NEWSLETTER Nos. 16, February 2013
The latest news on community safety issues in the Scottish Borders

PATHWAYS

New services to help victims of domestic abuse launched

In November last year Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, launched the new multi-agency Pathway Project in the Scottish Borders designed to support the victims and children of domestic abuse.

The Safer Communities Team at Scottish Borders Council (SBC) secured £1.23 million of Scottish Government, BIG Lottery and key partner funding for victims of domestic abuse across the Borders. The funding has been used to develop the Pathway Project, consisting of three new services specifically designed to meet the needs of adults and children who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse.

The Pathway Project will increase the level of specialist support to victims and their children, and ensure that existing and new services work together with the safety and wellbeing of victims at the centre of this partnership working.

The three new services are the Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support (DAAS) service, the Children1st Domestic Abuse service and the Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery (CEDAR) group work programme. The new services will work in partnership with the focus on prevention.

The Minister advised that this new Borders model of working and its success would be looked at carefully by the Government to see if it can be rolled out across Scotland.

Councillor Donald Moffat, Executive Member for Community Safety, added his welcome for the new services: “The Pathway Project has been made possible by the efforts of a range of partner agencies - Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Lothian and Borders Police and local housing providers. By working together, and having services that can be accessed easily by victims, the Pathway Project will make a real difference for individuals and families affected by domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders.”

The project, has after just 3 months, been short listed for a COSLA excellence award.
MORE ON THE PATHWAYS PROJECT

DAAS opened on 1 October this year, is based at SBC HQ and takes referrals from the police, social work, health, education, voluntary organisations and direct referrals from those affected by domestic abuse. The service supports victims for up to three months and works to reduce risk, increase safety and agree safety plans with victims, and provides support throughout any court proceedings.

CHILDREN 1st Domestic Abuse service, based in Selkirk, provides longer term, practical and emotional support. The service works with victims at lower risk who need longer term support to recover. This might include help with housing, legal matters, welfare and benefits, as well as providing emotional support in the long term.

CEDAR will develop and deliver a number of groups across the Scottish Borders for mums and children that will enable them to rebuild their relationships and plan for a bright future together. The groups will be 12 weeks in length and referrals can come from various sources including social work, education, family support, health visitors and the voluntary sector.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, you can call the DAAS service for free, confidential advice and information on 01835 825024 or on daas@scotborders.gsx.gov.uk.

Further information on domestic abuse is available from www.scotborders.gov.uk/domesticabuse

NEW DRUGS TRAINING RESOURCE PACK

The new Borders Drugs Training Resource Pack has been developed for high schools, colleges and youth groups in the Scottish Borders. The pack has been funded by the Safer Communities Team and Borders Alcohol and Drug Partnership and created by Crew, one of the leading organisations in Scotland involved in providing training and information around drugs and alcohol. Scottish Borders will be piloting this new resource.

Within the Resource Pack there is a printed copy of all the exercises and a pen drive. The pen drive is the most important tool with additional resources including film clips, body maps of the effects of drugs and information on all types of drugs including new drugs often referred to as Legal Highs.

The resource developed by Crew is a pilot. The pack will be evaluated on how effective it is and provide evidence for future projects around this area.

For more information contact Gillian Oliver, Drugs Awareness Officer gillian.m.oliver@lbp.pnn.police.uk gillian.oliver@lbp.pnn.police.uk
BORDERS RISE TO MARK V-DAY.  DID YOU.......?

Borderers joined people across the planet for One Billion Rising on 14 February, the largest day of action in the history of V-Day, the global activist movement to end violence against women and girls.

One Billion Rising began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that one in three women on the planet will be beaten, abused or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at seven billion, this adds up to more than one billion women and girls.

Here in Scotland it is estimated that 1 in 5 women will suffer abuse and violence in their lifetime; that’s approximately 11,500 of the 58,000 females currently living in the Scottish Borders.

Councillor Donald Moffat, Executive Member for Community Safety, commented “Scottish Borders communities are not immune from the devastating impact of violence. This local event will contribute to the global ‘call to action’ and will give people the opportunity to feel they have had a voice and show their strength of feeling. 170 countries out of the 196 countries existing in the world have signed up for One Billion Rising and Scottish Borders will be part of it”.

