

August 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.



Our August News Column ...

These are a few of the main headlines that we covered through our taskings for the month of August.

Community Spirit Shines at Riddlesdown Parkrun

Sanderstead residents and our policing team alike, came together on the 22nd of August 2026 once more for the weekly Riddlesdown parkrun that has become a cornerstone of the local community calendar.

Held every Saturday Morning, the event saw a turnout of 236 participants all of whom came together with a common goal of creating a friendly and supportive atmosphere with added benefits of strengthening community ties and promotion of well-being. Organizers were also keen to stress that new volunteers and participants are always welcome regardless of fitness level or experience.

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.

ASB targeted Patrols

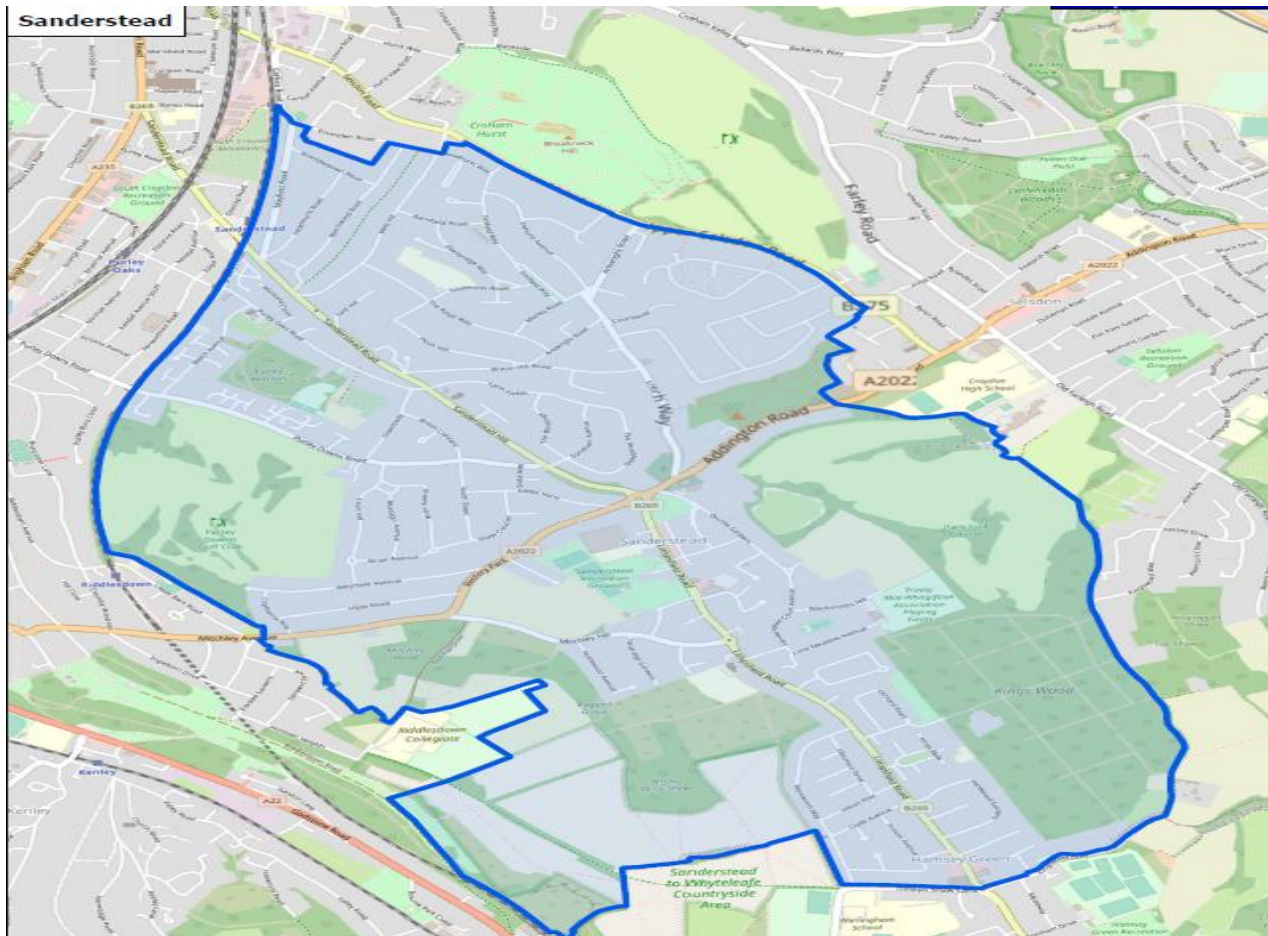
As we see a surge in calls to deal with the increase in dangerous driving and vehicle related nuisance, additional patrols have been put in place aimed at addressing excessive speeds, reckless maneuvers and behaviour that causes these concerns.

