

SNT NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Shrewsbury Rural West
Safer Neighbourhood Team
(SNT)

About your team

Insp	Safdar Ali
PCSO	Joe Bradley
PCSO	Sarah Edwards
Sgt	Matt Sanders
Police Volunteer	Mr Arthur Jones
PC	Ross Cookson

Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community where you live.

Making neighbourhoods safer by cutting day to day crime and anti-social behaviour is at the heart of keeping people in West Mercia safe. We are keen to promote closer links with local residents & would like to increase the number of

Neighbourhood Watch, Speed Watch, Rural Watch & Horse Watch Schemes – they are easy to set up & require little effort to maintain, please ask how.

Officers will continue to come to provide a high quality service however you contact us - in person (on the street, at community bases and at partners and communities together [PACT] meetings).

Please join us on social media – if your parish, group or area have a website, ‘page’ or email address, please let us know. or email us for help & advice.

Where we work

Shrewsbury Rural West is based at - [Pontesbury Police Station, Minsterley Road, Pontesbury, SY5 0QH.](#) We work in the Parishes of Pontesbury, Minsterley,

Great Hanwood, Longden, Westbury, Ford, Great Ness & Little Ness, Bicton, Alberbury, Montford Bridge, and Bomere Heath, we also cover the Shrewsbury Town council areas of Bowbrook, Gains Park and Bicton Heath including the Royal Shrewsbury and Redwood Hospitals.

How to get in touch

☎ **101** Extension 66645 to talk to your local SNT at Pontesbury Station.

✉ shrewsburyrw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

🌐 www.westmercia.police.uk

📘 **Pontesbury Police Station**

🐦 **@ShrewsburyCops**

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

PONTESBURY POLICE STATION OPENING TIMES

WEDNESDAY'S - 4 pm To 7 pm

The Police Station is staffed by volunteers. Sometimes due to circumstances beyond our control we may not be able to have the station open to the public. If the station is closed and you need to speak to a member of the team please contact us using the details above.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team will also hold Police Surgeries :

<https://westmercia.police.uk>

Occasionally due to circumstances beyond our control we may not be able to get to the Surgery or Meeting. If officers are not at the location and you need to speak to the team please contact us using the details above.

Shrewsbury Copthorne Rural Inc Gains Park – 128 Incidents

Assault: 3
Criminal Damage: 4
Burglary Residential: 0
Theft From Vehicle: 0
Harassment/Stalking: 1
ASB Nuisance: 25
ASB Personal: 5
ASB Environmental: 11
Concern For Safety: 45
Domestic Incident:9
Threats To Kill:2
Suspicious Circumstance: 15
Civil Dispute: 0
Sexual Offence:0
Highway Disruption: 5
RTC:3

Bicton Rural – 7 Incidents

Assault: 1
Criminal Damage: 0
Burglary Residential: 0
Theft From Vehicle: 0
Harassment/Stalking 0
ASB Nuisance: 1
ASB Personal: 1
ASB Environmental: 0
Concern For Safety: 0
Domestic Incident: 1
Threats To Kill: 0
Suspicious Circumstance: 1
Civil Dispute: 0
Sexual Offence: 0
Highway Disruption: 1
RTC: 1

Alberbury and Cardeston and Westbury and Halfway House inc Yockleton – 11 Incidents

Assault: 1
Criminal Damage: 0
Burglary Residential: 1
Theft From Vehicle: 0
Harassment/Stalking 0
ASB Nuisance: 3
ASB Personal: 0
ASB Environmental: 1
Concern For Safety: 4
Domestic Incident:0
Threats To Kill:0
Suspicious Circumstance: 0
Civil Dispute:0
Sexual Offence:0
Highway Disruption:2
RTC:0

Ford/Great Ness and Little Ness/Nescliffe and Montford Bridge – 9 Incidents

Assault: 1
Criminal Damage: 0
Burglary Residential: 0
Theft From Vehicle: 0
Harassment/Stalking 0
ASB Nuisance: 1
ASB Personal: 1
ASB Environmental: 0
Concern For Safety: 0
Domestic Incident:1
Threats To Kill:0
Suspicious Circumstance: 1
Civil Dispute:0
Sexual Offence:0
Highway Disruption:3
RTC:1

Hanwood/Longden/Annscroft/Hook – A – Gate/Pontesbury and Minsterley – 61 Incidents

Assault: 1
Criminal Damage: 0
Burglary Residential: 2
Theft From Vehicle: 0
Harassment/Stalking: 1
ASB Nuisance: 14
ASB Personal: 8
ASB Environmental: 4
Concern For Safety: 14
Domestic Incident:3
Threats To Kill:0
Suspicious Circumstance: 4
Civil Dispute:1
Sexual Offence:0
Highway Disruption:8
RTC:1

Bomere Heath – 19 Incidents

Assault: 1
Criminal Damage: 1
Burglary Residential: 0
Theft From Vehicle: 0
Harassment/Stalking 0
ASB Nuisance: 3
ASB Personal: 0
ASB Environmental: 1
Concern For Safety: 4
Domestic Incident:2
Threats To Kill:0
Suspicious Circumstance: 1
Civil Dispute:0
Sexual Offence:0
Highway Disruption:4
RTC:2

Protecting our communities from county lines

27 people were arrested during a crackdown on county lines across the counties covered by West Mercia Police.

