



## Wealden Police Weekly News and Alerts

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**Thursday 28th January 2021**

### **Wealden Police weekly News and Alerts**

#### **Ask for ANI**

In the first week of the latest national lockdown, more than 400 vulnerable people reached out for help to victim support agencies across Sussex. Worryingly though, domestic abuse referrals have begun to decrease, with one specialist support service seeing a fall of nearly 40% in referrals compared to numbers in late December.

Although the Government has made it clear that individuals are permitted to leave their homes if they are escaping domestic abuse, Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) Katy Bourne is concerned that victims may still feel trapped at home and that there may be many across the county who are suffering in silence.

She says: “Just because we are seeing a decrease in referrals does not mean that these crimes are reducing. We may all be locked down, but it doesn’t mean that victims of abuse are locked out from help. I recognise the impact these restrictions may have on those confined to living with their abuser so it’s more important than ever that, people who feel threatened and vulnerable, know there is someone out there who will listen and help them.”

Support services across Sussex are still accessible for all victims during lockdown and there are many ways in which people can discreetly reach out for the help and support they need.

Mrs Bourne relaunched the [Safe Space Sussex website](#) in the first lockdown. It is an online directory of local victim services which has been equipped with a new search tool so that victims of any crime in Sussex can find the service they need within seconds. It also has a ‘leave site now’ button that users can press to quickly exit the site.

Sussex Police have issued advice on how a victim of crime can covertly let a call handler know they are in danger. The '55' technology is in place for those too scared to speak, to alert a call handler to the fact they need help by pressing 55 on their mobile phone once they've dialled 999.

From this week, the Government has announced that, as part of a national

campaign, victims of domestic abuse will also be able to safely access support from thousands of pharmacies across the UK through a new codeword scheme – offering a vital lifeline to those who are not safe in their own home.

The ‘Ask for ANI’ scheme allows those at risk or suffering from abuse to discreetly signal that they need help. By asking for ANI, a trained pharmacy worker will offer a private space where they can understand if the victim needs to speak to the police or would like help to access support services.

There will be an on-going sign-up process open and Mrs Bourne is asking all pharmacies across Sussex to get involved, saying: “This is an innovative way for local pharmacies to help in the fight against domestic abuse. By signing up to this worthwhile scheme you are providing another much-needed safe space where victims can covertly reach out for the help they need.”

The Ministry of Justice provided an additional £151,000 in December 2020, in addition to the nearly £700,000 the PCC secured in June 2020. This substantial funding has provided services locally with additional resources necessary to ensure they can continue to deliver crucial support to victims throughout the pandemic.

So far, the additional funds have enabled more than 3,000 vulnerable people to get the help they need, whilst allowing services to cope with extra demand and to introduce safe, remote ways to deliver support.

If you, or someone you know, is feeling unsafe at home, please visit <https://www.safespacesussex.org.uk/>.

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, always dial 999 and ask for the police.



Sussex  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner



# Ask



Sussex Police is committed to reducing casualties on the roads and making them a safer place for all road users. You can find a snapshot of activity from across Sussex that our teams and volunteers have been doing in response to local issues.

## **Advice**

A new police unit has been launched to track and catch dangerous and wanted criminals using the Sussex roads network.

The Specialist Enforcement Unit (SEU) will carry out disruption and enforcement operations on roads across the county, targeting those involved in serious, organised and violent crime.

The team is made up of experienced police officers and detectives with a blend of specialist skills and who can use a range of tactics to tackle criminals using the road network, including advanced driving skills and the use of a police dog unit to track offenders and search vehicles.

So far the unit has clocked up more than 750 officer hours on visible proactive work across Sussex, made 17 arrests for supply of class A drugs, money laundering, drug relating motoring offences, seized six vehicles, made 93 seizures of class A drugs including crack and heroin and during one job alone they seized £10,000 worth of cocaine, £20,000 cash and safeguarded a 16-year-old involved in county lines drug dealing.

The unit is the latest in a series of police enforcement teams to be launched across Sussex in the past year funded by the Government's Uplift programme and local precept investment.

You can read more about the new [SEU on our website here](#).

## **Localised activity**

### **East Sussex**

Lewes officers have been out enforcing speed limits targeting rural roads that have been used as race tracks. The officers have carried out checks at Ditchling, Ringmer and Lewes, not only dealing with speeding vehicles but also ensuring that people are wearing seatbelts and not using their mobile phones. All of these offenses come under the Fatal Five – the most common causes of killed and seriously injured incidents. You can find out more about the Fatal Five [here on our webpage](#).

A routine vehicle stop on the A21 resulted in the arrest of two men suspected of supplying drugs. One of the men was further arrested for drug driving and money laundering.

In Barnhorn Road, Bexhill officers carried out speed checks in response to community concerns of vehicles speeding. Time was also spent in Ninfield

following several reports of dangerous driving in the village.

The rural crime team have also been busy dealing with off road drivers where they have been illegally driving 4x4s causing extensive damage to farmland and also in the Brede High Wood area.

