

CSP e-newsletter



Safer communities

Community Safety Partnership e-newsletter winter 2021 edition

Welcome

We are pleased to present the latest edition of the Blaby and Hinckley & Bosworth Community Safety Partnership (CSP) e-newsletter, which will keep you up to date with the work of the partnership and how it is helping to keep individuals and neighbourhoods safer in these unprecedented times.

The CSP brings together a collection of people and organisations that have a real commitment to do everything in their power to have a positive impact on reducing crime, the fear of crime and to work closely alongside local communities in bringing about a sense of safety for all.

The CSP has published a three-year Community Safety Strategy which is available for download at <http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk> and www.blaby.gov.uk

If you have your own community networks or magazines please feel free to pass on this newsletter or print articles from it.

Joint Chairs of the Community
Safety Partnership



Cllr Les Phillimore



Cllr Michael Mullaney

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HOUSEHOLDERS IN HINCKLEY TO BENEFIT FROM FREE SECURITY UPGRADES TO BOOST SAFETY



The Commissioner with Cllr Mullaney and representatives from 24/7 Locks

Nearly 300 householders in Hinckley will be offered free security upgrades as part of a major crackdown on burglary.

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews has secured £432k from the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund to reduce the risk of crime and make the county's streets safer.

The funding is being invested in the town centres of Hinckley, Castle Donington, Lutterworth and Melton Mowbray - areas

identified as having a disproportionately higher risk of street crime – and will see hundreds of homes fitted with high-quality security devices to stop burglars in their tracks.

In Hinckley, up to 291 homes will benefit from free security improvements to deter criminals and reduce the fear of crime.

Safer Streets partner 24-7 Locks Ltd will soon be visiting residents in the eligible areas of the town to offer measures such as high security door locks, window locks, door alarms and window alert alarms.

The PCC is working with a team of partners including Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Leicestershire Police, North West Leicestershire District Council and Melton Borough Council to deliver a package of improvements to protect people and their property.

Welcoming the project in Hinckley, Mr Matthews said: "Anything we can do to make it harder for criminals to strike has to be positive and I am delighted to have secured this funding for Hinckley and other communities across the county.

"This project is about equipping people with the tools and support they need to prevent their homes being targeted by criminals.

“We know crime can be prevented by removing opportunity and increasing the risk of offenders being caught. Just as important, however, is alleviating law-abiding citizens of the fear of crime so they no longer feel apprehensive about leaving their homes and enjoying public spaces.

“Burglary is a deeply personal and distressing crime and through this unique partnership we will ensure as many people as possible are spared this fate and are encouraged to take proactive action over their safety.

“If you are contacted by our security partner 24-7 Locks Ltd, please take advantage of the free upgrades on offer – you simply cannot put a price on peace of mind and thanks to this funding you will not have to.”

Executive Member for Housing and Community Safety at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Councillor Michael Mullaney added: “This is very welcome news and will be a real boost to our efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime in the town centre. Speaking to people around Hinckley, feeling safe and secure in their homes and on the streets is something that is important to them. I hope that this investment in making homes in the town centre more secure will help people their feel safer in their homes and will help prevent opportunistic burglaries and break ins.

“Over £60,000 of this funding will be spent on upgrading our already successful CCTV network, with an additional eight cameras. I would urge eligible householders to take advantage of the funding available to upgrade their own home security.”

Overall, Safer Streets will offer up to 1,104 households free security upgrades worth a total of £186k across the four towns while funding will also be dedicated to removing graffiti in Hinckley. Communities will benefit from the installation of new police automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras, additional CCTV and additional radios to expand the radio link scheme in the Melton and Hinckley areas. All households within the eligibility catchment area will be informed by post. Residents are urged to call the number provided to arrange a booking slot.

The Government’s Safer Streets Fund aims to stop offences that blight communities and cause misery to victims. Nationally, the Government has announced a £18.3m funding package in the second phase of its Safer Streets Fund. A total of 40 areas across England and Wales have been chosen to receive grants to tackle neighbourhood crime and clamp down on burglary, robbery and vehicle theft.

Find out if you are in the area covered by the funding: <https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Safer-Streets>



CLOSURE ORDER OBTAINED BY BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Community Safety Team have worked extremely hard on a case of persistent anti-social behaviour at a private address in Glen Parva in partnership with Leicestershire Police. Complaints were received from neighbours of the flat as they were being disturbed almost every night by an alleged stream of visitors to the property which were often during the early hours, causing a disturbance. The issues were around doors slamming, loud voices, car engines running as well as the smell of drugs.

