

Prevention is better than the cure...

Crime Prevention Newsletter | Winter 2018



Your crime prevention team

There is a Crime Prevention team in each of the five Policing Districts across West Yorkshire, addressing crime types ranging from burglary to modern slavery.



Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WYPCrimePrevention

Their job is to support individuals, communities and businesses in reducing the opportunity for crime to occur. Please get in touch if you would like advice by emailing hqcpo@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk or 101.

Winter vehicle crime prevention

As we wake up in the morning to see our cars covered with a blanket of ice, the dread to de-frost takes over before the daily commute to work. 'How can I defrost with the least amount of fuss and effort' is the thought that enters one's mind.

However, leaving your engine running and nipping back to collect your lunch or gloves whilst the car warms up is not the way to go.

Remember, criminals are opportunists and will jump at the chance of getting into a vehicle that already has a key in the ignition.

What can I do?

- ❗ Never leave your vehicle unattended whilst it defrosts or warms up.
- ❗ Remove all items from your vehicle, including shopping bags, satnavs, laptops etc.
- ❗ Double check you have locked your vehicle by trying the handle before walking away.
- ❗ Be aware of your surroundings and park in well-lit areas where possible.

For more information please visit our website: www.westyorkshire.police.uk/advice/vehicles-cycles.



Burglaries often increase during the winter months, as burglars take advantage of the longer hours of darkness.

Crime prevention does not have to cost a lot of money, there are simple measures you can take to make your home look occupied and reduce your chances of being a victim.

Here are some tips to improve your home security:

- ❗ Always keep doors and windows locked, even when you are in. Remove the keys from the lock and keep them out of view.
- ❗ Use timer switches to turn lights on when you're out. Alternate the times and lights that you use.
- ❗ Consider using a fake TV device in an upstairs bedroom to give the impression that someone is home.
- ❗ Make sure your alarm and any outside lights are in working order. Always activate your alarm when you leave the house.
- ❗ Do not leave valuables on show, such as laptops, tablets, power cables, keys, handbags etc.
- ❗ Consider starting or joining a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

For more information please visit our website: www.westyorkshire.police.uk/burglary.



Unexpected call? Confirm it's not fraud

Criminals may use a range of tactics over the telephone, including pretending to be from HMRC, banks, phone and internet providers. At this time of year, they may pretend to be from an energy company, or offer improvements such as cavity wall or loft insulation, sometimes for "free" under a government grant.

If you receive an unexpected call, ask yourself...

- ❗ Were you expecting the phone call? If no, hang up.
- ❗ Are they asking for personal and/or banking information? If yes, hang up.
- ❗ Have you dealt with this company before? If no, hang up.
If yes, call them back using a number you know to be genuine.



For more advice and information please visit our website: www.westyorkshire.police.uk/fraud.



MODERN SLAVERY: FORCED LABOUR

It's not in my workplace...?

It is believed that **40.3 million** people around the world are in a situation of slavery. **68%** of these are subject to forced labour. It is estimated that **13,000** people are held in slavery within the UK alone.

Forced labour is any work or service which people are forced to do against their will, under threat of punishment. It could be happening in any town and in any trade including nail bars, agriculture, car washes and takeaways.

This is an absolutely horrific and despicable crime that we can all play a part in preventing.

For more information please visit our website: www.westyorkshire.police.uk/modern-slavery-human-trafficking.

Potential indicators include:

- ❗ Is there anyone that works with you who gets dropped off and collected, at the same time each day? Is their movement restricted, do they appear to be controlled?
- ❗ Have they suggested that they do not know much about their employment? Do they appear isolated or reluctant to talk about their circumstances?
- ❗ Have they suggested that they are getting money removed from their wages for food, accommodation or travel? Or that they are getting paid an extremely low amount?
- ❗ Have they suggested that their wages are paid into someone else's bank account or someone else controls their account?
- ❗ If anyone from authority has visited your workplace, have you noticed that certain people hide during their visits?
- ❗ Do they show signs of physical injury or psychological trauma, or suggest they have limited or no access to medical care? Do they look malnourished? Do they turn up in the same clothes each day? Do they appear not to have the correct equipment to do their job?

If you think someone may be a victim of modern slavery please contact The Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700 or www.modernslaveryhelpline.org. Ring 999 if someone's life is in danger.