For more about the Scottish Borders Rising event contact: Andrea.beavon@scotborders.gsx.gov.uk or Karen.lerpiniere@hotmail.co.uk or visit the Scottish Borders One Billion Rising face book site.
THE CASHBACK FOR COMMUNITIES SMALL GRANTS SCHEME
The scheme has been established to support local volunteer led groups, to enhance their programmes for young people and get positive projects off the ground.

The scheme is being managed by a partnership of six national, volunteer-led youth organisations; The Scout Association, Girl Guiding Scotland, Boys Brigade, The Girls’ Brigade in Scotland, Clubs for Young People (Scotland) and Youth Scotland, the network of Youth Clubs and Groups in Scotland.

Applications are sought from local youth groups which meet all the following criteria:
- Led by volunteers;
- Have members which include young people aged 10 or over;
- Based in Scotland, and
- A member of one of the six partnership organisations listed above, including Youth Scotland.

This last requirement is to ensure all groups awarded a small grant have the appropriate national organisational support, with clear operating policies in place, and are properly constituted.

PLEASE NOTE: Groups or Units should apply directly to the organisation of which they are a member.

Next application deadline is 28th March 2013. For more details go to CashBack for Communities

KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE ONLINE
The Parent Zone | Engaging and Empowering Parents (Click here)
Love it or hate it, technology is part and parcel of family life. From the mobile phone calls that make you feel a little bit more confident about allowing your children to travel on their own to the endless range of devices that give your children access to the Internet, it’s part of the family. However for many parents keeping up to date with changing technology and having enough information to provide the guidance children need is a real challenge.

The Parent Zone website has been developed to provide a wide range of services and effective resources for parents and school. They aim to help organisations connect with parents and help parents to make informed choices.

If you do find yourself perplexed by the latest tech request from your 10-year-old or unsure about whether the VTech game you are buying your toddler has Internet access you can ask us. Just email help@theparentzone.co.uk

Vodafone - Digital Parenting Magazine - a new magazine all about keeping your family safer online. It includes articles and information about all the key issues with easy to follow how-to guides to help parents set up parental controls and ‘Safe Search’ on various gadgets from phones, to video games, to computers.

It is currently only available electronically. (See links below)

To watch a video about Digital Parenting click here.
To visit the Digital Parenting website click here.
To access a digital version of the Digital Parenting magazine click here
Scottish Borders Council’s road safety working group is marking the 30th anniversary of the seat belt law by reminding drivers and passengers to wear a seat belt on every trip in a vehicle.

The seat belt law was introduced on 31 January 1983 and made it compulsory for all drivers and front seat passengers to wear a seatbelt. Gradually the law was extended to include the compulsory wearing of seatbelts in rear seats and in minibuses and coaches.

Councillor Donald Moffat, Executive Member for Community Safety, said: “Seatbelts save an estimated 2,200 lives a year in the UK, and they also reduce the severity of injuries if you or your passengers are involved in an accident”.

In a crash at 30mph without a seatbelt, your body will hit anything in front of you, including another passenger or driver, with a force of between 30 and 60 times your own body weight. It is estimated that half of the people killed in vehicles could have been saved if they had worn a seatbelt.

It is dangerous not to wear your seatbelt and it is also illegal. Every year police in Scotland catch around 27,000 people not wearing a seatbelt and the fine is a £60 fixed penalty notice but you could be fined up to £500. The driver is also responsible for anyone under 14 not wearing a seatbelt, and liable for the £60 penalty for each unrestrained child.

‘Have you clicked?’ the current Scottish ACPOS campaign, is urging people to think about their own seatbelt wearing and realise that seatbelts only work if you wear them every time.

More information on in car safety is available on the Council’s website.

NEW POLICE NON EMERGENCY NUMBER

The police have launched a new phone number for non emergencies, dial 101 to contact the police when it’s less urgent than 999.

The 101 non-emergency number will make it quicker and easier for you to contact the police when you don’t need an emergency response, for example to:
- speak to your local police officer,
- report a crime that’s already happened, such as theft or damage to property,
- get crime prevention advice.

All 101 calls are charged at a flat rate of 15p whether from a landline or mobile phone. Remember to always dial 999 in an emergency.

The police say the service is designed to take pressure off the 999 system and to make officers more accessible to communities.
FALLS AWARENESS WEEK 2013

Falls awareness week 17-21 June.
Falls to over 75’s continue to be the single biggest cause of accidental death and serious injury in the Scottish Borders. The challenge facing the whole Borders community is how to make older peoples lives safer and free from the risk of serious injury.

