



**Avon and Somerset Police**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

# Taunton

## Policing Newsletter

**December 2024**

### NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Hello and welcome to the Taunton Policing Newsletter for the month of December 2024. As always, the newsletters contain a snapshot of some of the work the Taunton Policing Teams have been involved with in the previous month.

#### Operation Sceptre Week of Action

During November, we took part in Operation Sceptre. Operation Sceptre, which is a twice-yearly operation, led and co-ordinated by the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) is an opportunity to highlight the work that goes on throughout the year to reduce the number of knives on the streets and help keep communities safer. Throughout the week, the team conducted the following;

- Carried out 4 weapon sweeps in parks and locations of concern highlighted to us by members of the public. Thankfully no weapons found.
- Our knife surrender bin at Taunton Police station was emptied, with a total of 29 knives recovered.
- Following an incident whereby a youth has made threats with a weapon to associates of theirs, we obtained a prison re-call for that individual, who was on licence after being released from prison in June. They were swiftly arrested the day the re-call was issued.



#### County Lines Intensification Week

We took part in a national, co-ordinated week of action last week to tackle county lines drug dealing and the associated exploitation of vulnerable people. Led by the National County Lines Co-Ordination Centre (NCLCC), we partnered with local authorities, key service providers and other police forces to ensure there was a joined up approach to sharing information and resources to dismantle county lines networks which cross police force borders.

'County lines' is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs out of bigger cities into one or more smaller towns in the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money, and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence and weapons.

### MEET THE TEAM



#### OFFICER

**A/PS Naomi Baker**

#### POLICING AREA

**Town Centre**

#### YEARS SERVICE

**4 and 1/2 years.**

#### HOBBY

**Walking the dog**

#### FAVOURITE FOOD

**Chinese takeaway**

### ABOUT ME

*This month's 'Meet the Team' is A/PS Naomi Baker.*

Prior to becoming a PC, I worked in a local law firm and had aspirations to complete my legal qualifications to be a solicitor. I remember sitting in the office and thinking "I can't sit at a desk for the rest of my life". So, I looked on the Avon and Somerset website and applied to do a ride-along. I remember everything like it was yesterday. The two officers I went out with that night told me about the PCDA process and shortly after this, I applied for the Police. In early 2020, I began my career. This was a very odd time to start a new career as you can imagine. During my career so far I have been on response, [local remedy](#) and now I am on the neighbourhood policing team. All of these roles have their pro's and cons but for me, not working nights has done me the world of good as I am extremely grumpy with a lack of sleep.

As my job clearly isn't stressful enough, I passed my Sergeants exam in October 2024. I have started acting amongst my team which I absolutely love! Amongst all this, I have a gorgeous labrador, Blue, who is an absolute delight. My partner and I usually spend rest days together with him.

One of the best opportunities I've had in my Policing career is working Glastonbury Festival. I was absolutely blown away by how massive it is, and will certainly remember some of the "sites" that I saw.

On Thursday 28th November 2024, worked in partnership with the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU), to target individuals that use the rail network for the use of drug supply across our area. Plain clothed officers were split between Taunton & Bridgwater train station. The purpose was to build intelligence and identify those that may use the rail network to distribute drugs. As part of the operation, two males under the age of 18 were arrested at Taunton train station, the 1st being arrested for possession with the intent to supply and travelling on railway without paying a fare, the 2nd was arrested for possession of an offences weapon. Both males were bailed with conditions whilst our investigation continues.

### **Education to all ages**

PCSO George and PCSO Jack attended Wellsprings Toddler Group in Taunton recently and engaged with the under 5s.

The children looked around the Police Van, tried on some uniform and listened to the PCSOs talk about their job.

Staff said that after the team left, there was song time and they changed 'the wheels on the bus' to 'the wheels on the police car'

The little ones all spoke about their favourite part of exploring the vehicle  
Reassuring and building trust with our community can never start too young!



