



## FTiC's Knife Crime Event

Thank you to everyone who attended the knife crime event on Tuesday 17th July. It was a great turn out and I was glad to see so many people are keen to do something about knife crime in Croydon. There were a lot of great guest speakers, but from a Police point of view I was really pleased that Chief Inspector Craig Knight and PC Ryan Jennings were able to come and speak to everyone.

Mr Knight is the Chief Inspector for Neighbourhoods and Partnerships in Croydon, and was previously my Inspector when I was on an Emergency Response Team, so I know first hand that he has extensive experience in front line Policing.

We have had so many incidents in this Borough that it is sometimes hard to know if things are getting better or worse. In Croydon there has actually been a marked decrease in the levels of violence over the last year, which is not the norm for London as a whole, and as Chief Inspector Knight pointed out with 93,000 people on the Borough and 400 victims of violent crime, Croydon is still a safe place to live. But there is no doubt that knife crime is a plague, and we must all work together to help solve this problem. The Police need the help of the local community to pass on information which we can use, to let us know about ongoing issues and to engage with our young people. The faith community are perfectly placed to help us do this. I was so pleased to see the faith community sign the pledge against knife crime, and I have already been approached by individuals who are looking to do work around this issue within their own places of worship.

I need to give a special thankyou to Penny Smith-Orr for arranging the meeting around these issues, as always FTiC have been and continue to be so helpful and supportive to the Police and the community, and play a key role in Croydon.

I know we are already half way through the summer, and the heat wave appears to have passed. But just as a quick reminder to all to be mindful of leaving windows open overnight and when you go out of the house, as this can give burglars ample opportunity to commit crime. I look forward to seeing many of you soon.

**Allan Gill**  
**Faith Liaison Officer**  
**Metropolitan Police Croydon**

