

# Warminster Area Board September, 2016.

Hello and welcome to your Community Policing report. The summer months and holiday season are upon us and I hope that you all have a good summer planned. This is traditionally the time when we all relax a little bit, meetings are re-arranged, offices are bare and the local parks are full. The Community Policing Team are here 24/7 over the summer months and we continue to work with our partner agencies to address the issues that matter most within the community. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer.

# **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)**

In line with our control strategy, I would like to talk about Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in this month's report.

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where the young person (or third person/s) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice, as a result of their social, economic or emotional vulnerability. A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation.

Gemstone is Wiltshire Police's response to CSE. The dedicated Police team working under Gemstone provides specialist guidance and support to departments within Wiltshire Police and works with other professionals to provide a co-ordinated approach to identifying and tackling CSE.

## Warning signs

Despite the increased profile of CSE and improvements in how the police work with partner agencies, CSE cases are still under-reported. Warning signs can be categorised under the following headings.

## **Emotional and behavioural development**

- Changes in temperament or suffering from depression, mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing
- Secretive behavior
- Peers and friends association with other young people involved in exploitation and having older boyfriends/girlfriends
- Getting involved in petty crime such as shoplifting or stealing.

#### **Education**

- Being absent and truanting or showing signs of disengagement, e.g., lack of interest and frequent poor behaviour
- Considerable change in performance.

#### Identity

- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Change in appearance, e.g. different clothes

## Family and social relationships

- Children or young people who become estranged from their family
- Sudden hostility towards family members
- Becoming physically aggressive towards family and friends
- Going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late
- Involvement in exploitative relationships or association with risky adults
- Young people being found in towns or districts where they have no known connection
- Young people who have more than one boyfriend or who share their boyfriend
- Children or young people seen entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults
- Becoming detached from age-related activities and social groups
- Being sexually active
- Receiving phone calls and/or text messages from unknown adults
- Children or young people who appear to be recruiting others into exploitative situations.

#### Health

- Evidence of drug, alcohol and/or substance use abusers may use drugs and alcohol to help control children and young people
- Unexplained physical injuries or suffering from physical injuries (eg, bruising suggestive of either physical or sexual assault)
- Children or young people who are self-harming and demonstrating suicidal thoughts and tendencies
- Recurring sexually transmitted infections
- Pregnancy or seeking an abortion
- Children or young people displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviours, such as being overfamiliar with strangers or sending sexualised images via the internet or mobile phones
- Changes in physical appearance

HELP US TO GIVE CHILDREN A VOICE, VISIT www.stop-cse.org



Below are some key contacts and referral pathways if you feel that someone is at risk of CSE.

### Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board

www.wiltshirelscb.org
Website includes information for children and young people
Parents and carers about keeping children safe.

#### **■**■Barnardo's

www.barnardos.org.uk National children's charity which provides information, advice and support about child sexual exploitation.

#### **■■NSPCC**

www.nspcc.org.uk National children's charity which provides information, advice and support about child sexual exploitation.

## **■■CEOP Safety Centre**

http://ceop.police.uk/safetycentre/ Advice for children, young people and adults regarding child sexual exploitation.

## **■■PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation)**

www.paceuk.info National charity working with parents and carers whose children are sexually exploited.

# **COMMUNITY MESSAGING**

We have been talking a lot publically about Community Messaging over recent months and I have included the link below and would continue to encourage you to spread the message to your communities, encouraging as many people as possible to sign up. We have found that this really is a key platform to get the right message to the right people at the right time.

We are constantly reviewing our visibility and how we can develop this and work with our communities. We cannot physically be everywhere all of the time and we want to ensure consistent information with our communities and to be able to provide the information that matters to you when you need it. There has been some good feedback from our new way of working using Community Messaging so please sign up and use it.

https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/

### **CONTROL STRATEGY**

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

Domestic abuse / Cyber Crime / High risk offenders / High risk victims



### **LOCAL CRIMES**

Recent months has seen a slight increase in reports of 'Non Dwelling' Burglaries, which are to properties other than a home, eg a shed, a commercial property etc.

In July we reported an incident of a burglary to a Public House in Boreham Road, Warminster. Enquiries linked this offence to a number of other offences in the south of Wiltshire, as well as across the border in Avon and Somerset. Enquiries are still ongoing with other Police Forces, in order to identify the offenders.

July and August has seen a number of reports of burglaries at CenterParcs, whereby villas have been entered, and items stolen from within. One of these burglaries involved the theft of a bank card, which was subsequently used in the Bath area. Enquiries identified a suspect, who has been arrested and is currently on Police Bail.

During the evening of Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August, our colleagues from Wiltshire Special Constabulary, along with colleagues from the Ministry of Defence, took part in an organised operation to crack down on offences of Criminal Damage in the Westbury and Warminster Rural areas. This followed an increase in reports of these types of offences, which were partly linked to incidents of Hare Coursing.

As a result of the operation, a number of marked police vehicles conducted high visibility patrols and stopped a number of vehicles located in areas where offences have occurred.

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

**James Brain** 

**Community Policing Team Inspector** 

**Trowbridge & Warminster**