Reducing anti-social behaviour in Weston

Your neighbourhood teams have been dedicated to reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB) this summer, working to make Weston a better place to live, work and visit.

And the focus continues, with special operations planned to target known hotspots and seasonal spikes throughout the autumn.

Neighbourhood Inspector Liz Hughes said: “Our focus is on ‘respect’ – if you give it, you get it.

“My neighbourhood teams have organised activities to occupy young people at risk of offending, and have spoken to hundreds of children collecting our cards featuring crime prevention and personal safety messages, designed by local school children.”

On the Bournville Estate, 15 young people aged nine and above took part in weekly free running sessions at Weston Youth Centre organised by PCSO Kylie Channing together with FREE (Free Running Educational Experience), funded by charity 5 to 25 Partnership.

While an area of the Oldmixon Estate has become a dispersal zone to help deal with problems experienced by residents and businesses caused by groups gathering there.

In the town centre, the focus has been on dealing with persistent street drinkers (see page 3).
Let's keep locking up the drug dealers

Information given by local residents and businesses continues to show they don’t want drug dealing on our streets – and with your help, we’ll continue to put them behind bars. Here are some examples of recent arrests and convictions:

Bristol man sentenced to four-and-a-half years and crack cocaine worth between £10,000 and £20,000 seized.

Man from London sentenced to two years and cocaine and heroin worth £2,000 to £3,000 seized.

Woman from London sentenced to two-and-a-half years for conspiracy to supply class A drugs.

Man from Weston sentenced to two years and more than £11,000 worth of cocaine and £3,000 cash seized from his flat.

Weston man awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply amphetamine and cannabis. Drugs with a street value of more than £10,000 seized.

Man from Weston charged and £1,400 worth of crack cocaine and heroin seized.

London man charged after £1,200 worth of heroin seized.

Neighbourhood Inspector Liz Hughes said: “These people were all set to make thousands of pounds dealing class A drugs in our town – and putting lives at risk in the process.

“Our message is simple – keep reporting your suspicions to us and we will keep doing everything we can to catch them red-handed and put them behind bars.”

Information can be given direct to the Targeting Team on 101 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

“OUR MESSAGE IS SIMPLE: KEEP REPORTING YOUR SUSPICIONS TO US AND WE WILL KEEP DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO CATCH THEM RED-HANDED AND PUT THEM BEHIND BARS.” INSPECTOR LIZ HUGHES

YOUR VOICE IN POLICING

Police and Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens

“I’m here to represent you, to make sure that you have a voice in policing and that the police are responding to local needs.”

Since the last edition Sue has allocated £75,000 to cutting crime and disorder in North Somerset. Through the community safety grant she has funded integrated community safety services providing better support for victims.

Local groups have also benefited from over £25,000 from the Commissioner’s Community Action Fund. The money has gone towards projects like the one on the Bournville Estate, Weston-super-Mare, to engage with young people who are not in full time education. The aim is to increase attendance and reduce anti-social behaviour.

If you are part of a local group or organisation that could benefit from funding to tackle the Commissioner’s priorities then visit the website.

Have your say on policing £S

Sue is asking you how much you would be prepared to pay towards policing next year. You can have your say online at www.consultation.avonand somerset.p olice.uk. The choices are to freeze the policing part of the council tax or increase it from between 6p-32p a week.

Dates & Information

03/10 – Sue will be visiting North Somerset. If you would like to chat to her face-to-face, please contact us.

Contact the PCC via the website www.avonandsomersetpcc.gov.uk

Email the PCC at pcc@ avonandsomerset.police.uk

Call 01275 816 377
REDUCING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Dealing with Weston’s street drinkers

The Town Centre Team gets a lot of complaints about street drinkers.

At least twice daily, members of the team patrol areas including Grove Park, Alexandra Parade and The Boulevard, seizing alcohol and telling street drinkers at risk of committing crime to leave.

The team also works with shops around those areas to ensure they are not selling alcohol to people already drunk or who are under age.

Town Centre Team Sergeant Mark Jenkinson said: “We use every power we have to deal with this problem but, ultimately, street drinkers are persistent.

“We always seize their alcohol and do everything we can to prevent them from being able to buy it in the first place. Every time we take drink away, we record it and, if they are repeatedly causing problems, we will use this evidence to secure an ASBO against them. We currently have an ASBO pending for one man who routinely becomes aggressive when drunk.”

Weston town centre is covered by a Designated Public Place Order, which restricts people drinking alcohol on its streets.

Raising speed awareness

Our teams joined Community Speed Watch schemes in Sandford and Locking in August to lend support to the valuable work they do year-round to reduce speeding in their communities.

Community Speed Watch volunteers are trained to record vehicles’ speed and note down their registration numbers. These details are then forwarded to us to issue warning letters.

PC Matt Bailey from the Winscombe, Sandford and Banwell neighbourhood team said: “Speeding is one of the most common concerns raised by residents and the fact is that fatal collisions are four times more likely on rural or urban roads compared to on the motorway.

“Community Speed Watches do a really valuable job in helping to prevent collisions by providing information to us to educate drivers about the need to slow down.”
Emergency services take over Beach Lawns

The Town Centre Team, police dogs Woody and Axel (and their handlers), a firearms officer and police motorcyclist joined more than 20 other emergency services to take part in the RNLI’s Emergency Services Day on Beach Lawns in August.

The BMW motorbike proved a big crowd pleaser, as did the crashed car displayed to raise awareness of the dangers of drink driving with the simple message ‘keep sober and carry on driving’.

PC Marc Flavell from the town centre team said: "It was a fantastic event and we all enjoyed answering the public’s questions about different aspects of our jobs.

"I think it was a real eye opener for people to see just how many different organisations are out there working to keep them safe."

Free running sessions

Fifteen young people from Weston have been learning free running (also known as Parkour) this summer as part of our youth engagement to keep children busy and prevent anti-social behaviour.

Free Running Educational Experience (FREE) put on the sessions in conjunction with the Southward neighbourhood police team. Funding for the project came from local charity 5 to 25 Partnership and the sessions ran weekly at Weston Youth Centre throughout August and September.

PCSO Kylie Channing who helped to organise the sessions said: ‘Feedback from the children involved has been really positive. They’ve been learning new skills, whilst being active and socialising with their friends, which has kept them off the streets and engaged with us through the summer.'