### **Warrant 28th November 2024**

In the early hours of Thursday 28th November 2024, we invited ourselves into a property in the centre of Taunton using a warrant granted by the courts, following reports from the community and police intelligence work. A 25-year-old man and a 21-year-old woman were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the Supply of Class A and Possession of Class B drugs. Several items were seized from the property including suspected Class B (Ketamine and Cannabis) drugs, cash, and mobile phones. Photo below of the moment our officers entered the property!



## **POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM**

Can your children and or young people help us understand more about what they want from services. Do they want Youth Clubs and Activities? How safe do they feel? Have they used our Youth Hubs?

Please ask them to complete the below survey, it only takes a couple of minutes;

<https://forms.office.com/e/9vTk8MMR8i>

Taunton and the wider Somerset area is a safe place and violent incidents involving children and young people remain low but like many town centres it experiences higher levels of concerns around violence. The Early Intervention Team is working with the Violence Reduction Partnership and other partners to address these concerns.

We have been working on a range of different initiatives;

Collaborate Digital have been working in local schools with children to develop education packages to help children to stay safe and navigate the challenging situations they can find themselves in.

We have helped to fund the new Town Centre Marshall.

Young Somerset have been running the Highlight Youth Hub every Saturday from 3pm until 5pm in McDonalds in East Street, Taunton. This busy area is full of children and young people at this time and provides a weekly opportunity for children and young people to find out about activities, services and support available in the local area. This has been running since February 2024 and they have engaged with over 1200 children and young people, offering them advice, support, a safe adult and a safe place and a free drink.

Leaflets have been designed to give parents, guardians and carers advice on how to support their children and shared with schools and services and a webpage has been established to provide advice.

For more information visit;

[www.somerset.gov.uk/town-centre-safety-and-young-people](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/town-centre-safety-and-young-people)

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)





## FRAUD AWARENESS

*This new section on the newsletter will include information on scams that we as the Police are currently aware of and how to hopefully avoid falling victim to these types of crimes.*

### Cryptocurrency Investment Fraud

#### What is cryptocurrency fraud?

Fraudsters present professional and credible looking online adverts, send emails, and create websites to advertise fake investment opportunities in cryptocurrency, promising high profit returns. In reality, there is nothing legitimate about this 'investment'. Most commonly, we see these adverts on social media platforms, sometimes seemingly being endorsed by celebrities/influencers. Fraudsters will even use deepfake technology to make it look like the celebrity is speaking on the matter and how much money can be made from the scheme.

The fraudster will pose as a 'cryptocurrency expert', showcasing the huge profits they have purportedly made, often portraying a lavish lifestyle, and offering to teach the victim to do the same. They may request a fee to share their knowledge, get the victim to send money to a genuine cryptocurrency platform the criminal will also have access to, or claim to invest on their behalf if they send the fraudster their money. The victim will often be shown a convincing looking platform which appears to show their investment doing very well in real time, encouraging them to part with more money. This will just be a fake platform created by the fraudsters. They will sometimes even go as far as sending the victim a small amount of 'returns', but requests to withdraw their profits will be met with excuses, and eventually, contact with the fraudsters will be lost when they realise they aren't getting any more money from the victim. The scam may even present itself as a recruitment opportunity, usually received through WhatsApp.

#### How to protect yourself

- Remember, there are no get rich quick schemes – if something seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Even experienced investors get caught out by investment fraud. Do your research before committing to any investment and seek advice from a regulated, independent financial advisor.
- The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) does not regulate most cryptocurrency activity, so you will be unlikely to be reimbursed for any money lost.
- Be wary of anyone contacting you offering to be able to recover the funds you have lost to an investment for a 'fee'. This is called recovery fraud, and is just a way for fraudsters to get money from you again.

#### How to report

If you have become a victim of cryptocurrency investment fraud, you need to report this to your bank in the first instance. Calling 159 will get you through directly to your bank's fraud department.

All cybercrime and fraud in the UK needs to be reported to Action Fraud, either online at [actionfraud.police.uk](https://actionfraud.police.uk), or by telephone on 0300 123 2050.



