

Newsletter

safer&stronger communities

Keep It Safe, Keep It Hidden, Keep It Locked

We often see and hear about crime in the news yet the latest figures for Telford and Wrekin show that compared to this time last year there is a;

- 12.3% reduction of domestic burglaries
- 7.1% reduction of violent crime
- 22.6% reduction of vehicle crime
- 12.3% reduction in the number of reported and recorded ASB incidents.

The Safer & Stronger Community Partnership is also working with Team Telford Safer & Stronger Businesses to reduce all crime against businesses in the borough and is backing the national campaign called 'Keep it Safe' that is being led by the government.

A new website with practical home security advice, including a self-assessment tool has been set up.

Visit www.homeoffice.gov.uk/secureyourhome/ to find out how safe your home is.

How to keep your home safe

- Fit strong locks to external doors and windows
- Keep keys in a safe place and out of sight
- Fit sturdy deadlocks to all doors
- Ensure newspapers, post, milk etc are not left on display
- Ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your home while away
- Fit a door chain and spy-hole and use them
- Never leave a spare key in a hiding place such as under the doormat or plant pot
- If you have an alarm, set it when you leave the house
- Keep your tools in a lockable cupboard and ladders securely chained up - a burglar could use them to get into your house



Latest News

Telford & Wrekin Council has been hailed by the Audit Commission for making the borough a safer place to live. The comments highlighted in the local press are from the commissions annual inspection letter praising the Council's performance through it's partnership activities over the past three years in creating a safe, strong and cohesive community with significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour and demonstrating good value for money.

Welcome to the first Safer & Stronger Communities newsletter...

It is often said that the way a person feels about a place determines how they act.

This seems to be the case when it comes to crime and issues of community safety. The actual levels of crime are falling for the most part, and have been for the past four years, quite an achievement given the rise earlier in the decade. Recorded anti social behaviour figures are substantially down on previous years and the indications suggest that Telford and Wrekin borough is a very safe place to live and work.

The Audit Commission recently gave the thumbs up to the work of the Safer Communities Team and its work with the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership. However, this is no time to rest on laurels, ours, or our partners, as the biggest challenge is to ensure that our residents feel safe and feel protected in their communities. As part of our approach, we intend to provide regular updates on how we're doing, as well as providing practical steps to help people feel safe. We welcome the views of you, the people we serve, on any aspect of community safety.

Best regards

Tom Currie,
Strategic Manager
Safer Communities
Strategic Unit

How to keep your garden safe

- Install outdoor security lighting
- On sheds and outbuildings use closed shackle padlocks
- Low hedges and fencing make thieves feel exposed
- Side gates should be locked and bolted
- Install thorny hedges and good rear garden fences with trellis on top which is difficult to climb over
- Gravel on paths and drives can warn you if someone is approaching

How to keep your vehicle safe

- Never leave a car unlocked or a window or sunroof open
- Lock your belongings in the boot or take them with you
- Security mark your stereo and if it is removable always take it with you
- Put your aerial down
- Use your garage
- Fit a car alarm or engine immobiliser
- Invest in a secure locking device for a motor bike and bicycle and mark with a postcode
- Secure your bike to an immovable object. Better still, lock it away in a secure garage or shed
- Park your vehicle in a well lit area

World Hepatitis Day

The Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership marked World Hepatitis Day recently at the Telford Town Centre to raise awareness on Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. Principal Officers, Partners and patients of the disease engaged with local residents sharing information on prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

It is estimated that potentially 2,500 people in the borough live with Hepatitis C, only 450 have been diagnosed and 16 are currently being treated.

- 500 million people worldwide (1 in 12) are currently infected with hepatitis B or C
- This is over 10 times the number infected with HIV/AIDS
- Every Year hepatitis B and C kill 1.5 million people a year
- If left untreated and unmanaged, hepatitis B or C can lead to advanced liver scarring (cirrhosis) and other complications including liver cancer or liver failure
- Most of the 500 million infected do not know
- It is estimated that there are 230,000-466,000 people living with Hepatitis C in England, but less than 70,000 have been diagnosed. Around 320,000 people are living with hepatitis B in the UK, and this number is increasing

More details about hepatitis C can be found at www.hepctrust.org.uk or on the Hepatitis C Trust's helpline: 0845 223 4424

Pictured is Darren Flack (Hepatitis Patient), with Pam Stadnik (Safer Stronger Communities), and Alison Hughes (Needle Exchange Worker).



The Freedom Programme

What is the Freedom Programme?

The Freedom programme is a free 12 week course for any woman who has been (or is being) affected by domestic violence and abuse. It highlights the effects of domestic abuse on children and helps women recognise potential future abusers.



The programme aims include:

- recognising what domestic violence and abuse is
- giving victims more confidence
- helping women to better protect themselves, their children and others from abuse.
- looking at the effects on children
- finding support from other women and agencies

Caroline lived with domestic abuse for seven years and has completed The Freedom Programme. Three years on, she is now separated from her husband and getting on with her life.

