

Adur NHW Newsletter



Shoreham & Southwick Issue

October / November 2024

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Cybercrime

One in four teenagers have tried some form of cybercrime – many without realising their activities are illegal. A specialist Police unit is therefore seeking to educate young people about the legal boundaries through the Cyber Choices programme, so they can make informed decisions about their online activity and avoid falling foul of the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and its subsequent amendments.

Cyber Choices is a national programme, coordinated by the National Crime Agency, and delivered by Cyber Choices teams in Regional Organised Crime Units and local Police Cyber teams. In the South East, Cyber Choices is delivered by the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROCU).

SEROCU comprises police officers and staff drawn from police forces across the country and works in conjunction with local forces, HMRC, the National Crime Agency and the Crown Prosecution Service to combat cross-border organised crime. It provides niche and specialist capabilities in order to target and disrupt organised crime effectively.

This unit works in close alignment with Counter Terrorism Policing South East, and both functions are hosted by Thames Valley Police as the host Police service. Thames Valley Police manage SEROCU and provide all financial, HR and organisational requirements.

Last month the Department for Education (DfE) published an updated version of the statutory safeguarding and child protection guidance for schools in England known as KCSiE - “Keeping children safe in education” - and this serves as the framework for SEROCU’s “Cyber Choices” programme. SEROCU’s remit does not extend to cyber bullying.

Learning outcomes for those attending the programme include:

- Understanding what cyber activity falls under the Computer Misuse Act 1990
- Understanding the risk to young people of committing cyber-dependent crimes
- Knowledge of some risk indicators of involvement in cyber-dependent crime
- Awareness of how SEROCU can support young people
- Understanding why, when and how to refer young people to SEROCU Cyber Choices.

SEROCU also offers free training for school staff and other partners about the Cyber Choices programme, including when and how to make a referral to it. Further information can be obtained by emailing SEROCU at CyberChoices@serocu.police.uk.

‘Walk and Talk’ scheme

As we enter the autumn months, with the hours of daylight gradually shortening, this can be cause for increased anxiety, especially for women and girls who may feel unsafe or vulnerable within their own neighbourhoods - particularly when having to walk to or from home in the dark.

In fact, statistics from the Office of National Statistics show that 50% of women feel ‘very or fairly unsafe’ in or around the streets near their home and 48% when using public transport alone, whilst as high a percentage as 82% feel unsafe in public parks or open spaces after dark. In addition to feeling more at risk in public places, this can lead to social isolation as many women restrict their normal activities such as meeting friends or exercising outside in the evenings.

Following the abduction and murder of Sarah Everard in 2021, an initiative called ‘Walk and Talk’ was implemented across the Metropolitan Police, with the aim of building safer communities for women and girls, and re-building trust with local police forces. This initiative invites women who are over 18 to meet with a local officer and walk through their area, highlighting what might make them feel unsafe or vulnerable in their communities.

Concerns might range from poor street lighting to harassment and intimidation. Since it was introduced in London, several other police forces adopted the initiative, including Avon and Somerset, West Yorkshire, and Devon and Cornwall. It has been highly successful and this has since led to its adoption by other forces.

If you have concerns over your personal safety when out in the dark, why not ask your Safer Communities Partnership team whether or not it is running a ‘Walk and Talk’ scheme? There is also a range of personal safety smartphone apps available on the market as follows:

- Auggie Personal Safety (designed for those with low levels of vision)
- Life 360 (a family tracking app)
- Family Locator
- WalkSafe+ (the UK's leading personal safety app)
- Railway Guardian (British Transport Police)
- bSafe (Never Walk Alone)

Need assistance with this service?

Get in touch:

Safer Communities Team 101, extension 581712

Hate Crime Awareness

National Hate Crime Awareness Week, which was originally instituted to mark the 10th anniversary of the London Nail Bomb attacks in 1999 by a neo-Nazi militant, ran this year from the 12th to 19th October, and is aimed at inspiring a national campaign to bring people together across the UK who are prepared to advocate against all forms of hate crime and make our communities safer places in which to live.

