



## **Community Policing Report Chippenham Area Board – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Hello and welcome to this Community Policing Team report.

### **County Lines - the true picture**

"The impact drugs have on individuals and communities can be devastating - they can destroy lives and vulnerable people are being threatened and exploited, often in their own homes."

The words of Angus Macpherson, Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, following a County Lines week of intensification work by Wiltshire Police focusing on the young and vulnerable who are often targeted by large, unscrupulous drugs' gangs coming from larger cities.

Officers from the Force's Dedicated Crime Team and Community Policing Teams carried out welfare checks on a number of addresses in the county. As a result:

- 13 vulnerable juveniles were identified and engaged with.
- 25 vulnerable adults were identified and engaged with.
- 19 "cuckooed" addresses were visited.

Also, ten men were arrested, a total of over £3,500 in cash, approximately 60 wraps of drugs and a machete were recovered during the national week of action (Monday 21 to Sunday 27 January 2019) led by the National Crime Agency and National Police Chiefs' Council.

Angus said: "When it comes to County Lines, it is concerning to know that so many vulnerable people can be caught up in what is a destructive cycle - being enticed by promises of gifts, money and perhaps a better life to push drugs and ultimately more misery on other vulnerable people. However, it's heartening to see the good work Wiltshire Police is doing and the positive results it is getting as it continues to work with partners to help reduce harm and prevent crime caused by substance misuse.

"I support a number of partners who work with vulnerable youngsters and adults to help them break the cycle of drugs and ultimately County Lines. They are as follows:

**Wiltshire Youth Offending Team (YOT)** - Laura Mayes, cabinet member for children's services, said: "Wiltshire YOT has worked closely with police colleagues to develop a Youth Restorative Intervention Panel, which is focussed upon early identification of young people at risk of exploitation or entering the criminal justice system.

"The panel aims to identify appropriate support and intervention for young people and their families, to reduce the pull into criminal behaviours and divert young people away from groups or individuals who may exploit them.

"We are stronger when we work together using all the resources at our disposal to protect our young people.

"These initiatives will help us pinpoint those factors that can lead to problems down the line and ensure we provide that support and guidance to steer young people away from a life of crime."

Mike Grizzell, the manager of Wiltshire's young people's drug and alcohol service, **Motiv8**, said: "County Lines operations target young and vulnerable people, so it's something we're sadly seeing more and more of at Motiv8.

"We work in partnership with agencies, including the police, to educate and safeguard young people to prevent harm from drugs and/or alcohol and associated activities. This helps to disrupt gang activity and reduces not just the market for drugs but also the number of young people who can be exploited into selling drugs.

"Our service is free and confidential, and we aim to provide a flexible and non-judgemental space for young people to be open about the problems they are facing."

Ben Judd, Senior Operations Manager at **Turning Point**, said: "IMPACT, Turning Point's Swindon and Wiltshire service, provides support, information and treatment to anyone over 18 with drug and/or alcohol problems. We have been working closely with Wiltshire Police and other local partners to ensure that any victims of the County Lines, that may have a substance misuse problem, are aware of the support that is available to them and fast tracked into treatment if needed.

"If you are worried about your or someone else's drug or alcohol use, call us: Swindon - 01793 328150; Trowbridge - 01225 341520; Salisbury - 01722 343000."

Angus added: "Working with partners is crucial to tackle this problem - but we also need the residents of Wiltshire and Swindon to help us combat drug supply. The police often rely on information from the public to build up an intelligence picture. Please continue to help by reporting any information to 101."

### **Police dogs Tyke and Max retire after successful careers at Wiltshire Police**



Two of our most popular police dogs bid a fond farewell to Wiltshire Police last month and are now settling into retirement having devoted years to fighting criminals and protecting our communities. Having clocked up almost 15 years of service between them, police dogs Tyke and Max have now stepped aside for the new pups in town. PD Tyke has worked alongside PC Cindy Hargreave since he was licenced back in 2013. Now he has retired, he will continue living with PC Hargreave, who has just started training with a new puppy called Betty.

"My first shift with Tyke was an evening shift, and you always worry if the dogs will perform for real, like they do in training," she said.

"We were lucky to get an early result as we attended a report of a burglary in progress at a pub in Swindon, where two men had been seen leaving the back of the pub and into woodland.

I deployed Tyke for a straight chase and he secured one man some distance away. The man was arrested by officers and while we headed back to the pub for a search, Tyke dragged me into the undergrowth and started growling. He'd found the second offender."

