

# Devizes Area Board Police Report January 2018

## 1. East Community Policing Team

**Sector Head:** A/Insp James Williams

**Sector Deputy:**

**Community Coordinator:** Pc Teresa Herbert

**Devizes PCSO:** PCSO Kelly Watts, PCSO Paula Yarranton, PCSO Melissa Camelleri, PCSO Sam Burnside, PCSO Fiona Marno, PCSO Georgie Brown

### **A Christmas Message from Wiltshire Police Chief Constable Mike Veale:**

"2017 has been a difficult year for policing across the UK for so many reasons. We have seen horrific acts of terrorism but we have also seen the most heroic acts of courage, bravery and fortitude. These tragic events bring into sharp focus the magnificent work of our emergency services, their selflessness, dedication and kindness is simply breath-taking.

"As demand increases and our resources reduce you have remained steadfast, resilient and motivated. Whilst there have been many challenges both locally and nationally I am immensely proud of what Wiltshire Police stand for. Despite the challenges, pressure, scrutiny and, on occasions, the danger you face, there is still a great buzz of positivity which is palpable when I visit different departments and go on the frontline.

"I have been struck this year by not only the amount of feedback and correspondence I have received about the service my staff provide but also the words that constantly resonate when they describe their actions: compassionate, caring, professional, brave, empathetic, sympathetic, inspiring, unbelievable, unforgettable, patient, meticulous, persistent, dedicated, kind, thoughtful, fearless and selfless.

"I recently had the pleasure of hosting our force awards ceremony which honoured just some of the outstanding work, dedication and bravery of officers, staff and the public. It was a very special event which highlighted once again that policing is not 'just a job' it is very much a vocation. Sometimes it is a very dangerous vocation which sadly results in injury, both emotional and physical. To all those people who have lost their lives in the course of their duty and to all those people who are no longer with us, who dedicated their lives to policing, I salute you.

"As we know, police work is hard and with decreasing budgets and fewer officers and staff, it is fair to say that these challenges and demands will continue. This puts more pressure on my staff, particularly their health and wellbeing which continues to be my top priority. It is obvious that if I don't do all that I am able to look after them then I will be letting them down and that is something I am not prepared to do. By looking after my staff, they will be better placed to look after our communities which is a huge honour and privilege.

"The festive period is a time for joy, celebration and reflection. It is also a time when we experience peak demand which can test our services to the limits. I know that everyone on duty will continue to uphold the finest traditions of Wiltshire Police. Many of my staff will miss out on Christmas at home with their families which I know is really difficult. I also know that throughout the year they will have missed key moments and events. So let's spare a thought for all our brilliant people working over the festive period and especially their families.

"To the amazing team of people we have at Wiltshire Police including all our Special Constables and volunteers I would like to say thank you, you make a real difference.

"To all our communities, have a very happy and safe Christmas."

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## **2. CPT - Current Priorities & Consultation Opportunities:**

### **Current Priorities Devizes and surrounding areas.**

#### **Theft from Motor Vehicles**

An increase in the numbers of thefts from vehicles has occurred since our last Devizes Area Board report, to a total of 13 during the period 25/10/2017 - 03/01/2018.

Incidents include;

Anzio Road - unlocked car entered and cash removed.

Eastleigh Road - break in to works van and tools removed.

Bellevue Road - theft of number plates

Sutton Place - theft of a disabled badge

The Nursey - theft of number plates

Tintern Road - theft of golf clubs

Glenmore Business Centre - theft of tools from works vehicle

Tanis, Rowde - theft of tools from works vehicle

Tower View, Rowde - attempted break into works van

Townsend Farm - money removed from unlocked vehicle

St Marys Close - theft of handbag from under a seat, unlocked vehicle

Eastwell Road - theft of wheel trims

Lavington Hill - window smashed and wallet removed from side pocket

Target hardening measures, targeted patrols and information advising our motorists not to leave valuables within vehicles is ongoing. In total **43** patrols/actions have taken place since 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

## Crime prevention advice:

We would like to remind motorists to adhere to the following advice whenever possible.