The Community Safety Team Leader attended the address on numerous occasions in company with local neighbourhood officers to initially give words of advice however, the situation did not improve. A warning letter was issued along with advice of what further action could be taken if the unacceptable behaviour continued. The home owner was offered support at every visit which was declined. The issues were so impactful on the neighbours that they were struggling to concentrate at work as they were so tired and anxious. One resident was so affected by the constant disturbances they had to visit the doctor and was prescribed medication.

A Community Protection Notice was presented to the homeowner but the complaints continued so a Fixed Penalty Notice was issued however this was not paid so the intention was to prosecute at court. This decision changed when the neighbours reported a disturbance at the address overnight and they discovered the front door damaged and the resident climbing in and out of the first floor window via a ladder. Visitors to the address were also using the ladder which was placed right outside the lounge window of the neighbour downstairs.

The victims of the case were emotional and drained by all the issues and the decision was taken to apply for a full Closure Order at the Leicester Magistrates Court. The application to fully close the property would mean that even the homeowner could not enter for a period of 3 months.

The hearing took less than 10 minutes where the Magistrates commented on a comprehensive court bundle and compelling witness statements and the Closure Order was granted for 3 months. The order was issued to the resident by the Community Safety Team Leader and Leicestershire Police. The property owner was advised that entering the flat during the 3 month period would be a criminal offence and anyone caught doing so would be arrested.

Councillor Phillimore, portfolio holder for Environmental Health, Housing and Community Services said "The successful partnership working of the Community Safety Team and Leicestershire Police has ensured that the victims of this unacceptable behaviour can now live peacefully and feel safe in their homes. The hard work involved will reassure the wider community that we are here to help; we listen and that anti-social behaviour in whatever form is taken seriously, and decisive action taken when necessary".

To report anti-social behaviour online visit www.blaby.gov.uk/asb to contact the police, visit www.leics.police.uk or call 101

HINCKLEY COUNTY LINES DRUGS GANGS TAKEN OUT OF BUSINESS BY POLICE

Police have been conducting an investigation for a number of months in order to execute a large number of warrants to target the supply of class A drugs in Hinckley.

During late September, early October they have arrested 43 people concerned in buying and selling drugs – known as County Lines. This includes a number of significant individuals who are believed to have been controlling the “County Lines”.

The operation began on Monday 20 September and has led to 20 people being charged with drugs offences – from supplying class A and conspiracy to supply class A and class B. Fifteen others remain under investigation with the hard work by the team continuing and more charges are expected.

Criminals from larger cities move to provincial areas, often into vulnerable people’s houses in order to take over their lives by establishing a drug supply criminal enterprise in that area. This can have significant consequences for communities and vulnerable people whilst also raising crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

The police operation, called Operation Impose, has executed 73 warrants, searching 76 addresses. During the operation, officers recovered almost £200,000 in cash, various offensive weapons and around 6kg of heroin with a value in excess of £300,000 – not taking into account the street value.



The Senior Investigating Officer for the operation Detective Inspector Rob Arthur, said: “This has been the culmination of a lot of work by the team and we’re really pleased we’ve been able to arrest and charge a large number of people with drug related offences.

“This operation has enabled us to get criminals off the streets in order to prevent them supplying their drugs to others.

“But more than just disrupting the supply lines, we are working with local organisations to get help for those who want it.

“Turning Point have been key in the work we’ve been doing to get immediate access – sometimes even while the offenders are in custody – to the help and support for them to be able to kick their habits.”

Sarah Hancock-Smith, from Turning Point, said: “Through working in Partnership with Leicestershire Police, Turning Point have been able to pro-actively reach out and support vulnerable individuals in the Hinckley area in need of drug treatment following large amounts of drugs being taken off the streets of Hinckley.

“Turning Point recovery workers have been door to door with local PCSOs making sure that those in need of treatment right now get it, as well as supporting family members and the community. Anyone who finds themselves needing support for drug or alcohol use can contact Turning Point on 0330 3036000 or visit www.turning-point.co.uk/services/leicestershire.”

Inspector Jamie Osborne from the Neighbourhood Policing Area for Hinckley and Blaby, said: “This is hugely positive outcome for the people of Hinckley. County Lines gangs are using places like Hinckley to sell drugs and ruin people’s lives.

“There is no doubt that a significant police operation like this will benefit our communities. The work we’ve completed with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will have been invaluable in disrupting the criminality.

“We still need to remain vigilant to those who might try to sell drugs in our area, and we need to support those that are vulnerable to County Lines who need specialist help so the work continues but in the meantime this operation has significantly impacted on a number of County Lines in Hinckley.

