



## **Melksham Area Board December 2012**

### **1. Neighbourhood Policing**

#### **Current NPT Priorities:**

Up-to-date details of the current news about Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs), including profiles, priorities and forthcoming community consultation events can be found on the Wiltshire Police website [www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk)

#### **Team News:**

PS Malcolm McLundie has been posted from Melksham NPT and PS Sean Brady has taken his place.

Sean is already in post and is making arrangements to meet with local partners within the Melksham area. Sean is managing the following staff:

Town Centre Team: Beat Manager – PC Kane Fulbrook-Smith with PCSO Luke Barnett, PCSO Helen Wilson & PCSO Christopher Pugh

Rural North Team: Beat Manager – PC Barry Dalton with PCSO Janet Gould & PCSO Maggie Ledbury

Rural South Team: Beat Manager – PC Emily Thomas & PCSO Rose Baldock

## 2. Crime Priorities

**Domestic and non-domestic burglary** is on the increase. The numbers are sometimes reaching 4 or 5 over a 24 hour period!

Offenders are gaining entry through insecurities or through forcing shed doors. They are also targeting garages, whether or not they are attached to a house.

Offenders are using any advantage to sneak into properties to steal anything they can carry. This can be at any time of the day or night.

Once inside sheds, outbuildings and garages; cash, wallets, telephones, gardening equipment and handbags are stolen. If a garage is entered, offenders are even breaking into cars parked within the garage and stealing items such as cash, MP3 players and laptops.

If the public fail to lock a door or padlock a shed, they increase the risk of becoming a victim.

These crimes are intolerable as many impact on people's livelihoods. The police want information and calls in respect of suspicious vehicles & people. The community needs to play its part in gaining intelligence so that the police can take action.

**Violence Against the Person (VAP)** is a key focus for the NPT at this time, especially within the town centre area at weekends. The incidents are mainly between those who know each other and often between people who have been or are in some form of relationship. This is a concerning issue for police and one that increases fear and uncertainty amongst the community. The problems are not directly linked to the night time economy but such acts impact on those who are law abiding and enjoying a night out.

The focus on reducing violent crime will remain and is under constant review by the police. The problem though does require cooperation and support from the community. The message is clear - *perpetrators who push, punch and threaten others, committing acts of violence will not be tolerated.*

The police will take action. Anyone subject to or a witness to assaults (physical or non-physical) needs to report what's happening as this is unacceptable behaviour and will be addressed either by the police working with other agencies or by another agency.

**Criminal damage** is also sadly on the increase. There are no direct links however work has been commissioned to understand repeat locations, times and likely suspects. It may be that the analytical picture shows there is a connection with the vehicle crime. This will be verbally updated on at the meeting.

## Overall performance

At the foot of this report, the performance figures for Trowbridge are set out. It remains the overarching priority to reduce the number of non domestic burglary and violent offences.

The key messages to the public are:

- 1 Keep buildings secure – lock doors and windows.
- 2 Keep cars locked and property out of sight.
- 3 Report suspicions about people – the police need this information from you.
- 4 Record details of identifiable property and/or take photos of your belongings – this gives the police more of a chance to identify stolen property.

With Christmas approaching and people spending their hard earned money on presents, goods such as electrical items, pedal cycles and jewellery need to be photographed and any identifiable markings should be recorded.

This approach provides the police with more opportunities to locate the property when searching people or carrying out warrants.

The website [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) can be used to record these details and may even prevent offenders taking the item in the first place. Check on-line for this site and consider using it.

**Lisette Harvey**  
**Sector Commander**  
**23 November 2012**

ED Melksham	Crime			
	November 2010 - October 2011	November 2011 - October 2012	Volume Change	% Change
Victim Based Crime	1000	1163	163	16%
Domestic Burglary	38	48	10	26%
Non Domestic Burglary	90	107	17	19%
Vehicle Crime	83	139	56	67%
Criminal Damage & Arson	215	264	49	23%
Violence Against The Person	206	225	19	9%
ASB Incidents (Year to Date)	702	562	-140	-20%