this last point when we visited the Met's public order training centre at Gravesend last year. Training will now include how to better deal with people in a public order situation.

**The next meeting at Scotland Yard will be in June. If you would like to suggest a question or issue of a London wide nature, please contact Janine by email: [talkingpoint@camdencpcg.org.uk](mailto:talkingpoint@camdencpcg.org.uk)**

## CCPCG to meet with specialist rape team

**At the last CCPCG public meeting, Miles Seaman, CCPCG Board member and statistical expert, drew attention to an increase in the number of reported rapes, from under five a month to nine. At the same time the number of rapes detected had fallen from a high of 40% to under 20%.**

This reduction in performance

coincided with rape investigations being taken away from boroughs. Last autumn a new specialist London-wide team was set up to investigate rape. Because of the concerns raised at the meeting, the CCPCG will be meeting with Detective Supt Bryan Sweeting who has responsibility for rape investigation across north London.

Keen to get to the bottom of this, the CCPCG will be seeking to find out why the number of rapes appears to have increased; could it be down to recording practices or did people have more confidence about reporting? And why have the number of detections dropped off so dramatically?

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A PUBLIC MEETING ON CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**The next meeting of Camden Community & Police Consultative Group will be taking place on Thursday 27 May, 7.00 pm**

**in the Council Chamber, Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, WC1.**

For further information contact Peter Ward on 020 7278 5459 or [admin@camdencpcg.org.uk](mailto:admin@camdencpcg.org.uk)

## Your ideas on cycling wanted

Following the CCPCG meeting in January, the Camden Community Safety Partnership has undertaken to consider a couple of proposals based on feedback and suggestions from residents to help tackle the problem of antisocial cycling behaviour. The proposals being considered include:

- *Running education, awareness and enforcement campaign around cycling on pavements and through red lights,*

*combined with activities to support cyclist safety and prevent cycle theft*

- *Possible signs and marked dual-use pavement schemes in particular hotspot streets where antisocial cycling is a problem*

If members have any feedback on these proposals or additional suggestions, please contact Peter Ward: [admin@camdencpcg.org.uk](mailto:admin@camdencpcg.org.uk) or 16 - 18 Whidborne Street, London WC1H 8EZ.