

February 2026

Metropolitan Police Service

Sanderstead Newsletter

Ward Priorities

Burglary

To visit every burglary on the ward. To maintain and reduce residential and non-residential burglaries across the ward.

Vehicle Crime

To visit victims of vehicle theft. To reduce motor vehicle crime - including theft of and theft from motor vehicles.

Community Engagements

To engage with members of the community ranging from youths to the elderly.



What is a Safer Neighbourhood's Teams (SNT)

Your Safer Neighbourhood's Team (SNT) is a group of Met police officers dedicated to serving your community.

The team is made up of officers based in your area (or 'ward'), supported by additional officers from the wider area. We work closely with local authorities, community leaders and residents to decide our policing priorities for the area.

This helps us to find useful, long-term solutions to local problems, while maintaining our wider focus on reducing crime across London.

The February Bulletin...

These were some of the news items making our February bulletin for the local safer Neighbourhood's team in relation to policing our Sanderstead ward and wider community of Croydon borough.

Opening our month of February was an invitation to the new establishment, that is Precious Care Home, which is an elderly resident care home that was celebrating its grandstand opening to its residents on the day.

Following on from the above was an Anti-Social Behaviour drop-in surgery that was organized in conjunction with Croydon council for one of their problematic hotspot areas in Stanley Gardens, Borough Grange.

The meeting was meant to address issues around residents' concerns regarding vandalism as well as general anti-social behaviour awareness and preventative tips to help curb the issues raised.

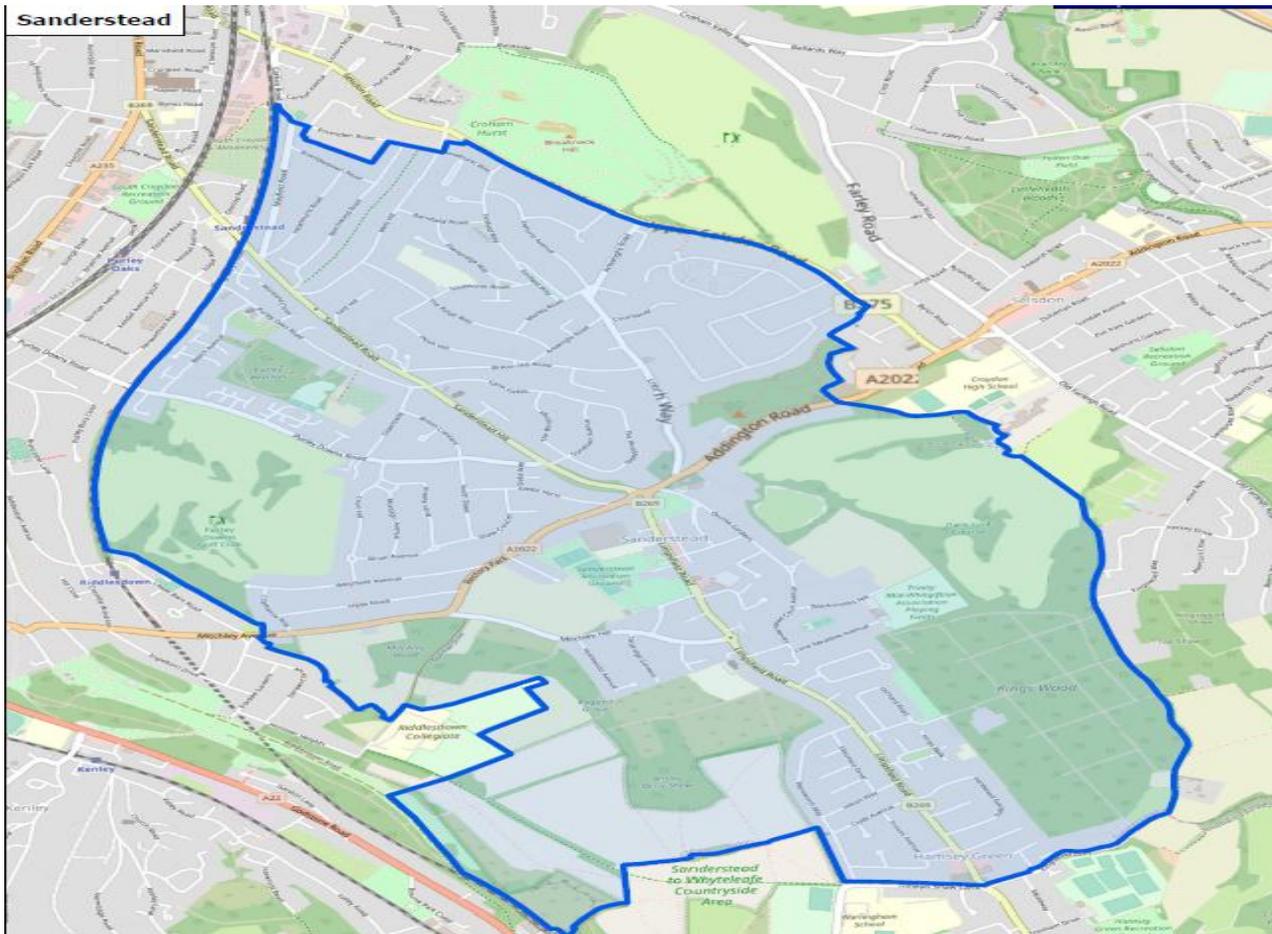
Frontline Focused?!!

