



LEWES DISTRICT



COMMUNITY SAFETY HANDBOOK 2006

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WELCOME

3

Residents of Lewes District are fortunate to live in not only a very beautiful area but one which is extremely safe. We experience low rates of crime and Lewes District Police is recognised as one of the best performers compared to similar policing districts elsewhere in the UK.

"This booklet is all about the Lewes District Crime Reduction Partnership (CRP), which is made up of local organisations working together with the police. The CRP's aim is to find ways to achieve lasting reductions in crime, and fear of crime, across the district as well as to provide practical crime prevention advice.

"Residents and businesses have an important contribution to make. I am sure you will find this booklet useful in helping you play your part in keeping Lewes District a low crime area."

Cllr Liz Lee, Chair of the Crime Reduction Partnership

The Lewes District CRP consists of:

- Sussex Police
- Lewes District Council
- East Sussex County Council
- East Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team
- Sussex Police Authority
- East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
- Primary Care Trust
- Many voluntary and community organisations are also included.

The CRP published its three-year Crime Reduction Strategy in April 2005.

This report can be viewed on the internet at:
www.lewes.gov.uk/community.362asp
or to ask for a copy please telephone
01273 484934 or email
louisa.young@lewes.gov.uk

Alternatively you can write to Louisa Young, Lewes District Council, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes, BN7 1AB.

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www.lewes.gov.uk

CRIMESTOPPERS: 0800 555 111



**Do something positive about youth crime!
We are looking for volunteers to act as:**

**Appropriate Adults • Community Panel
Members • Mentors • Drivers/Escorts
To find out more, just give us a ring.**

**EAST SUSSEX YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM:
01323 466633**

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www.sussexsafecameras.gov.uk



The Lewes Crime Reduction Partnership has made it a priority to tackle anti-social behaviour and reduce it as far as possible through various initiatives.

LOCAL ACTION TEAMS

Local issues are being tackled through five Local Action Teams - Lewes town, the rural areas, Seaford, Newhaven, and Peacehaven and Telscombe Cliffs. These groups bring together local people and organisations to deal with specific, local crime issues, particularly anti-social behaviour. Last year the Local Action Teams were given their own budgets so that they can develop relevant projects and improve local facilities.

KEEPING THE STREETS SAFER

In response to the Enough is Enough campaign which focuses on youth related crime, binge drinking and licensees who sell alcohol to under 18s, Lewes District Police have implemented Operation Sober.

As a result of Operation Sober we have introduced dedicated patrols into the district's towns and villages as well as licensing visits to pubs, clubs and off-licences. During this time we have seen a reduction in public place violent crime as compared to the same period last year.

In 2005 the number of hours of High Visibility Policing has increased across the district and the police are committed to raising numbers of hours yet further.

ASBOS

The CRP has targeted the individuals who cause the most disruption to our community by successfully applying for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) in the courts. These orders ban the people who receive them from carrying out any anti-social activities.

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts are also used by the CRP. These agreements between the Police and an individual highlight what type of behaviour is/is not acceptable for that person and to encourage them to act appropriately.

Over the last year more than 150 letters have been sent to parents of young people who have carried out anti-social behaviour or have had alcohol seized from them. Parents are strongly encouraged to take responsibility for the actions of their children.

The CRP works with its partners both to prevent anti-social behaviour and enforce action against it. Key partnerships include the Public Place Violent Crime Action Group, the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group, the Environmental Crime Group and the Acquisitive Crime Action Group.

All of these initiatives have contributed towards making our communities safer.

FREE TRAINING WITH THE PRINCE'S TRUST

Our exciting 12 week programme will give you the skills you need to get the job you want. You will get qualifications, confidence, self esteem and lots of new friends and you will take part in a **FREE** residential.

Our programme is nothing like school or college and is ideal for young people who are not sure what they want to do with their careers. If you are unemployed and aged between 16 and 25 why don't you join us? Everything is free, you keep your benefits and we even pay your travel expenses!

Do something positive today, call on:

01243 870891 / 07771 575776 (Bognor)

01273 327162 / 07768 978203 (Brighton)

01323 462181 / 07880 791090 (Eastbourne)

01424 714601 / 07786 333566 (Hastings)

01403 754639 / 07771 575775 (Horsham)

01273 821789 / 07919 597305 (Hove)

01892 611593 / 07725 601681 (Crowborough)

(Or text Team to the mobile and we will get back to you)



Supported by



BEATING THE BURGLAR

Lewes District is a very safe place to live and the prospects of your property being burgled are very low indeed. It is reassuring to know that, compared to similar policing areas elsewhere in the UK, Lewes District's burglary rate is the lowest.

