Child Sexual Exploitation

When a child is being manipulated into having sex, usually in return for something, this is known as sexual exploitation. This is child abuse.

Please do not mask the problem, say something if you observe a situation that is not right. Call the police on 101 or 999 if you feel a child is in imminent danger. Mention “Operation Willow”.

Please help to end this terrible abuse that many children are made to suffer.

If a child is reading this item and wants help, please talk to an adult you can trust or call the police 101 or Childline on 0808 800 5000.

National Police Memorial Day . . .

Former Kent Police Inspector Joe Holness was recognised in the New Year’s Honours list for his work as founder of the National Police Memorial Day (NPMD).

Joe, who retired in July 2017 after a 32 year police career, will be made an OBE. He was inspired to set up the NPMD following the death of Kent Police Officer Jon Odell in 2000 while on duty in Thanet.

The NPMD is supported by its patron Prince Charles, the Government and the Police service nationwide. A service is held each year.

Abigail Phillips, daughter of the murdered Police Officer David Phillips, lit a candle in memory of her father.

It is sad to acknowledge that 4,000 officers have paid the ultimate sacrifice throughout the United Kingdom.

Peter Rolington, Chairman Receives an Award

Peter Rolington, started volunteering within the Neighbourhood Watch structure in 2008, initially looking after his village of Goudhurst, before then covering Tunbridge Wells in West Kent. He now currently has the position of Chair of the Kent Neighbourhood Watch, as well as Kent Crimestoppers and Country Eye.

The Country Eye app was developed in conjunction with Kent Police and the Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and is designed for users to report intelligence and suspicious behaviour. The app currently has 3,000 users and Peter describes his highlight to date as assisting in the catching of a drug dealer via use of the app. A user had reported suspicious behaviour in the centre of Tunbridge Wells, whereby they witnessed a male buying drugs from the other and gave the vehicle details. The Country Eye team reported this to the Tunbridge Wells CSU who managed to locate the vehicle and arrest the driver who was found to be in possession of heroin.

British Transport Police

Text 61016 to report non-emergency incidents on trains or the tube. Dial 0800 405040 to give more information. A 999 call is guaranteed a quick response. For Crimestoppers dial 0800 555 111.

CDP

Make a note

When contacting the Police in West Kent

Emergency only 999

Kent Police 101

Is for reporting non-urgent crime, suspicious incidents or to contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team. Calls cost just 16p from landlines or mobiles.
Security for your Garages and Sheds

Here are a few steps you can take to reduce the risk of your shed, garage or outhouse being burgled.

1. Put all property away after use and lock the shed, garage or outhouse and use the best possible lock you can afford (padlock alarms can be very good deterrent to any would-be thief).

2. All ladders should be locked inside sheds, garages or outhouses so that thieves do not use them to gain access to your house. If this is not possible, then try to chain them up.

3. Expensive lawnmowers and bicycles should be secured to a fixed object or the floor to make them more difficult to move.

4. Do you have a clear line of sight to your shed or garage or outhouse? If not, can trimming bushes and trees rectify this?

5. Ensure that your garden is secure by having a sturdy fence around your garden (6ft high) with a trellis (1ft high) on top.

Always Security Mark your property. If it is stolen and later recovered, the police will be able to give you your item back.

This is good advice as there have been several break-ins recently. Be alert and if you notice anything suspicious please inform the police.

When to Dial 999 or 101

It has become apparent that some Neighbourhood watch members are not sure when they should dial 101 or 999 for the police.

Here is an example of when 999 could have been used.

A prowler was seen walking around rear gardens. This is an indication that he may have wanted to gain access to the houses. The police should have been called immediately. Dialling 999 and giving a good description of the prowler, in this instant it would have been a good thing to do.

When the police arrive they possibly could have caught the person before they had actually broken into a house.

It may be a good time to re-assess the security you have around your property.

A trellis is recommended, a cheap weak trellis, for the simple reason it is harder to climb over, and it will easily break when someone tries to clamber over it. If possible grow plants like pyracanthas as these have sharp thorns, unless you have young children in the garden in which case you can buy strips with points on them.

