

# West Mercia Police

## SOUTH HEREFORD RURAL Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

30<sup>th</sup> July - 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015

### About your team

Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community where you live.

Making neighbourhoods safer by cutting day to day crime and anti-social behaviour is at the heart of keeping people in West Mercia safe. Thanks to an investment in mobile tablet style computers, these will enable officers to spend more time on patrol on the street and in neighbourhoods.


Officers will continue to come to people when they need them and provide a high quality service however you contact us – in person (on the street, at community bases and at partners and communities together [PACT] meetings), on the phone or online.

### Where we work

Hereford South Wye Police Station,  
Goodrich Grove, Newton Farm, Hereford,  
HR2 7DB

Covering: Aconbury; Allensmore; Ballingham; Bolstone; Callow; Dewsall; Dinedor; Garway; Grafton; Harewood; Haywood; Hentland; Holme Lacy; Kenderchurch; Kentchurch; Kilpeck; Kingstone; Little Birch; Much Birch; Little Dewchurch; Llandinabo; Llanwarne; Lower Bullingham; Much Dewchurch; Orcop; Pencoyd; St Devereaux; St Weonards; Tretire with Michealchurch; Thruxton; Treville; Wormbridge.

### Get in touch

 **101** to talk to your local SNT or report a crime

 herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

 [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

 Coming soon /  @southsidecops

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

### Your team

PC Brian Hillstead 0397  
PCSO Lowri Anderson 40247  
PCSO Christina Howard 6480  
PCSO Adam Westlake 6552

The West Mercia Police area and especially South Herefordshire remains low crime. That said a number of incidents have occurred and I would ask you to have a look at these to see if you could help with any information which may assist us in bringing the offenders to justice. Let me know if you need any crime prevention advice.

For daily updates on incidents in your area register for our Dotmailer service via [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk).

Should you wish to review crime and anti-social behaviour trends in your area over a longer period this can be done by visiting [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).

#### **Allensmore**

Incident 0113S 110815. On 8<sup>th</sup> August at 11:30hrs a white transit/luton style van with a sloping high roof, drove into Allensmore nurseries and stole a power washer.

#### **Kivernoll**

Incident 0140s 100815. On 8<sup>th</sup> August at 20:39hrs two persons have accessed Vinco Sales Ltd with bolt cutters and cut the locks off a couple of containers and trailers. Nothing was stolen.

Incident 0181s 080815. On 7<sup>th</sup> August at 22:10hrs a white transit with two persons in entered Vinco Sales Ltd with bolt cutters and broke into three containers; something was stolen from one of the containers.

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**If you have any information regarding any of the above you can contact Hereford Police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999. Please be aware that any information provided within this letter is to inform you of incidents of note and to request possible assistance. We do not want to worry you in anyway. Any incidents stated are infrequent and spread about a wide area. Herefordshire is a safe place to live!**

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#### **Rental Fraud: Targetting Empty Properties - Alert**

This is a message sent via The Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network (England & Wales). This information has been sent on behalf of Action Fraud (National Fraud Intelligence Bureau)

Action Fraud (Action Fraud, Administrator, National)

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has received several reports of rental fraud whereby empty premises are being targeted and the locks are being changed for the purpose of adding legitimacy to a rental fraud.

The suspect(s) will find and enter an empty property for the purposes of changing the locks and then advertising it on online platforms, such as Gumtree, as a rental property. The suspect(s) then invite interested victims to visit the property for a viewing. Those victims which are interested in renting the property are then requested to pay a deposit and/or rent upfront in cash.

In some instances the victims have moved into the property only to be evicted by the real property owner, or have found that the locks have been changed, once they have received the keys. There are several instances where this fraud has left victims homeless.

Property Owners:

- If you or someone you know currently has an empty property, encourage them to visit the property regularly to make sure that the locks have not been changed and no damage has occurred.

Prevention Advice:

- Avoid communication with only email or mobile phone, request to see the property owner and ask for valid ID. You can also check ownership of the property using the Land Registry.
- The landlord will carry out their own due diligence and should request all of your details, references and proof that you will be able to afford to rent the property. Make sure that these checks are completed prior to paying a deposit / rent.
- Always view the property and the tenancy agreement before paying any upfront costs.

If you, or anyone you know, have been affected by this fraud or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

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### **Shed Security**

We have had a number of reports recently of garden sheds being targeted and there are several precautions that you can take to protect your property.

Try to avoid leaving expensive equipment like garden tools, mowers, mountain bikes and power tools in your shed. If you have to then it is worth considering the below.

- \* Keep your shed in good condition
- \* Fit a closed shackle padlock to the door
- \* Fittings should be bolted through the door and any screws concealed
  - \* Fit grilles or mesh to the windows
  - \* Invest in an alarm

Make sure:

Large items such as bikes are chained together. It is much more difficult to a thief to carry away a lot of large heavy items all at once.

Ladders are locked to a secure fixture in the shed or garage so they cannot be used to reach top floor windows of your house.

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### **Top tips for a safer Garden**

- \* Gates fences and walls should be kept in good repair to stop intruders getting in.
  - \* Grow prickly plants close to vulnerable areas such as windows, fences, boundary walls and drainpipes – examples include Berberis, Pyracantha and Holly.
- \* Don't leave ladders and tools lying around in your garden – these could be used to break into your home.

- \* Mark your garden tools with your postcode.  
\* If you have nowhere else to store valuable equipment, take measures to secure your shed.

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### **Horse watch**

This is a Watch Scheme for horse owners to join. There is no website at present but there is a Facebook page.

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## **Anti-Social Behaviour**

A quick guide as to what it is...

**Anti-social behaviour means "any behaviour from any person that causes another person harassment alarm or distress". This means hurting or upsetting someone.**

Now we are in to the summer holidays, this is where we tend to see a few more cases of ASB (Anti Social Behaviour), although, ASB is **NOT** just caused by young people! ASB covers many different types of behaviour, some which you might find is a part of your daily life without even realising the effects it can have on others and the consequences you can face.

Types of anti-social behaviour include:

- Graffiti and vandalism
- Littering or dumping rubbish
- Misuse of fireworks including using them late at night
- Shouting or noisy behaviour in places where this might be annoying or upsetting (e.g. outside someone's house)
- Using rude, abusive or insulting language
- Threatening behaviour or bullying - including on the internet or via mobile phones
- Uncontrolled or dangerous dogs
- Assaulting someone or threatening them
- Stealing
- Joyriding or using vehicles in an anti-social manner (for example noisy radios, wheel spinning)
- Drinking alcohol in the street
- Rowdy drunken behaviour in the street.

Some antisocial behaviour, are crimes and punishable by the law. Each case will be treated individually. Anti-social behaviour is widespread and takes many forms. The Police and Council work together in partnership, identifying and then trying to resolve these issues.

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P- phone 999 only if  
O- offenders r nearby  
L- life is at risk  
I- injury caused/threatened  
C- crime in progress  
E- everything else call 101

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Your nearest public service counter is at Hereford Police Station, Bath Street, Hereford, HR1  
2HT:

Opening hours of:

Monday to Saturday: 8am to 8pm  
Sundays and Bank Holidays: 10am to 4pm

**Useful Contacts**

Victim Support	01432 347208
Childline	0800 1111
Domestic Violence Helpline	0800 7831359
National Drugs Helpline	0800 776 600
National Neighbourhood Watch Association	02079 630160
Herefordshire Road Safety Hotline	01432 364582

**Website:** [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

Regards

Lowri ANDERSON

PCSO 40247

Southwe Safer Neighbourhood Team