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Crack down on drug-related crime

Police in Weston-super-Mare have arrested 38 people in an operation to target drug dealing and acquisitive crime in the area.

Operation Relentless saw over 100 officers carry out a series of raids in three days of action (November 16, December 1 and December 14, 2011) following months of undercover work.

Overall the investigation recovered approximately £50,000 worth of stolen property, with items including a BMW Z3 car, televisions, jewellery and computers.

Superintendent Julian Moss said: "We have received encouraging feedback from local residents saying how pleased they have been to see us taking such positive action."

Of those arrested, 32 individuals have been charged with a total of 149 offences - including supplying heroin and crack cocaine, commercial burglary, handling stolen goods and theft.

DI Mark Rolfe added: "We are extremely determined to continue to target the persistent offenders who are blighting our local community. Criminals should be left in no doubt that we will be relentless in our pursuit, and that drug-related crime will not be tolerated in North Somerset."

"Community intelligence plays a key part in our work and I would like to thank the public for continuing to support us."

If you have any information about drug-related crime in your area please call our new non-emergency number 101. We will listen and we will act.

Weston-super-Mare

Covering the areas of: Weston-super-Mare Town Centre, Hillside, Ashcombe, Bournville, Oldmixon, Coronation, Potteries, Uphill, Clarence, Hutton Moor, Weston Village, The Maltlands, Summerlands, Worlebury, Old Worle, North Worle, Mead Vale, Sandbay & Kewstoke, Wick, Puxton & Hewish, St Georges, Winscombe, Banwell, Locking, Hutton and Bleadon.

Worle's first crack house closure

The tenant from a property in Hogarth Walk has been banned from their home for three months after neighbours complained about suspected drug use, which was blighting the lives of the local community.

PC Glenn Wheeler said "We carried out a drugs warrant at the address and worked closely with Alliance Homes to obtain the closure notice in court. I hope this reassures local residents that we will not tolerate this type of crime in Worle."

Burglar jailed

A 23-year-old man has been sentenced to three years behind bars for burglary.

Richard Webb pleaded guilty to eight burglaries when he appeared at Bristol Crown Court on December 23, 2011.

He was already serving an 18-month sentence for four further burglaries in the Weston-super-Mare and Yatton areas.

DS Dave Cory said: "We are working hard to arrest persistent offenders and bring them before the courts.

"This is a great result and we hope demonstrates just how committed officers are to tackling burglary in North Somerset."

Protect your home from burglary:

- Always secure windows and doors – even when you're at home
- Keep small high-value items like your car keys, mobile phone and wallet out of sight
- Set light switch timers for when you are out
- Keep photos of your jewellery, take a note of serial numbers and security mark your property
- Side passages can provide valuable cover for thieves. Fit a gate and lock them out!
- Take an interest in the security at the homes of vulnerable family members and look out for your neighbours
- Report any suspicious behaviour immediately by calling 999.

Beating anti-social behaviour



Local police are committed to tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) in your area.

ASB is varied and some problems are better dealt with by other agencies than police, such as North Somerset Council, so we all need to work together.

For example, throughout 2011 officers targeted a group of individuals who were regularly causing distress to local residents and businesses in the town centre. As a result, three ASBOs were granted and the recipients have been banned from the town centre – and from associating with 12 named known associates.

ASB Officer, Emma Grant, said: "The support of local people, being prepared to come forward with the evidence we needed, is what has really made a difference. We will continue to be robust when dealing with anti-social behaviour in 2012."

What is ASB?

ASB includes criminal activity like kerb crawling and drug dealing and other issues that can impact on people's lives: large groups outside your home, drunken rowdy behaviour or repeated loud noise.

What can I do about ASB?

- Discuss the problem with neighbours or raise it through your residents' or tenants' association or Neighbourhood Watch.
- Report it to local police or the council
- Keep a record of ongoing incidents including times, dates, locations and who is responsible.
- We need local communities to help identify who is behind ASB and secure the evidence we and our partners need to take action.

To find out more about what local police can do call them on 101, visit our website www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

You can also visit us on Facebook, You Tube, Twitter, through you mobile or TV service or via our Police Kiosks



Pub closed down after drugs found

A pub in Weston-super-Mare has been closed down after police seized Class-A and Class-B drugs from the premises, including cannabis, cocaine and other drugs paraphernalia.

Officers carried out a drugs warrant at Hotshotz on Alexandra Parade in November, 2011. The license was subsequently surrendered prior to a review hearing with North Somerset Council on December 9, 2011.

Targeting alcohol-related violence

Police in Weston-super-Mare are cracking down on alcohol-related violence to help ensure the town is a safe place to enjoy a night out.

Officers launched the 'One Punch can Kill' campaign in November 2011, which has seen increased police patrols in the town centre at night.

Police are also working closely with pub and door managers to ban violent offenders from all the bars in Weston.

Police have also distributed posters in the town's pubs and bars to remind people about the consequences of drunken violence - from getting a criminal record or losing your job through to having to live with the guilt of seriously injuring or even killing someone.

Sergeant Mark Raby said: "We want to make it clear that violence is unacceptable in Weston.

"If you do get into a fight you could find that your night is ruined by an arrest, a criminal record and a ban from all of the bars in the area."