These can be put on the inside of your fence to stop thieves climbing over. These are available at Garden Centres or DIY stores.

A message from Dave Spitter

It does not seem that long ago that I was writing to say I was the new VWLO and how much I was looking forward to working with you all, but, I am afraid to say that I am now writing to let you know that I am moving on to pastures new.

I have enjoyed my time working with you, receiving your emails and hope that some of the advice and information that I have given will continue to assist and perhaps prevent you becoming a victim of crime and who knows, perhaps help to catch a few of the offenders as well.

I have been involved with NHW in different roles that I have worked and can honestly say that it does make a difference and without your help it would not exist, I do believe that it has to evolve and move with the times. It is a lot easier to be a coordinator now with emails and the internet. If only we could convince the general public of this!

I am grateful for all the information and intelligence that you have submitted to me, but this is where I feel we need to be more proactive. We all see articles on the news where the offenders/suspects are living in everyday streets unnoticed. I would have liked to try and get more information out to coordinators to let you know what signs you should be watching out for.

I have attended AGM’s for both districts and the speakers are always informative and knowledgeable in their subjects. These are well worth attending and if there is something that you particularly want to know about, please contact your committees. They will be only too happy to try and arrange a suitable speaker or obtain relevant information.

I would also recommend attending the committee meetings, see how the committees work and hopefully join. We can all make a difference.

Finally I would just like to thank everybody that has made my role pleasant and productive, the volunteers and committee members and a special thanks to Julie the editor for giving me the space to express my thanks and keeping me on my toes.

Good luck in the future.

by Dave Spitter.

The Chairman and all the Committee wish Dave good luck in his new position and thank him for all his hard work. He will be sorely missed.
Police Open Day
6th, 7th and 8th July 2018

This year there were a few changes to the event. Friday was for Kent Schools, Saturday the Staff, friends and family day and Sunday the public day. Entry was by ticket in order that there was some control over numbers, but still free.

I am embarrassed to say that this is the first time I had attended either as a participant or as a visitor. This year I was a bit of both.

I say both as I had invited my daughter, son-in-law and Grandson Jack (2 years) to the event and staffing the Neighbourhood Watch and Volunteers stand.

To say Jack was excited was a huge understatement. I had a text from my daughter on the Friday night; they had told Jack all about the trip and he was running around the room, talking about the neenahs, copters and Spaceships as only a two year old can.

If you also have not attended, I can recommend you come next year, just about every department has representatives there with Police vehicles, equipment and officers showing off their skills and knowledge, ranging from; Police Dogs (and their handlers) chasing the villains round the field, officers abseiling and forcing entry into buildings, being petrol bombed and even shouted at by some rather angry people. The Police helicopter popped in giving a close up view and the chance to sit inside. Forensic teams gave an insight into the world of fingerprints, DNA and their tools of the trade and officers using their self-defence tactics. Most importantly, I was giving advice, stickers and free pens away in aid of Neighbourhood watch. To be honest this is a small sample of what was available, but as I said, I was working as well and didn’t get to see it all.

Dotted around the grounds were tents with Police and partners showing what they bring to the party, talking of which there were goggles that when worn give you that drunk outlook on life, quite a sight watching people try to walk a straight line when sober! At least you would not get a hangover afterwards.

KFRS and SECAMBS had staff on hand to teach you some valuable skills and even more toys to see and touch.

The Listening Ear
Are you feeling a bit lonely or run-down? Then why not come along to The Six in One Club in Northwood Road, Tonbridge, Kent.

The meetings are usually on a Friday of each month. Come along and talk to friendly people in your area. It is a lovely environment. Have a chat and a coffee and maybe do some craft work or cooking. It’s all free, come along and put the smile back.

This scheme was set up by PCSO Linda Baker and run by the Trench Partnership to help people in the local area.

To find out the date of the next meeting, please e-mail: csu.tonbridge.and.malling@kent.pnn.police.uk.

Are your Neighbourhood watch signs dirty?
Calling all our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. If your street sign is dirty maybe it’s time to give it a wash, but only if it is safe for you to do so.

