

### Autism Alert Card launches in Wiltshire

On Friday 1 April the Autism Alert Card was launched across Wiltshire with an event at Police Headquarters in Devizes. The date coincided with World Autism Awareness Day on 2 April.

The card has been produced by Wiltshire Police in conjunction with the Swindon branch of the National Autistic Society and is supported by Autism charities across Wiltshire, including the Swindon based Discovering Autistic Spectrum Happiness (DASH).

It can be carried by anyone with an Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and has been developed in consultation with adults with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome and parents of children with these conditions.

It is designed to highlight an ASC and can be used in situations where those with this condition might find communication difficult. For example, if they come to the attention of police or the criminal justice system. The card will provide the police with the means to identify a person with an ASC, prevent misunderstanding and provide the person with the appropriate level of support.

### Regional team fight crime on the streets and online

The south west's regional serious and organised crime team has launched a new website. Zephyr is made up of officers from five police forces – Avon and Somerset, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset and Gloucestershire.

Since its launch on 1 September 2010, Zephyr has made more than 60 arrests and has seized in the region of half a million pounds in assets and around £300,000 in cash. A substantial amount of Class A and Class B drugs, weapons and fraudulent documentation has also been recovered.

Zephyr also has around £13 million of assets currently under restraint pending further investigation. These assets have been seized by police under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) from people suspected of having accrued those assets through crime.

The new Zephyr website - [www.zephyrsouthwest.com](http://www.zephyrsouthwest.com) - includes the latest news releases, pictures, videos, interviews and gives you the chance to report any information directly to the team.

### Offenders of low level crime and anti-social behaviour being dealt with via Local Resolutions

Some offenders of low level crime and anti-social behaviour in Wiltshire and Swindon are now being held accountable for their actions within the community rather than in the court room.

Wiltshire Police officers have been trained to use a form of restorative practice called Local Resolution. It puts victims at the heart of the process by giving them a say in how justice should be delivered and involves work with partner agencies, such as local councils.

Wiltshire Police Local Resolution Project Manager Wendy Moore said: "Given the right conditions, officers are using their professional judgement and discretion to help create resolutions in line with victims' wishes, such as by offenders giving verbal or written apologies, paying fair compensation and repairing damage they caused. All parties have to agree to the Local Resolution and if an offender fails to carry out their agreed actions they can be arrested and prosecuted."

Successful Local Resolutions carried out so far include teenagers cleaning graffiti they sprayed on a car park wall while being supervised by a council employee and an employee who stole building supplies from his employer admitting responsibility and paying £400 back in full for the supplies. He was subsequently dismissed from the company.

## Swindon Town Centre Neighbourhood Policing Team

April – June 2011

Quarterly newsletter



### Your neighbourhood priorities and crime trends

#### Current NPT priorities

All of our priorities are set through consultation with the residents of our Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) area.

This can be done through structured community meetings, by emailing our NPT inbox with issues that concern you or as simply as speaking to one of your local Community Beat Managers or Police Community Support Officers when you see them out and about.

This information goes forward to the Town Centre Tasking group, which is attended by local councillors, Swindon Community Safety Partnership, police and Swindon Borough Council officers who are all given actions in order to try to resolve the priorities raised by the community.

Our current priorities are:

- Anti-social behaviour – which affects the Town Centre Beat area and the fringes of Broadgreen Beat area. Use of powers of dispersal are proving successful and Anti-Social Behaviour orders are hoping to be sought for the main offenders.

- Speeding – which affects several roads within the NPT area. Random monitoring of vehicle speeds in the areas are being undertaken by local

officers to determine the level of the problem.

- Fly-tipping – which is prevalent throughout all beat areas. CCTV has been installed in Broadgreen and will prove invaluable in identifying those responsible.

#### Crime trends

The new financial year is underway and we are already doing well in terms of our crime figures. However, there are some things that we must still always guard against:

- Car crime – This is still a big issue nationally, not just within our area. Don't make it easy for criminals - remove items from view and secure your vehicle.

- Burglary – As the weather gets warmer and people start to leave windows open this could become more of an issue. Before you go out make sure windows are secured and doors are locked. If you keep a window open at night, try to make sure it is one that cannot be easily accessed.

Acting Sergeant Michael Diffin



Your Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) now has a new name. What used to be four separate NPTs (Broadgreen, Eastcott, Kingshill and Town Centre) now comes under the one heading of Swindon Town Centre NPT. You have the same staff - Community Beat Managers and Police Community Support Officers - and we cover the same geographical area, but we now have more freedom to deploy our resources across the area as a whole. This means we can better react to ongoing issues in any part of the area. This change will be explained by officers at any of our consultation meetings, so if you have a question about it, please ask. Our commitment to serving the local community still remains the same.



