



SAFER



SCHOOLS



December 2020

Christmas, but not quite as we know it, is just around the corner! Please enjoy reading our December newsletter which highlights key messages and advice for you and your family to remain safe during this exciting month of festive cheer!

Op Sceptre - week of action update:



Cambridgeshire police has taken part in a week of action to tackle knife crime with activity such as weapon sweeps, virtual school presentations and multiple arrests. As our newsletter highlighted last month - **Operation Sceptre** is a national initiative which aims to reduce the number of people carrying knives through targeted operational and educational activity.

Throughout the week, which ran from 9th to the 15th November, Cambridgeshire's activity included:

- Officers searched parks, school perimeters and green spaces in St Neots and Whittlesey for weapons.
- Virtual presentations were held across the county in schools and colleges as part of an ongoing education programme.
- Partnership work with Border Force to monitor and intercept knives and other offensive weapons purchased online and being brought into our county.
- Officers visited 14 addresses where UK Border Force had intercepted the sale of a knife and had notified the police. The visits enabled officers to inform recipients of these items about the risks and offences of carrying knives, and ensured they had not been sold to Under 18's or were received by people likely to use them irresponsibly and illegally.
- 9 people were arrested for knife related incidents and 3 knives seized as a result.
- 6 knives were handed into our police stations as part of a surrender scheme.
- Officers held a live online question and answer session on Facebook which attracted more than 350 views and some really good questions from the public.

Cambridgeshire's Knife Crime lead, Superintendent Robin Sissons said: **'Knife crime is one of the force priorities and our officers are committed to investing time and effort into tackling it to ensure our communities are safer and people are protected from serious harm. Our work to tackle knife crime and serious violence is not limited to this week of action and will continue throughout the year, acting on intelligence to arrest violent criminals and taking weapons off the streets.'**

Anyone who knows someone who carries a knife can report it here <https://bit.ly/3jUafTy> or anonymously, via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Instagram: Do you and your family follow?

We are encouraging individuals, especially children and young people to sign up to Instagram and follow the Police locally and nationally. The Police UK page below has been designed especially for teenagers - a safe online space with reliable info, advice & weekly quizzes!



@cambscops



@yourpolice.uk

Call: 101
Telephone: 18001 101
Visit: cambs.police.uk
Follow: CambsCops
Subscribe: eCops.org.uk

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Action Fraud

National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

0300 123 2040

This year, **Action Fraud** will highlight a different type of fraud, and will provide important protect advice, every week during December to prevent people from getting conned out of the Christmas they deserve, starting with online shopping and auction fraud. It is worth noting that anyone can become a victim of fraud and older children may be exposed to the risk of becoming victims as they navigate on-line shops to purchase gifts. Please share the information below with your family to ensure you protect yourself whilst enjoying your shopping experience on-line.

To protect yourself from falling victim to online shopping or auction fraud, remember the following:

Choosing where you shop: If you're making a purchase from a website or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first. Look online for reviews of the website or person you're buying from. If you're purchasing an item from an online marketplace, you can view the seller's feedback history before going ahead with the purchase.

Payment method: Use a payment method that offers buyer protection, such as a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers will help you get your money back if the item is faulty or damaged, or if it never arrives.

Staying secure online: Use a strong, separate password for your email account. Criminals can use your email to access other online accounts, such as those you use for online shopping. You should also enable two-factor authentication (2FA), where possible, which gives your online account additional protection by double checking that you really are the person you claim to be, when logging in. For further information about how to stay secure online, visit www.cyberaware.gov.uk.

Watch out for phishing emails or texts: Some of the emails or texts you receive about amazing offers may contain links to fake websites. If you're unsure, don't use the link and visit the website directly instead. If you receive an email you're not quite sure about, you can report it by forwarding the email to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service at report@phishing.gov.uk. You can report suspicious texts you have received by forwarding the original message to 7726, which spells SPAM on your keypad.

When things go wrong: Anyone can fall victim to fraud. If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.



Are you a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic child, young person, parent or carer, affected by Covid-19? If so, you can speak to Barnardo's COVID-19 helpline or webchat for those 11+ about your worries, problems and stresses during this time. They can provide you with emotional support, practical advice and signpost you to other organisations who can provide further help.

Call them on **0800 1512605** or chat to them online. Visit <https://helpline.barnardos.org.uk/>

Parents & Carers forum

In the new year we are considering live, virtual Q&A sessions for parents and carers. At this time we would like to know the following?

- Would you be interested in participating?
- What concerns do have and what topics would you like support and advice on?

Please contact us to offer suggestions or confirm your interest via our e-mail

Schools&CYP@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Call: 101

Telephone: 18001 101

Visit: cambs.police.uk

Follow: CambsCops

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Don't ask Santa for an e-scooter

We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can get them from many popular retailers.

However, the current law is clear

You can buy one but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements.

All details can be found on the following Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/power-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>

What happens if I've been stopped by Police?

The Police will advise you of the current law about how to use an e-scooter legally and ask you to take your e-scooter home. They may however still penalise you depending on the nature and gravity of the offence.

We understand the public's support for environmentally friendly modes of transport. We want to work with the public to make sure the roads are safe for everyone.

The UK Government is currently taking part in 'Future Transport Zone' trials for e-scooter hire, with a view to making them legal to use on the roads.

Check out the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website or enquire with your local authority for a trial closest to you.

Road Safety advice

Near Misses:

Unfortunately near misses happen too often due to momentarily losing concentration. Please remind your family of some simple rules when crossing roads.

- Remove earphones so you can listen for traffic
- Place mobile phone in your pocket before you cross
- Stop, look both ways & listen **EVERYTIME**
- Never cross between parked cars
- **Be bright, be seen!**

Helmets save lives:

Our message is simple – do not ride your bike without a helmet it could save your life!



Seatbelts are there for a reason:

There are still a lot of people, including children who do not wear their seatbelts! Make it second nature, just like putting on your socks - there are no excuses. Children - tell your parents off if you see them with no seatbelt.



Warning for Parents!!

We have been made aware of a disturbing child-abduction horror film that is currently going viral on 'Tik-Tok' and 'You Tube', some 9 years after its initial release. Children and young people are naturally curious, especially when influenced by their peers to go online, however the content of such films contain violence, abuse and can be extremely distressing to viewers.

Our advice to parents/carers is to sensitively check in with your children, particularly if they have been showing behavioural changes or seem upset or withdrawn. Do this by having an open conversation and suggest that you've heard there is some disturbing content being circulated online or via TikTok and ask if they've heard of anything like that? This is the best way to open an indirect conversation that enables your child to talk to you about any concerns without inciting them or their friends to seek out the actual content. Please ensure that children and young people in your care know who they can talk to if they come across something that upsets or distresses them online.

Christmas message



Cambridgeshire police wish you all a safe & happy time over this very 'different' Christmas period. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2021!!

Merry Christmas!!

We would love to hear your feedback & comments. You can contact the team via our email Schools&CYP@cambs.pnn.police.uk

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