On the engagement front and away on our sister ward of Selsdon, officers paid a visit to Quest Academy to speak to the pupils in Years 3,4 and 5 for their careers fair. We shared centre stage with quite a few other professionals from different working fields, imparting knowledge and answering pupils' questions that were posed to us.

On the brighter side of any other business for our ward taskings, we are continuing to intensify patrols on the ward in tackling issues around school robberies. In the wake of these being on the rise, this will also be conducted during the start of the new school term alongside our ward priorities in keeping our residents safe.

TOO GREAT FOR HATE

Greater Manchester stands together against hate crime. LetsEndHateCrime.com



Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to reduce crime.

They're community initiatives owned and run by their members which are supported by the police but not owned by them, although we sometimes run them.

They work by developing a close relationship between community members and the local police.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- cut crime and the opportunities for crime
- help and reassure those who live in the area
- Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities
- Go to www.cbnwa.com to find out what groups are active in your area and to register to join.

We organize contact points sessions, which are face to face sessions that members of the public can attend and discuss any concerns you may have with local officers

Please see dates, times and locations.

Please let us know if you plan on attending.

***Saturday 14th March 2026 – 15:00hrs-16:00hrs
Maple restaurant Sanderstead (Drop-in Surgery
CUPPA with a COPPA).***

***Thursday 16th April 2026- 18:30hrs-20:00hrs All
Saints Church Sanderstead (Ward Panel Meeting).***

Residential Burglary 01st February – 28th February 2026.

Crime Type	Date/Time Patterns	Road	Circumstances
Residential Burglary	19/02/2026 at 15:30Hrs	Mitchley Avenue	Asian Gold Burglarly, where the suspects have accessed the address via a wooded area and into the rear of the property, smashed a window and entered the house searching for Jewellery items
Residential Burglary	23/02/2026 at 19:45Hrs	Stanley Gardens	Occupants on holiday, daughter turned up to clear the bins and the front inner doors have been smashed off the hinges

Theft of a Motor Vehicle 01st February – 28th January 2026.

Crime Type	Date/Time Patterns	Road	Circumstances
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	03/02/2026 at 01:10Hrs	Harewood Gardens	Unknown suspects approached the victim's car and managed to unlock it at which point they had driven away in it.
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	10/02/2026 at 11:43Hrs	Broadway Close	Victim's vehicle was stolen from outside of their home address

Theft from a Motor Vehicle 01st February – 28th January 2026 – Nil recorded.

A very well done and a positive recognition from us to all our residents for the tremendous work done around safety and crime prevention in general that has helped us see off the month of February on high with the recorded figures across all our three priorities (residential burglary, theft from and theft of a motor vehicle) drop.

In keeping with the fight against crime and looking positively ahead, we will leave and continue with sharing of our old material around preventative tips that specifically touch on residential burglary and theft of motor vehicles.

1. Lock your vehicle

Locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. Even if you have locked your vehicle, check you haven't left any windows or the sunroof open.

It is actually illegal to leave your vehicle running unattended while you de-ice it or warm it up in cold weather. If someone takes it while it's left like this, your insurer won't pay out because you won't be covered.

If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically when locked, make sure you lock it properly. Criminal gangs are looking for vehicles like these where the wing mirrors are still out because it is clear to them that the vehicle has been left unlocked.

2. Keep the keys safe

Vehicles today are by and large more difficult to steal than ever, unless the thief can access your key or fob to clone them. Keep your keys safe, out of view when at home, and away from your front door. It's not uncommon for car keys to be stolen from inside your home by thieves fishing for them with a stick and hook through the letterbox.

If you're selling your car and you meet up with a potential buyer, do not allow the keys out of your sight. Your keys may be cloned by thieves and used later to steal your vehicle.