Officers will continue carrying out regular monitoring and engagement activities to deter offenders and improve public safety.

Community safety remains a priority, and local teams continue to encourage residents to report incidents of dangerous driving and anti-social behaviour through the appropriate channels. Information from the public plays a key role in identifying problem areas and supporting enforcement action where necessary.

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 26th September 2026 Sanderstead
Community Day- Sanderstead Recreation Grounds
11:00hrs to 15:00hrs***

***Sunday 27th September 2026 Maple Restaurant
Cuppa with a Coppa drop-in surgery 15:00-16:00hrs***

Residential Burglary 01st August – 31st August 2026.

Crime Type	Date/Time Patterns	Road	Circumstances
Residential Burglary	14/08/2026 at 04:40hrs	Church Way	Victim was woken up by his daughter to inform them of their vehicle being moved off the drive. Vehicle was later recovered and police were also informed that £200 worth of cash had been stolen.
Residential Burglary	23/08/2026 at 01:57hrs	Purley Oaks Road	Informant reported capturing an individual on CCTV wearing a balaclava shining a torch through their letter box.
Residential	23/08/2026	Beechwood Road	Informant has seen an unknown person try to get entry to their property on CCTV.

Theft of a Motor Vehicle 01st August – 31st August 2026.

Crime Type	Date/Time Patterns	Road	Circumstances
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	14/08/2026 at 06:40hrs	Purely Downs Road	Unknown suspects have stolen the victim's vehicle without using its keys.
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	19/08/2026 at 08:28hrs	Mayfield Road	Victim reported their vehicle stolen from outside of their home.
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	21/08/2026 at 05:00hrs	Whimbrel Close	Lexus NX was stolen outside the informant's house.
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	27/08/2026 at	Harewood Gardens	Victim's vehicle was stolen with the suspects leaving keys behind.

Theft from a Motor Vehicle 01st August – 31st August 2026.

Crime Type	Date/Time Patterns	Road	Circumstances
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	05/08/2026 at 14:17hrs	Hook Hill	Victim's van can be seen on CCTV being broken into by four suspects who stole £5000 worth of tools out of the vehicle
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	12/08/2026 at 18:18hrs	Mayfield Road	Victim reported to us about continuous tampering on his motorcycle. He states he believes someone keeps stealing parts from his bike and detuning it.
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	22/08/2026 at 12:54hrs	Purley Oaks Road	Unknown suspects entered the victim's vehicle, and the listed items were stolen, sunglasses and expensive badminton kit

In keeping with our fight to tackle issues around theft of and from motor vehicles, our drive-in pushing crime preventative tips around this will continue henceforth as there has been a positive change observed that can be attributed partly to your efforts in helping inform us on how to better deploy resources in the crackdown of the above and other related criminal offenses on the ward of Sanderstead.

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.

