



# Community Safety News

Issue 47

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## A Fond Farewell and a Warm Welcome

On Thursday 27 February, we said farewell to Lesley Bowles, Chief Officer for Communities and Business. Lesley had been with the Council for over 20 years and had been inspirational in setting up the Community Safety Partnership and the Community Safety Unit (CSU). Lesley was innovative with her work within communities and we cannot thank her enough for all her achievements and leading us in making the District a safe place to live and work. We wish her all the best in her retirement.



We welcome Sarah Robson, who is our new Chief Officer and has community safety as part of her service. Sarah comes with a wealth of experience on community safety and communities and we cant wait to work together on future projects. This really is an exciting time for the Partnership.

## Have Fun and Stay Safe Online

National Internet Safety Day, was held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership (CSP), invited all primary schools in the District to the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks for a free performance and workshop around internet safety.

Matthew Scott, Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent provided funding for this to the CSP alongside Sevenoaks District Council. We worked with the company 2020dreams who deliver PSHE workshops and performances to schools around the country, to facilitate the sessions. These sessions compliment the work that schools undertake for PSHE and other learning.



There were two sessions, each lasting for an hour. The sessions looked at staying safe online, safe gaming, protection from online grooming, protecting your privacy. We had approximately 200 year 5 and 6 students for both sessions. There were 15 schools from across the District that attended.

Teachers on the day said “We found this extremely useful and a proactive way of teaching children to have fun online, but stay safe. The sessions were interactive and therefore our pupils really benefitted. We would like to thank the District Council and CSP for providing this great opportunity.”

## Working with young people to cut anti-social behaviour



A local charity is helping to reduce substance misuse and anti-social behaviour by tackling drug and alcohol abuse amongst young people.

The Kenward Trust, which receives funding from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), has been providing targeted youth work across the District since 2004.

John Shanley, the Manager of 'Kenward in the Community', spoke with In Shape about the work of his team.

"The way drugs and alcohol are used and abused today is an issue for young people and all too often it can be the root cause of anti-social behaviour.

"We work closely with the CSP which includes the District Council, Police and others, who are quick to respond to rising issues. Our youth workers respond quickly too, going wherever the problem is, day or night."

"We have worked at Bat and Ball train station, Greatness and the Vine in Sevenoaks, Westerham, Edenbridge and Swanley. More recently, we have travelled with young people on the train between Swanley to Otford.

"Kenward is normally the first team to engage young people to understand what is going on. In most cases there are one or two individuals, with wider problems who are at the heart of the issue. We will work hardest with them.

"We will deliver much needed youth work, projects and activities to keep young people away from substance misuse. This model has worked well for many years.

"The good news is our work, more often than not, leads to a reduction in anti-social behaviour while helping to keep young people out of trouble and off drugs and alcohol."

In November, the Kenward Trust received recognition for its work when it clinched one of the runner up spots in the 2019 Colyer-Fergusson Charity Awards. John adds: "We were honoured to take home an award in the 'Turning Young Lives Around' category. It recognised our innovative approach to improving the lives of young people with complex issues. It was a boost for everyone at the Kenward Trust to know our work is making a difference."

To find out more about the Kenward Trust, visit [www.kenwardtrust.org.uk](http://www.kenwardtrust.org.uk)



## Don't fall for Door Step Callers

Doorstep criminals call on unsuspecting householders offering deals you can't refuse! But, you should. If you accept their work, the chances are you'll pay much more than you'd bargained for with poor, unnecessary and sometimes dangerous work.

Common phrases used by rogue traders and bogus callers which are not true include:

We've been working on your neighbour's property...  
I've worked on your property in the past, do you need further work?  
I was driving past when I noticed loose tiles on your roof...  
We have recently been released from prison and we're on probation...

To get one-step ahead of the criminals, sign up to local scam alerts at [www.kent.gov.uk/consumeralerts](http://www.kent.gov.uk/consumeralerts)

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