0845 408 7000



swindontowncentrenpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk



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See page 2 for details of meetings/consultations

## Officers using new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour

In an effort to tackle anti-social behaviour in the town centre Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) officers are using new powers to deal with those causing the issues.

The Violent Crime Reduction Act gives police the power to direct anyone aged 10 years or above to leave an area if they represent a risk of disorder and it is necessary to prevent the likelihood of alcohol related crime or disorder. Individuals can be prohibited from returning to any specified area for a period of up to 48 hours – the time period is at the discretion of the officer and must be proportionate to the incident.

Anyone who fails to leave when directed to do so or returns to the area during the designated

time period commits a criminal offence.

The use of this power follows others we have used successfully, such as dispersal orders. The key to this power is that it can target individuals and relate to a very specific area. An area does not have to be designated, which is the procedure for using a dispersal order, and it can be tailored to each particular incident.

We can use this power effectively to target areas where alcohol-related anti-social behaviour (ASB) is a pressing issue. Use of this power in conjunction with others, such as drunk and disorderly and public order offences, is an essential part of the evidence chain for obtaining ASBOs for the worst

offenders. But key to this is the support of the public and evidence supplied by them that will be put before magistrates to show the impact that anti-social behaviour can have on individuals and communities.

The successful reduction in ASB in the Broadgreen area - nearly 50 per cent - came after an ASBO was imposed on Abdi Muse, aged 45, who now lives in Bristol. This was largely due to members of the public providing us with evidence and supporting our action. We need this level of support for other areas of the Town Centre NPT. It is our intention to use this power, rather than rely on dispersal orders, in order to address these problems.

## Ensure you lock up

During a recent spate of vehicle crime in Swindon almost 70 per cent of vehicles targeted had items clearly visible on show.

In addition 74 per cent of dwelling burglaries committed within the last month in Swindon town centre were at properties with insecure windows or doors or even where the keys were left under the plant pot.

These crimes are almost always opportunist ones, so you really can help to protect against it and lessen the chance of being a victim. Should you require any information or advice on any aspect of personal or property security, please feel free to contact us, or speak to any local officer in your area.

## Success stories

### Purse thief to be sentenced

A prolific purse thief has recently been remanded at court for a series of purse thefts from elderly and vulnerable people in Swindon town centre. His crimes are so serious that magistrates have had to send him to the Crown Court for sentencing.

### Drop in violent crimes in town

Last year saw a drop in over 25 per cent of offences of violence against the person in the Swindon Central policing sector area.

A lot of this is due to hard work by Central staff and our licensing department, but also due to good working relationships with pubs and clubs in the area. This is a level of success we hope to build on throughout the coming year.

## Consultations

We have 54 public consultations that will take place between now and the end of June. These consultations will be taking place at various locations in the area, ranging from Tesco on Ocotal Way, Go Outdoors, the Central Library, Brunel Centre, Broadgreen Community Centre. Full details of all of our consultation meetings, including times and locations, can be found on our website – [www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk).

If you can't attend a consultation meeting and/or want to speak to a team member before the next meeting, please contact us via the details on page three. If you don't tell us, we don't know.

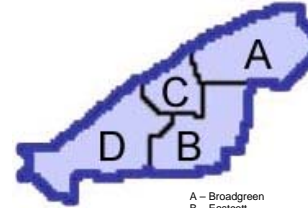
## WILTSHIRE POLICE

# Swindon Town Centre Neighbourhood Policing Team

[swindontowncentrenpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:swindontowncentrenpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)



## NPT map



A – Broadgreen  
B – Eastcott  
C – Swindon Town Centre  
D – Kingshill


The aim of Neighbourhood Policing is to have a dedicated policing team in your local community. We are here to work **with you** to tackle local concerns raised **by you**. We work with residents and local agencies to improve your quality of life.

To contact Wiltshire Police or to report a crime or an incident call **0845 408 7000**. Only call **999** in an emergency when a crime is in progress.

If you want to give information anonymously about a crime call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

For other non crime matters contact Swindon Borough Council on 01793 445500.

 **0845 408 7000**

 [swindontowncentrenpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:swindontowncentrenpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

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## Broadgreen Beat



Community Beat Manager  
**PC Michael Diffin**



Police Community Support Officer  
**Stuart Bird**



Police Community Support Officer  
**Rys Turner**

## Eastcott Beat



Community Beat Manager  
**PC Jansen Carter**



Police Community Support Officer  
**Alex Packford**

## Kingshill Beat



Community Beat Manager  
**PC Gareth Snoad**



Police Community Support Officer  
**Tariq Rogers**



Police Community Support Officer  
**Melissa Camilleri**

## Swindon Town Centre Beat



Community Beat Manager  
**PC Paul Bezzant**



Police Community Support Officer  
**Gulliver Bristow**



Police Community Support Officer  
**Bradley Cushion**



Police Community Support Officer  
**Charles Milne**



Police Community Support Officer  
**Kevin Swindle**