“If anyone has any information about drug related intelligence, call 101, report online via the force website or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”

BENNETT'S CLOSE RESIDENT STATES ENFORCEMENT ACTION HAS TRANSFORMED AREA.

Hinckley Endeavour team have successfully applied for two Closure Orders on two properties that have subjected local residents to ASB for years. The properties on Bennetts Close, Hinckley were closed in July and August this year. The tenants and all visitors to the properties, have been banned from both flats, in Hinckley after a number of anti-social incidents were reported to both the Police and council.

The orders were granted after local residents were subjected to incidents of anti-social behaviour which included late night disturbances, suspected drug misuse and rowdy and nuisance behaviour. Since the closure orders have been in place one local resident has reported that the much needed enforcement action had transformed the area, People are even talking to each other outside now which is something residents didn't feel able to at one time.

Hinckley and Bosworth Endeavour team have successfully obtained 8 closure orders since beginning of 2021. This has enabled residents to feel safer in their own homes and communities.

Executive Member for Housing and Community Safety at the Borough Council, Councillor Michael Mullaney said: "Both the tenant and local residents were having to put up with offensive anti-social behaviour and I am glad action has been taken to help solve the problem. Everyone should be able to feel safe in their own home and this type of behaviour is unacceptable and this demonstrates that we will take action if required."

To contact the Anti-social Behaviour Team tel 01455 238141.

ASK FOR ANGELA CAMPAIGN EXTENDED ACROSS HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH

Pubs, bars and restaurants across Hinckley and Bosworth are supporting the Ask for Angela campaign, which encourages people to discreetly ask for help if they feel unsafe on a date.

If you are feeling vulnerable, all you have to do is approach the bar and ask for Angela, the staff are then alerted to the situation and can help.

The national initiative aims to reduce sexual violence and vulnerability by providing customers with a discreet way to gain assistance from staff in order to get help when they feel unsafe due to a person's actions, words or behaviour.

Once alerted, staff can then offer to call a taxi, contact their friends or family or ensure that the individual causing the distress leaves the venue. Venues participating in the scheme can be found at:

www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/angela



Executive member for the Borough Council, Councillor Michael Mullaney said: "This is a simple yet effective scheme which empowers members of the public to seek help if they are feeling vulnerable, by allowing them to raise concerns with staff. It may be that they are in the company of someone who is not what they seemed and they want to get away safely and with minimum fuss. This initiative helps facilitate this and hopefully prevent situations from escalating into something more serious.

"I am most grateful that more local pubs and bars have joined the scheme and encourage residents to look out for the 'Ask for Angela' posters or stickers displayed."

If your business would like to register to support this campaign please telephone Angela Egan in Community Safety on 01455 255746.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CHILDREN'S SUPPORT WORKER

Blaby District Council's children's support service provides therapeutic support sessions and group work to children and young people who have been impacted by domestic abuse, living in households where there has been issues around anti-social behaviour, or poor parental mental health. Here is what a typical day looks like

As all good days start.... switch on the computer!

New referrals checked

Calls made to new families

Waiting list reviewed

Check appointments for the day

Liaise with schools and check covid measures

Gather and prepare resources that we'll need for today's support sessions

What might a support session look like?

Drive to the school where we usually hold the support sessions.

Meet with the child/young person one to one in a quiet safe space.