Also hanging up his harness for a well-earned rest is Police Dog Max, who worked alongside PC Tracy Doughty. She became his handler when he reached the age of four.

PC Doughty said: "During my first shift with Max we had a report of two men decamping from a car in Swindon. We attended and Max got on the scent straight away. Both men ran and Max chased one who sensibly gave up! The second man evaded us for a while but we found all the property he had dumped and then eventually found him."

One of Max's proudest moments as a police dog was locating offenders involved in a series of burglaries in Swindon, as well as receiving two awards where Max's skills were pivotal to locating a suspect.

**Rural Crime Team** - I would like to update you all that we have a Rural Crime Team which consists of two full time police officers located at Police Headquarters, Devizes. Their primary role is to assist us delivering a coordinated response to identified rural issues and to link in effectively with CPT's across the county. They will proactively target criminals committing offences effecting rural areas, providing a point of contact for partnership agencies such as the National Farmers Union, National Gamekeepers organisation, RSPB and other key stakeholders. Work in conjunction with the Community Policing Teams to reduce the fear of crime, improving the quality of rural life, and to provide reassurance to members of rural communities who often feel isolated and vulnerable. To provide guidance with bespoke prosecutions linked to rural crime. In addition to these two dedicated wildlife crime officers in Wiltshire, we have specifically trained other officers to support the wider force with rural crime advice and guidance, should this be required.

We hope you find these updates useful, for the latest news, crime prevention advice and appeals please follow us on:

Twitter <https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice/>

Or sign up to Community Messaging <https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/>

Thank you for your continued support to Wiltshire Police.

Whilst the report below gives a summary of Key Impact Crimes in your area such as Burglaries, the interactive element will allow you to see the statistics of the reports for your area and your local Police contacts. The website address remains unchanged and the interactive map can be found by following the below link.

**<http://www.wiltshire.police.uk/article/832/Your-Area>**

## **COMMUNITY MESSAGING**



**[feedback@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:feedback@wiltshire.police.uk)**

We are constantly reviewing our visibility and how we can develop this and work with our communities. We cannot physically be everywhere all of the time and we want to ensure consistent information with our communities and to be able to provide the information that matters to you when you need it. There has been some good feedback from our new way of working using Community Messaging so please sign up and use it. <https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/>

Our CPT priorities can be accessed online, also persistent offenders and ongoing issues affecting the Community in line with our Force Control Strategy. Priority Offenders are established at a weekly Sector meeting, as a result priorities and taskings are raised as a way to effectively manage live intelligence and priorities that are developing in the northern hub.

**CONTROL STRATEGY** - Every year, the Force assesses its operational priorities for the year. Through a combination of research and consultation, the Intelligence team identify the areas of criminality that present the biggest threat, harm and risk to our communities as well as the areas where we most need to fill gaps in terms of our understanding, intelligence or capability.

The resulting document is known as the Control Strategy which outlines the following operational priorities:

1. Modern Slavery & Human Exploitation (including Criminal Exploitation of the Vulnerable)
2. Child Sexual Abuse (including Child Sexual Exploitation)
3. Organised Criminality (including County Lines)
4. Domestic Abuse
5. Youth Offending and Emerging Gang Culture

As has been the case in previous iterations of the Control Strategy, there are clear themes running through all the priority areas – ‘Cyber Capabilities’ and ‘Vulnerability and Exploitation’. Digital technology is used to carry out offending in all the above areas and at the heart of all the above there are vulnerable victims, witnesses or offenders that are often being exploited.

“I have been asked at some recent Town Council and Area Board meetings to provide a breakdown of incidents and crime that is reported within a specific town or area. In these days of reduced resource and trying to work smarter I am going to decline this request. All of the information that has been requested can be found through the links that are provided below. The information is that detailed that you are able to search on date, crime type and locality down to street level. Given this, I do not want our community coordinators to spend their valuable time updating data sheets and researching what has already happened, I would rather they focus their efforts in partnership working and problem solving to make our communities safer. Thank you for your continued support – Insp Mark Luffman”

### **LOCAL ISSUES/CRIMES**

**Vehicle Crime** – We continue to receive a small number of reports that both number plates have been stolen from their vehicles, do please report this as they are used to replace plates on other vehicles and then the cars are involved in crime, we would also urge members of the public to call the Police at the time if they see anyone acting suspiciously. We have also advised car owners to ensure that they secure their vehicles at all times and remove personal/valuable property at all times, do not leave on display.