- Don't leave any valuables including laptops, satnavs, mobile phones, handbags, credit cards or vehicle documents in your car.  
Do not leave items of value in the boot, you are being watched.
- Don't leave coats/jackets on show in the vehicle as a thief will want to see if there is anything valuable in the pockets.
- Clean satnav suction marks off your windscreen, as leaving them is an immediate advert to thieves that a satnav is in the vehicle. Make sure no satnav attachments are left visible in your vehicle.
- Remove your stereo if you can, mark it with the vehicle registration number if you can't.
- Leave your glove box open to show there is nothing in it.
- If you own a van, make sure you remove your tools overnight and display an appropriate sign in the rear window making this clear.

## Dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries

15 incidents of burglary have occurred in the Devizes area between 24/10/17 to 03/01/2018

Matilda Way - Patio door smashed and untidy search of the premises.

Dowse Road - French doors forced and money box removed.

Kennett & Avon Canal Bridge - entry gained to canal boat, toolbox removed.

Adlam Close - Insecure house entered and handbag removed.

Horton Road - building site entered and damaged caused to new properties.

London Road - wooden garage door smashed and entry gained.

Hopton Industrial Park - sledgehammer used to gain entry into the property through a wall.

Horton Avenue - Container broken into and tools stolen from inside.

Horton Road - Business premises broken into, fishtank smashed and bikes removed.

Sainsburys - 2 banned persons have entered the store and stole items from within.

Southbroom Infants School - Shed broken into, looked through toys and nothing stolen.

Anzio Road - Insecure garage entered and bike removed.

London Road - Entry to a shed, nothing removed.

London Road - Entry gained to garage via smashed window, once inside nothing removed.

A361 Bishops Cannings - 2 containers have been entered, water cable removed.

Bunnies Lane - shed broken into and covers removed from motorbikes.

Three men have been charged in connection with an attempted burglary in Ham, near Marlborough.

The incident happened at 1437 hours on 6 December 2017 and the three men were arrested on the same day, following an area search.

Thomas Small, 27, of Reading, is charged with attempted burglary, going equipped for theft, possession of a knife and breaking bail conditions. He appeared at Salisbury Magistrates Court on 7 December 2017 and was remanded into custody. He is due at Swindon Crown Court on 5 January 2018.

Paddy Cronin, 23, of no fixed address, is charged with attempted burglary, going equipped for theft and breaking bail conditions. He appeared at Salisbury Magistrates Court on 7 December 2017 and was remanded into custody. He is due at Swindon Crown Court on 5 January 2018.

Jesse Carey, 26, of Barnstaple, Devon, is charged with attempted burglary and going equipped for theft. He was released by police officers on conditional bail, to appear at Swindon Magistrates Court on 29 December 2017.

The priority continues and since 25<sup>th</sup> October 53 patrols/actions have taken place.

## Crime prevention advice

- Consider installing CCTV.
- Lock your doors and windows every time you leave the house, even if you're in the garden, and make sure you have approved locks or bolts on all doors and windows
- Never leave a spare key in a hiding place like in a plant pot or letterbox - a thief knows all the hiding places
- Keep all keys, purses and wallets out of sight and away from the letterbox
- Consider installing a burglar alarm, and only use a company that is registered or certified with the NSI or the SSIAB
- Do not open the door to anyone you don't know or are not expecting. Always check by using a spy-hole or look through a window
- Make sure that you have up to date contents insurance
- Register all serial numbers from electrical items, tools and garden equipment with Immobilise.com the free national property register. Mark items without serial numbers with an artificial DNA property marker such as Smartwater or SelectaDNA
- Do not keep large amounts of cash at home - it is much safer in a bank or building society
- Trim back any plants and hedges at the front of your property to no higher than 1 metre to remove hiding places
- Always report any suspicious activity, note any vehicle registrations, descriptions of persons involved and direction of travel
- Use a timer to set lights to mimic your usual activity when you are not at home
- Take photographs of all jewellery including hallmarks and keep them safe. Also consider using an artificial DNA property marker on jewellery or other valuable items
- Make sure any bolts are low enough so they cannot be opened by reaching over the top of the gate

## Hare coursing and Poaching, All areas of East Wiltshire.

The east policing team continue with this agenda as a policing priority which has resulted in nine arrests during November in the Pewsey and Avebury area. This includes three males arrested on 11/11/17 in the North Newnton area on suspicion of daytime trespass in pursuit of game. Enquiries are continuing in relation to this incident and a number of others. Areas affected include East Grafton, Wilton, Wexcombe, Easton Royal, Rushall, Upavon area and The Pewsey Vale with incidents on farmland at Alton Barnes and Stanton St Bernard.

