The latest news on community safety issues in the Scottish Borders

‘OPERATION TINSEL’

130 ARRESTED OVER FESTIVE PERIOD

Over 130 people were arrested as part of a Police Scotland campaign to keep people safe in the Scottish Borders during the festive period. Operation Tinsel was launched throughout the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division in December aimed at targeting a number of offences, which regularly occur over Christmas and New Year. In addition, officers provided a high-visibility presence throughout the region to engage with the public and offer a range of advice and guidance on crime prevention.

During the month-long operation across the Scottish Borders,

- 26 people were charged in connection with violent crimes across the Scottish Borders,
- 28 individuals charged for domestic abuse offences.
- 78 people arrested for antisocial behaviour related offences.
- A further 37 people were reported to the Procurator Fiscal for a range of motoring offences including drink driving, driving without insurance, speeding and using a mobile phone.

Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson said: "We launched Operation Tinsel to provide reassurance to the public over the festive period, but also to send a clear message that crime within the Scottish Borders would not be tolerated. Local policing teams were out in large numbers to speak with communities and offer information on personal security as well as to detect and deter criminal activity in the region. Operation Tinsel may have come to an end, but police in the Scottish Borders will continue to proactively target those involved in criminal activity and bring them to justice, while at the same time offering all the necessary crime prevention information to our communities."

For more information contact: Safer Communities Team or Tel: 01835 823204

SAFER INTERNET DAY

11 February 2014

Internet Safety is an ever increasing concern and it is important children and adults are educated on the dangers the internet can pose. Safer Internet Day is organised by the UK Safer Internet Centre to promote the safe and responsible use of online technology and mobile phones. More information can be found on their website at http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2014
BE FEARLESS
Fearless is a website where young people (12 – 18 years) can get non-judgemental advice and information about crime. Fearless is part of the UK charity, Crimestoppers. It aims to educate and empower a generation with the knowledge that they have a choice to be fearless against crime.
Delivered throughout the UK using three key approaches:
- Online - through the website and associated networking sites.
- Education - through the tools and resources that we provide.
- Outreach & Engagement - through our ‘train the trainer’ programme delivered to those professionals working with young people.
For more information go to http://www.fearless.org/

BREAKING DOWN BORDERS
LGBT Youth are running a series of information evenings for parents, carers and guardians of young people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender in the Scottish Borders
- February 2014 Roxburghshire & Berwickshire
- March 2014 Roxburghshire & Peebles
For further details please contact Martin Innes on 01896 755110 or info@lgbtyouth.org.uk  https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/

MATCH FIT
A positive mental health education programme for men that uses examples from sport to shine light on the experience of emotional difficulties and identify positive ways of coping with them. The programme has been used successfully with groups of men of all ages coping with various kinds of emotional and mental health problems.

The group training programme covers key issues related to mental well-being including managing conflict, relationships, dealing with setbacks and managing thoughts and emotions and uses examples from sport and video content. The groups meet in non-clinical settings e.g. sports pavilion.

Currently staff from different agencies in the Scottish Borders are about to undergo training to help them deliver this new approach. For anyone interested in taking part in training to deliver this programme to their service users please contact the Joint Health Improvement on 01835 825970

NO COLD CALLING ZONES
The village of Lennel near Coldstream and the Howden Drive and Howden Crescent areas in Jedburgh are the latest communities to join the numbers of No Cold Calling Zones in the Scottish Borders.
Across the Scottish Borders many communities have set up ‘No Cold calling Zones’. For more information on setting up a zone, contact your local community police officer. Telephone: 101
DOMINIC LITTLEWOOD'S TOP TIPS FOR FINDING A REGISTERED ELECTRICIAN

Dominic Littlewood, presenter of 'Fake Britain' and 'Cowboy Builders' supports the Electrical Safety Council’s (ESC) campaign to encourage householders to use registered electricians.

The campaign urges people not to attempt electrical jobs themselves or to rely on friends’ recommendations. Instead, guarantee yourself the peace of mind that comes with using a registered electrician.

