

work with us to create a positive force in your community.





The recent run of good weather has been a welcome introduction to the summer months, with more people out enjoying the sunshine and mild temperatures. In policing terms, this change in season can often spell a shift in the types of crime that are committed. In particular, we can often see a rise in crimes such as

thefts to garden sheds and garages, as well as a rise in the number of 'bogus callers'. I would always encourage you to be aware of people trying to gain access to your home, or those selling services door – to – door.

The summer months can often also signal a rise in street drinking, and we continually work with our partners in the City of Edinburgh Council to ensure this does not bring a rise in anti social behaviour or associated crime. Drinking in public spaces is not an offence in Edinburgh, however we will ensure it does not affect the enjoyment of others living or visiting the area, including enforcing byelaws that are in place in areas of the city.

Finally, I'm sure many of you will have seen coverage of the Royal wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton. While we do not expect the same crowds to descend on Edinburgh for the wedding of Zara Phillips and Mike Tyndall in July, our events planning sections are still making plans for this event to ensure it passes without incident and is a success. This, combined with the upcoming Armed Forces Day, means we are guaranteed a busy and exciting summer of policing ahead.

#### **Crime Prevention**

As mentioned, visits from Bogus Workers tend to increase in the summer months, below is some advice on how to help ensure you don't fall victim

- doorstep unannounced with good excuses such as 'just happen to be working in the area' you have some loose slates.' Never let a casual caller do any work on your property; be that gardening; roofing or laying/repairing your drive. Thank them and inform them that your tradesman will look at it. Most reputable companies do not operate in this manner.
- What do Bogus Workmen look like? They are usually very plausible people dressed for the part.

- Who is at risk from them and when? We all are but they tend to prey on the more vulnerable and will usually call through the day.
- What can you do? Be prepared. Are you expecting someone to call? Check the person on the doorstep is genuine; most service providers carry identification, use the phone book to get the telephone number to contact the company to confirm. Best of all only deal with callers by appointment.
- Don't keep large sums of money in your home.
- Keep front and back doors locked even if you are just in the garden.

If suspicious persons are in the area - phone the police - give a good description of them and most importantly give the registration number, make/model, and colour of any vehicle involved.



### **Local Operations and Initiatives**

There is no doubt that keeping youths engaged in a range of positive activities can go a long way to reducing antisocial behaviour. Leith SNT officers are currently involved in a number of wide reaching initiatives to engage with youths in the Leith area. A valuable resource, regularly used in this respect, is the portable football pitch. Throughout the year, and particularly in the summer months, Leith SNT officers deploy the



pitch at various locations within the Leith and Leith Walk wards. It has a certain novelty value and is always a big attraction for local young people. Leith SNT officers also attend a weekly youth club at the Ripple Project in Restalrig. As a spin off from this work they took part in a football match against a team made up of youths from this club. All those involved gave up their valuable spare time to take part in the event. Despite the fact that many of the youths taking part were previously reluctant to engage with the police, the activity was hugely successful with a well natured game being played out. On the night of the game there was a noticeable reduction in incidents relating to youths in the area. And the result – the police and the community were both winners. Continuing the football theme, Simon Daley of the 'Leith SNT select' is planning another match against the youth team from the Shah Jalal Mosque on Annandale Street Lane. Simon has all ready developed excellent links with the Mosque and hopes this event will further strengthen those links.

In April Leith Safer Neighbourhood Team and the City of Edinburgh Council Community Safety Team launched the Youth Tracking System. The system aims to identify youths who are coming to police attention for the wrong reasons and to intervene at an early stage in an effort to prevent their behaviour deteriorating any further. The police work closely with several key partners in order to ensure that those identified have specific measures put in place to assist the young person from continuing with such behaviour. When any officer attends at a youth related incident they ensure that all the necessary details are added to the police log. The incidents can range from relatively minor anti-social behaviour to more serious criminal activity. First thing the following day a dedicated SNT officer reviews all the incidents from the previous day and add the details of any youths to a database. The Community Safety Team based at 1 Cockburn Street are also updated with these details and have access to the same database. Early intervention is key to the success of the system and it is hoped that problem youths will be



identified quickly before their anti-social behaviour gets more serious. Intervention may be as simple as a letter to their parents making them aware of police and council concerns or, if appropriate, a more formal monitoring arrangement such as an Acceptable Behaviour Contract. The database is also a valuable source of evidence should the Council want to pursue an Anti-Social Behaviour Order if early intervention proves unsuccessful. It is anticipated this joint, structured approach will reduce youth offending in the long term.



