



Melksham Area Board Report

November 2018

Hello and welcome to this month's Community policing report.

Child Safety Online

A practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media.

Social networking is hugely popular. Many young people are sophisticated in the way they use social media apps and websites, tailoring their communication for different audiences, and accessing them from a range of devices including smartphones, tablets and games consoles.

But social media like all forms of public communication comes with some risks. Not all of these risks turn into actual problems, and if children never face any risks, they never learn how to deal with them. By helping your child understand what the risks are, you can play a big part in preventing them from turning into problems.

Understand the risks children may need to deal with

What they could see or do :

- Seeing or sharing of violent, sexual and pornographic content
- Inaccurate or false information and extreme views
- Promotion of harmful behaviours including self-harm, eating disorders and suicide
- Over-sharing of personal information
- Actively or unintentionally getting involved in bullying or hurtful behaviour

Who they might meet :

- People who might bully, intimidate or frighten
- People posing behind fake profiles for mischief making, sexual grooming or identity theft

How this could affect them :

- Fear of missing out leading to excessive use or exaggeration
- Getting upset by things they have seen and being uncertain about what to do
- Engaging, or being pressured into engaging in more risky behaviour either by accident or by design

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- Developing unrealistic, and perhaps depressing ideals of body image and gender
- Becoming subject to peer pressure or interactions that are intense or too difficult to handle
- Creating an online reputation that may create problems for them in the future

Practical tips to minimise the risks your child might face

It's good practice for apps and websites to have safety advice and well-designed safety features which can make a real difference to how safe your child will be when using them.

Work through safety and privacy features on the apps that your child is using, or might use. Make sure they understand the point of these and how to use them. Don't be put off by believing your child knows more than you, the tools are actually quite easy to manage.

- **Ask them to show you** which social media apps they use and what they like about them. Talk about how they use them and what makes them to engaging.
- **Explain** how you can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts and images.
- **Check if any of their apps have 'geo-location'** enabled, sharing their location unintentionally.
- **Show them how to report offensive comments** or block people who upset them.
- **Check 'tagging' settings** so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed. Also, get people's consent before sharing photos.
- Encourage your child to **come and talk to you** if they see anything that upsets them.

Keep talking and stay involved

In a mobile age, children can't be completely protected, even by the best privacy controls; another child may use different settings. So it's important to keep talking to your child about the implications of social media. Getting a sense of what they think is a useful place to start; you might be surprised by how much thought they may have given to the issues.

Encourage your child to think carefully about the way they, and others behave online, and how they might deal with different situations.

- People may **not always be who they say they are** online, how can this create problems?
- Why is it **unwise to meet** anyone in the real world that you've only ever met online?
- Even if you think your messages are private, remember that words and images can always be **captured and broadcast**
- People **present themselves differently online** – do they really look like that? Are they always having that good a time?
- Be aware that screens, and especially being anonymous, can lead people to say things they wouldn't say to someone's face
- What does being a good friend and a likeable person online look like?
- There can be **pressure to be part of a particular group** online or to be seen to be following a certain set of ideas. How can you take a step back and make your own decisions?

For more information

You can find out more about how children use social media, the apps they use, the risks they face, how to use privacy settings and advice and tips about how to talk to your children at :

www.childnet.com/sns
www.internetmatters.org

www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

www.parentzone.org.uk

www.thinkyouknowhow.co.uk/parents

www.askaboutgames.com

If you are concerned about online grooming or sexual behaviour online contact CEOP –
www.ceop.police.uk

If you stumble across criminal sexual or obscene content on the internet you should report it to the Internet Watch Foundation – www.iwf.org.uk

CRIME EXCEPTIONS DATA

These figures are based on an evaluation of data, over a two year rolling period. Using this data we can predict what figure is the average that should be reported in a specific month, and what are the higher and lower parameters that we may expect. Figures outside of these parameters are classed as 'Crime Exceptions'.

ED11 – Melksham Town

September showed 96 crimes for this beat area, against the average of 89.5 for this same month over the last two years. The largest four crime groups accounted for 87% of ED11 crime, and are as follows :

Violence against the person showed 38 reported crimes, compared to an average of 30.4 offences.
Theft showed 27 reported crimes, compared to an average of 24.3 offences.
Criminal Damage showed 11 reported crimes, compared to an average of 13.5 offences.
Burglary showed 7 reported crimes, compared to an average of 4.5 offences.

