

North Warwickshire West Newsletter - 07 May 2018

Local News

09/05/18 - Are you living next door to drug dealers?

Some drug dealers may target the homes of vulnerable, lonely and isolated people which they then may use for drug dealing and cultivation; this is known as 'cuckooing'.

West Mercia Police are committed to tackling people who are involved in drug supply and drug use in our communities.

Information from members of the community can often be the key to our success in arresting and convicting drug dealers. It can be used to support search warrants carried out where drugs are seized and destroyed by the police.

Please report any suspicious activity to police on 101 (always call 999 if a crime is in progress).

Please include a description of the people visiting, the times they are visiting and the vehicles they are using, please do not put yourself in danger. Officers will then gather evidence about your report.

If drug related issues have happened more than once, please tell us when you report it to us. Please provide details of other times this has happened.

If you don't have details of the suspect you should still report the incident to us and if you think of any information that could help our investigation at a later date please let us know.

Remember, if you any have information about the supply of drugs call the police on 101 or remain anonymous by speaking to the independent charity Crimestoppers, tel: 0800 555 111 or by visiting: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/46889/Are-you-living-next-door-to-drug-dealers>

Community Messages

10/05/18 - Trading Standards Scams and Rogue Trader Warnings

Telephone Preference Service Scam: A Coleshill resident contacted Warwickshire Trading Standards after receiving several phone calls which may have come from a call centre located in the Far East. The caller falsely claimed to represent the Telephone Preference Service and asked for debit card numbers (including the three digit security number on the reverse of the card) to sign up to the service. Residents should be aware that the TPS is a free service and TPS would never cold call or ask for card details/payment.

Doorstep Gardening Warning: Rugby Borough residents are warned to beware of an individual going door to door across the area offering to cut trees, hedges and bushes and do odd jobs around the garden. The trader was reported to be door knocking in a no cold calling area. Warwickshire Trading Standards advises residents not to buy goods or services from unexpected doorstep callers.

Bogus Garden Sprays: A resident contacted the service after receiving a knock on the door from someone offering to spray a 'liquid' on their front wall which they claimed would prevent weeds/plant growth. The resident strongly suspected that the liquid was just water! You can't tell a good trader from a bad one on the doorstep. Don't buy from unexpected doorstep traders.

Dodgy Claims Companies Making Bogus 'Trading Standards' Claims: A Warwickshire resident received an unexpected phone call from a 'claims company' to say that they were owed £4000 in bank charges compensation. Already unsure about the call, their suspicions were confirmed when they were told that Trading Standards had asked the company to contact householders! The fraudulent caller would probably have asked for an upfront 'admin fee' to release the non-existent compensation, had the call continued.

Doorstep Builder Warning: A Warwickshire resident was approached by a 'builder' who knocked on his door unexpectedly. The trader did not provide any cancellation paperwork or other details of their business and asked for money up front for building materials. No money was paid. Do not buy goods and services from unexpected callers on the doorstep.

Internet Shutdown Scam: A resident reported receiving a phone call from someone pretending to be BT and claiming that the consumer's internet was going to be shut down unless the caller was allowed remote access to the consumer's computer. Fraudsters use these ruses in order to gain access to computers to steal personal and financial information.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/46903/Trading-Standards-Scams-and-Rogue-Trader-Warnings>

09/05/18 - North Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Meeting

The next North Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch meeting is at The Grimstock Hotel, Coleshill on Thursday 10th May, starting at 7.30pm.

Everyone is welcome. Please come along and see how the group can help you in your area.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/46876/North-Warwickshire-Neighbourhood-Watch-Meeting>

09/05/18 - Copycat websites and bogus publishers

Warwickshire residents have reported paying money to copycat websites. One resident received an email to remind him to renew his European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The email, which turned out to be bogus directed him to a copycat website where he ended up paying £27 for a card which is actually free of charge. Another resident paid a copycat website £60 for a fishing rod licence that should have cost him significantly less.

When applying for any official form or document, always begin your search on the GOV.UK website.

In recent years there has been a drive to remove copycat websites from the top of Internet search pages and this may be encouraging the operators of these websites to turn to sending out links via unsolicited emails.

Small businesses are warned to beware of unexpected doorstep approaches from unscrupulous traders offering advertising. Not only does the advertising often appear in publications that have little or no circulation (making them essentially worthless), but terms and conditions in the small print can lead to businesses having to pay out a great deal more than they originally expected.

Small businesses are advised to research all advertisers and read terms and conditions thoroughly before signing on the dotted line. Business to business contracts are not covered by consumer doorstep selling regulations.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/46860/Copycat-websites-and-bogus-publishers>

09/05/18 - Share investment scam and bogus mattress sellers

A Warwickshire resident lost thousands of pounds following an investment on a bogus share website.

The resident received a cold call from a 'financial expert' who convinced him to invest £1000 via a investor website. The resident's investment appeared to be doing well and the 'adviser' then called again and convinced him to invest a much larger sum. The 'adviser' appeared to be carrying out trades on behalf of the investor on the website, but the money soon disappeared. The 'adviser' could not be contacted and the website was closed down.

Fraudsters use bogus websites to give the illusion that successful share dealing is taking place in order to convince investors to invest more money. They then take steal the money, disappear and the website is closed.

Warwickshire residents are warned to beware of door to door sellers of beds and mattresses. A resident reported paying £250 for a divan and memory foam mattress which when it was delivered was not what was promised. The trader could not then be contacted to resolve the issue.

Mattresses and upholstered furniture sold in the UK must meet strict fire safety regulations, but cheaper non-compliant products are sometimes imported from abroad and sold door to door.

It can be hard to tell a good trader from a rogue on the doorstep and even harder to return faulty or misdescribed items if a

problem is later discovered. Protect yourself from doorstep crime. Do not buy from unexpected doorstep callers.

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/46859/Share-investment-scam-and-bogus-mattress-sellers>

Contact Details

Warwickshire Direct, Coleshill Library and One Stop Shop
19 Parkfield Road
Coleshill
B46 3LD
101 (In an emergency always call 999)

