



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

April 2024

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Hello and welcome to the 'New' Neighbourhood Policing newsletter. You've probably seen a version of this before, or this may be the first time you've seen a newsletter from your local Police service.

These 'New' newsletters will mostly focus on the work that the Neighbourhood Policing team are involved in but will include work or incidents that other departments are dealing with from time to time. They will also include handy information about the ins and outs of Policing including the challenges we face in this modern world. These will be written by PCSO Supervisor Sam Bushen and I'll try to refrain from writing about myself in the 3rd person. You'll have to bare with me, I'm now in my mid 30's of age and getting a 'B' and 'C' in my GCSE English many years ago means it's highly probable that the grammar won't be perfect but hopefully it will at least make sense somewhat.

Why are these newsletter being written by the Supervisor?

Years gone by the Neighbourhood PCs or PCSOs used to complete these themselves for each of their individual areas that they managed. Since then, those areas have either got significantly bigger with the added housing estate here or there, or our resources aren't quite what they used to be. As a team we decided the most important part of their role was to be visible, help solve the communities problems and answer their calls when they need us most which means being out and about in the community and solving those problems head on. So instead of each Officer writing their own newsletter for their areas on top of the ever growing 'paperwork' from our work, I decided that I would take this piece of work on to help increase our Officer visibility out in your communities. However what this means to you though is that this newsletter will not be specific to just *your* area or parish. It's a tough decision we've had to make but we were conscious we wanted to have some form of regular contact with you all...and so this newsletter is hopefully that 'bridge' that at least helps you understand what's going on in your town as well as where to go if you need support or have questions for

MEET THE TEAM



OFFICER

PCSO Imran King

POLICING AREA

Taunton North

YEARS SERVICE

1 Year

HOBBY

Gaming

FAVOURITE FOOD

Whatever mum cooks

ABOUT ME

This month's 'Meet the Team' is PCSO Imran King.

Having previously worked in various roles including retail, the motor industry and other hospitality roles, I have always felt that I wanted to make a positive change in the world even if it was the tiniest one possible.

One of my favourite quotes:

"The right person at the wrong time, can make all the difference in the world".

Joining the Neighbourhood Policing Team as a PCSO has given me that opportunity to make that positive difference to someone's world.

CURRENT FOCUS

My current focuses are liaising with partner agencies to escalate the care of our vulnerable members of the community with the right agencies that suit their needs, such as dementia, housing issues or service.

I'm also working to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour in the community by promptly and accurately working with partners and colleagues to issue proportionate interventions on those that harm the community.

your local neighbourhood officers. On that note...

What is the news from the area?

Over the month of March as well as our daily business, we held a week of action targeting drug offences and those looking to exploit those vulnerable to taking drugs. The week which ran from 4th to the 10th March involved a variety of activities including,

- Vulnerable address checks. This is where we visit those known to us for being previous victims of cuckooing (a practice where people take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation) and ensure that they have the necessary support in place.

- Engaged with members of public in the town centre with staff from SDAS (Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service)

- On 6th March a warrant was carried out at a property in Taunton. Substances suspected to be Class A drugs and cash were found at the property, along with two weapons. Three arrests were made and those people have since been released under investigation.

A short video with a 'twist' can be seen of this warrant here:

["Knock Knock"](#)

Our Response Officers had a good result on the 16th March following a victim spotting a crime in progress and calling it in! In the late hours of the night, a male was seen in the back of a works van suspected of stealing tools. The victim confronted the suspect causing the suspect to flee. Thankfully the victim contacted us immediately and we stopped and arrested the male. Male has been charged and bailed where they will appear in court soon. Great work by the victim!

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



PC Spencer Bishop seen above, delivered anti-spiking kits to all of the licensed premises in the town centre during Anti-Spiking Intensification week which also fell within March. As you can see from the photo, those enjoying a Friday night tipples were more than happy to be involved in the photo!

LOCAL PRIORITIES

CONCERN FOR WELFARE

One of our priorities currently is dealing with an individual who continues to frequent specific locations, causing members of the public to become concerned for the individual's welfare.

This unfortunately is a daily occurrence, taking up many hours of our time. We are working with the NHS and other services to try and prevent this from happening, as the behaviour causes disruption for the public.

These issues are often complex and there is no easy answer to solving the problem, but one that we are in the middle of currently dealing with.

POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM



The Police Early Intervention Team works with 11 – 17 year olds who are at risk of serious violence or exploitation.

They work closely with other agencies to support the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership which takes a Public Health Approach to reducing violence.

As part of a wider piece of work looking at violence and young people, over 900 young people in Taunton completed a survey about their concerns and experiences. Young people said they thought supervised spaces and access to trusted adults for advice and support would help to reduce violence.

Using funds secured from OP Grip and working in partnership with McDonalds and Young Somerset a Youth Hub has been set up in McDonalds, East Street, Taunton.

This is open every Saturday from 3pm until 5pm so that young people, their families or guardians can access advice and support.

The hub started in February and over 90 young people have already engaged with the service. Please drop in if you would like to talk to somebody.