Detective Inspector Martin Sapwell of Lewes District CID comments: *"There has been a significant decrease in the number of domestic burglaries as we ruthlessly pursue the people that commit these crimes."*



Over the next three years, the CRP is committed to achieving a 20% reduction in burglaries of homes. DI Sapwell adds: *"We are working with the community to further reduce the risk of properties being burgled and I am confident that we will succeed."*

The Police Crime Prevention Team is carrying out crime prevention surveys of all community buildings. However, you can help too by:

- Securing all windows and doors.
- Fitting quality locks to your doors.
- Fitting window locks.
- Post-coding all valuables.
- Installing an alarm.
- Securely locking your sheds and out buildings.
- Joining Neighbourhood Watch.

www.lewes.gov.uk

BOGUS CALLERS

Numbers of bogus callers in the district do not pose a significant problem, but there are some basic precautionary measures that can be taken.

Bogus callers often pose as officials from utility companies or the local authority. They could be men or women and have been known to use children as part of their cover story.

Distraction burglaries involve doorstep callers tricking their way into your home and stealing any cash or valuables they may find. This type of criminal usually targets elderly or vulnerable people.

Here is some positive action you can take to 'beat the burglar':

- Refuse to answer your door to unannounced callers.
- Secure the door with a chain before opening.
- Keep the caller on the doorstep while you check with the organisation they claim to represent.
- Do not let anyone into your home if you doubt who they really are.

If you see anyone suspicious, call Sussex Police on **0845 60 70 999**. If you think an actual crime may be in progress, call **999**. Further advice on Bogus Callers and Beating the Burglar is available from your Crime Prevention Officer, Robin Phillips, on **01273 665730** or email robin.phillips@sussex.pnn.police.uk

CRIMESTOPPERS: 0800 555 111

For all your parking enquiries, please contact

THE PARKING SHOP

29 High Street Lewes BN7 2LU

Telephone No: 01273 477105

Fax No: 01273 483962

Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 1pm

For further information, please look on the following website:

www.eastsussex.gov.uk

Lewes Lifeline

Alarm Service




01273 611227

£3.00 per week



www.lewes.gov.uk

Are you experiencing domestic abuse or violence, or do you know someone who is?

There is a free confidential support service available for both men and women in the Lewes District, provided by A Step Forward Domestic Abuse Project (Charity No.1092823).

- Domestic abuse can happen occasionally or regularly: it can be emotional, sexual, financial or physical.
- Nationally it affects 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men.
- An average of 2 women a week are killed by a current or former partner.
- Domestic abuse is the biggest cause of death worldwide in women aged 18-44.
- Children are affected too. If they are living in an abusive environment then they are being harmed.

A Step Forward works in partnership with local agencies including Sure Start The Havens. There is a specialist worker available for families living in the Sure Start Havens area who will give advice, outreach and support and can provide victims with choices and options which are right for them.

If you would like more information or an appointment please call A Step Forward's FREE helpline on **0800 169 6246**.

Please don't suffer in silence, seek help today!



FIGHTING VEHICLE CRIME



Lewes District has seen a significant decrease in vehicle crime over the past year. Lewes detectives have carried out a number of search warrants on premises where proceeds of vehicle crime were being stored. DI Martin Sapwell says: "We have proactively targeted those people that commit vehicle crime and we will continue to do so.

The CRP is committed to reducing vehicle crime further in both the urban and rural areas. Already significant security improvements have been made to the multi-storey car park in Newhaven, which have resulted in less vehicle crime there.

Illegal motorcycle riding is also being tackled. Equipment has been jointly funded by the CRP so that police motorcyclists can deal effectively with people who ride illegally on the downland.

- You too can help reduce vehicle crime by:-
- Parking in well-lit areas.
 - Removing stereo equipment where possible.
 - Fitting and activating alarms/ immobilisers.
 - Always securing your vehicle when leaving it.
 - Locking valuables out of sight in the boot.

- Removing tools and other valuables when parking overnight.

If you are the subject of vehicle crime, do report it to the police. Remember to ask your neighbours if they heard or saw anything suspicious.