Also under investigation are related offences of criminal damage to farmland in these areas.

The use of the Whats App partnership is proving to be effective and also allows for information sharing and intelligence of those members and the policing team.

Since 25<sup>th</sup> October **42** patrols/actions have taken place on this priority.

When reporting incidents, call 101 and quote 'Operation Artemis'. If a crime is in progress call 999.

## Update regarding Operation Aztec.

More than 260 items have been collected by Wiltshire Police during a two week national firearms surrender, which finished on Sunday (26 November).

This is two and a half times the number handed in during the last surrender in 2015.

Items collected include 39 air rifles, 51 shotguns, 12 revolvers, one antique musket and a crossbow. Ammunition has also been collected with some of the firearms.

Inspector Barry Hickman said: "We're really pleased with the response we've had from the public and by the number of weapons we've had handed in - it means there are now 260 fewer firearms within the communities of Wiltshire.

"There were a mix of weapons handed in. However most of the items surrendered were shotguns and air rifles, which is what we expect in a rural county.

"Many of the firearms are old and cobweb-covered, which have been in people's possession for some time. Those handing in firearms to us have been really pleased they could do so through this surrender, giving them the opportunity to dispose of the weapons safely."

Firearms collected also include inherited service weapons from World War I and II, a deactivated AK-47, handguns, starting pistols, BB guns and an empty tear-gas grenade from WWI.

The majority of the firearms collected will be destroyed. Wiltshire Police has also established contacts with weapon museums and some of the antique items are likely to be passed to them for display.

The firearms surrender ran from Monday 13 November until Sunday 26 November. During this time Wiltshire Police appealed for people to hand over unlicensed or unwanted firearms and ammunition.

Many firearms are held in innocence of their illegality or may be overlooked or forgotten in people's homes.

The laws around antique firearms were tightened in 2014 which mean that someone who has served or received a criminal sentence can no longer possess an antique firearm. The sentencing guidelines for possession for sale or transfer of an unauthorised firearm or ammunition were also raised and this offence now carries a maximum penalty of life.

Inspector Hickman added:

"The fight against gun crime is stronger than ever and we are working with partners and our local communities to safeguard, educate and intervene at the earliest opportunity.

"One weapon off the streets is one less that can be used to harm or threaten our communities."

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, Angus Macpherson, said: "I would like to applaud Wiltshire Police for this welcome initiative, and the people who have come forward and surrendered unlicensed or unwanted firearms.

"Their responsible attitude has helped to make Wiltshire a safer place by removing the risk of the firearms getting into the wrong hands or being accidentally fired.

"Wiltshire is one of the safest counties in the country and this campaign will help to keep it that way."

If you know of people involved in illegal firearms activity call the police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. In an emergency always call 999.

Every call to Crimestoppers is anonymous and potentially vital to preventing or solving serious crimes; removing an illegally held firearm may just save someone's life.

### **Target Patrols Devizes and surrounding areas**

#### **Op Eskimo - Closed**

Op Eskimo was launched on the 8<sup>th</sup> December. The aim of this was to mount a visible uniformed operation, supported by plain clothes officers in local town centres prior to Christmas Day by working at certain times and targeting identified stores which have a high shoplifting rate. By working in conjunction with partner agencies in the town in order to try and identify known and potential offenders and to dissuade them from committing offences.

To allow for a patrol strategy and implementation to disrupt and deal with criminality namely shoplifting and purse dips.

The patrol remained in place till 31<sup>st</sup> December. In total **30** patrols took place. Purse chains and crime prevention leaflets were handed out.

#### **Avebury - Closed**

On the build up to the Winter Solstice target patrols commenced at Woodhenge for intelligence gathering and to prevent any free festivals from taking place. The patrols commenced on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov and concluded on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. 12 patrols took place.

