



Chesham Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Chesham Neighbourhood Policing Team consists of Sergeant Roy Evans, PC's Jack McGregor and Matthew Styles and PCSO's Les Roche and Jasmine Allport. We have recently welcomed PC Peter Lathwell to the team who will be working with us for the next year.

Changes to the policing areas means this will be my last quarterly report dedicated to Chesham. Future updates will incorporate other local policing areas once the areas of policing responsibility are finalised.

The top three priorities for the last quarter were identified at the Chiltern and South Buckinghamshire Policing issues Forum on 22nd November 2023. This steering group is made of members of the community and representatives from across the area. The Police do not run the panel, although we do attend as representatives. Discussing results of the public surveys and speaking to a wide cross-section of the community, we aim to understand what is currently most important, what the top priorities are for improvement, and consider how we can accomplish these aims with the help of the community and partner agencies.

You said: Burglary

We did: While burglary is one of the highest priorities and causes for public concern in most community areas in South Buckinghamshire, Chesham was the only area (according to survey responses) where burglary was not featured as a priority.

Using our local knowledge, area hotspots, analytical data, intelligence and ANPR (automatic number plate recognition), your local neighbourhood team continues to provide high visibility presence in areas that have been or likely to be targeted.

We have taken part in a number of operations to combat burglary. As per my last update, we conducted operation Grotto, which was our winter burglary campaign. To continue to tackle burglary further into the year we now have Operation Guyet, which is primarily focused on a pattern of cross border offending. South Buckinghamshire continues to suffer from offences that see offenders utilise methods that attempt to counter forensic opportunities. We have seen a rapid rise and continuing series of first floor entry offences where cash and jewellery are stolen from the home. A number of forces are suffering from this issue.

Working with surrounding forces, we have conducted operations with our Roads Policing resources to target burglars coming into our areas. In January a joint forces operation resulted in: 121 people being arrested (12 in TVP), 71 incidents where drugs were found,



19 incidents where weapons were found and 92 vehicles were seized (13 in TVP) In addition, almost £50,000 of cash was seized from criminals.

In February, Neighbourhood officers worked more locally with Hertfordshire, Aylesbury, Roads Policing and the Rural Taskforce on Operation Greenbelt. This resulted in the arrests of 9 people, 3 people being reported, 4 stolen vehicles recovered, 5 vehicles seized as well as £25,000 in cash recovered and drugs recovered.

Since 1st January, Chesham has seen an increase in residential dwelling burglary offences. 21 (non-domestic related) burglary offences have been reported compared to the 9 we had last year during the same period.

There have been 3 other offences where sheds or garages at the property have been targeted, this is a decrease of 50% from the same period last year.

There have been 6 business burglary offences during this period compared to 5 in the same period last year. One of those offences have seen two youths dealt with after entering a disused building causing damage within.

Our priority crime team have advised that although we have seen a low detection rate in relation to burglary, we have seen some successes in terms of convictions this year which have led to several persons receiving varying terms of imprisonment.

You said: Drugs are a concern

We did: Drugs routinely continue to be a concern within the community. We continue to work with our intelligence department to target persistent offenders and those suspected of supplying.

Officers get to know the most demanding areas for drugs and associated Anti-Social behaviour based on local knowledge and intelligence. We will conduct high visibility patrols and target those we suspect of drug possession. A recent example saw a member of public witnessing what they believed to be a drug deal. Nearby neighbourhood officers were able to respond quickly to stop and search the suspect, arresting them within a few minutes of the call.

If an officer believes that someone is in possession of drugs, they can conduct a search under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Another recent example saw a person committing a shoplifting. Words, behaviour, active physical resistance and the intention to run away lead the attending officer to suspect that there was more to the incident than a low value theft. After searches, the person was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class A drugs, they are currently under investigation.

As per previous reports, the neighbourhood team continues to focus on safeguarding some of the most vulnerable members of our communities with engagement and support.

This week saw members of the Chesham team support one of our local schools with a



drugs dog operation. The operation was a success with only one indication that a student may be in possession or recently been near a persons who was in possession of illegal substances. When doing these operations, we are always impressed to see that the schools and their staff are committed to safeguarding their students.

County Lines:

County Lines is an example of the wider damage drugs can do to our communities. It is the term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, they do this by using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of "Deal lines".

County lines can often involve modern day slavery, due to gang members potentially exploiting children and vulnerable adults into moving and storing drugs and money. They will utilise coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to control individuals. It is a key contributor to drug problems within the community and the criminal activity involved will regularly have trickledown effect on the users of the county lines, as they will regularly resort to theft and other illegal methods to pay for the drugs. In addition, they may experience mental health issues and paranoia due to the intimidation and pressure from the gang members they buy or deal from. This also increases the likelihood of youths carrying weapons for protection.