Keyless entry

Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key comes within a short distance of the car. This can be from inside a pocket or bag. If you have to push a button on your car key to open your car, you don't have keyless entry. Keyless car theft or 'relay theft' is when a device is used to fool the car into thinking the key is close by. This unlocks the car and starts the ignition.

Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture the signal, even if it's inside your home. This means that even if your car and home are secure, thieves can still unlock, start and steal your car.

How to protect your keyless entry car

- When at home keep your car key (and the spare) well away from the car.
- Put the keys in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bag and check if the bag or pouch is still working every few months.
- Reprogramme your keys if you buy a second-hand car.
- Turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used.

Additional physical security such as locks and immobilisers are still highly recommended. [Section six](#) on this page has more information about this.

3. Be aware of carjackers

The fact that you're in the car isn't always a deterrent to someone trying to steal it.

In traffic, drive with the doors locked and when queuing leave enough space in front of your vehicle to enable you to get out of a tight spot. If your vehicle is bumped from behind, wait to pull over – somewhere safe and preferably where there are people. After all, you don't know the person who has collided with you; they could well be hijackers. If you're at all suspicious, consider calling the police.

If someone threatens you, it's better to hand over the keys to the vehicle than become a victim of assault. Then call [999](#) as soon as possible and ask for the police.

If your car is stolen, some modern vehicle alarm and tracker systems have the facility to isolate or shut down fuel systems, bringing the vehicle to a halt and leaving the thief high and dry.

4. Park responsibly

It's always advisable to avoid parking in dark and secluded areas. It's worth an extra five or ten-minute walk if it means your vehicle is left in a well-lit and busier street.

And if possible, always try to park in illuminated and staffed car parks or those with a park Mark safer parking award. To find one, simply check out [Park Mark](#).

5. Watch for illegal tow trucks

Thieves often attempt to lift vehicles from the street, literally. So, if you see a towaway crew acting suspiciously – especially if their vehicle isn't branded or if they're not in uniform – then please report it immediately.

As with every report of suspicious behaviour made in good faith, we'll never blame anyone for calling us if it proves unfounded.

Car parks with height-restricted entrances help prevent illegal tow trucks and removal vehicles. And fitting a [Thatcham rated](#) category 1 or 2 alarm system with tracking, immobilisation, anti-grab and movement sensors can help protect and trace your vehicle.

6. Fit good in-car security locks

Additional physical security can help to prevent your vehicle being driven away even if a thief gains entry. There are a range of security rated products tested by [Sold Secure](#) that can help, such as steering wheel locks, pedal boxes and gear stick locks.

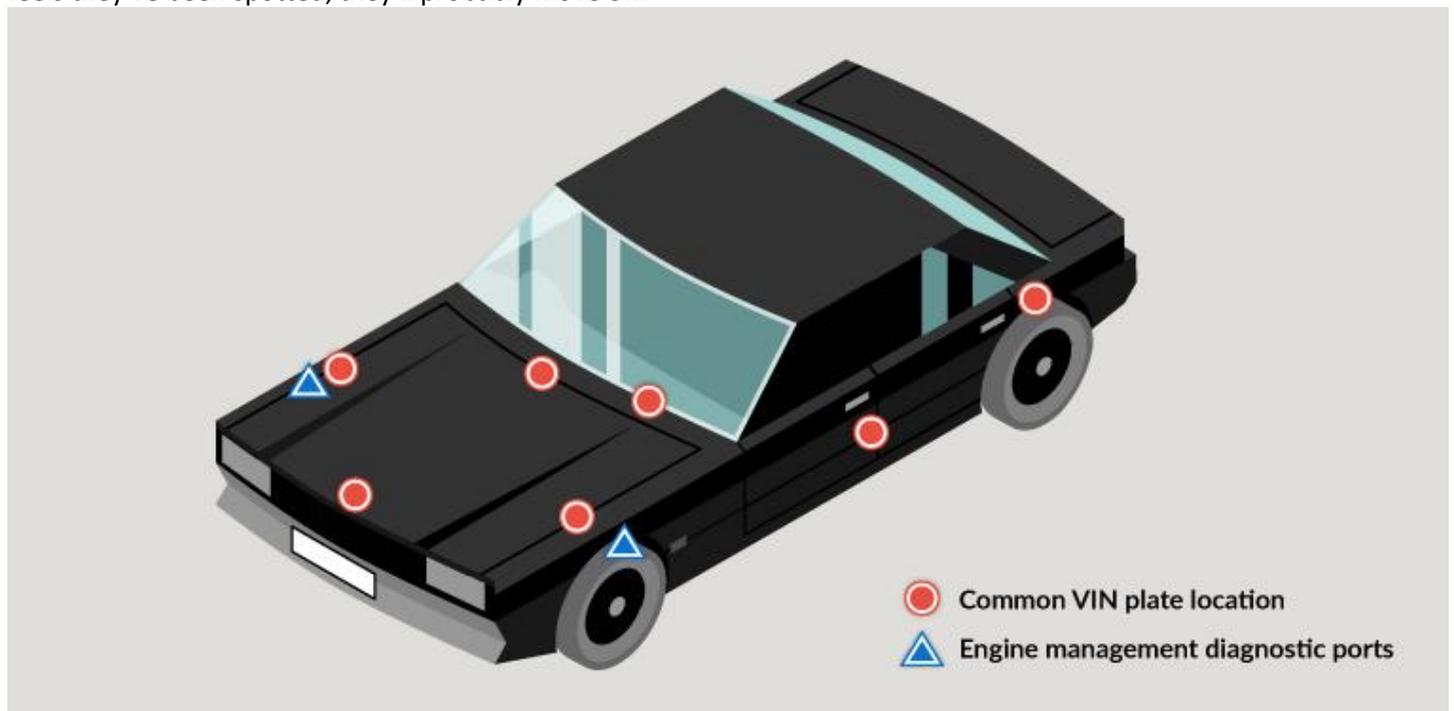
Some of these products, tested to Sold Secure Diamond, can even resist a small hand-held angle grinder. It's also worth speaking to your vehicle dealership about installing an aftermarket immobiliser approved by the manufacturer.