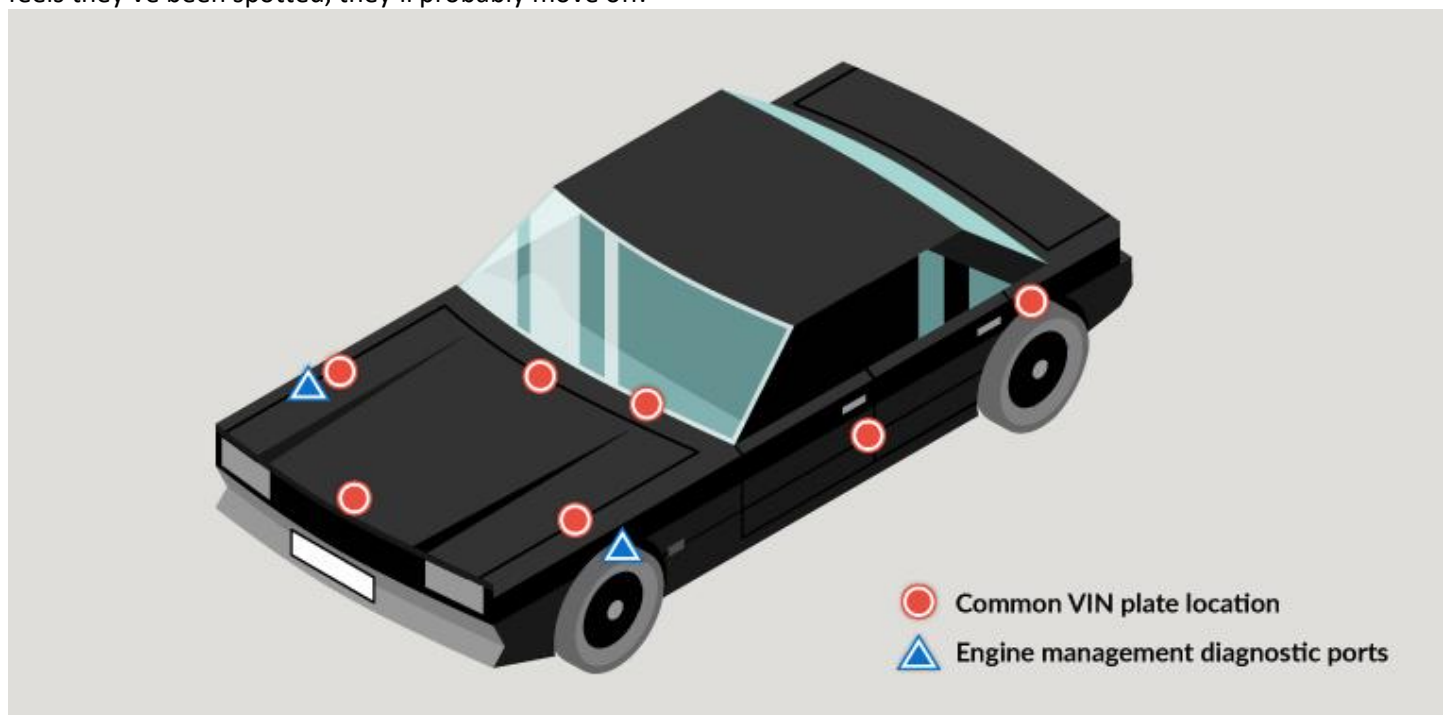
Some of these products, tested to Sold Secure Diamond, can even resist a small hand-held angle grinder. It's also worth speaking to your vehicle dealership about installing an aftermarket immobiliser approved by the manufacturer.

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.

Our Extra Bits...

We are pleased to report a continued increase in MET Engage sign-ups, demonstrating the public's commitment to staying informed and connected with local policing activity. MET Engage provides residents, businesses, and community stakeholders with direct access to updates, crime prevention advice, local news, and opportunities to participate in consultations and engagement events.

The growth in registrations highlights the value of timely communication and shows that our communities are eager to work alongside policing teams to help create safer neighbourhoods. We encourage everyone who has not yet registered to sign up and take advantage of the platform's benefits.

By joining MET Engage, members can:

- Receive local policing updates and alerts.
- Stay informed about community priorities and initiatives.
- Access crime prevention guidance and safety advice.
- Participate in surveys and consultations that help shape local policing decisions.

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