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Have your say

Wycombe Community Safety Partnership is made up of organisations working together to improve community safety in the District. The Community Safety Partnership Plan sets out the priorities for improving safety and how the Partnership will do this. This is your opportunity to let us know whether we have identified the right priorities for 2012/13 and which are most important to you – it's also your opportunity to tell us about your experiences of community safety.

The results of this survey will influence the work the Partnership will undertake next year. A summary of the results will be put onto the Wycombe District Council website within the Community Safety Section in April 2012. **This questionnaire, which is available to complete online now, will close on Friday 10 February 2012.**

Following research into the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour during 2010/11, the following have been identified as priorities for the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership

1. Tackling anti-social behaviour (including gangs)
2. Tackling property related crime (particularly burglary, car crime and theft of metal)
3. Tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence
4. Reducing night time related assaults, disorder and personal robbery

What do you think? Are these the main things that concern you? Have we got it right? Complete the survey at this link: [Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Consultation](#)
The survey can be found on the District Council's website in the "have your say" section.

What are your new year resolutions?

Why not make property marking and taking extra care with your property your new year resolution? If you were lucky enough to receive a new mobile phone, an MP3 player, a new bike, a satellite navigation system or any other valuables in your Christmas stocking, REMEMBER it is vital to security mark the items and make a note of their make and any serial numbers.

Mobile phones, personal music players, bicycles and satellite navigation systems are not only popular gift ideas but they are also popular with thieves, so a little time spent making them secure will help prevent a potentially miserable New Year if they are stolen.

Follow these simple tips to have a safe and Happy New Year:

- Don't tempt crime by leaving valuables on display – either in your vehicle or at home where anyone can glance through a window.
- Don't leave cardboard boxes from costly items out for recycling – it's an advert for what goodies are on offer in your house. Remove address labels from boxes and take them to the recycling centre.
- Get items of value security-marked to deter thieves and make returning stolen goods easier.
- Register your personal property on the National Property Register website www.immobilise.co.uk.

Community Champions: Street Dreams

Over 80 community champions were thanked and congratulated for their outstanding contribution to the Wycombe district at the Community Champion Awards on 2 November. The awards ceremony was opened by an energetic and entertaining performance by Wycombe Steel Orchestra.

In addition to a reception for everyone nominated for an award and an exhibition showcasing local voluntary and community groups, the short-listed nominees and overall winners of each of the five award categories were announced. The winners of the five awards – who each received a £500 cheque, a year's gym membership to a district leisure centre and a personalised front page of the Bucks Free Press – each demonstrated that they had contributed to the community and promoted inclusion, equality and the idea of working together to achieve positive results.

The Community Safety Partnership sponsored an award and we were delighted to award it to Street Dreams.



Street Dreams being presented their award by Inspector Tim McGirr

street dreams .lll

Street Dreams is a charity that acts as an extended family to disadvantaged, disengaged and disruptive young people to help them achieve a sustainable positive life.

Street Dreams is run by people who have all experienced challenging circumstances in their teenage years, but have been able to turn their lives around with support from Street Dreams.

Street Dreams aims to motivate and elevate people so that the community becomes a better place to live in.

Valentine's day – a smashing day?

For many women this year Valentine's day will be the same as any other day, living in fear of a violent partner or ex-partner.

Love and relationships should be based on equality and respect, not violence and abuse. That's why we're using Valentine's day to raise public awareness of domestic violence and of the need for everyone to act now to put a stop to it.

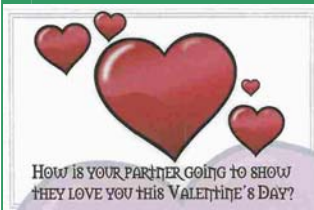
Abusive relationships do not usually begin with violence, but often with gifts, flowers and romance. This then deteriorates into a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour, which often increases in severity over time.

The reality of living with domestic violence means that many abused adults and children are desperate for advice to help them escape from the situation. In Buckinghamshire we are keen to ensure that abuse is not tolerated. There are a number of agencies who work together to provide help and support to victims of abuse.

