

Lewes District Police Community Newsletter

June - September 2019



JULY saw a week long campaign raising awareness of anti-social behaviour, the types of ASB, who to report to, as well as a week of activities in your local communities.

In this week of action, Lewes Prevention Team set out to increase people's understanding of what ASB is, its impact on people's lives and how it can lead to more serious crime.

In addition to Friday and Saturday night Operation Blitz patrols, the team conducted extra patrols across the district raising awareness of ASB and taking action on reports received by members of the community.



During the week of action, local officers seized two off-road motorbikes after receiving several complaints of them being ridden anti-socially near the Big Park in Peacehaven. The bikes were being ridden by young adults from the local area.

The local team also increased their patrols in northern villages following reports of problem youths in South Chailey and Balcombe

Meanwhile, a new project has been set up in Newhaven to tackle problems in the area. Initially, the multi-agency team will focus on tackling youth crime and anti-social behaviour and will work together to improve ASB hot-spot areas within the town.

Sussex Police, Lewes District Council, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, SCDA and Targeted Youth Services and The Rita Project will be visible in the town engaging with the community, supporting and diverting individuals away from crime, but enforcing where necessary to ensure that problems are tackled effectively. We will continue to update you around this project.

We are committed to tackling anti-social behaviour and reducing the harm that it causes in our communities. We continue to work closely with local authorities, other agencies and the community to seek opportunities for early intervention, support for victims, and make appropriate use of the powers available to us where the behaviour persists.

Antisocial behaviour can have a lasting impact on neighbourhoods and communities as it often leads to an increase in crime, particularly violence and criminal damage. If you've witnessed antisocial behaviour of any kind, call us on 101, email 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk or report online on the newly designed ASB reporting form:

www.sussex.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/contact-us-to-discuss-something-else/

Community engagement throughout JULY

PCSOs are on the frontline of policing – out and about on the streets talking to people, building relationships and understanding local issues.

Attending volunteer groups, community days, and coffee mornings held in your local communities; give officers a real insight into the issues faced, and also an opportunity to speak to residents and vulnerable community members on a range of topics; including keeping safe from scams, protecting themselves from romance frauds, along with providing valuable crime prevention advice to discuss and share with family and friends.

Throughout July, PCSOs from the Lewes district attended many groups including; Chailey Village Hall residents road safety action group, St Mary's Social Centre Lewes, Newhaven Fire Station community day, Seaford Neighbourhood watch evenings, and Ringmer village hall.

Do you run a local group, coffee morning or drop in session in your community and feel you'd benefit from a PCSO popping in to offer crime prevention advice or support? Please get in touch: lewes@sussex.pnn.police.uk



JULY also saw Lewes Prevention team join Community Speedwatch (CSW) volunteers in various hot spot locations across the district, to assist in conducting speed checks, and learning from volunteers and residents about their concerns, and work together on ways forward to tackle concerns.

CSW opened their volunteer coordinators and operators recruitment in Seaford, Newhaven, Peacehaven, and Lewes.

If speeding is an issue in your area, you can join a local groups, by going to www.communityspeedwatch.org and choosing the group from the drop-down list, then following the on-screen prompts. If you can't find a group listed, you can also register a new group.

There are still opportunities to join as a speedwatch volunteer in your area, full training is given by Sussex Police following registration. The scheme in Sussex has a proven track record in helping to reduce deaths and injuries on the roads.

If you would like further information or have an informal discussion, Steve and the CSW team can be contacted by emailing csw@sussex.pnn.police.uk



Community engagement and patrols throughout JULY and AUGUST

PCSOs play a key part of your local policing service - working alongside and supporting police officer colleagues in solving local problems in your communities.

Not only by working closely with young people and local schools, speaking to community, religious and business leaders, providing crime prevention advice, and reassuring the public; but in also addressing local issues by getting out into towns and villages across the district on high visibility foot patrols, gathering intelligence, meeting people and offering advice and support to members of the public.



