

# Prevention is better than the cure...

Crime Prevention Newsletter | Spring 2021



## Hello and welcome to our Crime Prevention Newsletter

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. Please get in touch if you would like advice by emailing [hqcpo@westyorkshire.police.uk](mailto:hqcpo@westyorkshire.police.uk) or 101.

## Garden security

It's the time of year where everyone is wanting to be in the garden, yard, or allotment.

This can also mean passing criminals will take any opportunity to steal your garden tools and furniture. They can also use what you leave out to help them commit crime.

### Top tips:

- ❗ Make sure gates are locked and fences are well maintained
- ❗ For sheds, consider using coach bolts and/or clutch screws, an approved padlock and a shed bar if necessary
- ❗ Consider alarm options from basic battery operated PIR alarms to sensors that can be linked to domestic alarm systems within the home
- ❗ Tools and items such as ladders along with children's toys should be out of sight
- ❗ Garden furniture and storage boxes should be secured, consider chaining easily moved garden furniture to fixed posts such as fence posts so they cannot be removed easily
- ❗ Consider defensive planting with spikey shrub



*A shed alarm kit which includes hasp lock, alarm and stickers*



*Example of defensive planting using shrubbery*



*A picture of a property where a pitch fork used from the garden to prise open a window*

## Dog theft

As figures for dog theft are relatively low in West Yorkshire, it is a highly emotive issue and can have real psychological effects on owners.



Nationally there has been a slight increase in this type of offence but the exposure it has on social media makes out that the figures are a lot higher.

Forewarning and a few safety/prevention tips should go some way in restricting any increases.

### Top tips:

- ❗ Before buying a dog, check the person you are buying from
- ❗ Consider microchipping your dog and keep the number and database contact number in your phone
- ❗ Make sure your dog has a collar on with a name and address
- ❗ Do not leave dogs unattended in a public area or in a car
- ❗ If your dog does not come back when called, keep them on a lead
- ❗ Look at ways to secure your garden, e.g. defensive planting
- ❗ Refrain from advertising your dog on social media
- ❗ Be vigilant about strangers asking questions about your dog
- ❗ Consider varying the route you walk and the time at which you walk
- ❗ If your dog is stolen, report it to the Police and inform a Council dog warden

For more information, visit [Dog theft | Dogs Trust](#)



## Ticket fraud

As the UK gradually comes out of Lockdown and restrictions start easing, it is easy to get duped with great offers of travel or events. Criminals may take the increase in demand for 'Live' events as an opportunity to target unsuspecting individuals with non-existent tickets often at inflated prices.

Action Fraud noticed a big increase in this type of Fraud in February 2021, up by almost 70% on the previous month. This figure has risen again in March and it is anticipated the trend will continue through April.

For example, over 210 reports received in February with victims reporting losing a total of over £270,000. An average loss of over £1200 each.

### Spot the signs of ticket fraud and protect yourself:

- ⚠ Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, official promoter or agent, or a reputable ticket site
- ⚠ Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal offer greater protection against fraud
- ⚠ Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets.
- ⚠ Is the vendor a member of STAR (Secure Tickets from Organised Retailers)? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. For more information: [www.star.org.uk/](http://www.star.org.uk/)

If you believe you have fallen victim to this type of offence, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

## Cannabis farms

Cannabis farms can crop up in any residential area, not just in homes but in the back of shops, warehouses and derelict buildings.

It is vital you inform us of any information that will help us to identify them.



### What to look out for?

- ⚠ **Strong odours** – The odour from cannabis crops are very potent
- ⚠ **Covered up windows** – Curtains always drawn up or windows covered/boarded up from the inside
- ⚠ **Excessive security measures** – Excessive security measures such as extra locks or grilles on windows.
- ⚠ **Lots of condensation** – Look out for condensation on the windows, especially in the summer months.
- ⚠ **Lots of visitors** – Frequent visitors at unsociable hours
- ⚠ **Resident visiting address twice weekly** – Some cannabis growers only tend to the plants twice weekly
- ⚠ **Plant growing equipment** – Lots of plant growing equipment in and out of properties
- ⚠ **Lot of cables and wiring** – Cannabis farm set ups require lots of cables and wirings
- ⚠ **Excessive electricity bills (For Landlords)** – Have the electricity bills suddenly spiked or dropped?
- ⚠ **Snow** – Cannabis farms produce a lot of heat. Be wary of a property without a snow-covered roof
- ⚠ **Bright lights day and night** – Look out for properties with bright lighting
- ⚠ **Buzz of ventilation** – The constant noise of a fan could be for ventilation for cannabis grows
- ⚠ **Vulnerable adults** – Sometimes foreign nationals are victims of human trafficking/modern slavery

Please help us to help you by reporting anything suspicious to West Yorkshire Police on:

[www.westyorkshire.police.uk/report-it](http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/report-it)

Alternatively, you can report anonymously to CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111 or [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)  
#Dobinadealer