MORE NEWS FROM THE AREA

On Sunday 17th March, we received a report from the town centre CCTV operators, of a male who they were monitoring who was suspected of stealing a large amount of items from multiple businesses. Within minutes of the report Police attended and located the male where he was arrested. The male was put before the courts the next day where they received a 10-week custodial sentence.

On Monday 18th March, we again were alerted by town centre CCTV operators of a male who had stolen items from businesses in the town. Within minutes of the report all goods were recovered from the suspect and they will be dealt with at a later time.

Then on Wednesday 20th March, in a similar fashion as the above, we located a male suspect within minutes of being notified by CCTV operators. Male was arrested, all goods were recovered and male is in court as of this morning.

And lastly three teenagers have been given custodial sentences after a man was stabbed in Halcon in Taunton in February 2023. Hamza Mahmood, 19, and Faisal Uriakhail and Zaeden Perkins, both 18, were sentenced at Bristol Crown Court on Friday 15th March for what the judge described as a “frenzied and sustained” attack. Officer in the case DC Natalie Norman said: “The attack happened in a residential area and must have been shocking for families living nearby. I hope the custodial sentences for these young adults will reassure the community how seriously the criminal justice system takes knife crime.”

Roads Policing

On Sunday 10th March, Roads Policing Officers were alerted to this vehicle by their ANPR system. The automatic system which reads number plates alerted the officer due to the following: Vehicle had no tax for **3 years**, no MOT for **2 years** and no insurance for **8 months!** Vehicle seized and driver being dealt with!



On Monday 25th March, Roads Policing Officers spotted a vehicle driving around the North Taunton area without insurance, but unfortunately the vehicle was lost to sight. Less than **24 hours** later and the local PCSOs located the vehicle on a driveway. The vehicle was then seized. One less un-insured vehicle on the road.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

For those that don't know what 'Community Speedwatch' is, it is where volunteers from the local community carry out speed monitoring checks on specific roads across the community.

The aim of Community SpeedWatch is to make motorists who speed through residential neighbourhoods aware of the impact their actions have on local residents, or the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians. This is something we are working with communities to address.

How SpeedWatch works

A Community SpeedWatch can be set up in any village, small town, or urban area, governed by either a 20, 30 or 40 miles per hour speed limit.

A team of local residents who are willing to volunteer a small amount of time each week are trained and issued with speed detection equipment to monitor speeds.

Vehicles observed speeding will be sent a warning letter along with advice to help change their driving behaviour.

Further action will be taken by the police against persistent and high end speed offenders as well as targeting individual locations.

Activity during March

Over the month of March, 7 out of the 16 Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the 16 sessions that have taken place, **6850** vehicles have been monitored by our Speedwatch volunteers. From those, a total of **72** letters have been sent out to drivers that have not adhered to the speed limit.

The Community Speedwatch is a great service that greatly assists the Constabulary in reducing speed across the communities. Should you wish to join an existing Speedwatch, or would like to set one up for your area, you can find more information here:

[Community SpeedWatch | Avon and Somerset Police](#)



CRIME STATISTICS - FEBRUARY 2024

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	80
Bicycle Theft	7
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	12
Criminal Damage & Arson	42
Drugs	4
Other theft	22
Possession of weapons	6
Public Order	67
Robbery	4
Shoplifting	70
Theft from the person	1
Vehicle Crime	14
Violent Crime	288
Other Crime	39

You can access and find out more about crime statistics for a specific area by clicking either of these two links:

[Your area | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Avon and Somerset Constabulary | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

What I would like to reassure you all with regards to these statistics is that certain crime types are grouped together in one category. On our systems we can see far more detailed information, but for what we are allowed to share with the public, crime types are grouped together.

For example one of the categories above is '**Violent Crime**'.

Domestic incidents fall within that category and Domestic incidents are one of the most common type of incidents we as the Police attend. If you would like to know the definition of what a Domestic relationship is, you can find it here:

[Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Hopefully this somewhat reassures you of why the number of crimes within that category are high.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Our advice is that the lock for your bicycle should cost you approximately 10% of the value of your bicycle. In simple terms, if your bicycle cost you £500, then you should spend £50 on a lock. For more information and guidance you can visit this site here:

[Secured by Design - Bicycle Security - How to Protect Your Bike](#)

“To recognise always that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.”

TAUNTON POLICE STATION

Opening Times

Monday: 08:30—16:30

Tuesday: 08:30—16:30

Wednesday: 08:30—16:30

Thursday: 08:30—16:30

Friday: 08:30—16:30

Saturday: CLOSED

Sunday: CLOSED



USEFUL LINKS

STREET SAFE

StreetSafe is an online tool that can be used by anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where they have felt or feel unsafe.

You might have felt unsafe in your local area due to anti-social behaviour or environmental factors, such as a lack of street lighting. We encourage you to share your experience using the StreetSafe tool.

The information you provide will be considered alongside evidence already gathered by police forces and will be used to inform policing and local authority safety activities within your community.

Link to Website to report:

[StreetSafe | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

KEEP UP TO DATE



Facebook is a great way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Follow us on:

Facebook: [West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing](#)

GET IN TOUCH

In an emergency always call 999

For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report](#)

Contact the Neighbourhood Team directly:

[SomWestNPTTaunton@avonandsomerset.police.uk](#)

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on

0800 555 111 or visit

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](#)

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