#### **Dowse Road - Closed**

On 21<sup>st</sup> November patrols commenced due to complaints of anti social behaviour. On 20<sup>th</sup> December the patrol closed down due to no further complaints. In total 12 patrols/actions took place.

#### **Pulse Patrols - Devizes Town Centre - Open**

Additional patrols commenced in the town centre, to gather intelligence, offer reassurance and deal with issues around the street drinkers. To date **54** actions/patrols have taken place.

#### **Media**

Community messaging continues.

#### **Consultations**

You PCSO's are carrying out consultations on their areas.

## Update re Rural Crime Partnership

Rural crime operations continue, in our efforts to target what is often cross border organised criminal activity.

### 3. Wiltshire Police Control strategy

Below is our Control Strategy for your reference. This focuses on how we conduct our operational policing based on the Police and Crime Plan. We will continue to align our resources with the threat/harm/risks presented in line with the control strategy.



### Child sexual exploitation and abuse

Young people often enter the criminal justice system as a direct result of being exploited by others for financial or sexual gain. This has been recognised recently with a shift in focus to these young people being dealt with as Criminally Exploited and Vulnerable (CEV) individuals. Where circumstances dictate, this will mean that the safeguarding of these young people will take precedence over any criminal offences they may have committed. Those doing the exploiting are the individuals that should be targeted.

Please be vigilant for young people who may be being exploited in this way and report to Police through the normal channels.



## Organised criminality

Operation Sirius is a dedicated response team investigating Asian Gold burglaries, one of which recently occurred within this area. Our local officers have also been engaging with businesses in the town requesting they report anything or anyone acting suspiciously in their neighbourhood, unknown or unexpected doorstep traders, unusual vehicles, many offenders use high performance vehicles. Please be mindful if you see such a vehicle driving around your area. We work closely with forces nationally, sharing information, helping to tackle this criminality which occurs throughout the country.

## Cybercrime

Our Cyber Crime Prevention Officer is working closely with our partners within the region including attending Area Boards.

Many of the cyber scams which succeed occur following an individual's response to act quickly to an instruction or use distraction techniques so that less concentration occurs on the task in hand.

## County Lines and the Criminality Exploited

A total of 20 drug dealers from Salisbury have this week been sentenced following an operation targeting class A drug supply in the city.

The following all pleaded guilty to class A drug supply offences in the summer. They were all remanded in custody and sentenced as follows:

- Christian Quadjovie, age 18, of Barge Walk, Greenwich, sentenced to two-and-a-half years imprisonment
- Tomisin Ifelowa, age 19, of Williamson Close, Greenwich, sentenced to two-and-a-half years imprisonment
- Shavase Lemar-Taylor, age 27, of Propeller Crescent, Croydon, sentenced to 15 months imprisonment suspended for 12 months
- Pellumb Buci, age 18, of Villas Road, London, sentenced to three years imprisonment
- Jennifer Cooper, age 34, of no fixed abode, Bulford, sentenced to two years imprisonment suspended for two years
- Ollie Piper, age 25, of Barnard Street, Salisbury, sentenced to two years imprisonment suspended for two years
- Joshua Jackson, age 18, of Pitfield Crescent, London, sentenced to 15 months imprisonment

The below, who were not in custody, pleaded guilty to class A drug supply offences and were sentenced today and yesterday as below:

- Brendan Cooper, age 39, of no fixed abode, Salisbury, sentenced to three years and four months imprisonment and subject to a five year criminal behaviour order
- Justin Ling, aged 46, of Barnard Street, Salisbury, sentenced to two years imprisonment suspended for two years
- Wayne Dix, aged 37, of Barnard Street, Salisbury, sentenced to 12 months imprisonment suspended for 12 months
- Dean Cochrane, 36, of Rolleston Street, Salisbury, sentenced to two-and-a-half years imprisonment
- Timmy Thomas, aged 51, of Bishopdown Road, Salisbury, sentenced to 12 months suspended for 12 months
- Tracey Robertson, aged 41, of Cherry Close, Salisbury, was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment suspended for two years
- Daniel Domanski, aged 30, of Carmelite Way, Salisbury, was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment suspended for two years
- Helen Hughes, aged 41, of Elm Grove Road, Salisbury, sentenced to two years imprisonment suspended for two years



- Mark Ledsome aged 43, of Southampton Road, Salisbury, sentenced to three years and four months imprisonment
- Stephen Maidment, aged 52, of Lovatt Green, Salisbury, will be sentenced at a date to be fixed.
- A warrant has been issued for Shaun Green, aged 35, of Drake Close, Bishopdown, and Jacqui Crotty, age 41, of Netherhampton Road, Salisbury, who both failed to appear in court.