### Appeal for information

The theft of pedal cycles is an issue that affects the entire city and is particularly prevalent in Leith. Local officers are looking for your help to reduce and solve these crimes. Over the coming weeks officers are carrying out a co-ordinated approach, linking in with other agencies and departments to target likely suspects and places where stolen property is sold on. In addition to carrying out high visibility patrols and plain clothed patrols, Safer Neighbourhood Team officers will utilise police bikes in order to patrol dedicated cycle paths and park. You can play your part by ensuring you take steps to protect your property by properly securing your bike with two good quality locks to secure both front and rear wheels of the bike. If you have any information relating to the theft of bikes please contact Leith police Station or Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111. As always any information can be given in confidence.

#### **Local Priorities**

The Leith Safer Neighbourhood Teams are working to Local Priorities set by the community. Officers have been listening to the views of many local residents and community groups to establish exactly what problems we should be trying to resolve. The various points raised were assessed by the Priority Setting Group, which is made up of community representatives, the Council and the Police. The current priorities are;

**Leith Walk** – Trade / domestic waste / insecure door entry systems.

Dalmeny Park - dog fouling-

McDonald Road – parking issues outside Broughton Primary School

**Leith** - Salamander Street - Stair security · Hawkhill /Nisbet Court - Joint Council/Police initiative to tackle Youth issues, Dog Fouling and General ASB Issues.

If there is a particular issue that you feel should be a local priority please let us know.



On the 1st May 2011, every Community Policing poster on Lothian and Borders Police website was refreshed. New posters will soon be put up in every council ward area in the Force.

Our Community Commitment promises:

- \* to make sure your local officers are visible and accessible in your area
- \* to make sure you know who the police officers serving your area are, and how to contact them

The Community Policing posters are designed to help you get to know the community officers in your area, and give their phone numbers and email contact details. They also give the postal address for the police station serving your area.

The posters will be refreshed again in six month's time.

To find out more, see 'Contact your local officer'

Contacts May 2011



#### A Division

## City of Edinburgh help and advice

Lothian and Borders Police Non emergency 0131 311 3131

Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service (freephone) Fire safety advice: 0800 169 0320 enquiries@lbfire.org.uk

Lothian Gay and Lesbian Switchboard 0131 556 4049 0131 557 0751 (lesbian)

#### **Samaritans**

For emotional advice if you are feeling depressed or suicidal: 0131 221 9999 (Edinburgh) 08457 90 90 90 (National)

Shakti Women's Aid Support and information for black minority ethnic women experiencing domestic abuse: 0131 475 2399

Update Signposts people with disability to a wide range of services: 0131 669 1600 Victim Support 01896 751 212

Women's Aid 0131 3158 110

# National freephone helplines

(calls may not be free from mobile phones)

Breathing Space For emotional advice if you are feeling depressed: 0800 838 587

Childline

Help for people aged 18 or under: 0800 11 11

Know the Score Free confidential drugs information and advice: 0800 587 587 9

Message Home Get a message home for free if you have run away: 0800 700 740

National Debtline 0808 808 4000

National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247 National Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700 700

Runaway Helpline 0808 800 7070

Scottish Domestic Abuse Line 0800 027 1234

Shelter's Free Housing Advice Helpline 0808 800 4444

Stonewall Lesbian, gay and bisexual charity: 08000 50 20 20

Womens Aid 0808 2000 247

Crimestoppers
0800 5551111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

## Contact your Local SNT Leith Walk

Email -ADivSNTleithwalk@lbp. pnn.police.uk

Tel: 0131-311-5985

Leith

Email - ADivSNTleith@lpb.pnn. police.uk

Tel: 0131-311-5933