ESC research found that a third of people had hired an electrician based on a friend’s recommendation without bothering to check their credentials, and a quarter would knowingly use an unregistered electrician if they were in a hurry. It also found that nearly 1.3 million people have paid someone to fix botched work that was carried out by an unregistered electrician.

Registered electricians surveyed also warned about the dangers of relying on others, such as a builder, to select electricians on your behalf. Over half said they were aware of complex jobs, such as bathroom or kitchen fittings with electrical elements, which were carried out by unregistered or unqualified electricians.

To support the campaign, we also produced a short film that brings home the risk of using unregistered electricians in an impactful and shocking way. You can watch the film and find out how to find a registered electrician to carry out electrical work in your home at www.esc.org.uk/findanelectrician

FREE ELECTRICAL SAFETY SMARTPHONE APP

The Electrical Safety Council offers simple advice to help you to keep yourself, your loved ones and your homes safe from electrical accidents and fires. They have a range of leaflets that you can download, as well as a 'calculator' that helps you to check you are not overloading sockets.

The new free smartphone app guides you through simple visual checks of the electrics in your home. CLICK HERE

FIRE SAFETY AND OLDER PEOPLE

Age Scotland, in partnership with the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, has produced a fact sheet on fire safety and older people. People over fifty are more at risk of fire than younger people, and the risk of fire injury or death is higher in Scotland than elsewhere in the UK.

Risks which affect alertness, concentration and the ability to react quickly are long term medical conditions or disabilities and some types of medication. People who are on a low income can also be at risk if they cannot afford to repair or replace faulty equipment such as cookers, electric blankets and electrical sockets.

The fact sheet offers simple advice and guidance on reducing fire risk. If you have friends, family or neighbours who would benefit from this advice, please share it with them. Even if you don't think of yourself as an 'older person', the advice applies to us all.

Click here for the fact sheet Age Scotland SFRS - Factsheet - Fire safety and older people in Scotland.pdf
NEW PARTNERSHIP TO TACKLE DOMESTIC ABUSE

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) are working in partnership to ensure that victims of domestic abuse are protected from the threat of arson/fire-raising in a new initiative.

The Home Fire Safety Visit is a key component of domestic fire prevention, helping to drive down risks in the home by giving householders the chance to discuss their particular situations with fire fighters from their local fire stations. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have undergone a considerable training programme with fire fighters to raise awareness of domestic abuse and to support frontline staff to identify and respond to any disclosures. Community fire fighters are able to provide enhanced home safety visits to those who are at an increased risk of harm from fire in their homes.

Identifying the need for additional resources to install anti-arson letterboxes, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have supported a new bid to the Big Lottery by Scottish Borders Council and made a significant contribution to match funding. Watch Manager Samantha Seeds works at Scottish Borders Council in the Safer Communities Team and engages with the Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support Service, through this joint agency working, a successful bid for £5,000 of SFRS funding was made.

Jock Mallin Group Manager based in Hawick cited the positive security outcomes of measures such as installing fire-proof letter boxes, smoke/heat detection (linked to the Bordercare domestic alarm system), door bolts, safety chains and spy-holes. In his funding bid, Jock pointed out that research has indicated that of the fifty security installations conducted in a year, at least ten cases are directly related to fire risk. He says that “through our contribution of financial and human resources to this pioneering project, we will demonstrate our full support to tackling domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders”.

ADVICE FOR OFF ROAD MOTORBIKERS

The Safer Communities team have recently produced a new guidance leaflet for users of off road motorcyclists.

Many parents and young people are unaware of the responsibilities of owning off road motorcycles, quad bikes, mini motors and go peds and the laws surrounding them.

All motorcycles including quad bikes, monkey bikes, scooters and small machines that have a petrol engine, mini motors and go peds which are powered by an electric motor are classified as **not suitable** for use on roads or pavements. This brings these bikes under the laws that make motorcycling safe for everyone. It does not matter how small the bike is, how slowly it travels or that it has been designed for children. **...THE LAWS STILL APPLY!**

The only places where off road vehicles can be lawfully ridden is on private land with the direct permission of the land owner or at a supervised off road centre.

