



## Community Safety Partnership Newsletter

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## Welcome

Welcome to the latest Community Safety Partnership newsletter, in this issue we look at Modern Slavery in the garment industry, staying safe from COVID scams, Alcohol Awareness Week and much more. If you have any local issues you would like us to write about, please contact us at [communitysafety@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@harborough.gov.uk). We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well, but if you require support, please contact the **Harborough Community Hub**.

## Modern Slavery

The garment trade is one of the biggest industries in Leicestershire and sadly, it is possible that there are trafficked people working within this sector. It is likely they are being exploited by the people who have secured their employment. Modern Slavery is a global problem and an international crime, affecting millions of people of all ages, and there are many victims in the UK. Forced Labour, or Labour Exploitation, is the most common type of Modern Slavery in the UK and victims are often controlled by force, threats,



coercion, abduction, fraud and deception. Victims can be from a variety of backgrounds; they may be UK citizens, EU migrants, or from further afield. CrimeStoppers, in partnership with Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Leicester City Council, Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) and De Montfort University are raising awareness of Forced Labour and the exploitation of vulnerable people in the Garment Sector in Leicestershire as although forced labour can be hidden, often, people are exploited in plain sight.

Harborough District Community Safety Partnership support them in encouraging organisations to look out for these potential signs that Modern Slavery is happening:

- **Restricted Freedom** - Workers shows signs that their movements are being controlled or they are unable to move freely. They may be dependant on people for transport and accommodation, travel only with other workers, not communicate freely, given leftovers to eat, looks to suffer violence.

## Modern Slavery continued

- Behaviour - Workers may be unfamiliar with English and may act as though they have been instructed. They may act distrustful with limited or no social interaction, show fear or anxiety, scavenge for food or resort to crime for food and/or money.
- Working Conditions - May only be allowed very few breaks, not interact with colleagues, lack basic training, skills or licences. Work very long hours and may be moved from one work base to another to perform other duties.
- Accommodation - Do not know their work or home address, live in multiple occupied houses and often with those they work with, live in poor or substandard accommodation.
- Finances - Sadly, they will likely have no access to their earnings, large debts, no access to bank cards or documents, wages paid into a different person's account, charged for transport to work and accommodation.
- Appearance - Suffer with regular injuries, has injuries that appear old or cannot be explained, wears the same clothes every day.

If you have any concerns about someone you know, contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or go online at [crimestoppers-uk.org](https://crimestoppers-uk.org), to give information 100% anonymously about Forced Labour and any other crime - or contact Leicestershire Police.

Join us in our fight against modern slavery, encourage and empower your communities to report any information on crime and make Leicestershire a safer place to work and live.

## Save the Date - Annual Rural Crime Network Event

As with all events this year we are taking our annual rural crime network event online - a full agenda will be out shortly but in the mean time we would like you to 'Save the Date' **Monday February 1<sup>st</sup> 2021**.

Register in advance for this meeting by clicking the link to **Zoom** or by typing in: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sd-GrrToqE9yCn\\_eXXH3wMPtSOP7-kZDI](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sd-GrrToqE9yCn_eXXH3wMPtSOP7-kZDI)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing further information about joining the meeting. Please share this information with others who may be interested in joining us, last year we had speakers from CrimeStoppers, DataTag, Leicestershire Police and the Environment Crime Team.

## Police Contact Information

The alternative to phoning 101 is to report crimes to Leicestershire Police online. Reports are triaged, given a crime number and dealt with as they would do if they were reported over the phone. Have a look at [www.leics.police.uk](http://www.leics.police.uk) for further information

**CrimeStoppers.**

**0800 555 111**

100% anonymous. Always.



Report

**ONLINE**

## Staying Safe from COVID Scams

As people worry about their health, families and finances during the Covid-19 pandemic, unscrupulous criminals are taking advantage of these fears and preying on members of the public. As scams that have been around for a while are 'updated' to exploit this situation, Leicestershire Trading Standards are warning residents to

remain vigilant. For lots of information on some scams that are currently circulating, have a look at our webpage [www.harborough.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/communitysafety)



### How to stay safe and protect yourself from scams

Have you been contacted out of the blue? Unsolicited phone calls and e-mails could be a scam, but can be difficult to spot – here are some dos and don'ts to help you protect your personal and financial information:

- Don't respond to messages asking for personal or financial details
- [Don't click on links or attachments in suspicious e-mails or text messages](#)
- Do use stronger passwords and set up two-factor authentication
- Do be suspicious of cold callers asking for information or offering technical support and don't install any software, or grant remote access to your computer, as the result of a cold call
- Do challenge - genuine companies would never ask for financial information, passwords or log in details when contacting you
- Do say no to unwanted, or uninvited callers at the door
- Do not open the door if you are not sure
- Do put the chain on if you decide to open the door
- Do make sure your back door is closed so no one can gain entry whilst you are distracted if someone knocks on your front door
- Do be wise to rogue traders - Too good to be true offers, probably are and if something doesn't feel right, then don't agree to anything
- Do check any identification – if they are genuine, they will happily wait whilst you close the door and verify the person. Use a number from a bill or telephone directory, do not use the number on the ID card