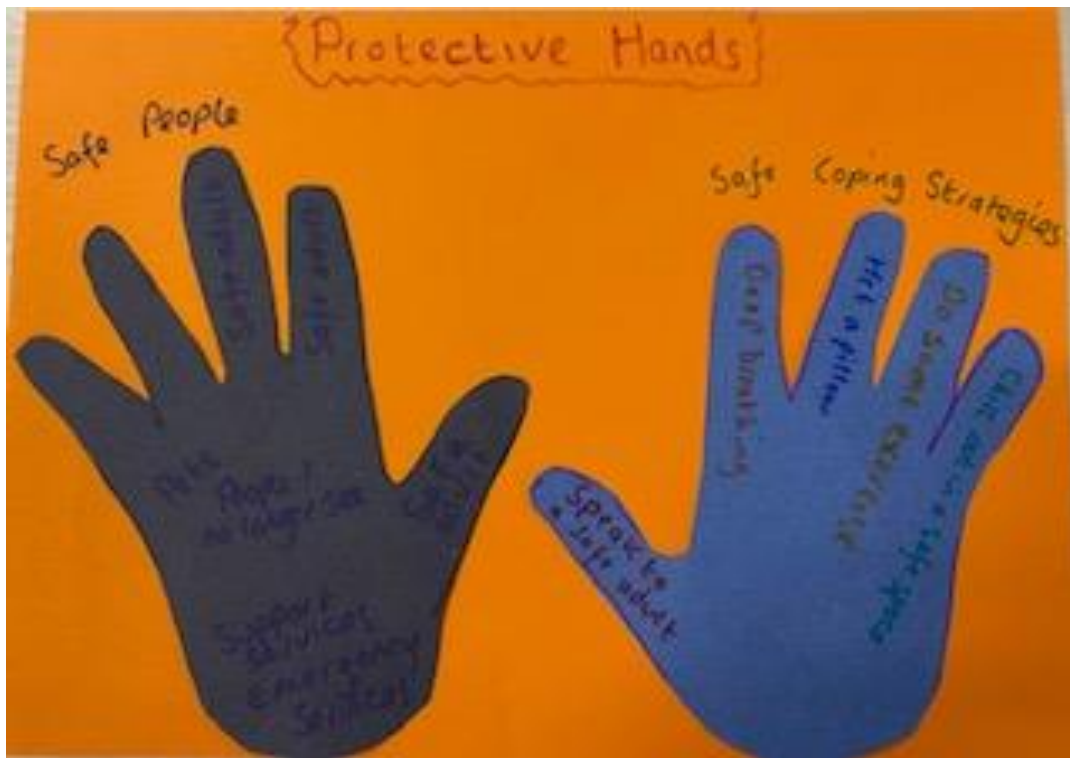
Sessions are tailored towards their age, needs and development to promote the emotional well-being of the child.

We have a range of therapeutic tools, resources and interventions that are incorporated in the work we do with that child. These can aid communication about difficult subjects – verbally or non-verbally, and can also help to develop coping strategies and build resilience.



The above photo is a support session being prepared and shows some emotion stones and other resources that a child will be able to use to help them recognise, identify and communicate their feelings.

Below is an example of one exercise that we use quite often to help children identify safe people in their lives and safe strategies they can use to cope with their experiences.



What comes next?

Cleaning and sanitising of resources, writing up case notes, liaising with parents/ professionals/ schools, attending multi agency meetings, delivering resources as necessary to the family, making referrals, signposting to other relevant services, planning future one to one support sessions and group work, being an active part of the Community Services Team and any other duties this may involve, for example the Community Hub.

Then home after a job well done – ready to start again tomorrow!

For more information on the Children's Support Service visit www.blaby.gov.uk

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTREACH SERVICE

The Hinckley & Bosworth Domestic Abuse Outreach Service continues to support Domestic Abuse victims within the borough, whether to access safe emergency accommodation, to signpost to any relevant local services/agency for further help with their situation or to offering trauma informed therapeutic Domestic Abuse courses.

There were a number of campaigns that ran through the COVID-19 pandemic which we continue to support, such as the Government's

"AT HOME SHOULDN'T MEAN AT RISK OF DOMESTIC ABUSE" #YOUARENOTALONE

Or CrimeStoppers being able to report anonymously if you are concerned about someone you know who is experiencing Domestic Abuse.

Reaching out for help or taking that first step to access services is a scary thing to do, with fears of not being believed to a whole host of anxieties of what might happen For anyone thinking about seeking help here are some words from service users that have accessed our service for initial advice then attended the therapeutic groups.

We are all on a journey, it is not a race. One tiny step forward is progress in the right direction. Learning to value your worth is priceless. You are not a victim – you are a SURVIVOR

It's the first step into a better future. I wish you all the best

I wanted MY life back and to become ME again. I feel more confident and more assertive. I feel understood and heard. I feel stronger to go on

I wanted help with dealing with emotions and guilt I felt from my past experiences, understand the vicious cycle I was in. I'm much happier and positive

I needed somewhere to go and someone to talk to and not to be judged

I was initially very anxious as I knew that I would have to face things that I had put aside. Things were put into perspective, I found that I was not alone and that there IS light at the end of the tunnel

For further information contact Hinckley & Bosworth Domestic Abuse Outreach Service on 07966202181

A NEW SUPPORT GROUP FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council have provided a Domestic Abuse Outreach Service & Children's Support Service for a number of years.

The Services' work closely together to provide trauma informed support for Domestic Abuse Survivors & their children.

One of the new offers that has been created for survivors by Innovating Minds, is a Group Work Programme called 'Healing Together' of which HBBC Officers have been accredited to facilitate for our Residents.

Healing Together, offers primary parents/caregivers & their children (ages 6+) an opportunity to explore coping strategies in a trauma informed way. Our groups will be purposely small to encourage feelings of safety, yet give families opportunity to recognise that they are not alone.

