

Devizes Community Area Board

21st March 2016



1. Neighbourhood Policing Team

Sergeant:	Vincent Logue
Town Centre:	PC Andy List PC Chris Mead PCSO Paula Yarranton PCSO Kelly Watts PCSO Melissa Camilleri PCSO Sue Greenway PCSO Sam Burnside
Rural:	PC Jo Newbery PCSO Fiona Marno PCSO Ellen Carter

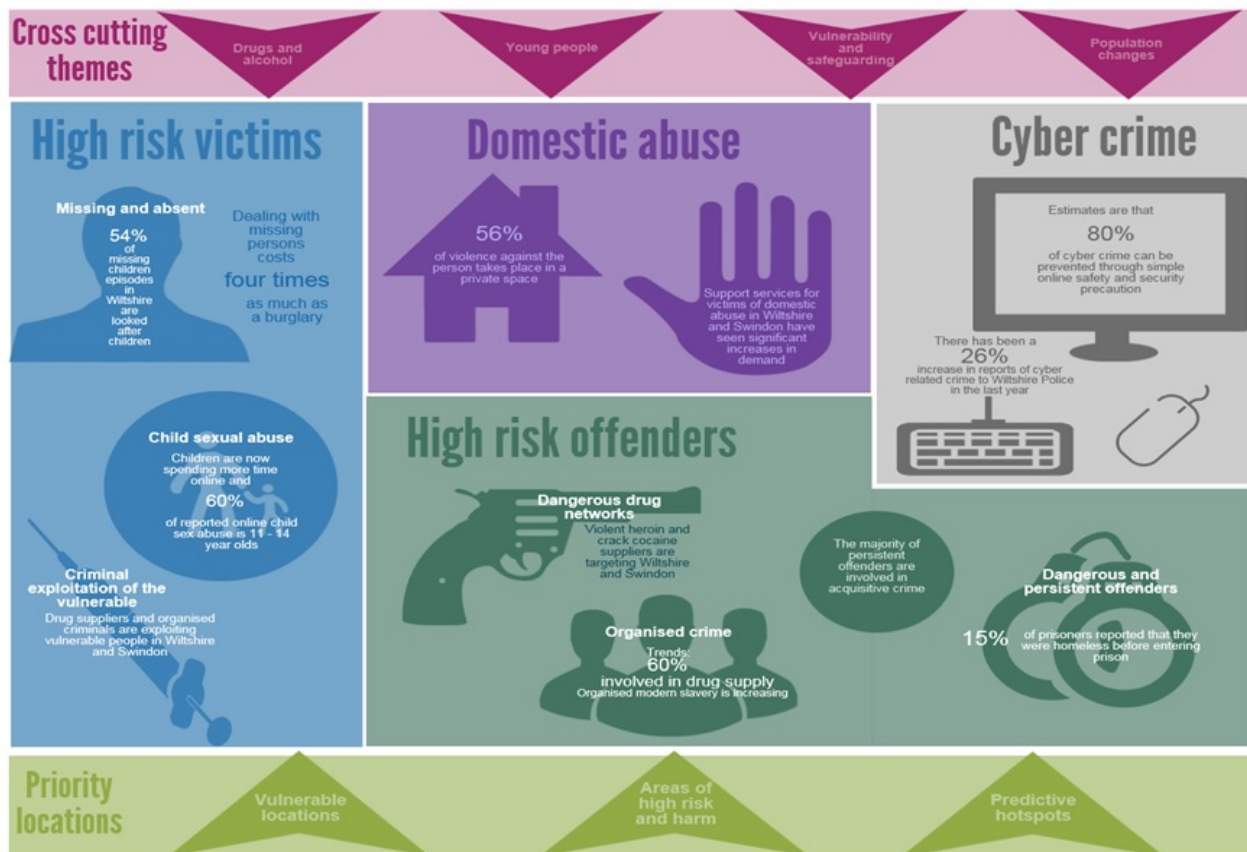
2. Local Issues and crime:

Shoplifting in Devizes Town Centre remains a priority. Whilst the number of offences has reduced in this period again compared to last, there is still a significant volume of this type of crime. Shoplifting in Devizes is mostly due to a small number of repeat offenders committing a large proportion of the crime, mostly committed in order to fund drug use. Working ever closer with the retail outlets, we have had numerous successes of late and many of these offenders were either sentenced to imprisonment or already serving prison sentences during this reporting period which has led to a marked reduction in offences. Two of these offenders have since been released from prison but have decided to move out of the county due to the high level of police attention they received in Devizes.

