

## **Community Support Officers Good News Stories**

**October to December 2019**

### **British Transport Police (BTP)**

#### Cycle theft at Cardiff Central and Cardiff Queen Street stations

Cycles were being stolen from the cycle racks both outside the station and on the platforms. BTP CSO's took and undertook a series of initiatives in-order to tackle the crimes. Each day whilst on patrol, they attached a laminated note to the cycles warning owners of the cycle thefts taking place. They ensured the station CCTV was pointing at the racks where possible. They secured funds from the 'Proceeds of Crime Act' central pot and purchased 200 good quality cycle locks. If they saw a particularly high value cycle secured with a poor lock, they would secure the cycle with one of the new locks with a note left to the owner to ring BTP. They would then provide the owner with crime reduction advice and allowed them to keep the new lock. Cycle crime has reduced from 43 offences to 18 which is a 58% reduction over the last year.

### **Dyfed Powys Police**

During County Lines Intensification Week in October, a CSO in Brecon worked in partnership with CID to carry out safeguarding engagement activities with youths at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation, and to raise greater awareness with commercial premises, buses and taxis. As a result valuable intelligence was gathered, and the youths had a better understanding of the different types of exploitation including criminal, sexual and financial, and understanding of county lines drugs issues.

### **Gwent Police**

#### Off road bikes – Cwmcarn/Abercarn mountains

CSOs have been targeting off-road biking that was generating a number of calls. CSO patrols took the innovative step of targeting vehicles transporting bikes as chasing riders has significant health and safety risks. CSOs issue warning letters and section 59 warnings. CSOs have also met with local fuel station to establish peak times riders fill their bikes up.

### **North Wales Police**

#### Young drivers targeted in Tywyn, Meirionnydd

Due to complaints from local residents CSOs Shannon-Louise Llwyd-Hopcroft and Sandie Williams arranged to clamp down on anti-social driving. They linked in with

the Road Safety Unit to arrange an operation to target those driving modified vehicles in an anti-social manner and at excess speed on the High Street in Tywyn.

During the evening several offences officers issued various Traffic Offence Reports (TOR) for various reasons. Colleagues from Go Safe also participated in the operation and issued letters to drivers caught driving at excess speed.

Specials Chief Inspector Carl Williamson of the Road Safety Unit said: “We know that social media was very active during the evening and we had obviously caused a bit of a stir by being in the area. I’ve no doubt that our presence there prevented any further complaints. “Our main aim of carrying out such operations is to keep people safe and reduce the number of young drivers being killed or seriously injured on our roads and we will continue to work with local policing colleagues to stamp out this kind of behaviour.” “Further operations are planned and I would encourage the public to continue to let us know if they witness anti-social driving in the area.”

## **South Wales Police**

### Rural Watch Calendar 2020



Building on the success of our Rural Watch scheme CSO Suzanne Birch and other members of the Neighbourhood Policing team in our Western Basic Command unit (BCU) worked with local farmers and members of our rural communities to develop a bespoke calendar for 2020 to share seasonal crime prevention messages and signpost people to relevant services and support.

Criminals often target our rural areas seeing them as easy targets but the rural watch scheme aims to provide crime prevention advice and warnings.

The local team post a large amount of crime prevention content via local social media but having engaged with the community over a long period of time CSO Birch was aware that many in the community do not have social media accounts. As such she decided that a printed document would be a better channel to communicate with this audience.

The 2020 calendar includes a security checklist, advice on how to protect farm machinery and quad bikes, information regarding grass fires as well as lots of other crime prevention help and tips.

In addition to information about criminality the calendar also includes messaging and advice in relation to mental health issues which is an issue of concern to many in our rural communities.

The calendars were distributed in December with CSOs taking the opportunity to engage and reassure residents when visiting farms and isolated homes. Feedback has been very positive and the distinctive calendars and associated posters are proudly displayed across the area.

Sergeant Lynne Bowen said: “Engaging with our rural communities is important to us and we hope the calendar will act as a reminder each month to our rural watch members of what they can do to help us prevent crime in their community.”