If you have any information about people who are committing vehicle crime, contact Sussex Police on **0845 60 70 999**.

MOTORCYCLES



- Invest in a secure locking device for the wheel of the bike.
- Fit an alarm (available from DIY or bike shops).
- Park in a well-lit place and secure your bike to an immovable object.
- Invest in a cover for the bike.
- Secure your bike to a locking post at home. Better still, lock it away in a secure garage or shed.
- Post-code your bike.

BICYCLES

- Use a strong lock when leaving your bike unattended and secure it to an immovable object.
- Seats and wheels are targets for thieves. If you have quick release, remove the seat and secure the wheels to the frame.
- Have your bike post-coded.



Promoting & Supporting Voluntary Action in Lewes District

If you are a voluntary or community group requiring advice, support or training, then contact us on **01273 483832** or enquiries@southdownscvs.org.uk

We're here to help you develop.

Charity No. 1062717/0 Company No. 3334341



LEWES District Council Housing Advice Service

HOUSING ADVICE DROP IN SURGERIES

DAY	OPENING HOURS	
PEACEHAVEN Community House, Meridian Centre Meridian Way, Peacehaven	Monday	10am - 12.30pm
LEWES Council Offices, 4 Fisher Street, Lewes	Tuesday	10am - 12.30pm
NEWHAVEN Council Offices, 20 Fort Road, Newhaven	Wednesday	10am - 12.30pm
SEAFORD Seaford Town Council, Hurdis House, 10 Broad Street, Seaford	Thursday	10am - 12.30pm

Telephone Advice Line: 01273 484001

MON - THURS: 2.30pm - 4.30pm FRIDAY: 2.30pm - 4.00pm

Community Services



The Community Services Dept manages a wide range of facilities:

- Public Gardens
- Childrens Play Areas
- Nature Reserves
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Sports Grounds
- Skate Parks

Our Parks and Open Spaces are patrolled by the Parks Community Wardens. To contact our wardens, or for any further information about the services we provide, please phone the Customer Services Help Desk on:

01273 484999
or e-mail: Customer.Services@lewes.gov.uk



For further information, visit our web site at: www.lewes.gov.uk

PREVENTING HATE CRIME AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Hate Crime is recognised as any crime or incident where prejudice against an identifiable group of people is a factor in their being victimised.

The CRP is committed to providing every member of the community with the highest possible standard of service irrespective of gender, age, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability. The way we deal with reports of hate crime and other hate incidents is central to achieving this.

Victims of domestic violence are recognised as being particularly vulnerable to further offences and all requests for help from victims of this type of crime will be treated both seriously and positively.

If you believe that you have been the subject of any form of crime, please do contact the police on **0845 60 70 999** or in an emergency on **999**.

If you do not feel comfortable with speaking to a police officer here are some alternative contacts who can advise you on what to do next:

A Step Forward

Offering advice to victims of domestic violence in Lewes District
Tel. **0800 1699246** (lines open 9am-10pm Monday-Friday)

Broken Rainbow

Helpline for victims of domestic violence who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender
Tel. **08452 60 44 60**
email: lgbtdiv@btopenworld.com

Citizens Advice Bureau

3 North Court, Lewes, BN7 2AR
Tel. **01273 473082**

Refuge

Offering advice and emotional support to victims of domestic violence, particularly on accommodation issues
Tel. **0808 2000 247** (24hrs)

Sompriti

Assisting Black and Minority Ethnic Communities
Tel. **01273 474809** or email ricwes@sompriti.com

Terrance Higgins Trust South
Tel. **01323 649927** Helpline: **0845 1221 200** (national)email: info@tth.org.uk



A football competition organised in conjunction with Lewes District Council and the Lewes Tenants Association. This competition is for boys and girls aged 10-16 who live within the Lewes District.

The aim of the competition is to encourage groups of young people to form informal teams and compete against other groups. Transport and lunch are provided at each tournament, with equipment packages awarded on the day.

For more information please contact Lewes District Council Community Sports Officer Richard Bagwell **01273 484395**
richard.bagwell@lewes.gov.uk

Or Tenants Participation Officer Ruth Tahsin **01273 487249**
ruth.tahsin@lewes.gov.uk

Please contact Tammy Waine for other sporting opportunities.