- Thames Valley Police (emergency calls) 999 or non-urgent: 101
- National Centre for Domestic Violence: 08448 044 999
- 24 hr National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Victim Support : 0845 303 0900
- Wycombe Women's Aid answered by the Samaritans (24hrs): 01494 432 000
- Asian Women's Outreach: 01494 446 366
- Men's Advice line: 0808 801 0327 or www.mensadvice.org.uk
- Broken Rainbow (LGBT Helpline): 03009 995 428

Nightsafe and Am I safe?

Nightsafe partners have been busy over recent months, ensuring that the festive period and new year has been a safe and enjoyable time for all. Activities have varied from high-visibility policing operations, through to writing to our past offenders, reminding





www.nightsafewycombe.org



them that any criminal and anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated in our towns and villages. All of this work has contributed to Wycombe maintaining the accolade of Purple Flag status – a beacon of a safe night out. One of our newest projects is “Am I Safe?”

Am I Safe? is a free mobile phone application which was rolled out by the Nightsafe partnership in Wycombe district in time for the festive period. The Am I Safe? system answers the question ‘Am I Safe, getting into this vehicle?’ or, from the driver’s point of view, ‘Am I Safe, with these passengers in my vehicle?’.

Now live and running locally in this area, the app is designed to improve the safety of passengers and drivers of taxis and private hire vehicles in the Wycombe District.

Accessible on any Smartphone (iPhone, Android or BlackBerry) the Am I Safe? app allows you to enter the registration number of the taxi/minicab you are about to get in to. It will tell you whether the vehicle is licensed or not and the type of licence it holds – either a private hire which is bookable only or a taxi which you can hail on the street.

Am I Safe? then creates a ‘footprint’ of the registration search you make and stores the time, location, registration, and your username – making you traceable quickly if something were to happen. It can also send a copy of this information to your nominated friends and family by email if you want it to.

At the same time, the licensed driver (assuming he or she is registered) will get an email with your username only, so they know that if anything happens to them (or you) the journey is traceable.

The Am I Safe? service is free to use, it’s traceable and makes people accountable. It can help to protect people from the risks of taking an unlicensed cab. The service also helps the council, as the licensing authority, to help track down unlicensed vehicles and investigate any problems. Unlike most mobile apps, Am I Safe? is web-based and can be accessed via any Smartphone simply by visiting www.amisafe.co.uk on your mobile. Like a traditional app, you can add a button or bookmark to this app on your mobile phone navigation screen.

Nightsafe partners work together to tackle the complex issues around having a safe night out in our District. To find out more about the partnership, please visit www.nightsafewycombe.org

Clean up

Buckinghamshire New University students were joined by Thames Valley Police Community Support Officers and members of the Old Tea Warehouse (a High Wycombe-based homeless centre) to clear rubbish and debris from a busy pathway in High Wycombe.

Around 25 students, along with PSCOs Nick Steenbergen and David Del Monte and homeless people housed at The Old Tea Warehouse on Amersham Hill, in High Wycombe, spent an afternoon clearing a half-mile stretch along Hughenden Path, near Hughenden Avenue.

The event was organised with Wycombe District Council's Woodlands Service and the project was called Revive the Wye. More than a dozen bin bags were filled in the clean-up operation, with collectors finding items ranging from a stash of watches to glass, cans, bottles, old footballs and shopping trolleys.



You can now follow us on Twitter!

The Community Safety Team now has its own Twitter account. You can follow us at <http://twitter.com/wycombedcbesafe>. Other useful fellow Tweeters include Thames Valley Police who can be found at http://twitter.com/TVP_Wycombe and Wycombe District Neighbourhood Watch Association at <http://twitter.com/WDNHW>. Twitter is a micro-blogging and social networking site, where comments can be tweeted and read.



CCTV – Facebook for Lay Visitor Panel

Are you interested in CCTV? Why not look at the CCTV Lay Visitors Panel's new Facebook Page? The idea of it is to create an online CCTV interactive community where people can have their say. Leave the Panel your views whether they are good, bad or indifferent – we want to know.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/CCTV-Lay-Panel-High-Wycombe-Bucks/100217006738317>

Drugs – the facts: Cocaine

The effects

Cocaine is a stimulant, which means that it produces a fast, intense feeling of power and energy. Then it wears off (crack wears off very quickly) and the user feels depressed and nervous and craves more of the drug to feel good again.

What are the effects?

