

Neighbourhood Policing – Kirklees District

Danger Rangers putting their new safety skills to the test



PC Stuart Pearson with young people from St Joseph's, Dewsbury.

Youngsters from schools in North Kirklees had the chance to dice with danger recently.

The nine and ten-year-olds took part in the Danger Rangers initiative, an interactive programme of activities to raise awareness of potentially dangerous and sometimes life threatening situations. Topics range from road, water and fire safety to drug awareness and personal safety. Stranger danger, vandalism on the buses and the need for smoke alarms and a fire escape plan was also part of the discussions.

The programme was organised and delivered by Kirklees Child Safety Group.

PC Stuart Pearson, Youth and Schools Liaison Officer for North Kirklees said: "Danger Rangers raises awareness of potential everyday dangers young people may come across. It's a chance for them to think ahead and talk about what they would do."

Team tactics

Neighbourhood Policing Teams in Kirklees have been spending time listening to people's concerns. ...

■ In Ravensthorpe tackling drug dealing, anti-social behaviour, street lighting and more for young people to do, were top of the public's wish list. A Neighbourhood Management Group, involving police, councillors, community mediators and workers, has been set up to take action and report back to the community.

■ In Cleckheaton a joint initiative between Community Support Officers and Kirklees Youth Services, for more sporting activities for young people, has found funding from the Spen Valley Area Committee.

■ Following his work to stop nuisance youths disturbing elderly residents in Earlsheaton, PC Mike Beardsley was invited to London for a private audience with Prime Minister Tony Blair at the recent launch of the Respect agenda.

■ Meanwhile, in Batley, the Neighbourhood Police team has been playing an important role in crime follow-up visits. This is where Community Support Officers visit the crime victim if an arrest hasn't been made. They offer crime prevention advice and carry out house-to-house enquiries, a move which has been leading to more crimes being solved.

■ Also in Batley, Batley Business and Enterprise College and Moor End Technology College have jointly-funded two officers to work in schools as part of the Behaviour Improvement Programme. They deal with police-related problems inside school as well as working with pupils both in and outside school time.

■ Metro has also funded two PCSOs to help cut anti-social behaviour at bus terminals in Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Batley and Cleckheaton.

Tough talking to deter would-be robbers and keep kids safe

Robbery team give teen tearaways the hard word

'You could face the best years of your lives behind bars' - that's the stark warning being issued to teenage robbers by police in Kirklees.

Robbery Team Sergeant, Lee Harnell, said many of the culprits were bullies who didn't understand the severity of their actions.

"They will steal a mobile phone, or a small amount of money from another child. It is bullying and it is robbery, a very serious offence with very serious consequences," he said.

"At the moment we are hammering home the message to young people that this kind of behaviour is wrong and it is criminal. If you are found guilty of

robbery, you could face a long time in prison."

As part of the campaign the Robbery Team is liaising with the Division's Schools' Liaison Officers.

Sgt Harnell said the chances of becoming a victim of robbery in Kirklees remained low, but reiterated some simple crime prevention steps

people could take to help them avoid becoming a victim:

■ Don't walk and talk with your mobile phone.

■ If you have an i-pod or MP3 player, keep it out of view in public.

■ Don't keep your wallet or purse in a place where it can be seen.

Turning up the heat

Police in Kirklees have launched a two month initiative to tackle burglary and vehicle crime.

Police operations, targeting the Division's burglary hotspots and known offenders, are being backed by a major crime prevention campaign.

Detective Inspector Mick Turner said the aim is to disrupt criminal activity and catch those we believe to be committing burglaries and vehicle crime.

We will have police patrolling burglary 'hotspots' as well as Traffic Officers using the Automatic Number Plate

Recognition system and working closely with Kirklees District Drugs Team and Neighbourhood Policing Teams. We will be using search warrants and making arrests over the next couple of months.

"The second element to our campaign is crime prevention. People will be offered home security advice as well as how to keep cars secure from would-be thieves.

"And if people have information about who is involved in burglary or car crime, contact either ourselves or Crimestoppers anonymously."



Officers have been patrolling burglary 'hot spots' around Kirklees.

Call us up

Residents from the Kirklees North area can now contact their Neighbourhood Policing Team direct.

If you live in **Batley, Birkenshaw or Birstall**, you should contact Sgt Neil Money on 01924 421066. Those in **Spenborough** should call Sgt John Agar on 01924 421069. If you live in **Dewsbury**, you should contact Sgt Steve Forest on 01924 431159 and if you live in **Mirfield**, call Sgt Ian Hardy on 01924 206133.