

'Time wasters will be prosecuted'

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Police have issued a stark warning to people reporting false crimes that they will face prosecution if it is discovered they are wasting police time.

Officers investigating robberies and burglaries across the borough say valuable police time has been wasted investigating false offences, leaving them with less time to spend investigating genuine reports.

In recent months, officers have spent time investigating armed robberies and burglaries which have turned out to be false.

On April 16, a 18-year-old claimed her phone had been stolen from her bag while in a Croydon nightclub.

When officers from Croydon town centre team began to investigate the "crime" they tried to get in touch with the victim to clarify what she was wearing and who she was with on the night of the theft, with a view to look at the club's CCTV footage.

But when officers checked her name and details they found she had not attended the club that night.

Officers later found out from the victim's friend she had admitted losing her phone and she was fined £80 for wasting police time.

A 15-year-old boy

received a police caution after claiming he was robbed at gunpoint in Station Road on June 16. The schoolboy claimed he was threatened with a gun during the incident at about 9.45pm. While investigating officers scoured CCTV footage from the area, but the boy later

admitted the report was false. A 14-year-old girl was also given a police caution after claiming she was threatened with a knife during a burglary at her Thornton Heath home in which she claimed her iPod, blackberry and iPad were stolen. Detective Inspector Brian Hobbs, of the Croydon robbery department, said some people make

false reports to claim on insurance, and others are often young people who have accidentally lost their phone.

He said: "We take every report very seriously and huge resources go into investigating robberies, burglaries and gun crime.

"Making false allegations wastes time, money and distorts the crime statistics, creating a false climate of fear.

"Be warned if you make false allegations you will go from being a victim of crime to a suspect of one."

Stark warning: D Insp Brian Hobbs issued a warning about making false claims



Smell of a strike not welcomed

So there could be a bin men strike in Croydon, and after reading about the impact the strikes are having in Brighton, I hope that it does not happen.

Due to the fortnightly collections, some of the streets in Croydon have bins overflowing with rubbish, so I dread to think what the streets would look and smell like during a strike.

I hope the unions and the bin men reach a solution by the end of the week.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Girls argue their case for donation

A team of students at Coloma Convent Girls school are celebrating securing £3,000 for South London YMCA.

Year 12 pupils at the school research and visited grassroots charities as part of the youth and philanthropy initiative (YPI), before presenting their arguments as to why their chosen charity should receive £3,000 from YPI in a Dragon's Den style competition.

Seven groups from the

school presented the case for their charities, which included the Lily Foundation, Potential4you and Lives not Knives, in front of the judging panel, which featured Croydon Central MP Gavin Barwell, Councillor Janet Marshall and the chairman of the school governors.

Although all seven groups presented well, Mr Barwell announced the team representing South London YMCA as the winners securing the

£3,000 donation.

The winning group of girls consisted of Francesca Emmanuel, Nite-mi Arowobusoye, Niamh Collins and Catriona Collins and the girls collected the cheque alongside Emma Farrow-Thomas from South London YMCA, at the school final held in the school's performing arts centre on Monday.

The group will now go on to represent the school at the national YPI finals on June 27.



Winners: The girls with their cheque

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