If you would like to report a scam, you can get in touch with the following organisations:

Action Fraud – <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

Citizen's Advice Consumer Helpline - **0808 223 1133**

To keep up to date with the latest scams' information and advice, you can follow the Leicestershire Trading Standards Service Facebook page on:

<https://www.facebook.com/leicstradingstandards>

## Alcohol Awareness Week; 16-22 November

Around 1 in 4 people in the UK experience a mental health problem each year and drinking too much or too often can increase our risk. Unaware of the link between alcohol and poor mental health, it can often be the first thing we turn to when we're feeling low, stressed, worried or unable to cope. Yet drinking too much or too often can mask or enhance underlying mental health problems - such as anxiety and depression - and prevent them from being properly addressed. Alcohol doesn't only impact on individuals who drink, it can have a wider impact on family, friends and even our communities. During Alcohol Awareness Week, Alcohol Change UK will get people thinking about how drinking affects our family and friends, our working lives, those living within our communities, and our society more generally. For more information and to participate, have a look at their [website](#). Alternatively, Turning Point are the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland support service for those affected by drugs or alcohol, contact them via their [website](#).

**Drinking to cope?**

Drinking alcohol to help relieve stress, anxiety or depression can, in fact, make things worse.

For the facts on alcohol and mental health:  
[www.alcoholchange.org.uk](http://www.alcoholchange.org.uk)  
#AlcoholAwarenessWeek

**ALCOHOL CHANGE UK**

**UNITED AGAINST BULLYING**

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

## Nitrous Oxide

As of 2016, Nitrous Oxide is covered by the Psychoactive Substances Act and is illegal to supply for its psychoactive effect, unfortunately, it is readily available and does not require any permit or licence to buy for other purposes. It is very dangerous to inhale directly from the canister, and use of Nitrous Oxide causes dizziness which may bring about an accident, or even death from suffocation. Regular use can cause a vitamin B12 deficiency that can lead to permanent nerve damage. For support with addiction, contact [Turning Point, a Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland service](#), or you could [talk to FRANK](#). Another serious effect of the Laughing Gas habit is the impact on the environment from the litter. Nitrous Oxide canisters can be recycled, the balloons, often used along side the canister, cannot be. The discarded balloons can be mistaken for food by wildlife, they block the gut meaning the animal cannot ingest proper food and will die.

## Celebrate Safely



Celebrate Safely is the annual campaign, ran by the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, supported by the Police and Leicestershire Local Authorities, to raise awareness of good tips and tricks to help you celebrate the festive season safely. As we're more likely to be celebrating at home this year, the focus and guidance has changed to reflect that. Please have a look at the [Celebrate Safely webpage](#).



## No Need to Speed

When it comes to road safety, it's simple: speed matters.

In a crash, 1mph can mean the difference between life and death, but we know that people still regularly break speed limits or travel too fast for the conditions of the road. This Road Safety Week we are sharing the what, the why, and the where of speed, because whether you're walking to school, riding on a country road or driving for work, the speed of traffic matters to your safety.

With someone injured on a UK road every four minutes, and vehicle speed playing a part in every crash, it's time to come together to say that there is **No Need to Speed**.

The Community Safety Partnership will be raising awareness through our social media channels throughout the week as well as encouraging local communities to take part. Follow us on Facebook or Twitter and repost and share our content. Find out more at <https://www.roadafetyweek.org.uk>.

## Prevent - Extremism

Leicestershire and Rutland's Prevent Strategy is aimed at preventing violent and non-violent extremism, but it is also very much about protecting our communities and supporting vulnerable people who may be targeted by extremists trying to recruit or radicalise them. You may have heard on the media that the National Threat level for Terrorism has been raised to "severe", although Harborough District is not a high risk area, anywhere could be targeted by lone attackers, and there has been a rise in Extreme Right Wing activity in Leicestershire, so this is a good time to familiarise yourself with spotting the signs of early indoctrination into extremism. This [website "Lets Talk About It"](#) has good section on spotting the signs and also keeping safe online. You can also find more information on our [website](#) on our Action Plan and how to refer to the appropriate authorities.

## Police Messages



**We are still in a pandemic.**  
**To avoid risks of transmission and stay as safe as possible, current guidance is to stay home.**  
**For up-to-date guidance, please check the [Government website](#). Thank you.**

## Photo and News Opportunities

The front page photo is of the skies as seen over Leicestershire in early November. If you have photos or news from around the Harborough District that you would like to have featured in the quarterly newsletter, please submit them by end of January 2021 to [r.woods@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:r.woods@harborough.gov.uk).

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Harborough District  
Community Safety Partnership  
Keeping Harborough District Safer Together