ED12 (Shaw, Whitley, Atworth, Broughton Gifford, Beanacre, Berryfields)

September showed 39 crimes for this beat area, against the average of 33.1 for this same month over the last two years. The largest four crime groups accounted for 80% of ED12 crime, and are as follows :

Violence against the person showed 11 reported crimes, compared to an average of 12.1 offences.
Theft showed 8 reported crimes, compared to an average of 4.5 offences.

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Criminal Damage showed 8 reported crimes, compared to an average of 7.8 offences.
Public Order showed 4 reported crimes, compared to an average of 2.4 offences.

ED13 (Seend, Bulkington, Poulshot, Keevil, Semington, Great Hinton, Steeple Ashton

September showed 16 crimes for this beat area, against the average of 10.7 offences. This is showing as a crime exception as it is slightly above the level of offences we would expect to see. The largest four crime groups accounted for 88% of ED13 crime, and are as follows :

Criminal Damage showed 6 crimes, against the average of 1.6 offences. This is a crime exception as it is above the level of offences we would expect to see. When broken down further, three of these incidents are linked by location to Sandpits Lane, Steeple Ashton. These offences are believed to be linked to hare coursing. The other three incidents are unrelated.

Violence against the person showed 4 crimes, compared to an average of 3.9 offences.
Theft showed 3 crimes, compared to an average of 1.9 offences.
Public Order showed 1 offence, compared to an average of 1.4 offences.

COMMUNITY POLICING PRIORITIES WITHIN YOUR AREA

Burglaries

In recent weeks we have continued to see burglaries across the West Wiltshire sector, with entry being gained to many properties via insecurities.

- Most burglaries are opportunistic.
- Always close and lock doors and windows when you go out – even if just for a short time – and when you go to bed at night. Don't forget doors into garages and conservatories.
- Make sure your locks and security measures comply with your insurance requirements.
- Join or start a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Membership of a scheme is a proven deterrent to burglars.
- Keep keys, including shed and car keys, in a place where they're not visible to anyone looking in. Don't leave keys in the door, and never hide a spare key outside.
- Keep valuables hidden and not visible from windows.
- Take photographs of your valuable items for insurance purposes and keep them with your policy.
- Window locks and visible burglar alarms can act as a deterrent to criminals.
- Never leave packaging from new goods visible with your general rubbish. Criminals may see it and target your property.
- Draw curtains in the evening and leave your lights on a timer switch if you're going out.
- Never give your keys to anyone you do not know well. Change locks in a new property so that you know exactly who has the keys.
- Never keep large amounts of cash in the house.
- Consider keeping expensive jewellery, house deeds and other important items in a home safe, anchored to the brick work.

WEEKLY TASKING MEETING

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Inspector Andy FEE chairs a weekly internal “tasking meeting” where emerging community issues and concerns are raised and discussed for the whole West Wiltshire CPT area. From this meeting, priorities and actions are set and a tasking document produced. This involves developing strategies and the targeting of resources (including partner agencies) into tackling the issue or concern.

Op Artemis – This is an operation that was initiated by the Rural Crime Team, to tackle hare coursing and rural crime throughout the county. A number of locations are identified through both data and the Rural Crime Team, which are targeted with increased patrols. Steeple Ashton remains as an area that has been identified for high visibility patrol.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH (CSW)

Every 2 weeks, 4 Community Speedwatch Schemes across West Wiltshire are selected by Leanne Homewood for CPT support (additional targeting, enforcement and patrols) to supplement the CSW team planned sessions. These are included in our weekly tasking document for action and update. All the results from the supplementary speed checks conducted are fed back to the relevant town and parish Councils in their individual Police Reports. The current Speedwatch Schemes being supported are as follows;

Poulshot – One check was completed, no vehicles were observed exceeding the speed limit.

Beanacre – One check was completed, no vehicles were observed exceeding the speed limit.

For a detailed breakdown of the crime in your area visit...

<https://www.police.uk/wiltshire/>

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