

Policing Matters



Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton
1st Edition 2024

Welcome to you all



Hello there,

I am the new Neighbourhood Inspector for the Exmouth and Ottery Sector. I am looking forward to getting to know my new community and learning about your concerns for the area. I offer 29 years of policing experience, during which I have served in Patrol, Neighbourhood, Custody and CID, therefore understanding many dimensions of the policing world. I have held many portfolios including County lines, Knife crime, and Hate crime. Currently I hold responsibility for Prosecution File Standards, and Mental Health.

Before becoming a police officer I spent many years in social work, focusing on residential child care and child protection, here in Exmouth.

We face many testing and exacting challenges in keeping our society safe. I am mindful that we need to work closely with partner agencies to achieve our collective aims. I know we all appreciate, that during these demanding times we must employ focus, efficiency with effort, application to task, and measurement of risk to achieve effective collaboration.

I look forward to liaising with you and keeping you briefed about our work and priorities. This monthly newsletter gives you an uplifting and informative view of the issues we are confronted by and how we overcome them.

Kind regards

Grant Leitch

Welcome everyone,

I am the Neighbourhood Team Leader for the Exmouth sector. This includes Budleigh Salterton and the surrounding parishes. Hopefully this newsletter will give an insight into our ongoing priorities as well as informing you about work that we have carried out recently, particularly in reaction to the concerns that you have raised with us. I have a team of four constables and three community support officers working a variety of shifts to provide as much neighbourhood policing as possible. We work alongside and support our response officer colleagues who provide policing 24 hours a day.

The sector is a very safe place to live and work in but we are conscious of the impact even minor crimes and anti-social behaviour can have on victims and communities. We rely on members of the public to report crimes and suspicious activity. This allows us to build an accurate picture of what matters should receive our attention. Please do not hesitate to contact the police if you have any information about a crime or issue to share with us. If the matter is an emergency or a crime that is taking place now please call 999. Otherwise please use our website; www.dc.police.uk

Sgt 1996 Richard Stonecliffe



A Reassurance of PCSOs

(Police Community Support Officers)



What are the roles and responsibilities of a PCSO?

PCSOs generally perform routine duties, and are highly visible, acting as a vital link between the public, police and partners. They carry out security patrols, assist and support police officers, deal with anti-social behaviour, gather intelligence, resolve community issues, and through their presence alone reassure the public. They work closely with local authorities, businesses, and partner agencies. Where possible, PCSOs also attend to matters not requiring policing powers.

PCSOs do a variety of work including :

- go on highly visible foot and cycle patrols,
- offer advice on crime prevention
- deal with anti-social behaviour alongside neighbourhood wardens and community action teams,
- talk with young people and visit schools,
- build links with businesses and community leaders,
- guard crime scenes and detain suspects until a police officer arrives,
- make home visits to reassure people and gather intelligence,
- issue fixed penalty notices,
- use social media channels, online forums and force websites to develop links with local communities,
- provide support at large public gatherings, such as sport events, festivals and public demonstrations.



Come and meet your local team.
We will be at these events over the
coming months :



Police Surgeries held at :

Exmouth Library :-

Tuesday 23rd April 11:00 - 12:00pm

Exmouth Police Station, front office :-

Wednesday 1st May 18:00 - 21:00pm

Exmouth Library :-

Thursday 9th May 11:00 - 12:00pm

Exmouth Police Station, front office :-

Wednesday 29th May 18:00 - 21:00pm

Wesleys, High Street, Budleigh :-

Thursday 30th May 11:00 - 12:00pm

Due to operational demand officers may be
deployed elsewhere at short notice.

Sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause.

PCSOs
Chris Ball, Colin Balch, and Karen Capey.

Meet the Beat Managers

There are currently 3 Neighbourhood Beat Managers (NBMs) in Exmouth with a 4th due to start very soon (see next edition for full details). Their role is to make the local police more visible, interact with the public by engaging with the local community, aid in local knowledge, and keep those who live, work and visit town areas safe and feeling safe.

In police terminology, a beat is the territory and time that a police officer patrols. Beat policing is based on traditional policing and utilizes the close relationship with the community members within the assigned beat to strengthen police effectiveness and encourage co-operative efforts to make a safer community.



Devon & Cornwall Alert

Have you signed up to Devon & Cornwall Alert yet? The two-way messaging system has more than 37,000 subscribers and is a useful way to keep up to date with what is going on in your area.

You can choose to receive text or email updates relevant to your location or type of business. You can also choose the type of information you would like to receive, which can include; witness appeals, anti-social behaviour, community events and good news stories. If you would like to sign up, please visit: <https://alerts.dc.police.uk/#SignUp>.

Devon and Cornwall **ALERT**



Sergeant's Neighbourhood Focus

We are currently focusing our proactive policing activity on the following areas;

- 1) Anti-social driving in the Lime Kiln car park, Budleigh Salterton. Since the recent resurfacing of the car park we have received numerous reports of people driving recklessly in the car park; using excessive speed, wheel spinning etc. Whilst this may be seen as being fun by the drivers not only is it dangerous it also disturbs other car park users and residents. We will be increasing our patrols in the area and will use powers under the road traffic act to deal with such driving.
- 2) Anti-social behaviour in the Littleham and town centre areas of Exmouth. In the last two months calls to us have increased regarding a group of teenagers who have been causing a general nuisance in these two parts of the town committing criminal damage, theft and public order offences. We will identify the youths that are involved and will robustly investigate all offences that are reported to us. We will also use the anti-social behaviour escalation process and civil powers to deal with the offenders.
- 3) On and off street drug dealing. Our team will continue to proactively target those individuals who deal drugs in our communities. Our current focus is on Exmouth town centre and our goal is to ensure that drug dealers feel it is unsafe to openly deal drugs in the area. However, we will also seek search warrants to execute at the addresses of those people who attempt to deal from their homes.