Taking cocaine makes users feel on top of the world, wide-awake, confident and on top of their game – but some people are over-confident on it and so may take very careless risks. Its effect is much like speed (amphetamines), but is usually stronger and doesn't last as long.

It can also have other effects:

- Raising the body's temperature
- Making the heart beat faster
- Reducing feelings of hunger
- After a big night on cocaine, it's not unusual for people to feel like they've got the flu.

The effects of crack smoking are virtually immediate, peaking for about two minutes and lasting for only about 10 minutes.

When snorting coke it takes longer to peak but the effects still don't last that long, only around 20 to 30 minutes.

When the effects of any cocaine use start to wear off there can be a very strong temptation to take more, particularly with the long 'come down', the crash period sometimes lasting for days afterwards.

Possible long term effects:

- Using cocaine a lot makes people feel depressed and run down. It can lead to serious

If you have concerns about drugs or want more information, then help is at hand through the FRANK website : www.talktofrank.com

Alternatively, visit the Bucks Drug and Alcohol Team's website : www.bucksdaat.co.uk





Picture from Frank Website

problems with anxiety, paranoia and panic attacks.

- Cocaine can bring previous mental health problems to the surface. If a relative has had mental health problems, there might be an increased risk for you.
- Taking cocaine when you're pregnant can damage your baby. It may cause miscarriage, premature labour and low birth weight.
- Regularly smoking crack can cause breathing problems and pains in the chest.
- Frequent users find they begin to crave more – so it can become an expensive habit to keep.
- Injecting drugs can damage veins and cause ulcers and gangrene. Sharing needles or other injecting equipment can spread HIV and hepatitis infections.

The law

- 'Coke', 'freebase' and 'crack' are all Class A drugs – that means they're illegal to have, give away or sell.
- Possession can result in up to seven years in jail.
- Supplying someone else, including your friends, can result in life imprisonment and an unlimited fine.

Appearance and use

- Nitrous Oxide is becoming increasingly popular among the clubs and dance venues of the UK.

Slang names: Coke, Rock, Snow, Blow, White, Toot, Line, Nose Candy, Base, Flake, Powder, Basa, Smack, Crack, Sneeze, Powder, Girl, White Pony, Flake, C, The Lady, Cain, Neurocain

Information from several sources including Frank www.talktoFRANK.com

101 for Police Non-Emergency No.

Don't forget the new way of contacting the Police is by calling 101. The new number went live in November 2011 and it won't be long now until the old number is no longer available. This very easy number to remember will put you through to a central telephone system which will automatically put you through to Thames Valley Police if ringing on a land-line or mobile from within the Force Area.

Remember 101 for non emergency calls including contacting any officers and reporting crimes. The 999 number still exists for emergency calls, when help is needed immediately or a crime is in progress.



Crimestoppers

Communities have a right to live without crime and without the fear of crime. Crimestoppers is an independent charity which helps to find criminals and help solve crimes.

The charity offers a safe way for members of the public to give information about crime without revealing their identity by operating the 24/7 hotline 0800 555 111 and website www.crimestoppers-uk.org which allow people to pass on information about crimes anonymously.

Calls and online forms are not traced or recorded and personal details of the person giving information are never taken – so no one will ever know who you are. By giving information to Crimestoppers you will never have to go to court or give a statement to the Police.

Crimestoppers has seen outstanding results since the charity was founded in 1988. Over 1.2 million pieces of useful information have been received; over 109,000 people have been arrested and charged, over £115 million worth of goods have been recovered and over £214 million worth of drugs have been seized.

Rewards of up to £1,000 are also offered for information that leads to an arrest and charge and are paid out anonymously, so not at any point will your identity be revealed.

If you have any information about a crime call the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or go to www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Remember – Keep in touch!

- Follow us on Twitter @wycombedcbesafe
- Follow Thames Valley Police at Wycombe @TVP_Wycombe
- Visit us at www.wycombe.gov.uk/communitysafety
- Email us on communitysafety@wycombe.gov.uk
- Phone us on 01494 421404

Next edition – April 2012

Got information about crime?
Don't want to speak to police?
Don't want to give your name?
Then call the independent charity, Crimestoppers on:

0800 555 111



**Wycombe
Community Safety
Partnership**

**c/o Wycombe
District Council
Tel: 01494
421404**