

# On the beat in **North** **Worcestershire**



Spring 2021

## Welcome from your local policing commander



Welcome to your regular news update for North Worcestershire. It has been a difficult year for all of us due to the Coronavirus pandemic and firstly I want to thank everyone in the community for their

support in stopping the spread of the virus. Fortunately we have only had to take enforcement action against a very small number of people who put lives at risk by deliberately and wilfully flouting the rules.

2021 will bring many new challenges, but West Mercia Police is in a strong place to tackle them, with the highest numbers of

police officers since 2012 and our recruitment drive ongoing.

Figures released this month showed overall recorded crime continues to fall in North Worcestershire, with your local Safer Neighbourhood Teams working hard to tackle your priorities including offences such as drugs, theft, burglary, fraud and malicious communications.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us achieve our aim of protecting people from harm and making our communities safer.

***Superintendent Mark Colquhoun***



### Car Key Burglary

Thieves are targeting specific vehicles based on demand and value.

### What are we doing?

Car Key Burglary is a priority for officers in North Worcestershire. We have a team of detectives working hard to identify the organised crime groups responsible and bring them to justice.

Marked and unmarked patrols are in place around key hot spot locations and our We Don't Buy Crime team is working alongside Safer Neighbourhood Teams to raise awareness and rollout Smartwater to deter criminals.

We would urge you to be vigilant around vehicle security; consider putting cars away in garages and locking gates where possible and use extra security systems such as immobilisers and visible security locks.

## On the beat in North Worcestershire



### Catalytic Converter Thefts

Thieves are targeting vehicles for catalytic converters due to increased value of metals contained within.

### Speeding

PCC John Champion has announced a new plan to reduce road casualties.

### What are we doing?

We have stepped up patrols at key locations and are working to try and identify those responsible, as well as conducting visits at scrap yards across the county. You can deter thieves by parking in well-lit, overlooked areas and trying to park in such a way that the converter cannot be easily accessed by criminals.

Casualty numbers have reduced during lockdown but we cannot be complacent. We are actively looking to set up even more Community Speedwatch groups in North Worcestershire. Groups are managed and run by volunteers but coordinated by West Mercia Police. Speak to your local SNT to find out more.



### Domestic Abuse

The effect of lockdown has led to more domestic abuse referrals to the Victim Advice Line.

### County Lines

Drug dealers are conducting their activities by targeting and exploiting vulnerable people

### What are we doing?

We continue to prioritise all calls to cases of domestic abuse, taking positive action against perpetrators and using all available powers to protect vulnerable survivors from further harm.

Extra funding has also been secured by the PCC to provide additional Domestic Abuse Practitioners in the Victim Advice Line team, as well as in Victim Support.

We are working with other police forces as well as local partners, such as local authorities and housing providers to target those responsible and safeguard vulnerable people.

County Lines Intensification Week in February saw a number of arrests across North Worcestershire, disrupting organised networks.

You can help by being alive to the signs of cuckooing and exploitation. Visit [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk) for more information.



The Victim Advice Line provides help and support to anyone who has been a victim of crime, even if the crime hasn't been reported to police. If you would like to access specialist support please contact the team on 0800 952 3000.