Hate crime comes in many different forms and strikes at the heart of communities, but, with your assistance, the local Police can tackle those responsible and keep our communities safe. They are here and ready to help anyone who has been affected by someone else's prejudice, ignorance or violence.

A hate crime is defined as “any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender”

There are four main types of hate crime which include physical assault, verbal abuse, incitement to hatred and criminal damage. A hate incident is any incident which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender. Evidence of the hate element is not a requirement, because you do not personally need to perceive the incident to be hate related. It would be enough if another person, a witness or even a Police Officer thought that the incident was hate related.

You can report a hate crime directly to Sussex Police on 101; on their website at www.sussexpolice.uk; anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111; or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Victim Support have a dedicated team to support you if you or someone you know has been a victim of hate crime, and you can contact them on 0808 168 9111 or visit online at www.victimsupport.org.uk.

Funding

National Neighbourhood Watch is pleased to announce the launch of a new round of funding for community projects, open to registered Neighbourhood Watch groups only. Applications are now open, and the closing date is not until 14 January 2025, so there is plenty of time for you to prepare and submit an online application. This can be done on ourwatch.org.uk

These grants are only for registered Neighbourhood Watch members who are representatives of a registered and recognised Neighbourhood Watch scheme, group, Area or Association in England and Wales. Registered and recognised means: any Association who has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Police; any area that has signed an area (non-voting) MoU; or any scheme that is registered either on Alert or is formally registered with an Association as previous. Furthermore:

- lead applicants must be Coordinators or similar volunteer roles (Treasurer, Deputy, Area Lead, etc.)
- you must have 10 or more people registered in your scheme
- only work or activities clearly defined as those of Neighbourhood Watch and that align with the charitable purposes within its constitution and its values qualify for funding

Neighbourhood Watch funding priorities are:

- tackling antisocial behaviour by improving the community environment
- increasing membership of local Neighbourhood Watch schemes
- addressing crime through community cohesion
- tackling loneliness in our Neighbourhood Watch communities

The size of grant for which you can apply is between £100 - £300. Groups can only hold one grant at a time and only hold one grant in each financial year. The grant will need to be spent by the end of October 2025.

Tim Drew

Newsletter

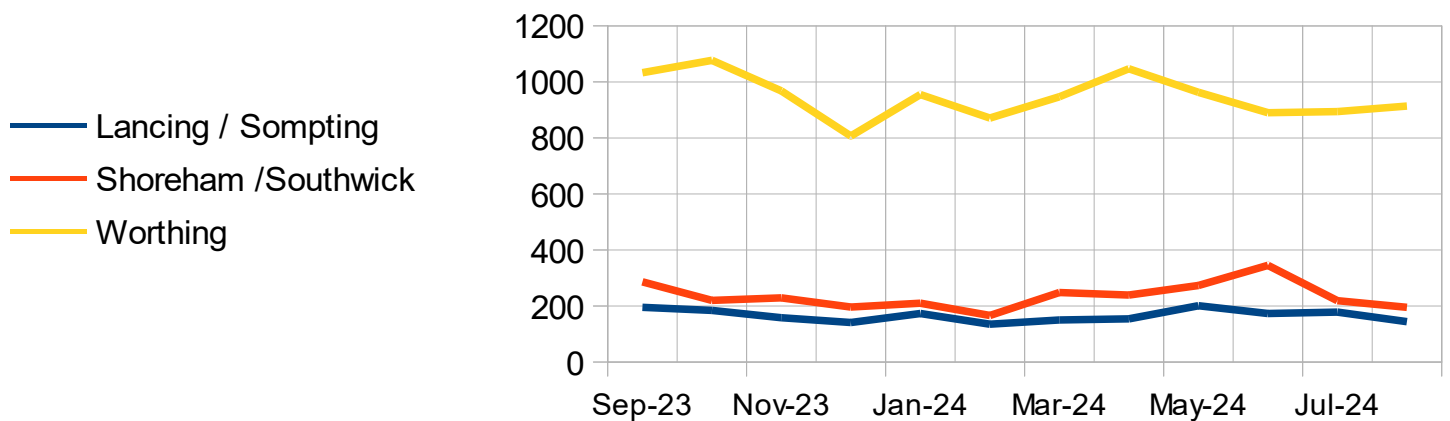
If you received this Newsletter by email it means you are registered correctly on the Alert System, but please let us know if you change your address or phone numbers.