What follows is just a snapshot of some of the patrols across the district in the last few months....

- PCSOs and Prevention Sergeant Reynolds continued regular Lewes town centre patrols over the months, working with local businesses to address their concerns.
- PCSO Stainer took to our more rural villages, Barcombe and Newick to meet local residents on the greens, and offer crime prevention advice following shed breaks across rural villages.
- Patrols continued throughout the months in and around the Big Park in Peacehaven following reported youth related ASB, with 2 seizures of dirt bikes made which had been causing alarm and distress to residents.
- PCSO Disney joined various nurseries across the Lewes district, meeting local children and nursery teachers.
- Following youth related ASB around the Landport estate and the local park, PCSO Marchant extended his patrol times to visit the areas affected.
- PCSO Collins continued regular patrols around the Landport estate to tackle reports of vehicle damage.
- Home security checks were conducted by PCSO McNirlan across areas of Peacehaven after reports of a spate of daytime burglaries in the area.
- Patrols by PCSO Stainer continued throughout July around schools in Ringmer in response to concerns from parents of suspicious males in cars hanging around outside the schools.
- PCSO Collins continued her patrols across South Chailey, Plumpton and Wivelsfield, stopping in to speak to local business owners and assisting in updating their security.
- Following concerns from residents in Chailey about speeding in the village, PCSOs Stainer and Fenn attended their road safety meeting and introduced residents to our Community Speedwatch scheme.
- PCSOs from Lewes Prevention assisted local Speedwatch volunteers in Seaford to conduct checks in the area, and gather statistics for their problem solving profiles.
- PCSO Fenn met shop owners in Newick to offer crime prevention advice following attempted shoplifting.
- Continued patrols by PCSO Willson and Neighbourhood First across Lewes and Newhaven skateparks, has contributed to a decline in bike thefts from young park users.



JULY also saw a 2 week national firearm amnesty campaign, run by the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) across Sussex and Surrey, which ran from the 20th July to the 4th August.

The aim of the operation, was to reduce the number of illegally held firearms in circulation which could fall into the hands of criminals, this included replica firearms, air weapons, BB guns, imitation firearms, antique guns, de-activated guns, component parts, stun guns, Taser, cs/pepper spray and other ballistic items.

Across the Lewes district, a total of 17 firearms, ranging from rifles, antique pistols, and shotguns were surrendered at Lewes, Newhaven and Seaford front offices.

As well as firearms, pellets and ammunitions were also surrendered during the two weeks. The main proportion of these firearms will now be safely destroyed, however some may be retained by NABIS or museums if they are of significant interest or unusual.



Any guns which can be proved to be linked to a crime will be kept as evidence and retained for any future court case proceedings.

During the surrender period, those who surrendered firearms would not have faced prosecution for illegal possession of a firearm at the point of surrender of the firearm to lawful authority, and they could remain anonymous. However, the surrender does not mean police would not investigate firearms offences, should any come to light, now that the operation has concluded.

Should you be in possession of unwanted firearms and wish to get rid of them, prior to attending any front office, please call 101 and seek the necessary guidance first, thank you.

Summer half-term Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) - Operation Blitz



In addition to the introduction of a new multi-agency team starting in Newhaven, Lewes Prevention continue to operate Operation Blitz across the Lewes district throughout the Summer.

Operation Blitz is a designated ASB patrol, and an on-going drive each Friday and Saturday night (between 1800-0000), in which officers from the Lewes district Prevention team take to the streets in areas which have seen an increase in ASB crimes, or youth related ASB, along with areas which have come to attention from community reports over the week.

From 1800-0000 hours, you can call officers on a designated phone number should you witness or become victim of any ASB, or youth related ASB. The contact

number for the Lewes areas (which covers all rural towns north of Lewes, right down through the coast including Peacehaven, Newhaven and Seaford) is: **07989 188960**.