Top Tips to ensure you enjoy a safe night out:

- Tell someone who you're with, where you're going and when you'll be back
- Keep some cash and phone credit for emergencies
- Plan how you're getting home
- Don't walk alone
- Stick to busy, well-lit routes
- Don't flash your cash or valuables
- Don't leave your drinks unattended or accept drinks from strangers
- Drink responsibly. Having too much alcohol can make you vulnerable to becoming a victim of crime – or can increase the chances of you committing a crime yourself
- Remember, one punch can kill.

Cannabis raids

A Weston man was sentenced to two years and four months imprisonment for cannabis production after appearing at Bristol Crown Court on January 5, 2012.

Darryl Hobbs, 29, was arrested after officers carried out two drugs warrants in March 2011 at addresses on Orchard Place and Main Road, Hutton.

Hydroponics equipment and seven cannabis plants with a potential street value of £18,000 were seized.

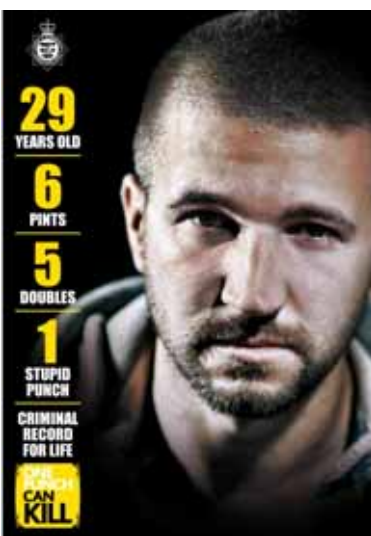
PC Brendan McCormack said: "I hope this sends a strong message to others involved in drug cultivation and dealing that you will be caught and forced to face the consequences."

Cannabis is seen by some as a lower level drug, but Avon and Somerset Police take it very seriously - targeting and disrupting its cultivation and links with serious and organised crime.

Weston police carried out 11 drugs warrants between November and December 2011 to crack down on cannabis factories in the area.

The warrants resulted in seven arrests and the recovery of over 1,200 cannabis plants.

Anyone with any information on drugs supply in their area is asked to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Avon and Somerset Police Authority

Soon the Police Authority, the independent body which oversees Avon and Somerset Police will be replaced by a directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). This change will happen in 41 of the 43 UK forces in England Wales. This is the single biggest change to UK policing and means that you will go to the polls on Thursday, November 15, to vote for the very first PCC for Avon and Somerset. The Police Authority will continue to carry out its role as usual, holding the police to account and setting the police budget until the election in November. The Police Authority is committed to a smooth and effective handover to a PCC. To find out more go to www.aspol.org.uk/pcc

Jailed for attempted robbery

A 24-year-old man was sentenced to five years behind bars after appearing at Bristol Crown Court in December, 2011.

Robert Higgins entered One Stop on Locking Road in August 2011 and demanded money from the till. He received five years for attempted robbery, 12 months for carrying an imitation firearm and six months for theft.

Lock it or Lose it

Police in Weston-super-Mare are launching a campaign to reduce bicycle thefts in the area.

Over 260 bicycles were stolen from Weston-super-Mare in 2011, and with the 'Lock it or Lose it' campaign officers are keen to offer crime prevention advice to cyclists.

Police have teamed up with DataTag to offer 50% off electronic tagging chips that can be concealed inside the bicycle frame.

Officers have also visited the local schools in the area to offer young cyclists security advice.

Sgt Mark Raby said: "We hope the 'Lock it or Lose it' campaign will reduce the number of bicycles stolen in Weston – and help us to bring the offenders to justice.

"Security marking your bike will increase the chances of it being returned to you, if it is ever lost or stolen and recovered by the police."

Police are also working hard to target offenders. Most recently, a 28-year-old man was arrested for the theft of a bicycle and later admitted to eight further similar offences. After appearing at North Somerset Magistrates' Court on Wednesday January 6, he received a one year probation supervision order. He also has to pay £1,332 compensation to his victims and attend a 30 day 'Thinking' course.

If you would like to buy an electronic DataTag please call 01932 796788. Quote Avon and Somerset Police to reduce the cost from £26 to £13.50.

For further crime prevention advice, please visit www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Top tips for securing your bike:

- Security-mark your bicycle and keep a record of your frame number
- Buy the best quality lock you can afford. Sold Secure approved locks are recommended
- Always lock your bike to an immovable object, don't just lock the frame to the wheel
- When out and about, always lock it in a well-lit public area with other bikes if possible
- The safest place to secure your bike is in your house and not locked to your garden gate
- If you don't have room indoors make sure it's kept in a secure garage or shed
- Don't help to create a market in which thieves can operate. When buying a second-hand bike, make sure the seller owns it. When buying a new bike, purchase from a recognised dealer.



We want to know what you think our priorities should be in your neighbourhood – and there are a number of ways you can get in touch to let us know.

You can call your neighbourhood policing team on our new non-emergency number 101 or visit our website to email officers and submit your priorities online.

Alternatively, speak to the beat team while they are out on patrol or at community meetings.

You can find out meeting dates and the current policing priorities in your area by visiting www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!

If you need this document in another format

Telephone - **101**

Typetalk - **01275 816 888**

or visit

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/WebsiteResources/accessibility/



Call the charity **Crimestoppers** anonymously on **0800 555 111**

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

We never ask for your name or trace your call