Sadly Caroline is not alone. Domestic abuse affects one in four women and one in six men in Telford and Wrekin.

Caroline's story...

Before the Freedom Programme, I always thought the domestic abuse was my fault. I now realise I didn't deserve it.

“Starting the Freedom Programme was really frightening. I still blamed myself for the abuse and thought it was my fault that I hadn't left my husband earlier.

I met a counsellor through my kid's school who suggested the programme. I was surprised to find how many different types of women went, there were women from all walks of life.

To begin with, I just listened to other women's experiences. If you wanted to cry, you could. They didn't push you to do anything.

It was very relaxed and you felt safe at the meetings. It made me realise, others had gone through the same. Some women were still in abusive relationships so we agreed you weren't allowed to acknowledge each other in the street in case they were still in danger.

The Programme teaches you to look out for the warning signs. Through talking to each other, we realised it wasn't our fault. We came to understand all the reasons why we weren't able to leave our partners and the mind games they played.

The course has given us the skills to stop us falling into the same pattern again. Before the course I always thought it was my fault but I've now come away with calmness. I realise I didn't deserve it. I got away when I could.

I'm really fortunate, I'm so different to how I was five years ago. I was really down trodden and wouldn't have been in a position to work or anything. Now I'm happy and confident.

I would say to anyone that thinks they need help to get in touch with the Freedom Programme. Make that first step to change your life.”

If you would like to find out how to access the course or further information, contact Heather Rowlinson, DA Co-ordinator on Tel : 01952 381920 Email: heather.rowlinson@telford.gov.uk

Follow the BAR CODE to Safe and Sensible Drinking

The BAR-CODE campaign has been set up by the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership to encourage people to drink sensibly.

The over-riding message is BE SAFE - BE SENSIBLE and follow the Telford and Wrekin BAR-CODE. Bar-Code aims to encourage responsible and safe drinking and to highlight the national and local support services for alcohol misuse.

Be Safe

- If you go out in a group try to stay together, never leave your friends alone
- Designate someone in your group who will look out for you and make sure you get home safely
- Don't use unlicensed cabs or accept lifts from strangers
- Never leave your drink unattended
- Keep your valuables well hidden
- If you have sex make sure you use a condom
- Avoid confrontations and always try to walk away from trouble

Be Sensible

- Try to alternate alcoholic drinks with water or soft drinks
- Pace yourself throughout the evening
- Never mix booze with drugs. It can kill !
- Don't feel you have to keep up with your mates
- Try not to buy in rounds. It will save you money too!
- Know YOUR Limits. Know when to stop !
- If you have overdone it lay off the booze for at least 48 hours to give your body time to recover

The campaign follows the publication of the Telford and Wrekin Alcohol Strategy - Safe, Sensible and Social and mirrors the national Know Your Limits campaign which is tackling binge drinking.

Sank.tuary has been launched in Wellington to offer revellers a safe place to go, whilst they wait for taxis in Wellington after a night out.

Sank.tuary is based in the community room in Wellington Methodist Church. **To find out more visit www.sanktuary.co.uk**

The project is being supported by the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership to encourage people to enjoy a night out safely and raise awareness about alcohol and substance misuse.

BE ALCOHOL AWARE FOLLOW THE TELFORD AND WREKIN BAR-CODE
BE SAFE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 01952 582659
WWW.SAFERTELFORD.ORG.UK

Telford & Wrekin BAR-CODE
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Telford & Wrekin
bar-code



Football Project 'tackles' anti-social behaviour

The Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership (SSCP) recently joined forces with the Lawley and Overdale Local Policing Team (LPT) to fund equipment and kit for a youth football team.

The project is one of many set up across the borough to tackle anti-social behaviour and to get communities more involved in local activities.

With a FA Level One Coaching Course under his belt, Community Support Officer, Karl Jolly kick started the first training sessions at Blackbird Close in Overdale.

CSO Jolly said: "As a Local Policing Team we're working hard to engage young people on the estate and have been finding out what activities they like doing. Almost every young person on the estate said they liked football so we decided to set up some training sessions. We're aiming to meet on a regular basis and I'm looking for more volunteers to help run the club. We hope to eventually enter a team in a local league so if anyone out there feels that they can help me with the project, I'd really like to hear from them."

Tom Currie, Strategic Manager at the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership said:

"This is a great example of Local Policing Teams engaging with young people. I am delighted that those involved are using their time positively as this reflects a



great deal of their own commitment. I also hope that their actions will encourage more young people to follow their example."

Anyone interested in helping CSO Karl Jolly can contact the Lawley and Overdale LPT by calling 01952 216 549, or by emailing lawleyandoverdale.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

New football strip for Overdale Youth Football Club sponsored by SSCP, Pictured l-r, Matthew Davies 14, CSO Karl Jolly, Steven Tranter 15, Trevor Davies 13.

Swine Flu Information

What are the symptoms?

