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## News

### Bikes for hoodies

By MCN

Events

27 January 2007 11:34

Cops in London are hoping to stop bike theft before it starts.

They are doing this by providing kids from problem areas with motorcycles to work on, learn about and ride in a safe and legal environment.

Teenagers from Barking will learn motorcycle mechanics during five weekly workshops run by reformed offender Mark Riches in a bid to divert them from a criminal path.

Sergeant Simon Whalley, who launched the scheme at the first meeting last week, said: "We have a lot of problems with kids riding motorbikes illegally."

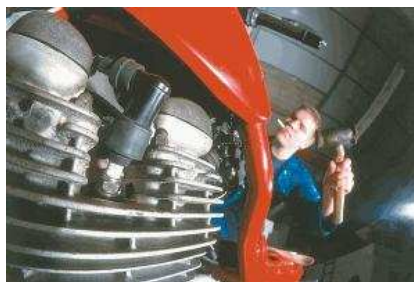
He said that as well as mechanics, Riches' firm Orbit Training would teach the kids about rider training and owner responsibility.

He said: "They're getting them legal and supplying them with bikes cheap on the basis that they complete the course."

He said: "They are learning about how to ride safely and the problems with nicking bikes and riding illegally."

He added: "The kids took to it like ducks to water. They've got nothing to do on the estates and you never quite know how it's going to go."

They didn't all know one another but they all just worked together constantly for four-and-a-half hours, taking bikes apart and putting them back together. It was a joy to see."



Lessons about safe riding and mechanics are being taught in Barking

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Sunday, 29 April 2007

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