



“Every ward
in Kingston
has
Safer
Neighbourhood
teams.”

Safer Neighbourhood, local police protect and help the community by keeping the streets safe and tackling issues in the neighbourhood. They also give the residents a familiar face to recognise and contact.

We interviewed Police Community Support Office Dan Stone from the Beverly Ward in the area of New Malden, to tell us more about their jobs.

What areas do you work in?

There are 16 wards in the Borough of Kingston. Each team consists of one Police Sgt, two Police Officers and three Police Community Support Officers. For these 16 wards, each team takes their own responsibilities for the area of Kingston.

How involved are you with the young people in the community?

Working with young people is a very big part of what we want to achieve on Safer Neighbourhoods. Sometimes young people can feel quite alienated towards police, but we give them time to talk about concerns. On a regular basis we visit youth clubs, schools and scout troops. We are presently recruiting youngsters in the area to join a five-a-side to challenge others wards in Kingston.

Are there officers in every neighbourhood of London?

Yes, since the beginning of the year every ward in London has a Safer Neighbourhood Team. There are also Safer Transport Teams coming into effect soon that will be dealing with bus and train routes.

What type of situations do you come across?

We deal with visiting victims of crime, as well as engaging all our residents and local businesses and dealing with ongoing problems that need police assistance to solve. We also work to resolve longer-term issues that don't just require an immediate police response but a longer term planned approach to problem solving in the area.

The main aim of the Safer Neighbourhoods team is to help out with any problems and improve the connections between themselves and the local residences. They come across many different situations ranging from visiting victims of crime to dealing with ongoing problems that need police assistance. As we heard from Dan Stone, Safer Neighbourhood teams are very involved with the community and especially the youth in local areas. They also help residents feel safer because they have their own personal police contact in their area.