The programme is grounded in evidence based practice and draws upon attachment & neuroscience, developed by Innovating Minds Psychologists & childhood trauma expert, Jane Evans.

The Healing together group lasts for 6 weeks and gives protective parents a valuable opportunity to learn how to support themselves and their children in coping with the aftermath of trauma.

As a Council we felt that it was vital to offer Survivors & their Children a group together to strengthen bonds and attachment post Domestic Abuse experience.

Offering a group that allows a protective parent opportunity to be a knowledgeable and informed support system for their child gives empowerment and strength to parent/child relationships.

The Healing Together group is focussed on offering safety to Survivors. It purposely does not included a CBT format and is trauma informed in its approach to ensure that the aim is recovery and using innate tools to overcome negative experiences.

If you would like more information about any of our Groups, Services or offer of support.

Please Contact the Domestic Abuse Team via 01455 255746 or the Domestic Abuse Outreach Worker on 07966202181 for further information.





Resident Support

OUR SERVICES



Over the years, the Blaby District Council Resident Support Team has seen an increase in demand for the person centred services that we offer to the residents of Blaby District.

Year	Amount of Referrals
2018	207
2019	273
2020	286

So far in 2021 we have already received 243 referrals and we expect to exceed the referral figures from last year by the end of this year again.

Feedback received from the majority of the residents we have supported indicates that they would have been unlikely to resolve the issues by themselves and also unlikely to have received support from anywhere else. The feedback also showed that the support they had received from our service had made a positive impact on the resident's lives.

We can offer support and advice in the following areas:

- Budgeting & Debt Management
- Claiming Benefits
- Setting up a new home
- Preventing Homelessness
- Applying for grants to help with bills
- Register with Health Services
- Help people access other services and make referrals on their behalf

For more information about the Blaby District Council Resident Support Service please visit www.blaby.gov.uk/residentsupport

NEW COMMUNITY HOUSE LAUNCHED IN BURBAGE

A Community Centre that will offer a range of new activities for adults, young people and children in Burbage has just been relaunched by the Borough Council.

The Meadows Community Centre will provide support to local residents, tenants and young people enabling visitors to access public services including the Police, Housing Officers, Age Concern and the voluntary and community sector.

In addition, the Meadows Community Centre will now host a range of activities for adults, young people and children, thanks to the work of the team that looks after the Borough Council's Community Houses in Earl Shilton, Barwell and Wykin who will also be working at The Meadows. Many of the groups are new and some well-attended favourites will also be returning to this popular community venue.

At a recent open day, visitors were able to meet the venue's new team and discuss options for further activities and plans for the future.

Rachel Duncan, Community Development Co-ordinator said: "We had a great open day, it was lovely to meet local residents and hear what they want to see happening at The Meadows. We already have a lot planned but we are open to any ideas. We hope people will come in and say hello."

Executive member for Community Safety, Councillor Michael Mullaney said: "The open day was a great success and I was delighted to meet staff and local residents. This venue has always been popular and the previous team have done a great job ensuring that the centre was used for a variety of events. I am sure that our Community Development Team will continue in the same manner and start to offer a wider range of services which will be of benefit to local individuals and families.

"It's clear from the open day that there is enthusiasm to make the Meadows Community Centre a focal point for the community in the area of Burbage around it. I look forward to years more of community activities taking place there."

Planned activities already include:

- Men's Cooking Group on a Monday 10.30am – 11.30am, to be held on a fortnightly basis. Free activity, all ingredients and recipes provided.
- Craft Workshops, to be held on 2 December, 10.30am – 2.30pm. £3 per session, lunch included. All craft materials provided. Make a decorative bottle, family picture frame, autumn wreath, Christmas cushion, lantern, felt robin and gift tags.
- A Tuesday evening knitting group will also be returning, this is a community organised group.

Booking is advisable.

If anyone would like to use the building, become involved in the centre or wants any more information please telephone 01455 255941 or email earlshiltoncommunityhouse@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk



FREE SUMMER ACTIVITIES IN BLABY ARE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Every Thursday during the school summer holidays saw Oakfield Park in Blaby as the venue for free sport sessions for young people. The IMPACT Team from Leicestershire County Council were again commissioned by Blaby District Council to run sports activities from 5pm to 7pm for young people aged 11 to 18 years.

Over 50 young people attended over the 6 sessions and activities included cricket, football, rounders and even some circuit training!

The young people fed back to staff how much they enjoyed getting active and making new friends. Parents commented how pleased they were that the council were able to commission outdoor activities for their children after such a difficult time during the pandemic when they were unable to get together and enjoy time with friends.