For more information contact the **Safer Communities Team** or your local community police officer.

FIRE STATISTICS SCOTLAND 2012-13

Key statistics at Local Authority level in the document looks at all Local Authorities and compares the differences in rates of accidental dwelling fire casualties per 100,000 population. You can access this information via [http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/DatasetsFire](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/DatasetsFire)
WE CAN AND MUST DO BETTER
Two Day training event to be held on **30th January 2014 and 13th March 2014** Langlee Centre, Galashiels, 9.30 am to 3.30pm. This training aims to establish a common understanding about the experiences of Looked After and Accommodated Children & Young People and the roles we play in enhancing their life experiences and outcomes.

Anyone who is committed to and interested in the raising the potential of Looked After and Accommodated Children & Young People should attend e.g.

- Foster Carers
- Adoptive Parents
- Social workers
- Outreach Staff
- Mentors
- School Nurses
- Support staff
- Home link workers
- Teachers
- Additional Needs Assistants

If you wish to attend please contact your agency representative.

- Health Professionals – Rachel Pulman
- Education Staff (non ICS) – Rosemary Robertson
- Integrated Children’s Services staff (ICS) – Locality Team Leader
- Foster Carers – Lisa Grieve (Resources Team)
- Private / Voluntary Providers – Gareth Stott

Spaces are limited and priority will be given to those who have not previously attended We Can & Must Do Better Training. Places will be confirmed by 17/01/14

FAMILY NURSE PARTNERSHIPS
Children born to young mothers are to be given a healthier start to life thanks to the extension of the Family Nurse Partnership. The Family Nurse Partnership supports first time parents aged nineteen and under and already runs in seven health board areas.

From next year, the programme will begin in NHS Forth Valley and NHS Grampian and places on the programme in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde) and NHS Fife will be increased. Nurses support mothers to make positive choices on areas such as child development, preventative health measures, accident prevention, parenting skills, better diet information and on education and employment.

Two more health boards, Dumfries and Galloway and the Borders, are in discussion about bringing in the Family Nurse Partnership programme. For more information go to [http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Young-Mothers-Programme-71a.aspx](http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Young-Mothers-Programme-71a.aspx)

CHILD PRODUCT SAFETY GUIDE
The European Child Safety Alliance (ESCA) has launched the Child Product Safety Guide: Potentially Dangerous Products. This guide contains key information on products that children and families have regular interaction with, but are at risk of injury during their use.

Across the 28 countries of the European Union in an average year

- > 19,000 children under 14 years of age will have injuries involving bunk beds,
- > 51,000 will have injuries involving trampolines,
- > 52,000 will have toy related injuries.

All are serious enough to require a visit to the local emergency department. This guide can be accessed through the ECSA web link: [http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/archives/news/2013/dec-05-product-safety.html](http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/archives/news/2013/dec-05-product-safety.html).
ELECTRIC CHIPMUNKS
This year the Electrical safety council are using a different approach to talking about the dangers of counterfeit electrical goods.
A new short film, ‘Electric Chipmunks’, follows bargain hunter “Tara Cheadle” as she buys a hairdryer from a mysterious market trader, with disastrous results.
Despite the quirky approach, the message is a serious one and particularly relevant at a time when budgets are tight and people are looking for a bargain.
So, don’t get exploded by dodgy electrics – instead visit www.esc.org.uk/chipmunks to watch the video.

HELP PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR COMMUNITY FROM TRAGEDY
The latest stage of the Join Scotland’s Fight against Fire campaign emphasises the need for all homes to be protected by working smoke alarms, which are known to have a dramatic impact in preventing injuries and deaths.
Members of the public have been urged to help fire fighters reach vulnerable residents, so they can prevent house fires and the deaths, injuries and emotional trauma they cause.

Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Lewis Ramsay, the SFRS Director of Prevention and Protection, explained: “Fire in the home can be both terrifying and tragic, but simple steps will significantly reduce the risk of it happening to us. I am calling on everyone to consider the risks in their homes and the homes of people around them, and then to take potentially life-saving action”.

