

## A MESSAGE FROM BCU COMMANDER, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT HELEN HARPER



Dear all,

I hope you are well. I am writing to provide you with updates on three topics we have been receiving enquiries about recently.

### Met's Online Child Abuse and Exploitation Unit continue to safeguard children during lockdown

Earlier today we announced that our Online Child Abuse and Exploitation Unit (OCSAE) has arrested 45 suspected offenders and safeguarded almost 100 children during the four weeks since the UK went into lockdown.

The statistics reveal that 92 children were protected and 68 warrants executed over the month from 23 March, when the government ordered the new 'stay at home' measures, up to 23 April. An average of ten new live investigations have been launched every week as a result of the 45 arrests over the same period.

Further information about these statistics are available, here: <http://news.met.police.uk/news/45-arrests-by-online-child-abuse-and-exploitation-unit-since-lockdown-401619>

For information about how to keep young people safe online, go to [www.safe.met.police.uk](http://www.safe.met.police.uk); [www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/online-child-abuse](http://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/online-child-abuse); [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre) and [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Anyone who has any information about a child at immediate risk of harm is asked to call 999. Those with concerns can also contact the Internet Watch Foundation via [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk), or the NSPCC

The confidential Stop It Now! helpline is on 0808 1000 900 or visit <https://get-help.stopitnow.org.uk/>

### COVID-19 Pandemic Multi-Agency Response Teams (PMART)

As you will be aware, new teams were set up to respond to sudden deaths in London. Thankfully, we are needing to use these teams slightly less each day, however we wanted to provide you with further information about these teams as we know you may still be seeing them in our local area.

Launched on 31 March, the Met has been supporting health colleagues by deploying officers in multi-agency teams to respond to suspected COVID-19 deaths in London. The Pandemic Multi-Agency Response Teams (PMART), were established to help sensitively manage sudden deaths in the community.

PMART are able to deploy to all unexpected deaths within the community that have been assessed by the London Ambulance Service (LAS) as having Covid-19 concerns. Their purpose is to reduce the demand on LAS, NHS, funeral directors and mortuary staff during the Coronavirus outbreak.

PMART have strict criteria for deployment and each unit has received specific training and wears necessary PPE.

### Our thanks to Volunteers

As you know, we are continuing with our business as usual activity, which is to keep Londoners safe. In achieving this, we have been very grateful for the support of volunteers.

We are grateful to Special Constables, Cadets and new and existing staff volunteers who are giving their time to supporting their communities for example delivering crime prevention advice. To date, over 12,000 leaflets have been delivered by 140 volunteers (accompanied by Special Constables and local officers) across 7 boroughs – Kingston, Richmond, Brixton, Greenwich, Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Westminster.

We have also seen the return of a number of former officers who have returned to the frontline to help keep communities safe and prevent crime.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in becoming a Met volunteer, please visit our website: <https://www.met.police.uk/car/careers/met/police-volunteer-roles/>

By staying indoors, we are all protecting the NHS and saving lives.

Kindest regards



Helen

BCU Commander Central West BCU and Royal Parks