We are providing a freelance/part-time job which is remote and flexible working time . Are you free to know more about it?

12:49

## COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

For those that don't know what 'Community Speedwatch' is, it is where volunteers from the local community carry out speed monitoring checks on specific roads across the community.

The aim of Community SpeedWatch is to make motorists who speed through residential neighbourhoods aware of the impact their actions have on local residents, or the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians. This is something we are working with communities to address.

The 14 CSW groups in the Taunton area operate in a variety of environments with different speed limits and traffic flows. The urban sites that they operate at have far higher traffic flows with typically 500 to 1400 vehicles per hour whereas the rural sites have approximately 50 to 200 vehicles an hour. However the rural sites have a higher proportion of speeders. Unfortunately the 20mph limits have a higher proportion of speeders whether they are an urban site or rural.

#### Activity during November

Over the month of November, 6 out of the 14 Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the **13** sessions that took place, **3,233** vehicles have been monitored by our Speedwatch volunteers. From those, a total of **68** letters have been sent out to drivers that have not adhered to the speed limit.

The Community Speedwatch is a great service that greatly assists the Constabulary in reducing speed across the communities. Should you wish to join an existing Speedwatch, or would like to set one up for your area, you can find more information here:

[Community SpeedWatch | Avon and Somerset Police](#)



## CRIME STATISTICS - October 2024

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	124
Bicycle Theft	6
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	33
Criminal Damage & Arson	49
Drugs	5
Other theft	49
Possession of weapons	4
Public Order	95
Robbery	7
Shoplifting	110
Theft from the person	2
Vehicle Crime	13
Violent Crime	368
Other Crime	15

You can access and find out more about crime statistics for a specific area by clicking either of these two links:

[Your area | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Avon and Somerset Constabulary | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

What I would like to reassure you all with regards to these statistics is that certain crime types are grouped together in one category. On our systems we can see far more detailed information, but for what we are allowed to share with the public, crime types are grouped together.

For example one of the categories above is '**Violent Crime**'. Domestic incidents fall within that category and Domestic incidents are one of the most common type of incidents we as the Police attend. If you would like to know the definition of what a Domestic relationship is, you can find it here:

[Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Hopefully this somewhat reassures you of why the number of crimes within that category are high.

### DID YOU KNOW...?

We are recruiting a Volunteer Network lead within our Community Speedwatch team. Could you make a difference to help keep our roads safe? Do you have good administrative and computer skills? Community SpeedWatch (CSW) enables members of the community to take action against speeding on the roads of concern within their local communities. Community SpeedWatch is an educational scheme, not enforcement. It is considered as the first tier response to speeding issues. The purpose of this role (level 3) is to oversee and coordinate activity and represent the Community SpeedWatch scheme at both local and forcewide meetings. Community SpeedWatch plays a vital role in keeping our roads safe. More info can be found here— [Community Speed Watch \(CSW\) Network Lead - Somerset West - Avon and Somerset Police](#)

**“To recognise always that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.”**

## TAUNTON POLICE STATION

### Opening Times

Monday: 08:30—16:30

Tuesday: 08:30—16:30

Wednesday: 08:30—16:30

Thursday: 08:30—16:30

Friday: 08:30—16:30

Saturday: CLOSED

Sunday: CLOSED



## USEFUL LINKS

### STREET SAFE

StreetSafe is an online tool that can be used by anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where they have felt or feel unsafe.

You might have felt unsafe in your local area due to anti-social behaviour or environmental factors, such as a lack of street lighting. We encourage you to share your experience using the StreetSafe tool.

The information you provide will be considered alongside evidence already gathered by police forces and will be used to inform policing and local authority safety activities within your community.

Link to Website to report:

[StreetSafe | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

### KEEP UP TO DATE



Facebook is a great way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Follow us on:

Facebook: [West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing](#)

### GET IN TOUCH

In an emergency always call 999

For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report](#)

Contact the Neighbourhood Team directly:

[SomWestNPTTaunton@avonandsomerset.police.uk](#)

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on

0800 555 111 or visit

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](#)

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