

#StrongerNorth

July 2015



What is #StrongerNorth?

Welcome to the first edition of the #StrongerNorth Newsletter! A lot of people ask - what is #StrongerNorth? It involves key agencies to tackle antisocial behaviour and work with the local community to help make West Pilton and Muirhouse a safer place to live.

#StrongerNorth objectives are to improve opportunities for children and young people, make the place a greener, cleaner environment and increase community safety. We also want to create employment opportunities and training for young people. All of this work is being carried out by a partnership involving different services from the City of Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland, Fire Scotland and Total Craigroyston. You've told us you want to know more about #StrongerNorth, this is the first in a regular series of newsletters keeping you updated. Let us know your feedback!



A greener North

Our new recycling service is already reducing the volume of rubbish being sent to landfill and helping to protect our environment.

The new service is being rolled out across Edinburgh and will be coming to Pilton this summer. It will make it easier for people with wheelie bins to sort their waste by doubling their recycling capacity, accepting more types of material, such as plastic pots, tubs and trays and small electrical items.

You can find out more about the service online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newrecyclingservice or by calling 0131 529 3030

Anti social behaviour levels drop

The latest figures show that there has been a 30% reduction in youth antisocial behaviour in the #StrongerNorth area.

This is thanks to public information, faster responses by Police Scotland and tougher action by Community Safety teams. Youth groups have also played an important part in this by offering alternatives to criminal and anti social behaviour by providing new activities in the evenings and weekends.

This is fantastic news but there is still much to be done. We will continue to work with the local community to help reduce this more and build safer neighbourhoods.

Community clean-ups a success

Since the end of last year over 90 residents have worked with the Council to carry out seven clean-ups in West Pilton and Muirhouse – collecting an impressive 15 tonnes of rubbish! These activities not only make common areas cleaner but they also bring communities and neighbours together. If you want to find out more information about having one organised in your area, call Fraser on 529 5023 or email

stronger.north@edinburgh.gov.uk



Working for a safer North

By Inspector David Happs

Police Scotland has continued to focus on local priorities of reducing violence, antisocial behaviour, housebreaking and road safety in the area. Our Air Support Unit, police dogs, horses, Roads Policing teams and other plain clothed and uniformed officers have supported local police patrols in the area on a regular basis. All of these officers are very much focussed on targeting the small minority of people committing crime in the area.

We listened to the concerns from local people about housebreaking. The message is clear - we won't tolerate housebreaking in the city and want to work with homeowners to prevent it happening in the first place. We have made a number of arrests locally, our detection rates are increasing resulting in more offenders being brought before court and we have worked hard to recover stolen items and return them to rightful owners. I would urge local residents to please consider the security of your home – there is lots of advice to be had. We recently held several crime prevention events for local people to discuss measures to protect their home and hear firsthand what action is being taken locally to target offenders

We have continued to reduce violent crime in the Forth ward – serious violent crime is down by 36% on the 5 year average which is 37 fewer victims. Our use of stop and search in the area has led to knives and harmful drugs being seized and offenders reported.

To ensure further action is taken against residents causing disruption in their community I have an officer based with council community safety team sharing relevant information in regard to antisocial behaviour.

While we have made significant steps tackling crime locally, we accept that there is still more work to be done. Our aim remains the same - to create a better and safer community for the people of North Edinburgh.

Follow us on social media Twitter @edinnorthpolice or Facebook Edinburgh Police Division for more crime prevention tips and updates on police action in the area.

Meet the team.....Christine Mackay

What is your role in #StrongerNorth?

I manage the Total Craigroyston Initiative which aims to bring partners together to improve outcomes for children and families in the area



What is your favourite part of the job?

I really enjoy working with partners when we can make a difference to people's lives

What do you hope to achieve as a part of your role in #StrongerNorth?

#StrongerNorth and Total Craigroyston are complementary– my role is to ensure that the work that Total Craigroyston is doing is contributing to Stronger North and vice versa and that we are actually making a difference.

What did you do before this?

Prior to managing Total Craigroyston, I was the Community Learning and Development Manager for North and East Edinburgh

When not working – what do you do in your spare time?

Drink wine, walk my dog, see my pals

Tell us something that we don't know about you?

I used to be a tight rope walker!

New street lights

We have replaced the street lighting in West Pilton and Muirhouse to increase community safety and make the streets brighter and safer at night.

Keep In Touch!



@north_team



StrongerNorth



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