

# **CAN YOU HELP?**

Police are appealing for information about a linked series of four rapes in the boroughs of **Richmond upon Thames and Hounslow** that happened between **February 14 and May 4, 2009** in the following areas:

**Inwood Road, Hounslow** (February 14)

**Hounslow Road, junction with Brainton Avenue** (22 February)

**Crane Park, Whitton** (30 April)

**Telford Road, Whitton** (4 May)

All of the victims are aged between 16 and 25. The rapes happened late at night and in the early hours of the morning.

The suspect in all four offences is described as having a dark complexion. He is in his mid-to-late 20s, with chubby cheeks and thick eyebrows.

**Do you think you might know  
who the suspect is?**

**Did you see or hear anything suspicious  
in these areas on the dates of the attacks?**

Anyone with any information that might help the investigation is urged to call the incident room on:

**020 8785 8244**

or if you wish to remain **ANONYMOUS** phone Crimestoppers on:

**0800 555 111**

# POLICE APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE

## **Take care of yourself on the streets, be safe and secure**

Generally the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames is a safe place to live, work and visit. There are many things you can do to make yourself safer and more confident when out on the streets.

**Safety in numbers** – Try to walk or travel with people you know. When you can, stick to routes where other people are and avoid short cuts in lonely places such as alleyways and parks. Try not to walk alone and keep to well-lit main roads.

**Be assertive** – When you are out and about look purposeful. Assertiveness in the way you behave reduces any perceived vulnerability.

**Be aware** – Using a mobile phone, wearing a hood and loud personal music all affect your awareness of the surroundings. If you regularly walk alone or go early morning jogging or cycling, try to vary your route and time.

**Trust your instincts** – They are there to warn you of potential risks, e.g. avoid shortcuts down alleys and across parks. Move away from suspicious people, have faith with your intuition and act on it.

**Personal attack alarm** - Consider carrying one as it provides reassurance and can deter or disorientate an attacker when activated, giving you time to get away.

Free personal attack alarms are available from Twickenham Police Station or Richmond Council Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham.

In an emergency always dial 999 (or 112 from mobiles).

If you've been affected by any of these issues, help is available.

Havens offer a confidential service for sexual assault victims. Whether you decide to report what has happened to the police is your choice, but make sure you get the help and support you need from Havens. Text the word 'Haven' to 64118 to find the one nearest to you.

Community safety advice is available at [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)