Immobilisers prevent a vehicle from starting unless the correct fob, key or activation process is used. They can be personalised so that you're the only one who knows how to unset it via a number of dashboard controls.

7. Double-check electronic locking

Electronic devices can be used to jam the electronic signal from your key fob to lock your vehicle. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away.

If unsure, lock it manually, then scan the immediate area for anyone hanging around. If a potential thief who's watching feels they've been spotted, they'll probably move off.



8. Before owning, check for cloning

Changing the identity of a vehicle, known as vehicle cloning, can be as simple as adding stolen number plates. When buying a vehicle, always check the DVLA V5 document and make sure the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the vehicle is the same as on the document.

Make sure you check more than one of the VINs as well as the engine numbers on the vehicle (see diagram).

[Check a used vehicle you're buying.](#)

9. Secure your port

Many modern vehicles are fitted with engine management diagnostic ports, which can unlock and start your vehicle. If your vehicle has this type of port, consider fitting a lockable cover.

A determined burglar can be difficult to discourage. Good-quality doors, windows and locks are excellent deterrents, but there's even more you can do to slow down burglars in their tracks.

BURGLAR PROOF

Mark it

Make your valuables less attractive to thieves by using a police approved forensic marking solution only visible under Ultraviolet (UV) light. This can take the form of a special marker using ink or paint. Mark or etch your property with your postcode, house or flat number or the first three letters of your address. All of these measures help police identify stolen goods, making it harder for thieves to sell. So, make your mark. For information on police approved marking products, visit the Secured by Design website.

Property marking isn't only for things like electrical items and bikes, you can also mark high value belongings like antiques. However, we recommend that you seek specialist advice.

If you have forensically marked your property, tell the criminals about it. They will not want to steal your property if they think there is an increased chance of them getting caught with items that are stolen and identifiable. A good way of doing this is by using stickers or posters that are usually provided with the forensic marking kits.

Record it

Register your property for free on Immobilise – it helps the police identify the owners of recovered property. Don't forget to add a serial number if it has one.

Take photographs of valuable items (next to a ruler for items of jewellery), note down the serial numbers for tools or electrical items and keep documents like receipts related to your property so you can prove ownership.

Register your bike

If you value your bike, then register it with accredited cycle registration database Bike Register and make sure it is marked to advertise this.

Join your Neighbourhood Watch

By becoming part of your local Neighbourhood Watch, you'll be joining other like-minded neighbours who, by keeping their eyes and ears open, help to keep potential criminals out of the area.

Our Extra Bits...

MET Engage, so why sign up?

The platform will allow you get timely alerts on crimes, scams and fraud in your area, safety tips and prevention advice, local officer updates on community events/or detail and lastly, you will have a platform to help you voice your concerns to help shape local policing priorities.

Met Engage supplements, but does not replace, official reporting channels i.e. contacts such as (999,101 and the police online submission form). Your data will also be kept secure and used for sending relevant trusted information.

<https://www.metengage.co.uk/>