The theme for this year is 'Healthy Feet'.
For more information click on Falls awareness week

NEW CHILD PROTECTION WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Support for vulnerable children and families website can be found at www.childprotectionscotland.org.

It was developed in conjunction with the Scottish Child Protection Committee Chairs Forum (SCPCCF) and the Multi Agency Resource Service (MARS). It follows recommendations from a Ministerial Working Group for a more coordinated approach to public awareness around child protection issues.

The Scottish Government has launched this new national website offering help and support to vulnerable children and families on child protection issues. It includes clear, accessible information on what the public should do if they are concerned for a child’s welfare. It will also feature a range of information and links to downloadable materials for children themselves, including cartoons and online games providing child safety tips.

Anne Houston, Chief Executive of CHILDREN 1st said: “CHILDREN 1st welcomes the fact that this new website has information, not only for adults who may be worried about a child, but also for children and young people themselves. It is vital they understand that concerns about their welfare will be taken seriously and that they know what to do if they need help. This is another tool to make sure we all understand that it’s everybody’s responsibility to protect children.”

For more information Contact Barry McPherson: 0131 244 44001 / 07810 507 101

SOCKET OVERLOAD CALCULATOR

The Electrical Safety Council has developed this new calculator to help householders understand how they can avoid overloading sockets and reduce the risk of fire.

Most people have extension leads in their homes, using 4-way bar adaptors to increase the number of appliances that they can plug into a wall socket. However, although there is space to plug in four appliances, this does not mean it is always safe to do so. Different electrical appliances use different amounts of power. To avoid the risk of overheating and possibly fire, you should never plug into an extension lead or socket appliances that together use more than 13 amps or 3000 watts of energy.

It is touch screen enabled and is also available on the Electrical Safety Council’s Facebook page.
To install the calculator onto your website, just follow the link here
DRIVING INTO THE FUTURE
“A good reality check”, “Eye opening”, “Shocking”, “Very informative”, “Makes you think”……… Just some of the comments from 6th year students who took part in the Driving into the Future in High schools last September.

Helping the next generation of young drivers to understand the risks and dangers of driving on our roads was the key aim of Driving into the Future. Almost 1 in 5 deaths and serious injuries on Borders roads each year involves a young and inexperienced driver under the age of 25 years.

The programme in each school began on a dramatic tone with a theatre performance of the play ‘Friends Disunited’ by the Baldy Bane theatre group from Glasgow. This play deals with the excitement and responsibilities involved with becoming a new driver and getting your first car. It follows the lives of four friends, who see the acquisition of a car as their passage into adulthood. Soon however, the friendships begin to fragment and the play culminates in an accident that leaves their lives badly affected.

Students took part in a series of informative and sometimes hard hitting workshops run by the emergency services, the Council, local driving instructors and garages which looked in more detail at the responsibilities of driving, the potential consequences of bad driving, as well as practical knowledge such as basic vehicle maintenance and issues relating to learning to drive.

For more information contact Paul Richardson prichardson@scotborders.gov.uk

CRUCIAL CREW (1992-2012)
A milestone was reached last September with the 20th annual Crucial Crew event taking place for all Primary 7 pupils in the Scottish Borders.

Over a period of three weeks 1,212 Primary 7 children from all primary schools across the region took part in this hands on learning experience. Crucial crew provides pupils with crucial safety messages by staging a number of scenarios, covering issues such as electrical safety, farm safety, fire safety, water safety, road safety as well as issues relating to drugs and alcohol. A new scenario was rail safety by the British Transport police. With the imminent arrival of trains to the central Borders by 2015, this is the start of an ongoing education programme to raise young people’s awareness of the risks and dangers posed by trains.

Crucial crew is supported by a variety of organisations such as the Police and Fire services, British Transport Police, Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Power, Royal Highland Education Trust, National Farmers Union, Borders Sport and Leisure Trust, Face2face and British Telecom. For 3 weeks they take over the Council’s premises at Eildon Mill, Tweedbank and create a variety of realistic and simulated dangers or scenarios.

