

## Media release

**Wednesday 8 December 2010**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL: 11.30AM**

### **Serious Crime Directorate Christmas crackdown on criminals across Kent and Essex**

68 people have been arrested this morning as part of a targeted day of action across both Kent and Essex by the new Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, to tackle those criminals causing the most harm in both counties.

Sending out a clear message to criminals in the run up to Christmas, teams from divisions across the whole of Kent and Essex executed a series of warrants and planned operations targeting those involved in a wide variety of crimes from burglary and other theft related offences including vehicle and metal theft, handling stolen goods, and drug supply at all levels from street dealers to suppliers.

Arrest this morning include:

#### **Kent**

##### **North Kent**

31 year old woman arrested for theft  
20 year old man arrested for possession of drugs and theft of motor vehicle  
30 year old man burglary other than dwelling and theft

##### **Mid Kent**

51 year old man arrested for burglary dwelling  
27 year old man arrested for burglary artifice  
18 year old man arrested for burglary other than dwelling and theft  
Two 18 year old men arrested for theft  
22 year old man arrested for possession with intent to supply cannabis  
20 year old woman and 24 year old man arrested for handling stolen goods  
20 year old man arrested for theft of motor vehicle

## **South Kent**

30 year old man arrested for theft from motor vehicle

## **East Kent**

43 year old man, a 71 year old man, a 24 year old woman and a 40 year old man have all been arrested for handling stolen goods. £700 cash has been found and a quantity of jewellery and antiques recovered. Large quantity of electrical goods including mobile phones and playstations are in the process of being seized

## **Medway**

24 year old man arrested for handling stolen goods

## **Essex**

### **Eastern Division**

24 year old woman arrested for outstanding court warrants

33 year old man arrested for drug possession

28 year old man arrested on suspicion of illegal entry to UK

### **South Eastern Division**

23 year man and two 25 year old men arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.

32 year old man arrested on suspicion of involvement in supply of Class A drugs

### **South Western Division**

22 year old man arrested on suspicion of cultivation of cannabis

39 year old man and 23 year old man arrested for possession of Class A drugs

47 year old woman and 25 year old man arrested for fraud offences

31 year old man arrested for drug possession and abstraction of electricity

19 year old arrested on suspicion of drug cultivation

22 year old woman arrested for possession of a controlled drug

### **Western Division**

20 year old man arrested on suspicion of possession of cannabis and possession of a firearm

44 year old man and an 18 year old man arrested for possession of amphetamine with intent to supply

42 year old woman arrested for possession of Class B drugs

Assistant Chief Constable Alan Pughsley, who leads the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said of today's day of action:

"We are sending out a clear message that we will not tolerate criminals causing harm in our communities. We are listening and responding to what local residents are telling us concerns them the most, and are tackling criminality at all levels, from those involved in burglary and other theft related crime, those who handle stolen goods, and those who use, deal and supply drugs which can often fuel all other types of offending.

The Serious Crime Directorate is working closely with our police colleagues across all parts of Kent and Essex to provide intelligence and support to target and tackle anyone involved in serious criminality in our neighbourhoods, from home grown criminal networks within our own communities, to criminals who travel into Kent and Essex to commit offences.

Today, as the Christmas season approaches, we have taken a number of criminals off the streets of both counties so they cannot ruin the festive period with their criminal behaviour. We will continue to target anyone who commits crime in Kent and Essex in ongoing pro-active operations over the coming months.

The message we are sending out today is don't commit crime in Kent and Essex because we will catch you and bring you to justice."

This is the biggest co-ordinated day of action by the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate since it was formed earlier this year. The Directorate is one of the largest divisions in UK policing dedicated to tackling serious and organised crime, with more than 1100 officers and staff working together across both counties.

In order to keep local residents and the public informed about today's operation, there have been regular Twitter updates issued throughout and both the Kent and Essex Police websites have been regularly updated with information.

Police are also reminding people of some simple things they can do to help keep themselves and their property safe at this time year:

### **Home security:**

- Lock all doors and windows overnight and when you are away
- If you have UPVC doors, ensure they are double locked
- Don't leave keys, handbags or valuables visible through a window
- Consider fitting extra security measures such as spy holes, door chains, door locks and intruder alarms
- Consider installing external security lights (but make sure the lights don't affect your neighbours and that alarms turn off after 20 minutes)
- Avoid leaving side gates open and make sure ladders and garden equipment that could be used to force entry are not left lying around.
- Keep garages and sheds locked (and alarmed if possible)
- Store bins carefully so that they cannot be used as a climbing aid
- Never hide spare house keys outside or in a shed
- Security mark and photograph valuable property, paying special attention to any distinguishing marks such as initials or crests
- Record serial numbers and mobile phone IMEI numbers
- Register the serial numbers of your valuables on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) (the UK national property database)

- Christmas presents should be kept out of sight and packaging should be disposed of carefully to avoid advertising valuable gifts.
- Many families will go away over the festive period leaving their homes empty. To deter would-be thieves, people are urged to use timers on lights, leave their radios on, and cancel papers and milk deliveries.

### **Vehicle security advice:**

- Ensure your car is locked and windows are not left open
- Use an alarm, immobiliser or steering lock if possible
- Remove all valuables, including sat nav systems, when leaving your vehicle, even if you will only be away for a few minutes
- Clean the suction marks from the windscreen if you have a portable sat nav
- Don't leave valuables or money on display; even small change can look tempting to thieves
- Don't leave car keys near windows and doors when you are at home
- Park your vehicle in a garage, a secure car park or in well-lit areas.

### **Staying safe at night:**

- If you're going out in the evening, plan how you intend to get home beforehand – book a taxi or have a designated driver in your group
- If you drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs you could not only ruin your own future, but that of others – think before you drink
- Alcohol makes you vulnerable and more likely to take risks - stay in control, avoid confrontational situations and walk away if you need to
- Always keep an eye on your drink – don't leave it unattended
- If you are walking home from a night out, do so in groups and stay in busy, well-lit areas
- Keep valuables in a bag or zipped away to the front of your body and use a purse chain if possible
- Don't leave your belongings unattended

You can find more advice and information about today's operations on the Kent Police website [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk) and Essex Police website [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk).

You can follow us on Twitter @ [www.twitter.com/kent\\_police](http://www.twitter.com/kent_police) and [www.twitter.com/EssexPoliceUK](http://www.twitter.com/EssexPoliceUK).

If you are concerned about any policing issues in your community, please contact your local neighbourhood officer. To find out more in Kent, visit [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk) and enter your postcode to get details of your neighbourhood team.

Equally any residents with concerns or information which may be useful to police in Essex should contact their neighbourhood policing team on 0300 333 4444. Crime prevention advice can be found by visiting [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)

If you have any information about you can also contact Crimestoppers, anonymously on 0800 555 111.

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

For further information, please contact the media officer for the Serious Crime Directorate, Lesley Miller on 07772 113090 or for Essex related queries or requests, please contact Donna Veasey in the Essex Police press office 01245 452450.

Audio and video footage is available for media to download and use at:  
[www.kent.police.uk/journalistsmaterial](http://www.kent.police.uk/journalistsmaterial)

Photos can be provided on request.