At previous hearings, the following were also sentenced as part of the operation:

- Maxi Andrews, aged 23, of Duke Street, Nottingham, pleaded guilty to conspiring to supply class A drugs (heroin) and was sentenced to 40 months imprisonment
- Darren Davis, aged 22, of Highbury Road, Nottingham, pleaded guilty to conspiring to supply class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine) and was sentenced to four years imprisonment
- Jason Dowding, aged 29, of St Albans Road, Nottingham, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply class A drugs (heroin) and was sentenced to 24 months suspended for two years
- Michael Hughes, aged 31, of Odstock Road, Salisbury, pleaded guilty to supply class A drugs (heroin) and was jailed for 40 months.

On July 12 and 13, a series of early morning raids were carried out across the city. More than 100 officers were involved in the intelligence-led operation making it one of the biggest of its kind to be undertaken by Wiltshire Police.

The carefully-planned op identified issues around County Lines.

County Lines are a national and regional issue - it refers to a group or gang, usually based in cities, who establish the supply of Class A drugs into smaller towns. Gang violence and exploitation is often linked to County Lines supply and there is a significant risk of emotional and physical harm to those they exploit or those who are indebted to them. Young and vulnerable people are often coerced into running or selling the drugs.

Some vulnerable people living in housing association and council accommodation are deliberately targeted and lose control of their homes to the dealers/suppliers through intimidation and fear. The dealers from out of town will then use the property as a base - this is known as 'Cuckooing'.

Detective Inspector Paul Franklin said: "A huge amount of intelligence gathering was carried out in the months prior to this operation to ensure we were able to submit files to the CPS and charge the offenders immediately.

"The aim of the operation was to target the supply of class A drugs coming in to the city, and by taking out so many dealers in just two days we were able to disrupt and dismantle a number of chains of supply. A number of these people were from out of town, and had come to the city to exploit some of our most vulnerable drug users. By carrying out these raids, we were able to remove these people from our streets, and provide support to the most vulnerable members of our society.

"During the raids, we found a number of vulnerable people who were being cuckooed. They were being kept in their homes and had been threatened with violence if they went to police.

"We recognised that this number of arrests would effectively leave a gap in the market for drug users and addicts and in the weeks that followed, we worked closely with Turning Point, Wiltshire Council and Motiv8 to ensure help and support was provided to those in need. This was an example of some really effective partnership working and I know Turning Point saw a rise in the number of referrals during this time.

"I am satisfied with the sentences handed out to these dealers. County lines are sophisticated drug networks and bring highly addictive substances into our community. One of our priorities is targeting the violence and potential exploitation these dealers bring with them. I want to make it clear that Wiltshire may be a rural county, but we are not a soft touch and drug dealers who believe they can come to our county to deal drugs under the police radar are mistaken. We remain dedicated to targeting dangerous drug

networks and county lines, and the threat, harm and risk they pose to our communities, and we are continuing to regularly put offenders behind bars as a result of the hard work of our dedicated crime teams.”

Assistant Chief Constable Kier Pritchard added: “This operation was a significant undertaking by officers from all over the force - a huge amount of planning, organising and intelligence gathering was required to ensure the two days of raids were a success. I am really pleased that we have been able to put 10 dealers behind bars, preventing them from exploiting our vulnerable members of society.

“I’d like to continue to stress the important role members of the public have in helping us tackle class A drug supply. Over recent weeks we have been raising awareness of the tell-tale signs of drug dealing and cuckooing - if you suspect any drug activity taking place in your neighbourhood, please call police on 101.”

Salisbury Sector Inspector Pete Sparrow said officers will continue to tackle class A drug supply in the area despite the court result.

