



Community Safety News

Community Safety Awards

Volunteers, police and members of the community were honoured at the Safer North Hampshire Community Safety Awards in a special ceremony at The Ark Conference Centre in Basingstoke recently.



Attendees gathered from across Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor to receive commendations for bravery, professionalism and volunteer work.

This year, for the first time, the event also included the presentation of certificates to the many Police Cadets who had completed their training.

Among those honoured were Brodie Mauluka, a senior youth worker at the Prospect Centre, Farnborough. His award was given in recognition of his outstanding youth work and his personal contribution to improving the lives of young people.



Also honoured was the late Sue Riddlestone. Sue was a Community Worker at the Church of the Good Shepherd for 22 years.

Other volunteers honoured included Roy Sutton, the former Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for Hartley Wintney, who recently stepped down after 30 years in the role. Two sisters from Rushmoor, Dawn and Diana Padwick, were also honoured for their work with Neighbourhood Watch in the Rowhill district of Aldershot.

Police Officers receiving honours, included Sgt Carl Holmes and Pc Kevin Massey for taking prompt and decisive action to save the life of a man in cardiac arrest.

Members of the public were also honoured in the awards, including a teenager who supported the emergency services at the scene of a road collision where a man had been seriously injured.

Other people receiving awards included Kerry Hayman, Ian Farr and Debbie Mason, who work across the community safety partnership, for their diligent action in closing a disorderly premise and helping to safeguard a vulnerable member of the community in Basingstoke, and Hampshire Constabulary analyst Karen Henshaw, for her professionalism and dedication to serious and complex investigations.

The awards are organised by the Safer North Hampshire community safety team together with the police.

Doorstep crime

What does it mean, exactly?

We use this term to cover distraction burglars and rogue traders.

Distraction burglars will use an excuse to get into your home. They work either on their own or in pairs. They may pretend they have lost a dog, or need to use the phone. They may say they are from the council, water board / utility company, and even the police. If they are working alone, they will come into your home and keep you occupied in one room, which leaves them free to roam your property. If they work in pairs, one will keep you at the door while the accomplice gets in through another door, usually a back door.

We advise people to make sure their back door is locked at all times, even when in the house. Before you let somebody into your home, always ask to see their ID. If you are not happy, don't let them in.

Call the employer or company they claim to be from; genuine callers won't mind you doing this. You can also contact your energy supplier to talk about the priority services register, which can help you set up a password for people to give when calling.

If you are called on at home by someone saying you have a loose roof slate or your driveway needs repairing, and it is a cold call that you were not expecting, we recommend that you never agree to have them carry out this work for you. These are the most common forms of a rogue trader trying to get work. It is usually totally unnecessary, and any work they do is likely to be substandard with a risk of an ever increasing fee to be paid upfront. You may also face pressure to pay in cash with the rogue trader telling you they will drive you to the bank.

If this ever happens to you, go back inside your house and dial 101 to speak to one of the police's call takers. Always phone 999 if you feel threatened or intimidated by the person's behaviour towards you. If you are deaf in a non-emergency situation, Minicom users can phone 18001 101 or send a regular text to 07781 480999. We want to stop people being targeted in this way – but we need to know about it.

We are a largely polite society in Britain, and it's not always easy to tell someone at our doorstep to 'go away' firmly, but it is ok to do this. You didn't ask to be called upon, and you don't have to do anything they want you to. If they carry on talking to you after you have asked them to leave, shut your door.

If you are genuinely worried about that loose roof slate, or your driveway that needs repairing, give yourself some space by telling the caller to go away, and then seeking a second opinion. Remember Trading Standards have a 'Buy with Confidence' list of council-approved trusted businesses.