Outside of these times, please continue to report ASB to us on 101, email 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk or report online on the newly designed ASB reporting form: www.sussex.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/contact-us-to-discuss-something-else/

You can find out weekly where officers have been, by signing up to a weekly ASB report directly from the Blitz team at www.intheknow.community

AUGUST Sees a new multi-agency team launch in Newhaven; created by the Police to address community issues, and concerns, including; anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder and drug related offences.



Organised by Lewes district police commander Inspector Ed Ripley and supported by other professionals, the problem-solving pilot scheme went live in the first week of August, following concerns over crime and anti-social behaviour in Newhaven.

The pilot team will work from Saxon House, Newhaven, with a six to eight strong team, made up of Police Community Support Officers, Neighbourhood First and Housing Team members from Lewes District Council, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, the Sussex Community Development Association and Target Youth Support youth outreach team and the domestic abuse group, Rita Project.

Earlier this month, the team were met by Sussex Police Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, to learn of the teams new plans.

Working together as a combined unit to address problems raised by local residents will allow the team to not only share information more effectively, but look to, and identify those engaging with criminal behaviour, and use a combined approach to adopt a plan to divert them away from crime.

Insp Ripley said: "How we operate together and the team dynamics will evolve as we go along, but I hope that by the end of the school summer holidays we will have a better understanding of how this will work.

"Officers will identify hot-spots around Newhaven and problem-solve those locations where the presence and behaviour of young people impacts on the community. The team can also be deployed to deal with other issues in the town, acting spontaneously if required."

"Not only crime and disorder will be addressed, but also underlying influences such as housing and domestic situations."

Agencies will meet for regular briefings on Mondays, and will review the team's activities over the previous week, to set targets for the next seven days. If successful, it is hoped to create similar teams elsewhere in Lewes district and further afield.

Regular updates will be posted out via Lewes district social media, and the community messaging service In The Know.

Please visit:

Lewes Facebook:

www.facebook.com/LewesPolice

Lewes Twitter:

www.twitter.com/Lewes_Police

In The Know:

www.intheknow.community



AUGUST also sees PCSO recruitment open across Sussex on Thursday 22 August. To register your interest in the role please email careers@sussex.pnn.police.uk

From dealing with anti-social behaviour and taking statements from victims of crime, to providing reassurance and helping resolve community challenges; our Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) play a critical and visible role in helping keep our communities safe, identifying and protecting the most vulnerable, and preventing harm.

As the first point of contact for the community, you'll need to be a great communicator; calm, confident and compassionate. You'll need to be able to listen carefully, think through challenges and find solutions. Above all, you'll simply care about the community and want to do what you can to keep it safe.



In return, we promise you a good starting salary, great training experiences, opportunities for progression, the chance to achieve a professional qualification - Level 4 Diploma in Community Policing Practice - and the pride that comes from helping others.

By successfully completing the recruitment process, you will join Sussex Police as a PCSO through our new 12-month apprenticeship programme.

This will give you the best possible training and, upon successful completion, you will achieve a Level 4 Diploma in Community Policing Practice – equivalent to a Higher National Certificate (HNC), foundation degree or the first year of an undergraduate degree.

AUTUMN – Log it, lock it, stop it.

Moped and motorbike thefts saw a rise in the Lewes districts last summer and the end of 2018, with various operations being put into action to tackle this. This advice campaign aims to maintain the recent fall in thefts and to support the work that police have already carried out.



Posters will be placed in areas where moped and motorbike thieves are known to operate, as well as bike parks and other areas parking areas.

Advice for bike owners includes; locking your bike in order to make it harder to steal, a solid chain is another deterrent, making it near impossible to wheel away from the parking area.

Covering your bike hides what make and model it is, as well as adding another obstacle to would-be thieves, also think about parking your vehicle in well-lit areas and choosing a location which has CCTV if possible.

All these precautions add up to a better-protected vehicle and fewer incidents of stealing.

For more advice please visit: <https://www.sussex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/theft-of-a-bicycle/how-safe-is-your-bike/>

ROMANCE FRAUD; protect yourself from romance scammers with our DATES tips.

