

## Innovative policing

Despite the fact that crime in the County of Stockholm is falling, far too many young people are growing up in areas with a high crime rate. Violent crime is on the increase. Respect for law and order is in decline and criminal networks are gaining ground – leading to more young people being drawn into a criminal lifestyle.

This is the driving force behind our neighbourhood police station initiative. The primary objective is to counteract the

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# Neighbourhood Police Service



recruitment of young people into criminal networks and to reinforce trust in the police. The neighbourhood police work closely together with other forces in society to prevent crime. They are visible in the area and become a natural part of day-to-day life. We must establish better contact with social groups that are reluctant to report crime.

This is a development of our working methods, characterised by proximity, totality and long-term thinking. Together with other agencies, the police can work to bring about long-term change where the good forces in society can control developments in the local community.

Carin Götblad, County Police Commissioner



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## What is a neighbourhood police station?

A neighbourhood police station is a simpler form of police station with limited opening hours. Each station has four to six police officers – a visible presence in the residential area in which they operate.

The location of neighbourhood police stations depends on the problems experienced in different areas, including crimes reported to the police, the results of security surveys and other social factors.



## How should the police operate?

Neighbourhood police stations help support local crime prevention, focusing on the area and its residents. The neighbourhood police work to build up trust in the police, particularly among young people.

Through neighbourhood police stations the police can pick up more easily on problems which are emerging in an area and implement preventive measures more rapidly. The police can also intervene to combat crime and establish respect for law and order.

## Working with partners

Without long-term initiatives for activities for young people or without education programmes and treatment for people with abuse problems, the work done by the police will not have the desired effect.

To address this, municipal authorities that are allocated neighbourhood police stations need to work together with the police. The measures taken will then be more consistent and will therefore have a greater impact.



## Will this work?

There is good experience to be gained from neighbourhood policing in the United Kingdom. This is similar to our neighbourhood police station initiative.

Scientific evaluations of the British initiative show that in areas covered by the initiative crime figures are down, safety has been improved and trust in the police has increased.

## Collective initiative

Neighbourhood police stations are part of a broader initiative by the police in the County of Stockholm to prevent crime among young people, to reduce violent crime and to stop the recruitment of young people into criminal networks.

The individual initiatives are linked to each other – they are not just temporary projects. Preventive police work among young people must be long-term and sustainable.



## Other police initiatives

- Joint planning with the municipal authorities within the framework of the Joint Council of Police Commissioners.
- Police volunteers in local crime prevention work.
- A support centre for young victims of crime and a support centre for young perpetrators.
- The Nova II project is aimed at combating organised crime and an important objective is to stop the recruitment of young people into criminal networks.
- County Chief Commissioner's Youth Council, to raise the level of trust in the police among young people.
- A contact police officer should be available for each school.