If you did not receive the Newsletter by email you need to register at : <https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk> - it's free .

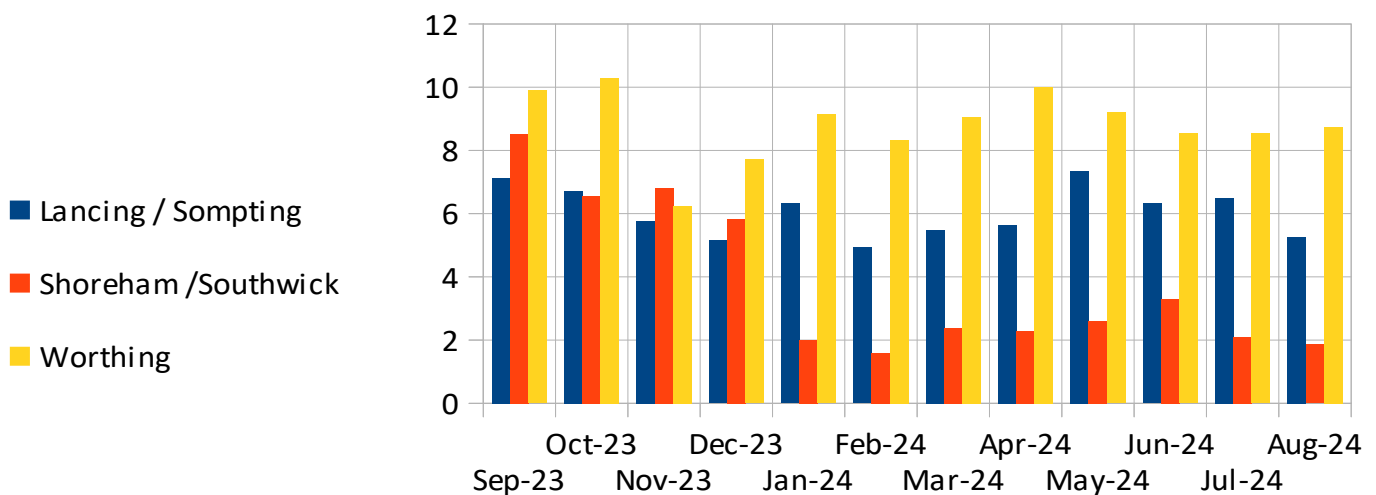
Crime Statistics for August 2024

August 2024	Buckingham	Eastbrook	Hillside	Marine 1	Southlands	Southwick	St Mary's	St Mary's	St	Sub Total
						Green	North	South	Nicholas	
Antisocial Behaviour	5	13	5	3	4	3	6	6	3	48
Bike Theft	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Burglary	0	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	7
Criminal Damage	2	5	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	17
Drugs	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
Other Crime	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
Other Theft	0	3	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	10
Weapons	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Public Order	0	2	2	2	3	0	2	3	2	16
Robbery	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Theft Shop	0	0	0	0	2	8	5	10	0	25
Theft Person	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Violence & Sex Offences	2	13	11	2	6	3	8	3	6	54
Totals	10	43	26	16	19	19	24	25	13	195

Crimes September 2023 to August 2024



Crimes per 1000 of Population



See the latest Alerts at : [https:// worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/](https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/)