“In the past year our crews conducted more than 56,000 free home fire safety visits, where they gave residents tips to prevent fire starting and to buy vital time if it does strike. Fire fighters conducting free home fire safety visits will even install long life battery smoke alarms wherever they are needed – and it’s completely free of charge”.

Anyone can arrange a free home fire safety visit by calling the SFRS Free phone number 0800 0731 999 or by contacting their local fire station.
Further information on how to keep your home fire safe is available on the SFRS website: www.firescotland.gov.uk.

EYEMOUTH BUMP TO BABY DAY
Another Bump to Baby event will be held 13th February, 12.00-2.00pm, at Eyemouth Community Centre. This is a special information day for all parents, whether they are expecting a baby or already have a young baby or toddler.
For more information contact: Barbara.jessop@borders.scot.nhs.uk
LIVES TO BE SAVED FROM “SILENT KILLER”
WITH C.O. LAW CHANGE, IN SCOTLAND
A new law making carbon monoxide (CO) alarms compulsory in Scottish properties will save lives in the fight against the “silent killer”, according to The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in Scotland.

From October 1 2013, new building regulations in Scotland, requires that all new-build properties must be fitted with CO alarms. The law will also require houses, hotels, guest houses and care homes to have an alarm installed at the same time as a new boiler or gas appliance. The move aims to prevent deaths from the deadly gas, known as “the silent killer” because it cannot be seen, heard, smelled or tasted. Cases are commonly caused by faulty or badly-serviced gas appliances and other fossil fuel-burning systems.

CO poisoning kills at least 50 people every year in the UK and leads to more than 1,100 hospital admissions. Latest figures from Health Protection Scotland show there are around two accidental deaths every year, and there were 135 people admitted to hospital as a result of toxic effects of the gas between 2008 and 2010.

For information on carbon monoxide safety, click on Gas Safe or go to www.rospa.com.

NEW STANDARDS ON BLINDS

From 2014 stringent new standards governing the manufacture, selling and installation of new blinds come into effect with the aim of reducing child accidents. It’s likely that the new standards will be published in February or March 2014.

The new standards will mandate:

- Safety devices for preventing any cords or chains from forming a hazard
- The testing of all safety critical items of internal blinds
- The installation of safety devices on the product at the point of manufacture
- Maximum cord and chain lengths
- Warnings and instructions / packaging and point-of-sale information

27 children are known to have died in the UK since 1999 as a result of becoming entangled with a blind or curtain cord or chain. Over half of these deaths have occurred in the last three years, and most have happened in the bedroom when parents thought their child was asleep. Toddlers are most at risk of becoming entangled in a blind cord. They are naturally inquisitive, and are especially vulnerable to strangulation because their heads weigh proportionately more than their bodies compared to adults and their muscle control isn’t fully developed, both of which make it harder for them to free themselves if they get tangled up..

Later this year you can use the launch to encourage parents who are looking to buy new blinds for their homes to buy blinds that are safe by design – for example, blinds that are operated by wands rather than cords or chains. Click here - BBSA’s Make it Safe website for more information.

However, the new standards do not apply to blinds already installed in people’s homes. If parents have blinds at home that are operated by cords or chains, it’s vital that they understand the risks and the simple steps they can take to make their blinds safer – for example, by moving furniture away from blinds and fitting and using cleats, so blind cords and chains are kept well out of reach of young children.
PARCEL DELIVERY SCAM

Police in neighbouring South Lanarkshire have alerted us to a new SCAM. Residents are unwittingly being used to assist criminals carry out theft from mail order companies. It may be that this is happening in this area too.

The householder receives a handwritten note stating that a relative of the writer has mistakenly sent a parcel to the wrong address, and would the householder please accept it. The parcel is delivered, and the householder may be asked to sign to say they have received it. The parcel is then collected by the person who wrote the note.

It is believed that the parcels are fraudulent purchases. As the wrong address is being used, the offender cannot subsequently be traced.

You are not obliged to receive deliveries for neighbours. However we all like to help therefore it is recommended that you only take in goods or deliveries for neighbours that you know and only after checking that the name and address are correct on the parcel. Never give the parcel over to an unknown third party. You have signed for it and could be pursued by the supplier.

