

UK Missing Persons Bureau Newsletter

Operation Raptor

Upcoming events:

- CRA Workshop: 26th November 2015.
- Missing People Christmas Carol Service: 7th December 2015.

missing people

CROYDON COUNCIL
www.croydon.gov.uk



Earlier in the year NCA officers from the UK Missing Persons Bureau and the Missing Children's Team worked on Operation Raptor.

Operation Raptor was a multi agency operation investigating and responding to child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Croydon. It had been identified by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and Croydon Council's Children Social Care that there was a disproportionate number of children going missing in the Croydon area or being located in Croydon after going missing. Many of these children were subject to CSE and some were involved in drug distribution. The NCA had been tasked to produce an analytical report identifying key threats and opportunities for tactical

intervention, disruption and safeguarding.

A group of 20 children believed to be the most vulnerable and at risk were identified. It was apparent within the information held that these children were going missing but were not being formally reported to the police by the responsible adults.

Croydon Police and officers from the local misper unit conducted face to face interviews for the young people when they returned from missing to ascertain if any further information could be gained. Profiles were developed of the children, using all the information that was available.

From this group of 20 children the NCA-CEOP officers developed a profile of risks and vulnerabilities which indicated possible

criminal and child abuse activity.

The report was used by the MPS to plan a joint day of action by NCA and MPS officers where 3 of the individuals identified in our report were arrested and charged. On the day, there were also multi-agency teams deployed in Croydon to raise awareness of CSE to members of the public, and to identify any intelligence for further action.

Croydon are planning to continue the work started by Raptor. The Council has secured £10,000 of funding to carry out further profiling work. They are also bidding for £97,000 to fund two workers for the next three years to continue the proactive work.

Men who go missing on a night out: risk, outcome, and search strategies.

Cases of men going missing on a night out – often to be found dead in water – have attracted considerable attention in recent years. Many cases take a long time to be resolved, leaving families 'in limbo' and attracting media attention to the police investigation. The UK MPB is working with Geoff Newiss (an established researcher in the field of missing persons) to learn more about these cases. The new

study will establish the actual risk of men going missing on a night out being found dead, and the relative risk of being found in water or on land. In addition, data will be collected from police, coroners, and the UK MPB to establish profiles of these disappearances that can be used to inform search strategies. The findings will also contribute to the development of preventative measures and safety campaigns.

If you know of any cases of men going missing on a night out since 2010 - including those who are found alive - please send details to missingpersons@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk





Child Rescue Alert

Child Rescue Alert (CRA) is a partnership between the police, the media, and the public that seeks the assistance of the public where it is feared that a child may be at imminent risk of serious harm. The aim is to quickly engage the entire community in the search for a high-risk missing child via public and media channels.

NCA's partnership with Missing People and Groupcall has increased the reach of the alerts using traditional

broadcasts, as well as, digital advertising boards, London Midland Railways, a dedicated CRA app, and text service.

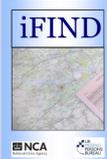
On the 16th September this year, Facebook also committed to supporting CRA and will automatically place alerts on user news feeds located within a targeted geographical area specific to where the child has gone missing. The enhanced ability to localise alerts allows police to focus their resources and develop a more proportionate response that can

be increased, if required.

To extend the service we are looking for police and external partners to 'sign up' to receive CRA alerts across their work mobile devices.

If you would like to represent your organisation in supporting us then please contact sherri.mcara@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk and don't forget to sign up to receive CRA alerts on your personal devices at www.childrescuealert.org.uk – by working together we can save a child's life.

iFIND



The UK MPB has developed iFIND, an operational tool designed to improve the speed and effectiveness of

searches for missing persons.

iFIND is an evidence informed product providing statistical analyses of location information for different categories of missing persons. The categories listed represent

those persons who have an increased likelihood of requiring a search response. iFIND is inspired by existing search assistance tools, particularly the colloquially known 'Grampian Research' produced in 2007.

iFIND sought to replicate the Grampian Research by using a broader and more recent dataset. iFIND provides data on a wider range of missing person categories and reports time located in an alternative format

i.e. from time last seen rather than time reported. Feedback from PoSAs and other experts has shaped the document to ensure it can be applied effectively in a real-time, operational environment.

iFIND is soon to be piloted in a number of police forces and some areas of the volunteer search community. Following the evaluation of the pilot scheme, it is anticipated to be rolled out nationally which is expected to be in the early part of 2016.

Texel Island Case

UK MPB often assist Interpol and overseas forces with cases of missing persons and unidentified bodies/remains where it is thought the individual has or may have a link with the UK.



UK MPB received a request for support from the Netherlands in October 2014. A deceased man was found on the small island of Texel, badly decomposed and held together by a wetsuit. Unfortunately it is common for bodies to be found on Texel Island. After cross matching the details on our missing persons database HERMES, all UK coastal forces were alerted.

Due to the decomposition of the body, it was not possible to obtain fingerprints so whilst the DNA profiling was progressing, UK MPB arranged for a forensic artist impression to be created. The image was based on the bone structure and identifying features of the remains.

Meanwhile, investigators in the Netherlands discovered that the wetsuit had been bought from a sports shop just outside Calais. The goods had been paid for in cash and there was no CCTV available. A possible theory was that the unidentified man could have been trying to swim the English Channel to get to the UK. Therefore, the forensic artist impression was shown to civil aid organisations in Calais, resulting in a French aid worker recognising the individual as a refugee. The aid worker had heard that the individual's uncle was searching for him.

The family were contacted and DNA samples obtained from the family confirmed a 100% match between their son and the unidentified man.



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