

# Prevention is better than the cure...

Crime Prevention Newsletter | Summer 2019



## 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](https://www.facebook.com/WYPCrimePrevention)

Their job is to support individuals, communities and businesses in reducing the opportunity for crime to occur. Get in touch if you would like advice by emailing [hqcpo@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:hqcpo@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk) or calling 101.

## Squaring

The rise of the teenage money mule: often known as Squaring. This is the use of teenagers to launder criminal funds through their bank account.

Attracted by social media adverts which offer “risk free” earnings. Those recruited allow money to be deposited into their accounts, then meet with the suspect to withdraw cash, handing it over in person whilst retaining a percentage as their commission. Not viewing this as criminal, they pass on details to their friends as a way of earning easy money.

### What are the risks?

- ❗ Bank account may be closed.
- ❗ Harder to obtain a student loan or mobile phone contract.
- ❗ You have no idea who you are meeting.
- ❗ What crime has this money come from and what is it going on to fund?

### What to look out for?

- ❗ New clothes, accessories or cash that cannot be explained.
- ❗ Groups of friends discussing this or having extra money available.

### What to do if you suspect something?

- ❗ Make the parents/guardian aware and report this to the bank and Police via 101.

Check out the video below for more info:  
<https://youtu.be/z711PEuHc5s>

For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.westyorkshire.police.uk/advice](http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/advice)

## Layers of home security – outbuildings

Outbuildings are often used to store expensive, bulky items that do not fit inside the house, as well as tools that may prove useful for an offender trying to gain access to your property.

### Sheds:

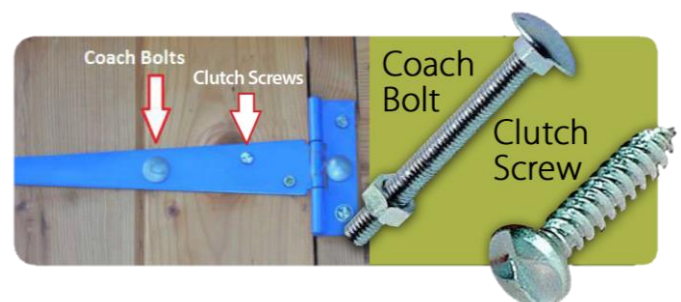
- ❗ Consider using coach bolts and clutch screws to make it difficult to tamper with the hinges.
- ❗ Use a good quality padlock tested to British Standard BN12320 and a shed bar if necessary.

### Garages:

- ❗ Devices such as a door defender can be installed into a solid concrete base to prevent the opening of the garage door.
- ❗ Obscure any windows to prevent offenders from being able to see what is inside.

### Alarms:

- ❗ There are a number of alarm options available to protect sheds and garages, from basic battery operated PIR alarms to sensors that can be linked to domestic alarm systems within the home.



For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.westyorkshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/files/crime-prevention/shed\\_security.pdf](http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/files/crime-prevention/shed_security.pdf)



## Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is the largest voluntary crime prevention group in the country. It is based on the idea of communities coming together to reduce crime and increase community cohesion.

### Benefits of Neighbourhood Watch

- ! Reduce / prevent local crime and disorder
- ! Create safer neighbourhoods
- ! Build community spirit and cohesion

Neighbourhood Watch schemes vary in size and geographical area. Some schemes may consist of only a few houses, whilst others may extend to an entire estate. Residents may meet on a regular basis to discuss ways in which they can tackle low-level problems in the area. However, some schemes exist via social media, making use of technology to communicate and share information.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.westyorkshire.police.uk/nhw](http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/nhw).

## Knife crime

Knife and offensive weapon offending has a devastating effect on individuals, families and communities.

Injuries, fatalities, criminal convictions, feeling threatened – the effects of knife crime are huge.

Carrying a knife, thinking it is for your safety can escalate situations out of your control and make a bad situation much worse.

### It is illegal to:

- ! Sell a knife to anyone under 18, unless it has a folding blade 3 inches long or less.
- ! Carry a knife in public without a good reason, unless it has a folding blade with a cutting edge 3 inches or less.
- ! Carry, buy or sell any type of banned knife.
- ! Use any knife in a threatening way (even a legal knife).
- ! Carry a lock knife (a knife that can be locked and re-folded by pressing a button) without good reason.

### Advice for parents - spot the signs:

- ! Has your child become withdrawn from the family?
- ! Has your child lost interest in positive activities?
- ! Does your child stay out unusually late without giving a reason and is vague on the whereabouts?
- ! Have they stopped seeing old friends?
- ! Is your child secretive about the contents in their bag?
- ! Has any items gone missing from the kitchen, tool box or garage?

Have a conversation with your child about knife crime.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.westyorkshire.police.uk/stopknifecrime](http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/stopknifecrime).