[feedback@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:feedback@wiltshire.police.uk)

**Truckstop, Draycott Cerne** - There has been a number of reports of damage caused or theft from lorries parked up at the Truckstop overnight. Officers have been liaising with the Manager and pulse patrols introduced and other preventative measures put in place.

**Crime Prevention Advice** – We would recommend that if you have farming/gardening/building equipment, to purchase a tracker for as little as £25 and attach to the most likely piece of equipment to be stolen. A fine example of this where a tracker assisted the owner and the Police recently was a vast amount of tools were stolen from a site at Rudloe, Corsham. A tracker was fitted to a disc cutter, this highlighted to the owners' phone exactly where the stolen tools had been removed to. They contacted the Police and were able to guide us to the exact address in Frome. Police located the stolen equipment and arrested the suspect all within a very short timeframe.

**Warrants/Drugs** – We are committed to disrupting criminal activity in relation to drugs.

A Section 23 Misuse of Drugs warrant was executed at a property in Stonelea Close, Chippenham, drug paraphernalia was located. Police have been liaising with Housing with regard to the Community Impact and further action will be taken.

On 26/02/2019 22:06 hours, another Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Warrant was executed at a property within Kilvert House, Dallas Road, a 25 year old male was found to be in possession of cannabis and a quantity of an unknown substance was also seized for further examination. The investigation is ongoing.

We would like to remind the community that concerns raised will always be kept confidential, or alternatively crime stoppers can be contacted anonymously. To report drug activity in your neighbourhood, call 101.

Police have issued a number of Cannabis Street Warnings to individuals as a result of stop checks/searches taking place.

We continue to develop intelligence by adopting a joint multi-agency approach to assist with the preparation of further warrants in the future, so they may be executed in line with the Force Control Strategy.

**Burglaries** - There have been very few burglaries reported to us, however recently there was a burglary in Royal Wootton Bassett and an attempted burglary in Chippenham, where offenders appear to have targeted homes where they believe they can steal cash, high-value jewellery or vehicles. There have also been two burglaries in Chippenham whereby the high powered vehicles have been stolen without taking any keys. Some vehicles have trackers fitted, however we would urge people to follow the below crime prevention advice to keep their valuables safe from would-be thieves. You may find this link useful in relation to burglaries where keyless cars are then stolen.

**<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-47023003>**

Ask your neighbours to keep 'an eye' on your home and report anything suspicious **immediately by calling 101**.

**Rogue Traders** – By law cold callers must provide a 14 day cooling off period in writing when providing a quote for work to be carried out, if not it is fraud. We have had a few reports whereby no paperwork has been issued when calling to carry out work and concerns are being raised if the prices quoted are too high and not reasonable. We have also been liaising with Trading Standards.

**Nottingham Knockers** - They are predominantly males from outside of Wiltshire, stating they have recently been released from prison and use homemade identification, they may look to target the elderly/vulnerable and are generally aggressive towards occupants when selling. **If they cannot produce a Valid Pedlars Certificate and they are selling items, then this is an offence. Please report to the Police at the time.**

On 21<sup>st</sup> February, we received numerous calls from members of the public about men going door to door selling items - this is known as Nottingham Knockers. Officers conducted area patrols and in total located eight men throughout Chippenham (Park Lane, Portal Close, Lowden, Sheldon Road & Hungerdown Lane). All eight men were stopped and had paperwork checked but were found to be 'acting as a pedlar without a valid pedlars certificate'. Eight bags of products were seized from the men containing the goods that they were selling illegally and they were all reported to court.

**Rough Sleepers** – The winter provision at Unity House (Alabare) which is due to stop on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The number of reports of ASB within the town has also reduced, the PSPO is in place. We will continue working in partnership with other agencies including the new Rough Sleepers Initiative team for Wiltshire Council.

### **Shoplifters**

Four men have been arrested and a large quantity of alcohol and food seized after a member of the public alerted police about suspicious activity at a supermarket in Chippenham. We were called by someone who had seen a group of people putting bottles of alcohol, still with the tags on, into a car outside Sainsbury's in Bath Road. Officers tracked the car and stopped it on the A350 outside Asda in Melksham, at around 6.50pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Four men, aged 18, 21, 22 and 24, all from the London area, have been arrested on suspicion of theft. They are currently in custody at Melksham Police Station. We also seized a large quantity of alcohol and food, as well as some tools, including de-taggers, from inside the car.