One delighted parent said: “Both my children have really struggled over the past year with the restrictions that have been in place, so it’s great to see them enjoying themselves again. They were both raving about the guys that ran the sessions and I’m happy knowing that the sessions are professionally supervised and that my children are safe. I can’t thank Blaby Council enough for organising this!”



HATE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK

Anyone who has experienced hate crime in the borough were encouraged to reach out to support services to report their experiences during National Hate Crime Awareness Week which took place in October.

A hate crime is anything that targets a person for their race, ethnicity or nationality, for their disability, their gender or sexual orientation, or their religion, faith or beliefs.

Throughout the week diversity workshops were carried out in primary schools to help children understand how people are all different and unique and to change attitudes around hate crime and activities were provided in the wider community to help raise awareness of hate crimes as well as how to report them. This year there is a particular focus on hate crime on the LGBT+ community as people in the LGBT+ community are less likely to report hate crime.

The Borough Council's Community Safety team and Hinckley Police were out in the community speaking to individuals such as members of the Learning Friendship Disability Network to tell them about Keep Safe Places – a scheme available in shops and other public areas to help people to deal with any incidents that take place when they are out and about - hate crime reporting centres and tips on keeping safe.

Council Officers, representatives from True Colours, a local LGBT+ group and the police were also out on a special market stall in Hinckley for anyone to come along and pick up information about local support and find out how to report a hate crime as well as pick up free crime prevention gadgets including light timers, purse bells and magnetic window locks.



PC Barry Miller, Cllr Hulbert, Lindsay Orton, (HBBC), Isla Dixon, (Police & Cllr Mullaney were on hand to give advice and raise awareness of hate crime on the market stall

Councillor Michael Mullaney, Executive Member for Housing and Community Safety at the Borough said: "I welcome the work that is going on in the borough to increase awareness of hate crimes and encourage anyone being targeted because of who they are to report it. There's more information available online about reporting hate crime."

Hate crime and hate incidents can be reported online by visiting:

<https://www.leics.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/hco/hate-crime/how-to-report-hate-crime/> or by calling the police on 101.

Alternatively, hate incidents can be reported in person at independent reporting centres which are available across Hinckley & Bosworth via https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/98/hate_crime/1564/report_hate_crime_in_person

For more information contact Community Safety on 01455 255746.

LGBTQIA+ AWARENESS TRAINING

On 28th September, Natalie from Blaby District Council's Domestic Abuse Outreach Service ran two LGBTQIA+ awareness sessions. The sessions touched on challenges with terminology, sensitivity and domestic abuse regarding the LGBTQIA+ community. The first session was for internal Blaby District Council staff and the second session was extended to partner agencies and other authorities.

These sessions are about expanding knowledge of the LGBTQIA+ community and to help staff effectively and sensitively engage with service users. There is an accompanying handbook to the presentation available and plans to run more sessions for internal staff and external groups.

Councillor Les Phillimore, portfolio holder for Community Safety said "This is a timely and valuable piece of work. Unfortunately domestic abuse and hate incidents have seen an increase during the pandemic and it is our aim to make our services safe and accessible to all sections of our community"

**For any further enquiries or requests for resources, please don't hesitate to get in touch:
lan.parry@blaby.gov.uk**



TAMPER PROOF NUMBER PLATE SCREWS CAMPAIGN

Hinckley Police and the Community Safety Partnership are launching a campaign to raise awareness of offences of theft from motor vehicles and theft of number plates.

The tamperproof screws make it almost impossible to remove number plates which this year alone has seen 137 offences of theft from motor vehicles across the Borough, covering everything from property taken and theft of number plates.

With council officers from the Community safety team at the Borough Council and the police a special market stall was held in Hinckley where anyone could pop along for advice or pick up tamper-proof screws as well as crime prevention gadgets.

Councillor Michael Mullaney, Executive Member for Housing and Community Safety at the Borough Council said: “We are pleased to be working in partnership with the police to offer residents an opportunity to pick up tamper-proof number plate screws, it can reduce the chances of your number plates being stolen and in some cases prevent your vehicle being used in further crimes.”

Tamper-proof number plate screws are available from your local beat/street surgery events. To find out when your next local event is check www.leics.police.uk/ or Facebook for further information.



Cllr Mullaney on hand providing advice to the public in Hinckley

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH'S COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

During the festive season Hinckley & Bosworth's Community Safety Partnership will be giving out a series of crime prevention messages but also a variety of messages such as looking out for elderly fall or vulnerable neighbours and how to look after our wellbeing at this time of year.