Some of the symptoms are the sudden onset of fever, cough or shortness of breath. Other symptoms can include headache, sore throat, tiredness, aching muscles, chills, sneezing, runny nose or loss of appetite.

The best thing you can do to protect yourself is to follow good hygiene practices. These will help to slow the spread of the virus and will be the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself and others from infection. When you cough or sneeze it is especially important to follow the rules of good hygiene to prevent the spread of germs:

- Always carry tissues.
- Use clean tissues to cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze.
- Bin the tissues after one use.
- Wash your hands with soap and hot water or a sanitiser gel often.

There's a simple way to remember this:

CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT.

For more information on SWINE FLU contact : 0800 1 513 513 or www.nhs.uk and www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu

The First Hate Crime Strategy is launched

The first new strategy against Hate Crime and Harassment has been launched in Telford and Wrekin.

Hate Crime is classed as any criminal offence which is motivated by an offender's hatred of someone because of their race, colour, ethnic origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation or disability. It can take many forms such as physical assault, damage to property, offensive graffiti, neighbourhood disputes and arson.

Telford and Wrekin Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership alongside Telford Race, Equality & Diversity Partnership has established a new multi-agency group - Partners Against Hate Crime and Harassment (PAHCH) whose role is to take forward the actions within the strategy.

The new strategy will mean agencies working together and aims to:

- increase people's confidence in the agencies that deal with hate crime and harassment
- encourage more victims to come forward and report hate crime and harassment
- improve support to victims and witnesses
- increase the proportion of hate crimes brought to justice
- improve local responses to hate crime and harassment



Tackling hate crime cannot be done alone and only through partnership working will differences be made. We want to make sure that no-one living in Telford & Wrekin is living in fear and anxiety as a result of hate crime or harassment.

If you would like to find out more about the new strategy or PAHCH, please contact the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership on 01952 382102

Priorities for the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership

Serious Acquisitive Crime

- Continue to make progress on serious acquisitive crime (burglary, robbery, and vehicle crime)

Early Intervention and Offender Management

- Reduce re-offending through the improved management of offenders, particularly Prolific Offenders
- Reduce first time entrants into the Youth Justice System

Violent Crime

- Continue to reduce Serious Violent Crime, and Assault with Injury
- Provide greater support to Domestic Abuse victims
- Improve hate crime and harassment reporting and provide an improved service to witnesses and victims
- Tackle violence towards women and girls and provide appropriate support to victims

Community Safety and Reassurance

- Better engage local communities particularly young people at neighbourhood level and address issues of concern. Links with Community Cohesion
- Communicate our successes and undertake public awareness campaigns to provide reassurance to local communities, especially visible minorities

Substance misuse

- Reduce the impact of drug and alcohol misuse
- Tackle alcohol fuelled violent crime, particularly in the night time economy

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Provide effective response to incidents of anti-social behaviour (including environmental crime) and disorder which meets local needs
- Reduce deliberate vehicle fires and deliberate secondary fires

Community Cohesion

- Improve peoples' life chances in creating a truly cohesive and multi-cultural community and take appropriate measures to prevent violent extremism

Events a success for National Tackling Drugs Week and 'Your Community Matters'

As part of the National Tackling Drugs week recently, the Drug and Alcohol Action Team from the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership organised a range of activities to promote a better understanding about drugs and services available, to help users and local communities living with the effects of drug use in Telford & Wrekin.

The activities included a 'Healthy Road Show' highlighting the impact of drugs to young people at Adams Grammar in Newport, the Sutherland School in Trench and Phoenix School in Dawley these were run by the Community Health Improvement Team and Nacro and were supported by a Shropshire Fire & Rescue vehicle.

Local residents have also been finding out more about drugs from the Community Substance Misuse Team, Youth Offending Service, Community Health Improvement Team and service users and drug workers from Nacro who joined the road show in the Telford Town Centre.

The Community Substance Misuse Team can be contacted at:

- **Matthew Webb House, High St, Dawley, Telford: 01952 381730**
- **Portico House, Drug Help (Wellington) 22 Vineyard Road, Wellington, 01952 222229**

The road show also visited the Newport Carnival as part of the 'Your Community Matters' event which was a great success. It was a sunny day and residents met front line staff from a range of services to get useful advice on a host of issues including drug awareness, anti social behaviour, crime reduction, affordable warmth and local policing.

The Council is committed to improving Newport and the surrounding rural areas and is working as part of the Newport Regeneration Partnership, to regenerate the area and to consult local people on how best to improve the town.

Pictured left: Tackling Drugs display in Telford Town Centre : Pictured is l-r, Ami Hanwell (CSMT), Chris Blackadder (NACRO), Pam Stadnik (Safer Communities). Pictured right: Your Community Matters Event : Jenny Wynn, Cllr Eric Carter, Caroline Oakes, Theresa Carson, Cllr Adam Stanton, Chief Superintendent Peter Robinson and Cllr Roy Scammell with Charlie Cartwright and Nick Davies.