The next time you hear someone say that drugs is a victimless crime you can tell them, think again!

You said: Speeding is a concern

We did: Whilst speed enforcement is not principally owned by the neighbourhood policing team, we do play our part with the deployment of our own approved devices.

The neighbourhood team will conduct speed enforcement in Chesham, concentrating on roads that have been highlighted as a real concern to residents or via MVAS speed results. Due to other demands that must take priority, plans cannot always be actioned. Enforcement has recently been conducted in, Chartridge, St Marys Way and Lye Green.

The enforcement of speed is completed with good intention, however we continue to find we are receiving negative attention and feedback from members of the public, with individuals directly questioning the usefulness and validity of this particular policing activity. As speeding is featured as one of the community's top concerns for a very long time in Chesham, it can be perplexing to the team to receive this manner of response.

If you are concerned about the speeds in your area and would be interested in helping take action, you can become a member of your local Speed watch group or start your own at: <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org>

Our Road Safety vans and fixed cameras provide enforcement and a visual deterrent



across the area. Their aim is to help support you to reduce the speed of traffic, making the roads safer for all road users and reducing the risk of injury, collisions and casualties in your district. Figures from the Road Safety Mobile and Speed Enforcement Team show the following for Chiltern area:

Dec; 181 tickets from mobile enforcement & 63 tickets from fixed cameras.

Jan; 184 tickets from mobile enforcement & 0 tickets from fixed cameras.

Feb; 239 tickets from mobile enforcement & 89 tickets from fixed cameras.

DVLA:

We had another visit from the DVLA in March targeting untaxed vehicles in Chesham and Amersham. Neighbourhood officers supported NSL, where over 50 vehicles were clamped, 6 were recovered and multiple tickets were issued.

We regularly conduct this operation due to complaints of untaxed vehicles in Chesham. The DVLA are the lead agency for enforcement and the reasons they attend is due to the reports they receive. If you know of untaxed vehicles, the DVLA can be informed by clicking on the link: <https://contact.dvla.gov.uk/report-untaxed-vehicle>

Other News

Retail crime:

The neighbourhood Teams across South Buckinghamshire have taken part in Operation Purchase, which is dedicated to focusing on retail crime. As part of this operation, we have had dedicated days where we have been a visible presence in busy shopping areas, this has led to preventing thefts and gave us the opportunity to engage with retailers and shoppers. We have seen success in Chesham with a prolific shoplifter recently sentenced to 17 months imprisonment. Known to enter the area by train and mainly targeting Waitrose, this offender was arrested multiple times by neighbourhood officers.

Social media:

www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk 'TV Alerts' allow the subscriber to filter the subject matter which is of relevance to them, and only requires an email address to begin receiving local policing information.

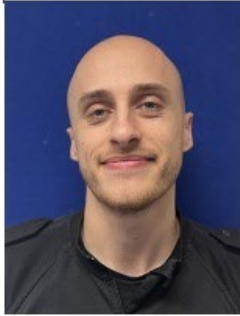
Our Twitter feed and Facebook page shows you what the policing teams are doing day to day, provides crime prevention information, witness appeals and "Good Result" stories. Please feel free to like and share our pages so that we can reach and communicate with more people.



A small snapshot of positive disposals from 1st January to 31st March 2024

The below incidents are just a small snap shot of offences with outcomes. This list does not include persons who are currently on bail or who have been released under investigation whilst enquires are completed.

- A 21 year old was given an adult restorative disposal for cannabis possession
- A 30 year old was charged with threatening to cause criminal damage
- A youth was given a restorative disposal for criminal damage
- A 30 year old was given an adult restorative disposal for having a dog out of control
- A 29 year old was charged with breaching a non-molestation order
- A 19 year old was given an adult restorative disposal for cannabis possession
- A 30 year old was charged with criminal damage
- A 32 year old was given an adult restorative disposal for cannabis possession
- A 56 year old was charged with causing serious injury by careless driving
- A 36 year old was charged with online sexual offences
- 2 x 18 year olds were given adult restorative disposals for cannabis possession
- Two youths were given restorative disposals for criminal damage





Working in partnership
to make our community safer



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[TVP South Buckinghamshire](https://www.facebook.com/TVP.SouthBuckinghamshire)



<https://communityspeedwatch.org>



<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/thamesvalley>



[Giving information anonymously](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/)