Dirty signs may indicate the scheme has ceased and we don’t want any one thinking that. Please make sure all your members have window stickers too, that can also be a good deterrent to keep burglars away.

Float to Live. Fight Your Instincts Not The Water

If you fall into the water unexpectedly, what do you do?

A  Swim.
B  Panic.
C  Float.

Many people would fight the effects of cold water by swimming hard or panicking – two potentially life threatening instincts that can quickly lead to drowning. Floating until the cold water shock passes could save your life.

As part of RNLI’s Respect the Water drowning prevention campaign, we are urging people to fight their instincts, not the water and remember one simple skill – floating.

Learn to float. If you unexpectedly fall into cold water:

1  Fight your instinct to panic or swim hard.
2  Lean back in the water to keep your airway clear.
3  Push your stomach up, extending your arms and legs.
4  Gently move your hands and feet to help you float.
5  In 60-90 seconds you will be able to control your breathing.

What to do next.
Swim to safety. Call for help or continue to float until help arrives.
An estimated 372,000 people drown around the world every year, that is one life every 85 seconds, yet so many of these deaths are preventable.
FLOAT TO LIVE. Please tell as many people as possible of this technique especially children. It could help to save their lives.
Many thanks to the RNLI for this life saving information.
RNLI are really concerned about the safety of people near water, especially at the seaside.
Please be aware of the dangers and follow this advice.
A lost passport could lead to identity crime

Her Majesty’s Passport Office has teamed up with Action Fraud to raise awareness of the need to report lost and stolen passports.

Her Majesty’s Passport Office and Action Fraud have teamed up to urge people to report their lost and stolen passports to prevent unrecovered and unreported documents from being abused and used to commit identity crime or facilitate illegal travel across borders.

Almost 50 million people hold a UK passport of which just under 400,000 are reported lost or stolen each year. This represents less than 1% of all passports in circulation, yet despite the risks associated with lost or stolen passports, people are waiting on average 73 days before making a report.

Once a passport is reported as lost or stolen, HM Passport Office cancel it, and share the information within 24 hours with the National Crime Agency to record the loss or theft on Interpol’s Stolen and Lost Travel Document database.

By sharing the details of lost or stolen passports, law enforcement agencies including border and immigration control officers are able to keep ahead of the criminals who attempt to get a UK passport illegally. This also ensures action can be taken against anyone identified as having obtained a passport by fraudulent means.

Director of Action Fraud, Pauline Smith, said:

“I know we can all get excited about going on holiday, and it can be easy to forget to take care of your passport, but the consequences of losing your passport can be severe. Not only will you find you have to pay the costs of replacing it, you may also fall victim to identity fraud.

“Passports have all the information that fraudsters need to steal your identity and start setting accounts up in your name. “This summer, I’m urging people to protect themselves from fraudsters by checking their passport, so that they don’t have to worry about it falling into the hands of criminals during the holiday season.

“Fraud and cyber crime is increasing and therefore there hasn’t been a more important time than now, to protect your identity from criminals.”

Immigration Minister, Caroline Nokes, said:

“When you lose your bank card, the first thing you do is contact your bank and have it cancelled, yet people don’t treat lost or stolen passports with the same urgency. “But not reporting a lost or stolen passport can have severe consequences, such as people using your identity or attempting to use your documents to enter the country illegally.

“That is why it is absolutely vital you report your lost or stolen passport immediately, to help law enforcement agencies prevent people from entering the UK illegally, and to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity crime.”

All passports are inspected at the border, either in person by Border Force officers who are rigorously trained to prevent the holders of fraudulent documents from entering the country or through e-Passport gates which use facial recognition technology to provide identity and security checks in a matter of seconds.

Between 2010 and March 2018, Border Force officers denied entry to over 144,000 people.

If you wish to contact a member of the West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Executive Committee, please write to them at:

C/o: Tonbridge Police Station, Neighbourhood Watch Tray, 1 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2HS.

Sign up to www.e-watch.co.uk. You will then receive twice weekly news reports from Kent Police and other agencies. Scams are also mentioned to help protect you.

Lock all windows and doors securely when you go out. A timer switch is also a good idea if you are going on holiday.