“Although this investigation has focused on Salisbury, the tendrils of associated crime has impacted upon a much wider vulnerable society,” he said.

“We continue to do all that we can to protect our vulnerable sector and make it as difficult as possible to prevent these County Line Drug Networks from establishing any stable base in the future. Although the sentencing sends a very positive message, it is important that we continue to remain proactive in any action taken.”

Hayley Porter-Straw, District Crown Prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service Wessex said: “As a result of the thorough investigation by Wiltshire Police, the Crown Prosecution Service was able to put a strong case before the court, resulting in a number of guilty pleas. CPS Wessex and Wiltshire Police are strongly committed to tackling vigorously those involved in the supply of drugs. This prosecution demonstrates how our close collaboration has resulted in these successful prosecutions.”

## **Dangerous and Persistent offenders**

Work is continuing with our SWITCH nominals, (those who are identified as persistent and prolific offenders), including intelligence gathering and relevant actions following dissemination. We currently have two nominals within the East Policing Area classified as such and we work closely with our SWITCH team members and partner agencies to manage these offenders.

## **Modern Slavery and Human Exploitation**

### **Wiltshire Police and PCC response to HMICFRS Modern Slavery report 24 October**

Detective Superintendent Craig Holden said: “Today’s report serves as an important reminder that police forces must take a robust approach to modern slavery and human trafficking - this is a complex area of modern day policing and it can be demanding on resources, but that should never deter us from ensuring we are doing everything we can to protect victims.

“Tackling modern slavery in our communities is something that we place a lot of emphasis on.

Fundamentally, it is about protecting the most vulnerable in society and we’ve made it one of our top priorities where we will be focusing our resources.

“A steady flow of information from the public is vital in the fight against Modern Slavery and we are making positive strides in this area too. We are raising awareness of this issue both internally with officers and staff and externally, within our communities. They are the eyes and ears that provide the local intelligence needed to help us continue to target businesses and individuals that traffic and exploit vulnerable people.

“Combining our day-to-day frontline resources with specialists is also a critical component of our approach. Our dedicated Human Exploitation and Emerging Threats (HEET) team is central to us tackling this type of crime. They gather and analyse information to help us better understand where the specific threats exist in our communities. They then use that to set in motion operations (both locally and with our partners in the Regional Organised Crime Unit) that disrupt and dismantle criminal exploitation of vulnerable people.

“Over the course of the last year, we have carried out operations in a number of areas all related to modern slavery and human trafficking. These have included tackling and closing down ‘pop up’ brothels in Swindon and identifying labour exploitation in nail bars and car washes across the county. Modern slavery is complex and manifests itself in a number of ways. We will continue to focus our activity on the issues that have the greatest impact on our communities.

“Let me be clear, we will not tolerate any form of exploitation and we want victims to feel confident in reporting to us, safe in the knowledge that we will support them alongside our partners.

“Of course, modern slavery is not just an issue for the police. There are so many other areas that it impacts, from public health to housing to child protection. We work closely with our partners as part of the Swindon and Wiltshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (which is chaired by Wiltshire Police) to ensure that collectively we are working together to tackle these issues and put plans in place to provide support to victims.

“The welfare of victims is paramount and should always remain our priority. Modern slavery and human trafficking are abhorrent crimes and community based intelligence is crucial in investigations of this nature. Working together we can put a stop to the exploitation of the vulnerable. Call 101, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 where information can be left anonymously. You can also contact the Modern Slavery helpline confidentially at any time, day or night on 08000 121 700”.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon Angus Macpherson said: “Protecting the most vulnerable in society is one of the four priorities of my Police and Crime Plan and I welcome this report from HMICFRS into what is a serious, complex and challenging issue for police forces and partners across the country.

“Modern Slavery is not just a ‘big city issue’. Wiltshire is a safe place to live but that doesn’t mean it is immune to issues like modern slavery.

“The Chief Constable and his team must continue to ‘lift the stone’ on this toxic crime in our communities. I want to see offenders brought to justice wherever possible though close cooperation with our partners.”

## **Domestic Abuse**

A third of DA perpetrators are repeat offenders. A quarter of offenders have also been the victim of DA.

**James Williams**  
Acting Sector Inspector,  
Wiltshire East CPT