Trowbridge Area Board Report

January 2019

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

Frauds, scams and cyber crime

Fraud is the dishonest and intentional deception of a person intended to result in financial or personal gain.

Fraud happens when someone deceives you or lies to you to gain an advantage, such as taking your money or finding out private information about you. Fraud could happen in person, over the telephone, or online via email, text or a website.

Action Fraud deals specifically with fraud issues. To report fraud visit the Action Fraud website www.actionfraudalert.co.uk or call them on 0300 123 2040 (Monday to Friday 0800 hrs to 1800 hrs, Saturday 0900 hrs to 1700 hrs).

Below are just some of the ways in which people may be able to defraud you. We've gathered together advice on the latest frauds and scams, the signs to look out for, and what you can do to stop it happening to you.

Cyber Crime

Cyber crime is one of the fastest growing areas of crime, affecting businesses as well as individuals.

Any offence where criminals use technology to break the law is classed as online crime.

We often break cyber-crime down into two categories:

- Cyber-enabled crime - traditional crimes committed using the internet such as theft, harassment, fraud, identity theft, selling stolen goods, drug dealing.

- Cyber-dependent crime - online crimes where a digital system is the target. These include attacks on computer systems to disrupt IT infrastructures, such as; unauthorised access (hacking), malicious software programming (malware) or denial of service attacks.

  Cyber crime affects all areas of our society and can be very damaging and upsetting for victims. Whether you're a business or an individual, we are all vulnerable to cyber-crime

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However, it is estimated that 80% of all cyber-crime is preventable, which means there are some basic steps that you can take to protect yourself.

In order to avoid becoming a victim of online crime you don't need to be a computer expert. Using good online habits drastically reduces the chances of becoming a victim of cybercrime and will allow you to reduce your vulnerability and surf the web safely.

Online Shopping

The internet has transformed the way in which we shop for the products and services we want.

Making purchases and banking online makes our lives easier, although shopping online doesn't come without its dangers.

- Do not enter personal or payment information on a website that has no padlock in the address bar or https:// at the beginning of the address
- Use reputable companies when shopping online. Research them if you are unsure and establish a physical address and telephone contact details
- Do not pay for items when using an unsecured Wi-Fi connection
- Do not click on links or reply to unsolicited emails from companies you don't recognise.

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust provides a team of trained and Police vetted Stay Safe Online volunteers to offer home visits and group talks to the over 60s or 18+ with a registered disability.

The advice given includes :

- basic practical skills to ensure you can check and understand privacy settings
- cyber and scam prevention advice
- support and reassurance

For further details visit the Wiltshire Bobby Van online safety website

To book a Stay Safe Online visit or group talk:

Call: 01380 861191 or **Email:** bv.onlinesafety@wiltshire.police.uk

Advice for victims

If you suspect you've been a victim of fraud involving credit or debit cards, online banking or cheques, you should report it to your bank or card company.

They are responsible for undertaking further investigation and reporting criminal activity to us where appropriate.

Fraud that doesn't involve your bank or card company should be reported to the business or organisation concerned. Depending on their advice, you may then need to report this to us on 101.

Where an additional crime has been committed with the fraud, for example, you have had your wallet or purse stolen or the card used fraudulently was taken as a result of a burglary, then this should still be reported to us on 101.

Some steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Make sure you keep a record of all communications.
- Get a copy of your personal credit report from one of the credit reference agencies - Experian, Equifax and Call Credit. A paper version of your report is available from £2. If applications for credit have been made in your name you can ask to have any incorrect information removed.
- Consider contacting CIFAS - the UK's Fraud Prevention Service, to apply for protective registration. Once you have registered, CIFAS members will carry out extra checks whenever anyone applies for a financial service using your address.
- If you suspect mail theft, contact the Royal Mail Customer Enquiry Number on 08457 740740 or visit their website

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'.

ET11 – Trowbridge Town Centre

December showed 95 reported crimes for the beat area, against the average of 88.6 offences for this same month over the last two years. The largest four crime groups that accounted for 83% of ET11 crime are as follows :

Violence against the Person showed 34 reported crimes, compared to an average of 30 offences.

Theft showed 29 reported crimes, compared to an average of 25 offences.

Criminal Damage showed 11 reported crimes, compared to an average of 9.9 offences.

Vehicle Offences showed 5 reported crimes, compared to an average of 4.1 offences.

ET12 – Adcroft, Paxcroft and Seymour

December showed 76 reported crimes for the beat area, against the average of 60.9 offences for this same month over the last two years. The largest four crime groups that accounted for 89% of ET12 crime are as follows :

Violence against the Person showed 25 reported crimes, compared to an average of 19 offences.

Criminal Damage showed 25 reported crimes, compared to an average of 9.4 offences. These offences are showing as a crime exception as the number of crimes is above what we would usually expect to see. When broken down further a majority of these offences relate to a spate of criminal

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damage to vehicles that occurred in the St Thomas Road area of Trowbridge. CCTV footage was released to try and identify the offender, however as of yet nobody has come forward with a name. Further enquiries are still ongoing to try and identify him.

Theft showed 13 reported crimes, compared to an average of 15.9 offences.

Vehicle Offences showed 5 reported crimes, compared to an average of 4.1 offences.

ET13 – Trowbridge Park and Longfield

December showed 53 reported crimes for the beat area, against the average of 50 offences for this same month over the last two years. The largest four crime groups that accounted for 91% of ET13 crime are as follows :

Violence against the Person showed 18 reported crimes, compared to an average of 14.4 offences.

Theft showed 17 reported crimes, compared to an average of 17.9 offences.

Criminal Damage showed 10 reported crimes, compared to an average of 5.4 offences.

Public Order Offences showed 3 reported crimes, compared to an average of 3.1 offences.

ET14 – Drynham and Grove

December showed 43 reported crimes for the beat area, against the average of 39 offences for this same month over the last two years. The largest four crime groups that accounted for 77% of ET14 crime are as follows :

Violence against the Person showed 19 reported crimes, compared to an average of 13.6 offences.

Theft showed 8 reported crimes, compared to an average of 9.3 offences.

Burglary showed 3 reported crimes, compared to an average of 3.4 offences.

Vehicle Offences showed 3 reported crimes, compared to an average of 2.8 offences.

ET15 - Broadmead and Studley

December showed 16 reported crimes for the beat area, against the average of 24.3 offences for this same month over the last two years. The largest four crime groups that accounted for 94% of ET15 crime are as follows :

Violence against the Person showed 11 reported crimes, compared to an average of 10.8 offences.

Theft showed 2 reported crimes, compared to an average of 2.1 offences.

Criminal Damage showed 1 reported crime, compared to an average of 4.8 offences.

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Public Order showed 1 reported crime, compared to an average of 2.1 offences.

<u>ET16 – Trowbridge Rural</u>

December showed 31 reported crimes for the beat area, against the average of 33.5 offences for this same month over the last two years. The largest four crime groups that accounted for 87% of ET16 crime are as follows :

Violence against the Person showed 13 reported crimes, compared to an average of 13 offences.

Criminal Damage showed 7 reported crimes, compared to an average of 4.2 offences.

Theft showed 4 reported crimes, compared to an average of 4.4 offences.

Public Order showed 3 reported crimes, compared to an average of 2.1 offences.

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

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