Don't rush into an online relationship – get to know the person, not the profile: ask plenty of questions.

Analyse their profile – confirm the person's identity. Check the person is genuine by putting their name, profile pictures or any repeatedly-used phrases and the term 'dating scam' into your search engine.

Talk to your friends and family - be wary of anyone who tells you not to tell others about them.

Evade scams - never send money or share your bank details with someone you've only met online, no matter what reason they give or how long you've been speaking to them.

Stay on the dating site messenger service - don't use email, phone, social media or other messaging apps until you're confident the person is who they say they are.

Please visit: www.sussex.police.uk/romance-fraud for more information and the signs to look out for.



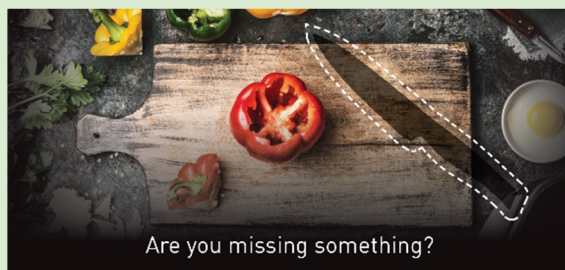
SEPTEMBER will see a week long national campaign, aimed to tackle the danger that knife crime poses by educating those most at risk and carrying out proactive work that takes knives off our streets.

Operation Sceptre, launches a second phase early September, supporting the work Sussex Police carry out all year round to ensure residents are safe from knife crime in their communities.

The campaign comprises a mix of targeted operational and educational activities to remove unwanted knives off the streets of Sussex and to reassure young people that they are more likely to come to harm carrying a knife than walking away from threats of violence.

In February's week long campaign, Lewes Prevention officers visited local schools, colleges, and youth events in order to inform and educate young people about how to act if they feel pressured to carry a knife, and what to do if they felt in danger, and also carried out test purchases across the district, targeting shops selling knives to minors.

Similar events are in the planning for September and more information will be released via our social media accounts, and In The Know community alerts.



Communities will also be encouraged to drop off their dangerous or unwanted knives and blades at police stations across Sussex. These amnesty bins are in place all year round, and there will be no consequences if weapons are disposed of safely here.

Prior to attending any front office, please call 101 and seek the necessary guidance first, thank you.



AUTUMN – This Autumn follow our top tips for keeping yourself and those around safe from fraud and scams.

- Be suspicious of all 'too good to be true' offers and deals.
- Don't agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on time to get independent or legal advice before making a decision.
- Don't hand over money or sign anything until you've checked someone's credentials and their company's.

-Never send money to anyone you don't know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment you're not comfortable with.

-Never give banking or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust. This information is valuable so make sure you protect it.

-If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help. Contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or at Action Fraud. Call us on 101 if you know the suspect or they're still in the area.

-Don't be embarrassed about reporting a scam. Because the scammers are cunning and clever there's no shame in being deceived. By reporting it, you'll make it more difficult for them to deceive others.

A digital copy of our latest Little Book of Big Scams can be viewed and downloaded:

www.sussex.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/sussex/advice/operations-initiatives-and-watch-schemes/operation-signature/the-little-book-of-scams - alternately you can obtain one from your local from office/Police contact point.



Are you in the know? Did you know that you can sign up to witness appeals, crime updates, crime prevention advice, local Police news and more via the community messaging service In The Know? Visit: www.intheknow.community/ to sign up today.

Lewes Prevention staff and officers contribute to a weekly Police news and alerts email which is sent weekly, outlining upcoming events such as local scam talks and Police drop in sessions, as well as a crime summary of recent crimes in your local areas.

A weekly update from the Op Blitz ASB team is also sent via the community messaging service In The Know each Thursday, detailing the team's patrols and their findings from the previous week.

Follow your local Prevention team on social media for up to date community news, snapshots and events.



facebook.com/LewesPolice



twitter.com/Lewes_Police