To support the event a new 32 page follow up activity book has been developed so that schools can follow up on the crucial safety messages back in the classroom.
If organisations wish to contribute sponsorship to future Crucial Crew events please contact Paul Richardson prichardson@scotborders.gov.uk
CHILD SAFETY WEEK 2013

Be a Safety Hero in 2013!
Child Safety Week is the Child Accident Prevention Trust’s annual flagship community education campaign. In 2013 it runs from Monday 24 June to Sunday 30 June.

It aims to raise awareness of the number of accidents that seriously injure or kill children every year and the steps we can take to help prevent them. Here in the Scottish Borders each year over 60 children under the age of five are emergency admissions to hospital following an accident in the home. Many hundreds more are treated by local GP’s or Accident & Emergency.

The theme for 2013 is Be a Safety Hero. The message for families is:

- You don’t have to be superhuman to be a safety hero. The small things that you do, day in and day out are the things that can prevent your child suffering serious harm.
- Think of a few simple changes that you can make, like moving your cleaning products to prevent poisoning or moving your hot drink to prevent serious burns, and see how quickly they become everyday habits that take no time at all.

Make sure you don’t miss out on the Child Safety Week resources. Join our mailing list to receive links to free downloadable resources, updates and news about how to be involved.

Be a Safety Hero in 2013 and help us make a difference to the safety of children all over the country.
For more information go to http://www.childsafetyweek.org.uk/

STAIR AWARE FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Lothian and Borders Police and Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service carried out a joint initiative targeting both crime prevention and fire safety in properties with communal entrances such as tenements and blocks of flats.

Fire Service Staff and Community Beat Officers have delivered 1000 leaflets containing Fire Safety and Crime Prevention Advice to residents living in properties with communal entrances in a number of areas including Galashiels, Hawick, Kelso, Jedburgh, Eyemouth, Peebles and Duns.

Properties with communal entrances present a number of unique challenges with respect to fire safety and preventing crime.

Police advice includes keeping main entrance doors closed and locked, making proper use of entry-phone systems and not letting anyone in that you don’t know.

Fires in stairwells are particularly dangerous, stairs should be kept clear of rubbish and combustible items, which can be attractive to fire setters, rubbish can also block exits in an emergency and burning materials will produce a lot of toxic smoke putting residents at risk of smoke inhalation.

- Crime prevention advice, go to http://www.lbp.police.uk/.
- Fire safety advice, including how to make an escape plan for your home go to http://www.lbfire.org.uk
A PIONEERING pilot scheme in Scottish secondary schools to tackle harassment, abuse and violence by men against women is to be rolled out to further schools including Peebles High school.

Developed by the Violence Reduction Unit, the project began last year in two schools in Inverclyde and Edinburgh. A further four high schools in Scotland including Peebles High School will take part in the next stage of this project.

The roll-out to Peebles High school will be funded by the Scottish Government, and supported by staff from national curriculum body Education Scotland, the Violence Reduction unit and the Scottish Borders Safer Communities team.

The scheme's principal aim is to reduce domestic abuse by educating pupils about unacceptable behaviour within relationships, from persistent mobile phone texting to violence. It also highlights the issue of "sex-texting", where personal images or videos are sent to others through mobile phones.

Chief Inspector Graham Goulden, who is leading the project, said “a crucial element was the use of mentoring”. “Senior pupils and teachers are trained as mentors to deliver the programme in the pilot schools to all S1 and S2 pupils. Within four years, every pupil in Peebles High School will have been given training through the Mentors in Violence Prevention scheme”.

It will also be targeted at community groups and sports teams within the wider school community.

Mr Goulden said: "There are attitudes across Scotland to sex and dating violence where it is seen to be acceptable, and we need to be tackling this within our schools. We want to give young people the ability to discuss these issues in a safe environment, to engage when they see an incident and to create a positive climate within their school. This is not a magic solution – it won't stop abuse overnight – but we need to make clear that abusive behaviour is not the norm."

Crucially, the project seeks to:

- Alert pupils to the responsibilities they have to intervene or report such incidents if the witness them or become aware of them.
- Teach them different ways to intervene, from speaking directly to those involved, causing a distraction or contacting the police or a head teacher.

While the long-term aim of the scheme is to tackle domestic abuse in the wider population, officials believe it will also improve behaviour in schools.

The Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Model was developed in USA and has a proven record in schools. It is gender violence, bullying, and school violence prevention approach that encourages young men and women from all socio-economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds to take on leadership roles in their schools and communities. The training is focused on an innovative “bystander” model that empowers each student to take an active role in promoting a positive school climate. Students learn valuable skills to build their personal resolve and to act when faced with difficult or threatening life situations.