In partnership with Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service, Hinckley Bid and Hinckley & Bosworth Youth Forum, messages and videos will be put out on Facebook and Twitter on the run up to Christmas on a range of issues such as theft from motor vehicles, burglaries, Christmas tree lights safety, domestic abuse, recycling, donations to foodbanks and getting home safely after a night out, just to name a few.

This year's annual campaign was launched on Friday 19 November at Hinckley's Christmas lights switch on and members of Hinckley & Bosworth's Community Safety & Housing Team and Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service were on hand to give out crime prevention advice and personal safety information. This included helpful tips on keeping safe when using candles and Christmas tree decorations and giving out free battery candles, light timers and window latches to prevent burglaries. There was also an opportunity for people to test their reactions, stamina and hand and eye co-ordination whilst wearing 'drink goggles' on the Batak machine and have some fun at the same time.

Streetvibe Young People's Service was also on hand during the Christmas lights switch on evening providing outreach youth work in the town centre.

The Partnership were also out and about at Hinckley Academy & JCC Sixth Form raising awareness about safer driving through a partnership event with the police and fire service and a special lunchtime event to provide information and interactive activities on 'how to keep ourselves safe and healthy'. At Redmoor Academy a workshop with Yr 9's, 13-14 year olds was held to highlight the risks of substance misuse and alcohol abuse, anti-social behaviour and healthy relationships. In total engaging with over 500 pupils in both schools.

Taxi marshals will also be working in the town centre on key nights over Christmas to ensure that people waiting for a taxi get home safely.

To report a crime or suspicious activity people are urged to call the police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. In an emergency where life is in danger or crime is in progress always call 999.

VOICE FORUM SEEKS NEW MEMBERSHIP



Hinckley & Bosworth Voice Forum

Are you aged between 11 to 19 years?
Would you like to have your voice heard?
Are you passionate about local politics and making a difference to the community you live in?



Come and join our voice forum on the **first Wednesday of every month!**
We discuss a range of topics such as:

- Climate change
- Mental health
- Food poverty
- Crime and Anti-social behaviour
- CV opportunities - volunteering etc

The voice forum will give you opportunities to be involved in projects relating to some of these topics, as well as speaking to local councillors and council staff.

If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved all they need to do is get in touch via email:
Amy.casey@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
or call Community Safety on:
01455 255746



Hinckley & Bosworth Voice Forum is a youth forum for children and young people, aged 11-19 living in or attending school in the borough of Hinckley & Bosworth.

The forum is run by the Children and Young People's Team at the Borough Council and gives young people a platform to have their say on the services that are provided for them locally, the opportunity to get involved with local politics, express their opinion and insights into national issues and help make a difference to their community.

Meeting on every first Wednesday of the month, they are currently meeting virtually with the aim of re-introducing in person meetings.

Topics covered can include: climate change, health and wellbeing, food poverty, crime and anti-social behaviour, CV opportunities i.e. volunteering and lots more.

Councillor Robin Webber-Jones, Children & Young People's Champion at the Borough Council said: Our Voice Forum holds monthly sessions that give young people the chance to express their ideas, opinions and views with decision makers such as council staff, members of the council executive committee and staff of other organisations. We eagerly welcome new members and as we re-start after our summer break we wish some of our member's good luck as they continue to pursue their interest in politics.

If you are interested in local politics and want to know how you can help improve and change things, why not get in touch?"

To find out more contact Community Safety on 01455 255746 or email amy.casey@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

TACKLING ENVIRO-CRIME IN BLABY DISTRICT

Blaby District Council's Enviro-Crime Officer investigates a variety of offences including fly tipping and abandoned vehicles.

The number of incidents of fly tipping reported to Blaby District Council has increased significantly over recent years and not only are fly tips an eyesore but could also be potentially hazardous if they contain asbestos or chemicals.



Above: two of the fly tips investigated by Blaby District Council

The Enviro-Crime Officer works closely with the District Cleansing Team and attends fly tipping incidents in a bid to recover evidence from the waste that has been illegally dumped. Once they have recovered evidence the investigation work begins to determine how the waste got there and who is responsible.

Since January 2021 Blaby District Council has issued 11 fixed penalty notices for fly tipping, littering and duty of care, with fines ranging from £150 to £400 per offence.

The officer works in partnership with Leicestershire police when dealing with abandoned vehicles and recently identified a stolen vehicle which Leicestershire Police were able to re-unite with its delighted owner.

Vehicles that are untaxed or SORN and parked on the public highway can be seized and Blaby District Council has had 12 vehicles removed from the highway for being untaxed or abandoned. They have also enabled other vehicles to be removed from the highway by communicating with the registered keepers of the vehicles.