The Inspector's Report

It's been a tremendously engaging time getting to know my team, understanding the crime picture, determining priorities, and developing a relationship with councillors and local agencies.

Over the last month, reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) have reached a total of fifteen, with a predictable increase over Fridays and Saturdays. Two of these reports came from posts on social media, three reports were disputes between neighbours, two related to alcohol misuse, and as expected there was a concentration of incidents in Exmouth town centre.

Last month we benefitted from a significant number of intelligence reports; more than fifty. Through this information that the public gives us, we prioritise what we must work on. Topics included drink drivers, child protection, drug use, dogs worrying livestock and noisy exhausts.

The team dealt with suspects for cannabis cultivation, after intel was received about the supply of this drug via a delivery service. Further investigation at a residential address in Exmouth, found cultivated cannabis and more than £20,000 worth of the drug stored and packed in a state ready for posting out across the UK. Also, a quantity of expensive watches was seized and investigations here are ongoing. A man and woman were arrested and remain on bail pending further enquiries.

In further work on drug dealing – we conducted address checks on those who are vulnerable to County Lines drug supply, conducted high visibility patrols in “hot spot” areas, actioned drug warrants, and through plain clothes patrols detected street dealing. All this resulted in very positive outcomes and arrests being made.

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Have you been Hacked?

Data from Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, shows that 22,350 people reported that their online accounts had been hacked in 2023, with victims losing a total of £1.3 million.

How are accounts hacked?

On-platform chain hacking

This is when a fraudster gains control of an account and begins to impersonate the legitimate owner. The goal is to convince people to reveal authentication codes that are sent to them via text. Many victims of this type of hacking believe it's a friend messaging them. However, the shared code was associated with their own account and the impersonator can now use it to access their account. Usually when an account is taken over, fraudsters monetise control of the account via the promotion of various fraudulent schemes, while impersonating the original account owner.

Leaked passwords and phishing

The other predominant method of hacking reported is leaked information used from data breaches, such as leaked passwords, or account details gained via phishing scams. This becomes prevalent as people often use the same password for multiple accounts, so a leaked password from one website can leave many of their accounts vulnerable to hacking.

How to secure your accounts

Use a strong and different password for your email and social media accounts. Your email and social media passwords should be strong and different from all your other passwords. Combining **three random words** that each mean something to you is a great way to create a password that is easy to remember but hard to crack.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

If you receive a suspicious email, you can report it by forwarding the email to: report@phishing.gov.uk

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: Gov.uk/stophinkfraud

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We also circulated posters and social media material to spread learning and advice.

This focus was generated by the national response to County Lines drug dealing, entitled Operation Scorpion. During this year's operation Devon and Cornwall Police seized £370,000 worth of drugs, £20,000 worth of cash, and £500,000 worth of tobacco and vapes.

73 people were safeguarded as a result, 28 people were arrested, and 10 weapons were seized, resulting in mass disruption for County Lines drug routes across the force area.

I look forward to keeping you updated on the work we do, working together to deal with crime, and protecting the vulnerable, making our communities a great place to live.



When will it ever stop raining!!

If you have any information about drug dealing or other crimes in your community, please contact

Devon & Cornwall Police via the Force website

www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

If you wish to stay anonymous, please contact independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or via

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Local Priorities

You told us that the priorities in your area are:
Tackling anti-social behaviour that stems from drug dealing and drug activity throughout Exmouth town centre .

We have addressed the problem by:

1. Increasing police visibility in the area.
2. Actively engaging in multi-agency work to develop long term solutions.
3. Using Public Space Protection Orders to address and prevent anti-social behaviour.
4. Executing Misuse of Drugs Act warrants leading to the seizure of nearly £200,000 worth of illegal drugs and cash in the last eight months.

Anti-social behaviour that scars the reputation of Exmouth for locals and tourists, impacting on the economy of the town.

We have addressed this concern by:

1. Increasing police presence in the problem areas.
2. Conducting operations with the Roads Policing Team and partner agencies to educate motorists and when appropriate issuing fines to help prevent future anti-social driving.

Minimizing shoplifting incidents that have negative impact upon local businesses.







We have addressed this issue by:

1. Adopting a more robust police presence in the key areas.
2. By using the ASB escalation process to reduce incidents of such behaviour.

When to call...

 Non Emergency dc.police.uk <small>If a crime has already happened or to give information about the crime</small>		WebChat <small>To get updates visit dc.police.uk and click on the Webchat widget</small>
 999 Emergency <small>When life is threatened, people are injured, offenders are nearby or immediate action is required</small>		

 **Contact details for Deaf or hard of hearing / speech impaired**

Emergency		
 999 BSL <small>(video relay for BSL users)</small>	 Text 999 <small>(You must register for this service at www.emergencysms.org.uk)</small>	 18000 Minicom/textphone
Non-Emergency		
 Text 67101	 SignLive <small>(video relay for BSL users) for Non-Emergency</small>	 18001 101