If you receive a similar note or have any information regarding this scam which could assist the enquiry, please contact Police Scotland on 101 or phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

BEST BAR NONE 2013 WINNERS

Congratulations to our successful participants from 2013;

- Hunters Hall, Galashiels - BRONZE 2013
- Union and Refectory Borders College, Galashiels - BRONZE 2013
- Horse and Hound, Bonchester Bridge- BRONZE 2013
- Coopers, Hawick- SILVER 2013
- Waverley Bar, Hawick - SILVER 2013
- Waggon Inn, Kelso - SILVER 2013
- Indigo Rooms, Galashiels - GOLD 2013
- Base, Hawick - GOLD 2013

Independently audited as part of the accreditation process, all of these premises demonstrated the essential levels of good practice in all of the key areas;

* Prevention of Crime and Disorder
* Public Safety
* Prevention of Public Nuisance
* Promotion of Public Health
* Protection of Children from harm.

The silver and gold award winners did exceptionally well, also achieving desired and bonus levels in a number of these areas. Well done to all of our participants.
**BETTER LATE THAN DEAD ON TIME**

**FREE Road Safety Tour – Touring from 12 February to 1 April 2014.**

A free performance and workshop from Theatre and Learning is available for S1s to the elderly. The tour has been commissioned by Road Safety Scotland and lasts around an hour.

The performance ‘Better Late than Dead on Time’ looks at the impact of driver and pedestrian behaviour on one family. The issues are dealt with sensitively but presented in a realistic and humorous way to focus on awareness and discussion with the audience. In addition, an interactive workshop will embed the key messages of the performance further and explore the main themes in more detail.

It may be that you would like to incorporate this performance into a community safety event and therefore may wish to have the performance on an evening or a weekend, we are happy to accommodate this.

Places are limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. For further information you can call Pippah Harris on 01484 664078 or email pharris@theatreand.com

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**CASHBACK FOR COMMUNITIES**

Grants are available of up to £2,000, to support local youth groups to create opportunities for Scotland’s young people.

The scheme will fund:

- The start-up costs of a unit or youth group (up to £1,000)
- The costs (or part of the costs) of a particular programme of activity (up to £2,000)

The next deadline for applications is 1 March 2014.

Further information and the application form can be found at -


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**CONSULTATION: SCOTLAND’S STRATEGY TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

For many decades Scotland has been at the forefront of work to tackle violence against women, and we have received international recognition for this. Protecting women and children from all forms of violence, providing support and services for those who have or are experiencing violence and preventing violence from occurring in the first place are national priorities.

In December 2013 the Scottish Government published a draft strategy for consultation aimed at tackling all forms of violence against women. The final strategy will be published in summer 2014.

[http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/violence-women](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/violence-women)

According to Andrea Beavon, Scottish Borders VAW and Domestic Abuse Coordinator, “the consultation is an ideal opportunity for Scottish Borders VAW Partnership to contribute to the final document and secure a future for the fantastic outcomes we can achieve by taking a partnership approach. Here in the Scottish Borders we already have a separate consultation process for engaging with service users/survivors and we have already contributed a robust report to the Government from women accessing the DACS services, but we need to engage with a broader spectrum of the community”.

For more information please contact Andrea, Tel: 01835 824000 Ext 8242. Mob: 07769 234 795.

Email: andrea.beavon@scotborders.gsx.gov.uk

* Please note: **Closing date for responses is 21st February 2014**
STAFF CHANGES IN THE SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM

The Safer Communities Team will lose two colleagues at the end of January.

- Fiona Lackenby, (Road Safety Officer – Police Scotland).
- Jacqueline Ormiston, (Partnership Analyst – Police Scotland).

We would like to take this opportunity to wish both colleagues a big thank you for all their support to the Safer Communities Team over the years and wish them well in their future endeavours.

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES FOR 2014

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You can get this document on tape, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below on language translations, additional copies or to arrange an officer to meet with you to explain and areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

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