

Overview

- Significant rise in large-scale shoplifting and ASB linked to Class A drug users across both wards.
- Two of Hillingdon's top ten theft hotspots located in Northwood and Northwood Hills.
- Offending directly undermining business confidence, community safety, and trust in policing.

Strategic Approach

- Adoption of a zero-tolerance strategy to disrupt drug-related offending and support CBO and custodial outcomes.
- Priority focus on rebuilding trust with businesses to increase reporting and evidence sharing.
- Streamlined evidence-gathering processes enabling rapid case progression (CCTV, statements, suspect ID).

Key Operational Activity

- Daily business engagement by PCSOs Usher, Humphries, and Hyder, resulting in major uplift in reporting.
- Efficient evidence management led by PC Younie, reducing turnaround to 2–3 days.
- Targeted arrest activity by PCs Forse and Riaz, including extended hours and court attendance to secure CBOs.
- Proactive operations:
 - Live monitoring of store CCTV to catch offenders in real time.
 - Multi-agency deployments with specialist units, council ASB teams, licensing, and trading standards.
 - Execution of search warrants and enforcement of dispersal zones.

Outcomes & Impact

- Substantial reduction in ASB and shoplifting across both wards.
- Prolific offenders removed from the area through arrests, CBOs, and custodial sentences.
 - Examples:
 - Naffi Bobb – 19 weeks' imprisonment for theft, vehicle interference, and CBO breaches.
 - Antoine Etienne – 12-week custodial sentence and six-year CBO for 13 thefts.
- Community confidence significantly improved, with strong positive feedback from businesses and residents.

- Written commendations received from Tesco (two stores) and Waitrose praising visibility, responsiveness, and impact.

Performance Metrics

- Northwood: 71 offences → 22 charges/PNDs → 30.98% detection rate
- Northwood Hills: 56 offences → 29 charges/PNDs → 51.79% detection rate
- Combined: 127 offences → 54 charges/PNDs → 42.52% detection rate
- Metropolitan Police Service average detection rate for shoplifting: ~5% (not official figures).
- Performance represents a major outlier of excellence within the MPS.

Risks & Considerations

- Sustained pressure required to prevent displacement of offenders to neighbouring areas.
- Continued monitoring of CBO compliance essential to maintain gains.
- Ongoing partnership work needed to address underlying drug-related drivers.

Forward Plan

- Maintain zero-tolerance enforcement and rapid evidence-gathering model.
- Continue proactive and multi-agency operations targeting ASB and drug-related offending.
- Strengthen business engagement to sustain reporting levels and intelligence flow.
- Monitor and enforce CBOs to prevent reoffending and protect local businesses.