A two week period during February saw regional intensification with heightened work. Criminal activity was targeted as part of the Force's overarching Protect campaign. This campaign seeks to tackle organised crime and disrupt those causing the most harm in our communities.

During the intensification period heroin, crack cocaine, cocaine and cannabis were seized by Police across Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire.

Over £35,000 in cash was seized, along with 20 mobile phones and weapons; these included knives and an imitation hand gun.

Officers visited 'cuckooed' homes believed to be being exploited by drug dealers. They identified and safeguarded vulnerable people at risk of being exploited. Officers also engaged in education activity with fast food outlets, care homes, schools, local authorities, petrol stations and travel hubs across the counties.

Chief Superintendent Damian Barratt said: "West Mercia Police is no different to any other Police Force across the country where county lines drug dealers are exploiting vulnerable children, young people and adults.

"Organised crime groups are targeting our local communities and exploiting vulnerable people to transport drugs into our counties. In a practice known as cuckoo-ing, offenders often seek to take over the homes of vulnerable people to further facilitate drug dealing.

"These groups are often involved in serious violence and do not think twice about putting young and vulnerable people in frightening

situations, causing them to make decisions that can ultimately change their lives and the lives of others forever. We are determined to do all we can to stop this from happening.

“We’re committed to tackling serious and organised crime as part of our ‘Protect’ campaign. Despite the Covid19 lockdown restrictions this criminality continues and no matter what the circumstances, our officers are here 24/7 365 days a year to protect people from harm.”

To report concerns about County Lines visit the Tell Us About section of www.westmercia.police.uk. Alternatively information can be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is independent of police and completely confidential.

West Mercia Police celebrates uplift in officer numbers as part of national programme

Despite the challenges that COVID-19 has presented police forces, the government is still ahead of schedule to bring in the promised 20,000 more officers by 2023.

With an aim of attracting 6,000 new recruits in England and Wales by April 2021, figures released recently show that the total uplift nationally is already 6,620. The programme has increased the number of police officers nationwide by 5%, bringing a total of 135,248.

Out of this figure, West Mercia Police has recruited 93 officers in year one, which means that the force has met its target for 2020/21. West Mercia Police now has 2298 officers, the highest level in a decade.

The force’s latest intake of 20 Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) student

officers joined on 25 January, with the next intake of 40 Degree Holder Entry Programme (DHEP) student officers – 16 of these on the brand new Detective Constable DHEP route - joining on 15 March.

Meanwhile, representation of officers from ethnic minority backgrounds has risen to over 2.7%, the highest level the force has ever seen. Similarly, the proportion of female officers now stands at an all-time high of 32.6%. This is a significant increase of 11.56% of women police officers across all ranks over the past year.

The allocation of new officers for the next financial year is 91, with 40 of these to be student officers joining through the PCDA or DHEP routes, posted on Patrol and deployed to Shrewsbury, Telford, Hereford, Worcester, Kidderminster and Redditch.

Meanwhile, 13 officers will join Safer Neighbourhood Teams and 17 detectives will be posted to Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire, as well as the force’s headquarters at Hindlip Hall.

Rachel Hartland Lane, Director of Business Services at West Mercia Police, said: “The national uplift campaign has given us a once in a generation opportunity to improve diversity in policing, as well as contributing to our highest number of officers since 2010.

“We are now a more representative force than ever before, but we still have a way to go to be truly reflective of the people we serve. We have an aspiration to see approximately 5% ethnic minority representation among our officers by 2025, and of course, in order to truly be representative of our communities, the proportion of female officers needs to nudge upwards to 50%.

“Whilst we are currently closed for recruitment for student officers, this will change as we head towards the spring, giving us the perfect opportunity to further increase our representation via our new officers through our different entry routes.”

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion said: “The communities of West Mercia have made it clear that visible policing is one of their top priorities, and I am delighted that the force has achieved its target for the recruitment of new officers in 2020/21. I have also promised an additional 91 officers through my 2021/22 budget to fight crime and further improve police visibility and accessibility. This uplift of 91 officers, through my budget, equates to 399 additional officers since May 2016.

”Importantly, the figures also indicate that the recruitment programme has increased the number of female and ethnic minority officers, which will have the positive effect of ensuring that the force more accurately reflects the communities it serves. This, in turn, will further improve the trust our communities have in its police force.”

“If the crime is still in progress, because for example, you have recently provided bank details or handed over cards or cash or are going to visit your bank or the caller has arranged for someone to visit your address to collect items, you should call the police to report this on 999.”

Fraudsters target people in Shropshire

We’re aware that criminals pretending to be police officers are again attempting to defraud people in Shropshire.

Police will never ask you to handover or transfer money or purchase vouchers.

Chief Inspector Mark Reilly said:
“Fraudsters traditionally target older, more vulnerable people however anyone can be a target. They can often be incredibly convincing giving you no reason to think they aren’t genuine. However, I want people to be aware that police will never ask you to handover or transfer money, for whatever reason. If you receive a call from someone claiming to be a police officer you should hang up immediately.

“Fraudsters scams can be very elaborate, very convincing and very cruel. If you think someone is trying to scam you, don't be pressured and give yourself time to stop and think.