

Sent on behalf of Superintendent Andy Boyd, South & Vale Local Policing Area.

It has once again been a very busy month across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse with our officers and staff having to deal with a wide range of incidents.

Tragically, one of those was the sudden and unexplained death of an 11-week-old child in Faringdon. The death is currently being treated as suspicious and a 21-year-old man from Faringdon has been arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm and is on bail.

Thames Valley Police have specially trained Family Liaison Officers who work with families offering appropriate guidance and support in these circumstances; these officers are currently working with the family of the 11-week-old child. It doesn't matter how experienced you are as an officer; dealing with the death of a young child is always extremely difficult and I am aware that many of those involved in the investigation have given their own children an extra special hug when they have got home.

I would like to say a particular thank you to the local residents who provided refreshments and support to the officers at the scene watch. I am aware that the officers involved were extremely grateful for the kindness shown.

In other matters, Operation Bullfinch has led to increased emphasis upon the police's role in protecting vulnerable people. Many of you will be aware of the recent opening of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub in Cowley, where Thames Valley Police works with partner agencies such as Oxfordshire County Council to share information and develop coordinated plans to ensure the safeguarding of

vulnerable people. You can find out more information regarding the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub at; www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/safeguarding-hub

The protection of vulnerable people and managing the potential threat, harm and risk to them is now a significant part of our daily work and accounts for a large amount of our deployments. It is interesting that as crime has fallen we have seen a significant increase in calls for assistance. Many of these have been calls for us to help in trying to protect vulnerable people. These calls can range from people trying to find friends and family who have gone missing - often with dementia - reports of missing young people who may be at risk of sexual exploitation, attempts to protect somebody who may be at risk of harm due to mental health issues, and calls for our assistance in protecting people from domestic abuse.

We are currently embarking on our own multi agency work with partners to tackle repeat domestic abuse offenders and support their partners. The impact on the victims of these crimes is often incomprehensible; they are often terrified to be left alone, frightened to go out of their own homes and feel isolated and vulnerable. We are committed to protecting these victims and will continue to prioritise the support we provide to them. If you are suffering from domestic abuse, or if you are aware of somebody who is, please do ring us or if you would rather speak to somebody in confidence ring "Reducing the Risk" on 0808 200 0247 or contact them at www.reducingtherisk.org.uk

I lived in Abingdon for many years and it is a town that is particularly close to my heart. It is a town with really low levels of crime. I was therefore disappointed to hear that a young male was recently robbed in the town centre and his

mobile phone and wallet stolen. Robbery is a violent offence and something the police take extremely seriously. Thankfully a witness was able to accurately describe the offenders to the police and we were able to find them hiding in nearby bushes. On arrest, a mobile phone belonging to the victim was found in one offender's possession. The offenders are currently on police bail.

Thankfully burglary to people's homes continues to be on the decrease although, disappointingly, between midnight and 6am on 20 November there were a series of burglaries in Wantage and Little Milton that appear to be linked. The Wantage burglaries took place in Manor Road where cash, jewellery and bank cards were stolen; Springfield Road where offenders removed car keys for a Mazda 6 Sport (reg YH58 YFX) which they subsequently stole; Newbury Road where offenders forced entry but nothing was stolen; and Woodlands Brook where the occupant found a male walking into the rear dining room. The offender ran away when disturbed. There was also a burglary on Haseley Road, Little Milton where the occupant was woken by loud noises and saw two figures run from the property to a four door saloon car. We are searching for a 30 – 40 year old male of stocky build, who was wearing a dark cloth flat cap, thick dark jacket and boots at the time of the offences. If you have any information that may assist please call 101.

The onset of darker evenings is always a time when we appeal to the public to take extra precautions with their home security. In particular, ensuring that if their homes are vacant in the early evening a light is left on a timer so that it does not appear empty to any opportunist criminal who may be walking past the premises. If you would like any further information regarding home security, particularly about timers or Smartwater, please call 101 and ask for a home

security visit from your local Neighbourhood Team. For further burglary prevention advice please visit our website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk/crimeprevention/home-garden-security/burglaries.htm

We are now busy preparing for the Christmas and New Year festivities and while our Neighbourhood Teams are getting ready to visit and support vulnerable elderly people who will be alone over Christmas, we are also preparing additional staff to police the night time economy. While our town centres across the district are all safe places in which to have a pleasant night out with friends and family over the festive period, we will be placing additional resources on throughout the Christmas period to ensure people feel safe and confident in their environment.

We are conscious that while most people enjoy a night out safely and sensibly, there are regrettably still a small number of individuals who can become violent after too much alcohol. They would invariably never behave in such a way when sober but become a different person after a drink. It is these people we will be targeting with our additional patrols. Unfortunately they often do not recognise the consequences of their actions until it is too late. Just one punch can often lead to unintentional serious injuries to a victim, and a life changing conviction to the perpetrator.

We are urging people to recognise that drunken violence is stupid, pointless and dangerous. We are encouraging people to think about their actions, drink a bit less, look after one another and most importantly walk away from any violence or aggression.

Our officers will be working with licensees, the district council and partners to ensure that a robust approach to policing the

night time economy will be in place, with those who insist on behaving in an anti-social or aggressive manner being arrested and given a free night's lodgings and a conviction. This month, together with many other colleagues and friends, I attended the funeral service of Chris Parker-Towle in Wantage. Chris was a larger than life character who gave over 35 years to serving the community as a police officer. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with his family and friends at this difficult time.

As I always point out, it is important to remember that we do live in one of the safest places in the country and we are less likely to be victims of crime here than almost anywhere else in the country. For this, I am extremely grateful to all our officers and staff and for your continuing help and support.

If you would be interested in more information as to what we are doing on a daily basis please do follow us on on Twitter @TvpSouthandVale.