There is a certain level of Anti-Social Behaviour in Devizes Town Centre which can be associated with the persons most involved in shoplifting offences in the town. Police and Wiltshire Council ASB staff are working together to reduce the prevalence of this type of behaviour. I am pleased to report that there has been a significant reduction in recent weeks.

3. Wiltshire Police Control strategy

On page 2 you will see the current Wiltshire Police Control Strategy. It sets out which areas we will prioritise which are the areas of risk of significant harm to the public, or to sections of the public, and in particular the vulnerable.



Cybercrime

Cybercrime is a growing area of crime (Wiltshire Police has seen a 26% increase in reports of cyber related crime in the last year). Criminals are moving online and there is an increasing cyber element to many traditional crimes.

Devizes Neighbourhood Policing Team has visited local schools to deliver lessons on cyber-crime and bullying. The course is aimed at primary school aged children.

Wiltshire Police have a dedicated Cybercrime Facebook page 'CyberBee WiseWilts' which aims to help people to avoid becoming victims of cybercrime. There are regular cyber safety messages and updates so this is well worth visiting, particularly as 80% of cybercrime can be prevented by following simple online security advice.

Domestic Abuse

Devizes NPT regularly has involvement in attending incidents of domestic abuse and through liaison with other departments within Wiltshire Police we are able to identify those people who are repeat victims so that safeguarding measures can be put in place.

Please report incidents of domestic abuse to the police if you feel it is happening within a family near you.

High Risk Victims

A perennial problem is where older residents have been visited at their homes by persons who have then stolen money from them. NPT officers have been visiting the victims of these crimes and giving advice to elderly residents and the most vulnerable in our communities to help reduce the likelihood of their criminal exploitation.

The advice is not to let anyone into your address who you do not know and to report any suspicious incidents to the Police. Do not pay any money up front for any services offered. People are asked to

keep an eye on older neighbours and to make a note of any descriptions of persons knocking door to door and also registration numbers of vehicles. Please report any suspicious activity **immediately** to the police.

It is important to note that there have been no additional offences of this type in this reporting period and the local Police team have been continuing the preventative and target hardening work from the previous period.

Discussions took place during and after the last Devizes Area Board in relation to the setting up on a “No Cold Calling Zone” in the Roundway Park Area including Roundway Gardens and Park Field. Councillor Laura Mayes has met with Wiltshire Trading Standards about this matter and a communication will be sent to residents in that area about this scheme.

If you have any general concerns about a vulnerable person being the victim of crime, please contact Wiltshire Police.

High Risk Offenders

The NPT work closely with the Public Protection Department to identify persistent or dangerous offenders, to engage with them and to take positive action where required. The offender management department, NPT and Response officers continuously visit these people with a view to disrupting their criminal activity. If you have any information that can assist Wiltshire Police, you can report it to us directly or through Crimestoppers anonymously by telephone on 0800555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

It is a fact that 60% of organised criminals are involved in drugs supply.

4. Other issues

Staff

PC Chris Mead is due to leave the team at the end of March to join the Offender Management team, we wish him well in his new post. The process to find a replacement has already started.

Community Messaging

Wiltshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, Angus Macpherson, are committed to involving communities in the prevention and reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour. Working alongside Neighbourhood Watch, Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging aims to improve the flow of information between communities and the Police.

Local officers are sending out free messages to keep their local communities informed about Police and crime matters in their area. Message types include witness appeals for local incidents, updates on local issues (e.g. anti-social behaviour), crime prevention advice and dates of local drop in sessions. The public can also respond to messages with information and take an active part in how their area is policed.

To find out more and to sign up visit www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk or speak to your local police officer.

Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging is NOT monitored 24 hours a day. Always call 999 in an emergency or 101 in a non-emergency.

Nick Mawson

Sector Inspector,
Devizes, Melksham, Pewsey & Marlborough