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## Dealer hid drugs near kids' play area

06 February 2008

A STASH of crack cocaine was discovered by police - hidden near a children's playground.

Somers Town safer neighbour-hoods team was tipped off that a dealer had been seen "paying particularly close attention" to the playground in the Curnock Estate.

PCSOs began checking the area regularly - and soon found a stash of 36 rocks of crack hidden up a drainpipe. The find was made just a stone's throw from a playground frequented by young children over summer.

The drugs had a street value of anything up to £720 - and drug website Talk To Frank warn

that even a fraction of the horde would be enough to kill a child



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Sergeant John Cowper, of the Somers Town Safer Neighbour-hoods team, said: "We were looking at the Curnock Estate because we had had complaints that users going into the estate to shoot up.

"We thought drugs were being stored there, so PCSOs started patrolling the area - and found 36 rocks of crack in a drainpipe near the play area. If children had actually been playing there at the time it would have been really bad, but they don't usually use it during the winter."

He added: "It is something we don't want happening - but we are very pleased that people are giving us information we can act on. The dealer must have been pretty unhappy to have found the drugs were gone."

Councillor Ben Rawlings, executive member for community safety, said: "Crack cocaine is a terrible thing but hiding it near a children's playground is even worse. It is particularly important that areas where children go to play are safe.

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