Cllr Les Phillimore, whose portfolio includes enviro-crime said: "Fly tipping and abandoned cars are a blight on our district and can cause huge inconvenience for residents. We want to do all we can to ensure our district is a cleaner and safer place to live.

"The fixed penalty notices and proactive action taken to deal with abandoned vehicles highlights just how seriously we take this matter. I want to thank residents for playing their part and reporting incidents to us so we can take action."

To report fly tipping or abandoned vehicles online, visit www.blaby.gov.uk or call 0116 272 7555.

FOUR FEMALE FIREFIGHTERS JOIN MARKET BOSWORTH FIRE STATION

Hi my name is Kate Niciecki and I am an On-call Firefighter and a mother to two children.

On-call firefighters do exactly the same job as our full time colleagues but respond to the station when required to attend emergency calls by a pocket pager.

I started my firefighting journey in January 2020 after I joined a new program called Train2Save which was ran by Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service to help members of the public get fit the fire service way with their own Personal trainers, this was all just prior to COVID pandemic and all of the restrictions that came with it. Initially I joined the programme to keep fit with no intentions of joining the Fire Service, but after speaking with the firefighters who were all really friendly they gave me an insight into what their work involved and I was intrigued and I wanted to find out more!

I attended a handful of the services Have a Go Days before submitting my application to become an On-call Firefighter at Market Bosworth Station and here I am nearly 2 years on. It's been a journey for sure, trying to manage a house, being a Mum and keeping up with all the training has been testing especially through the pandemic, but it has also been so rewarding, I have achieved things I thought I never would, and I've hopefully made my family proud. I do have to be well organised and plan my days to ensure I can do my best at being a Mum and a Firefighter, but the benefit of being On-Call means I can be flexible and work around my family's needs. My Watch Manager is understanding & and when necessary helps to ensure that I get the time I need with my family alongside my on call hours.

I joined Market Bosworth as the only female at the station, I think women have this perception that being a Firefighter is a man's job, maybe due to the physical side of the role, but one thing I have learnt about the fire service is nothing is impossible – with the right support and determination you can achieve anything! You are never alone; we work as a crew and we all support each other. If I'm finding something difficult there is always someone willing to help. The crew don't see me as a female, or as a Mum, they just see me as Kate, a firefighter. I hope I can inspire other Women to join the Fire Service as it really is an amazing job, in fact since I joined, we have had 3 new females Firefighters join the On-call section at Market Bosworth, Charlotte and Jess who are currently undergoing their training and Chelsie who is a full-time firefighter for Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service. Chelsie has inspired me to apply for a full-time position and I really looking forward to the challenges that this may bring if I am successful.

So, what does being an On-call firefighter mean? On-call means we respond to alerts from a pocket pager, whilst at home, work or out and about in the area. I may be at home one minute with my family and then the next sitting on the Fire Engine preparing to save life or property. I love the adrenaline rush you get when your pager goes off and the not knowing what the incident type is going to be until you get there. We get 6 minutes to turn in to the station to mobilise the fire engine, so it really is a grab and go moment as we need to respond as quickly as possible. We attend a variety of incidents it's not just putting out fires or the cliché of rescuing a cat from the tree. We assist the ambulance service, attend road traffic collisions where we use our specialist cutting equipment to extricate casualties who are trapped in their vehicles, or we could be called out to protect the environment from a fuel spillage. It really is a very diverse job.

We do not only attend incidents, one of our priorities is to make the public aware of the risks, helping make them safer in order to avoid incidents in the first place. Leicestershire fire and rescue's Purpose is 'safer people, safer places' You may see the fire engine driving around the local area, as we offer free home safety checks to vulnerable members of the community and visit local businesses offering advice and guidance on fire safety. Also we check the risks within the

area to plan ahead for an incident should it occur. A big part of the role is training to ensure our team is safe whilst operating at an incident.

Watch Manager Paul Wragg who is currently the Watch Manager in charge of Market Bosworth station said, "It is a very rewarding career that I have been doing now for 22 years, serving the people of Hinckley and Bosworth District. We are all very proud to have Kate, Chelsie, Jessica and Charlotte as part of the team here helping to maintain the fire appliance availability to respond to incidents making the public safer and to better represent the communities that we serve across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland".

Do you think you have what it takes to be an On-Call firefighter? If so this rewarding career could be for you. Contact paul.wragg@leics-fire.gov.uk for more information and vacancies at Market Bosworth Fire Station.



Firefighters (from left to right) Chelsie Griffin, Jessica Saxon, Kate Niciecki & Charlotte Kearney