

Horsham Police Weekly Update Friday 28th July 2017

News and appeals

Yellow van prompts mistaken concerns over a Horsham prowler

Police in Horsham are keen to correct a mistaken impression that a yellow van seen in the Hills Farm Lane, Granary Way and Greenway area of the town over recent days may be involved in stalking children.

Enquiries have established that the van comes from the London area and may be looking for scrap metal.

The presence of a police helicopter over Horsham on Tuesday evening appears to have prompted some social media users to conclude that officers were searching for the van, escalating concerns that its occupants pose a threat to local children.

Sergeant Adam Ferries, of Horsham's neighbourhood policing team, said: "Unfortunately it's an object lesson in social media being used to circulate incorrect information so that parents and others have become needlessly anxious.

"Previous reports of a small black van arousing suspicions in the same area were investigated and came to nothing, so I would ask people not to panic or jump to conclusions.

"Certainly if they see something out of the ordinary that concerns them, they should report it to police through the usual channels, but posting on social media without having the full facts to hand is to be discouraged."

Sgt Ferries said the police helicopter was engaged in activity entirely unrelated to concerns prompted by the vans.

Anyone seeing a crime in progress or fearing a crime is about to be committed should dial 999 and ask for police.

Otherwise they can report details online [here](#) or phone 101.

Alternatively they can contact the independent charity [Crimestoppers](#) anonymously on 0800 555 111.

<https://sussex.police.uk/news/yellow-van-prompts-mistaken-concerns-over-a-horsham-prowler/>

Residents warned of fraudulent callers

Police are again reminding people to be aware of scam callers.

Two calls were received in Horsham this week both targeting elderly people.

On July 18 and 19 calls were made to a woman to a woman in her 70s and one is

her 90s by someone claiming to be a detective from the Metropolitan Police. One was told her card had been used fraudulently in Birmingham and she needed to withdraw £5,000 as evidence. She did and handed the money over to a courier sent to her home. The other was told she needed to withdraw £2,500 which she then also handed over to a courier.

PC Jon Walker said: "The police would never contact people and ask them to withdraw or hand over cash to officers. The people carrying out these frauds are deliberately targeting those they think are vulnerable, so please do look out for your friends, family and anyone you feel may be at risk by passing on this message, to help prevent further people falling victim to this type of fraud.

"If ever you doubt a telephone caller is genuine, simply hang up the phone."

To find out more, go to our [advice](#) page.

<https://sussex.police.uk/news/residents-warned-of-fraudulent-callers/>

The consequences of carrying a knife can be life changing

A national anti-knife crime campaign led by the Metropolitan Police brings forces together to work towards reducing the number of people who carry knives.

During a dedicated week of action starting on July 17, Sussex Police will join with other forces to carry out enforcement activity including test purchase operations, hotspot patrols, knife surrenders and arrest of outstanding offenders. Police school officers will visit schools and colleges across the county.

The aim of the campaign is to demonstrate the consequences for anyone caught carrying a knife. The key messages for young people and children who may be unaware of their actions are: get caught with a knife and you could face a prison sentence of up to five years - that's just for possessing a knife in a public place. If you hurt someone there will be other charges to answer and you could go to prison for longer.

The consequences are more far reaching when you consider the impact of a criminal conviction on a person's family, or the chances of a university education, finding a job or even travel abroad.

Chief Inspector Simon Starns said: "Young people need to know that carrying a knife for protection is not a lawful excuse, it will increase the chance of it being used against them. The police often caution first time offenders for other types of offences but if anyone is involved in an incident where they're carrying a knife and fear is caused or there is a degree of danger, the premeditated possession of a knife means they are much more likely to be charged. It's just not worth the risk."

Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne added: "I hope this week of national action goes a long way to warn anyone, especially young people, of the consequences of arming themselves with a knife.

"Although the force sees less than one crime a day in Sussex where a knife is involved, it is reassuring to know they are not complacent about knife crime.

"There are amnesty bins located at police stations around Sussex, so if anyone has a knife they want to dispose of, I would urge people to make use of them."

<https://sussex.police.uk/news/the-consequences-of-carrying-a-knife-can-be-life-changing/>

Alerts/Press Releases sent out this week click the link to see full details

Crime summary

Burglary other the dwelling

Reference: 0562 of 22/07/2017

Location: Laughton Road Horsham

Date and time: Between 27th June and 21st July

Details: Door forced on garage nothing stolen

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](#), email us at 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk 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

Your local teams

[Visit our Website](#) to contact your local team, view local news and follow our social media accounts. Simply type your post code in the '**Find a Local Area**' box located in the top right of the web page.

Links and attachments: Sussex Police will only ever link you to secure Websites we trust. We will only send you attachments where we believe it is absolutely necessary.