Sergeant Louis McCoy, from Wiltshire North Community Policing Team, said: "This is a great example of a member of the public spotting something which did not seem right, calling police and us taking swift action to make these arrests. "It is also good teamwork by our CPTs and Tri-Force officers, who worked well together to respond quickly and effectively.

"Thanks to the public-spirited actions of this one person, we have made four arrests and seized a quantity of what we suspect to be stolen goods."



In addition to this, four men were arrested in Trowbridge on 13<sup>th</sup> February after approximately £2,000 worth of alcohol was discovered in a vehicle. At 11am, officers became aware of two vehicles travelling along the A350 from the M4 – the vehicles are believed to have been involved in multiple thefts around Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Wiltshire and Thames Valley areas. The vehicles were initially located in McDonalds car park in Chippenham and later located in the Church Street car park in Trowbridge by officers in an unmarked police car. Four men got out of the vehicles and were seen to enter Sainsburys. They were observed acting suspiciously inside the store and were detained. All four men, aged 18, 20, 35 and 63, all from Hounslow, were arrested on suspicion of theft and taken to Melksham custody for questioning. It is believed the goods were stolen from Chippenham.

They have since been released under investigation while enquiries continue. Community coordinator PC Hazel Anderson said: “As part of our investigation, a number of bottles of alcohol, including wine, vodka and whisky have been seized along with the two vehicles – a Ford Mondeo and a Ford Focus.

“This was a good example of proactive policing by officers from the Community Tasking Team, and we are now continuing with our enquiries alongside other police forces where thefts were reported to have been committed.”

**Purse Thefts** - We have had a small number of purse thefts reported to us in Chippenham High Street and also from victims when shopping in supermarkets. If you have elderly family members, neighbours and friends, please advise them not to withdraw large amounts of cash from ATMs and if so, to try and do this discretely, always close handbags and wear them over their shoulder and across their chest to make access to their purse more difficult. Also, do not leave handbags unattended in shopping trolleys whilst you select your shopping.

**Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)** - A number of reports of ASB taking place in John Coles Park in particular during half term. Due to the increase of high visibility patrols, the number of reports reduced however reports of ASB in the Derriards/Cepen Park South area have increased, the Police will continue to monitor/focus on particular areas as our Sector Priority and liaise with agencies if necessary.

**Community Speed Watch** – As part of our weekly Sector Priorities, officers from the Community Policing Teams are tasked to carry out speed checks in various locations within rural locations.

**Parking** – A number of schools have made contact with the Police to advise that cars are parking inconsiderately outside the schools, more often than not, the parents are responsible or those living locally. The Police no longer enforce parking on double yellow lines and would encourage schools to highlight parking safely in their newsletters. Parking Services at Wiltshire CounAll reports to the Police are prioritised accordingly in terms of threat, harm and risk, however if vehicles are causing an obstruction, the Police can assist. If there is an obstruction and you need an officer to attend at the time, do call 101.

**Police Cadets** who are aged 13-16 years of age can attend local events and assist with community engagement, they are very keen to get involved in future events, please e-mail [CPTNorthWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:CPTNorthWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

If you are planning any event and require assistance from the Police to assist, please e-mail [CPTNorthWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:CPTNorthWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk) in advance as you may be required to complete an 'Events Form' and there may also be a cost incurred to ensure that you have dedicated officers throughout. If you would like the Cadets to assist with community engagement at events please e-mail the address above, there is no charge for this.

**EVENTS...** Don't forget that a toolkit is available from Wiltshire Council which gives fantastic guidance and advice for organising most types of events, including topics ranging from traffic management to toilets, and gives contact details for which agencies and departments need to be contacted when applying for various licences or road closures. It can be found at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-events-toolkit.pdf>, In essence, all organisers must be responsible for identifying any risks and putting in measures to remove or reduce them.

The Force now has a dedicated cybercrime Facebook page. If there are any local businesses who would value having this information do please e-mail [CPTNorthWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:CPTNorthWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk).

In addition to the Wiltshire Police website, Chippenham CPT has 6807 followers on Facebook, please join us either on Facebook or Community Messaging.

For a detailed breakdown of the crime in your area visit...<https://www.police.uk/wiltshire/>

The e-mail address for the Wiltshire North Community Policing Team is  
[\*\*cptnorthwiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk\*\*](mailto:cptnorthwiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

Please phone 101 (non emergency) or 999 (emergency) to report any incidents or crimes, reports cannot be taken via the above e-mail address.



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