Crowborough, Nutley, Halland, Hailsham and Westham, along with many other locations, have received similar attention from their respective Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Not only have the officers been ensuring people are driving to the rules of the road but also ensuring that only essential journeys are being made in accordance with Government direction.

### **Engage with us**

[Operation Crackdown](#) is a joint initiative run by Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and Sussex Police, which provides communities of Sussex an opportunity to report specific instances of anti-social driving, as well as abandoned vehicles on the road. In instances where there is sufficient evidence, road users are contacted and educated by Sussex Police to highlight the impact of anti-social behaviour on the roads on the wider community. All reports provide a vital oversight of when and where anti-social driving incidents are taking place, assisting in the long term operational strategy of colleagues within SSRP and Sussex Police.

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a county wide initiative involving community members working collaboratively with Sussex Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. To find out more about Community Speedwatch operations, please visit CSW [online](#).

If you are interested in joining an existing Community Speedwatch group, or setting up a new group in your local area, get in touch with the [Community Speedwatch team](#).

Subscribe to our free messaging service on In the Know, our messaging service provider, where you'll receive local updates and information sent straight into your email inbox. Sign up here.

If you have any questions about road safety in Sussex, [contact the SSRP team](#).

If you suspect someone is drink or drug driving and there is an immediate risk dial 999 or text 65999 to report it.



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## Coronavirus Vaccine Scams Warning

Cyber criminals are using the roll out of the NHS Covid-19 vaccine to target victims with convincing looking text messages.

The texts appear to be from the NHS and state the recipient has the opportunity to sign up for the vaccine.

The texts ask the recipient to click on a link which takes them to an online form where they are prompted to input personal and financial details.

In some cases the online form has looked very similar to the real NHS website.

**Remember, the NHS will NEVER ask for your payment details.**

If you have received one of these scam text messages:

- Do not respond or click on the link
- If you have clicked and supplied your details, report it immediately to [Action Fraud](#)



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### **ASB Patrols this weekend**

Each week, targeted ASB patrols head out across the district to known areas, and areas of ASB reported by your communities.

Call **07770 700642** between 1800-0000 each Friday and Saturday if you witness, or are victim to anti-social behaviour (ASB), and report directly to officers on the ground, out targeting areas of known and reported ASB.

This number does not change each week, keep a note of it if you need to contact us. Outside of these times please continue to report anti-social behaviour to us online, or by calling 101, or remember always call 999 in an emergency.



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### **Crime Summary**

During the early evening of 22nd January, a property off Rotherfield Lane, Mayfield, reported returning home to find their rear window had been opened. Fortunately no entry was gained and nothing was taken. (1179 of 22/01)

2 motorbikes were stolen from a secure garage at a property off Timberlaine Road, Pevensey overnight on the 24th January. Unknown suspects have damaged and used force to prize open the garage doors of the property. House to house and CCTV enquiries have been conducted by Police. (357 of 25/01)

Electronics and catering equipment was stolen from a secure trailer at a business park off Station Road Heathfield overnight on the 24th January. Unknown suspects have gained entry to the location and entered the trailer to take the items. (749 of 24/01)

Electronics and alcohol were stolen from a property off Hammer Lane, Heathfield between the 21-24th January. Unknown suspects have forced entry to the premises to commit offences. (753 of 26/01)

**There have been no further reports of burglaries on the Wealden district between the 22/01 - 28/01.**

For a range of crime prevention advice, support and tips to keep you and your property safe can be found [here](#).

If you have been the victim of a burglary, please report online, or by calling 101 – always dial 999 in an emergency/burglary in action.



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### **Action Fraud scam watch**

Did you know scams cost the UK economy £5-£10 Billion a year, with over 50% of people over 65 having already been targeted by scams; and only 5% of

all scams reported?

### **Action Fraud's top tips**

Although fraud and cybercrime comes in many forms, there are some simple steps you can take to protect yourself.

Follow Action Frauds' personal safety checklist to keep you and those around you safe from fraud [here](#).



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### **Help us keep Sussex safe**

If you saw or heard anything, or have any information about any incident in this message please contact us online, or call 101, quoting the reference number provided.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111, or online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

You can also visit our website at [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk) where you can find our easy to use online forms to report all non-emergencies to us.

You can also find police advice to keep you safe and help you understand the law, and also browse our crime prevention pages for first-hand knowledge, industry best practices and practical crime prevention advice from officers and specialist teams all across the police.

Have you ever had a policing question that doesn't actually require direct police

involvement to answer?

Ask the Police is a great online source of information for the most frequently asked policing questions, visit [www.askthe.police.uk/](http://www.askthe.police.uk/) for more information.



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### Your local teams

You can find now find details of your local PCSO and your local Neighbourhood Policing Teams [here](#).

Follow your local Police team on social media, click below:

[Facebook](#)

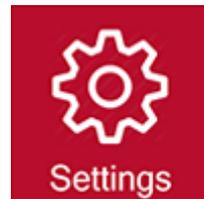
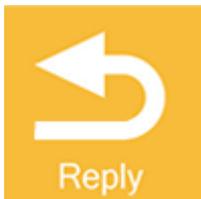
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Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden team (Police, Prevention team, Sussex)

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