For more information go to Violence Reduction Unit
Salmon poaching on the river is often committed by organised criminal gangs who are involved in other types of crime. They will travel long distances to poach salmon and have no regard for wildlife or the rural communities in the Borders. In the past otters and ducks have been found in poacher’s nets, this not only has an impact on fish stocks but also affects many other aspects of the countryside.

Inspector John Scott from the Safer Communities Team said “Many people see salmon poachers as people taking one fish for the pot; however it is more likely that they will operate across a wide area, targeting different river systems depending on the time of year and can be ruthless in avoiding detection. They will often commit other types of crime to fund their poaching including stealing fuel for vehicles and boats. I would urge anyone who suspects someone of being involved in poaching or other wildlife crime to report and let someone know. Poaching fish stocks can have a serious impact on the economy of the Scottish Borders, damaging jobs and businesses. Never buy illegally-caught salmon: it is an offence to do so”.

Report any illegal activity on the River immediately.
If you know something, tell someone.
Call The River Tweed Commission Tel: (01896) 848294
Call the Police or anonymously to Crimestoppers.
Crimestoppers will not pass on your details and you may be able to qualify from a reward by reporting illegal activity.

MANY PARENTS DON’T KNOW RISKS OF ACCIDENTAL POISONING

A recent survey carried out by the Child Accident Prevention Trust of 1,000 parents with children under 5 has revealed some astonishing facts:

- Three in four parents (73%) with children under 5 mistakenly believe that child safety tops make medicines and toxic cleaning products child-proof;
- Only a quarter of parents keep cleaning products (24%) or medicines (25%) safely locked away;
- In a third (32%) of all homes, children under 5 can find cleaning products under the kitchen sink, while in 1 in 5 homes they are on floor by the toilet (19%);
- In a quarter of homes, under 5s can find medicines in unlocked bathroom cabinets (24%) while in 1 in 3 homes, they are easily accessible in handbags (13%), bedside cabinets (13%) and on kitchen worktops (12%).

The findings reveal that many parents or carers simply don’t know the risks – and this means they’re not taking precautions to protect their children from serious injury. This is also borne out by statistics - every day in the UK 70 under 5s are rushed to A&E with suspected poisoning and 15 are admitted to hospital needing further treatment.

For more information click on Accidental Poisoning
DIARY DATES 2013

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN TRAINING CALENDAR

MARCH 2013
• 1st March Raising awareness of rape and sexual abuse
• 5th March Domestic abuse basic awareness
• 14th March Why doesn’t she just leave
• 26th March Raising awareness of safe contact issues

APRIL 2013
• 17th April Understanding perpetrator behaviour
• 26th April Forgotten Survivors

MAY 2013
• 2nd May Stalking workshop
• 3rd May Raising awareness of trafficking
• 9th May Domestic abuse and substance misuse
• 15th May Understanding perpetrator behaviour
• 24th May Domestic abuse basic awareness
• 31st May Why doesn’t she just leave

Other DIARY DATES 2013

Celebrating Safety Anniversaries
• **30 years of seat belt laws** 1st seat belt law in the UK introduced on 31st January 1983 making it compulsory for drivers and front seat passengers to belt up.
• **The Diamond Jubilee for School Crossing Patrols**. Its 60 years since the creation of School Crossing Patrols, local authority employees affectionately known as ‘lollipop people’.

March
• 8th March International women’s day

April
• 23rd April Elder Voice Road show at Memorial Hall Innerleithen.

May
• 9th – 16th May Deaf Awareness week - Fire safety
• 22nd May Countryside day for all P5’s at Springwood Park, Kelso

June
• 17th- 21st June Falls Awareness week – ‘Healthy Feet’
• 24th June to 30th June Child Safety Week- ‘Be a safety hero’.

September
• 30th August to 10th September Driving into the future programme with 6th year students
• 14th September to 4th October Crucial Crew for all P7 Pupils at Eildon Mill
• 9th October Child Safety Conference Glasgow
• From mid October to March 2014 Safe T road shows for High school 5th year students

November
• 25th Nov. to 10th December 16 days of Action

Tel: 01835 825058 safercommunities@scotborders.gov.uk