Libraries are the answer!
Free membership, Free books...
Free internet & computer access

DVD's, Videos, Audiobooks. Family fun at story and rhyme times! Find help with homework, information and local history queries. www.eastsussex.gov.uk/lia/libraries

Lewes Library: 01273 474232 | Newhaven Library: 01273 514468 | Peacehaven Library: 01273 583945
Ringmer Library: 01273 814661 | Seaford: 01273 896420



Downs Leisure Centre
Seaford (01323) 490011

Meridian Leisure Centre
Peacehaven (01273) 588858

Lewes Leisure Centre
Lewes (01273) 486000

Seahaven Pool & Gym
Newhaven (01273) 512498

Seaford Head Pool
Seaford (01323) 897632

**So much to do at
 such affordable
 prices...**

- **Swimming Pools**
- **Fitness Suites**
- **Squash Courts**
- **Soft Play**
- **Sunbed**

www.waveleisure.co.uk

These successful schemes are currently being run across Lewes District and aim to reduce crime by engaging local people in their respective communities:

LOCAL ACTION TEAMS

Five local Action Teams (rural areas, Lewes town, Peacehaven and Telscombe Cliffs, Newhaven, Seaford) get local organisations and people together to tackle anti-social behaviour. Actions taken so far include commissioning youth activities, helping to develop facilities including youth clubs and shelters, responsible motorcycle riding, and tackling environmental crime such as graffiti, fly-tipping and vandalism.

If you would like to get involved with your Local Action Team, please contact Alistair Parkin (Lewes town/rural areas) or Julie Thompson (coastal areas) on **01273 484339** or email alistair.parkin@lewes.gov.uk or julie.thompson@lewes.gov.uk

SHOP WATCH

Seahaven and Lewes Shop Watch has been set up in partnership with Sussex Police to reduce retail crime. Local businesses who are members of Shop Watch are issued with radios linked to a ring-around system. This enables them to be in contact with one another and the police, giving early warnings of potential or known offenders in the area.

Shop Watch also has a scheme known as Red Hand - You're Banned, whereby offenders can be put onto a list excluding them from visiting certain retail outlets within the district. Anyone interested in joining Shop Watch should contact PC Steve Dickinson on **01273 665634** or email: stephen.dickinson@sussex.pnn.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent way to help your local community. Working in partnership with Sussex Police, information is exchanged which helps to reduce crime and the fear of crime. By joining, you may be eligible for a discount on your house insurance. To find out more, contact PC Steve Dickinson on

01273 665634 or email stephen.dickinson@sussex.pnn.police.uk

PUB WATCH

Many licensees in Lewes District belong to an association known as Pub Watch. Pub Watch members meet regularly to discuss issues relating to violent, disorderly and criminal behaviour in and around their licensed premises. Those identified as being responsible for such behaviour may be issued with a warning letter, or Pub Watch members may collectively ban them from their licensed premises. This initiative has had a positive impact on disorderly and violent behaviour within licensed premises and the wider communities.

FARM WATCH

The aim of this initiative is to reduce crime within the local farming community. It allows local farmers quickly and easily to share information concerning crime affecting their business. The Acquisitive Crime Group has just purchased equipment to security mark saddlery with a view to making items readily identifiable and less attractive to would-be thieves. Anyone interested in having items marked should contact PS Andy Eggleton on **0845 60 70 999**.

CLEAN STREETS

In summer last year, the CRP's Enviro-Crime Action Group set up the Clean Streets initiative to target environmentally-related issues in specific areas. First to be tackled was Newhaven, where Clean Streets ran for four months and included actions such as increased animal warden patrols, extra litter bins on the High Street, cleaning up graffiti and focusing on areas that attract litter and rubbish. The project was very successful and has recently been launched in Seaford.

If you would like to join the Project Team, please contact Carina Hinkley on **01273 484336** or email: carina.hinkley@lewes.gov.uk

Excellence in local policing – neighbourhood teams at the heart of your community.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams - locally based police officers, supported by Police Community Support Officers on the streets and Police Neighbourhood Support Officers back at the police station - are working hard to bring real, local policing back to Sussex.

Police stations are open to the public for longer; there are more officers on uniform patrol; victims of crime are getting a better service.

All over Sussex, local police are actively working with their communities - sharing responsibility for making neighbourhoods safer.

www.sussex.police.uk



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

This section tells you about a wide range of services provided by the CRP and its partners:

ABANDONED VEHICLES

Rapid removal of abandoned vehicles. To report an incident, contact Community Services by telephoning **01273 484999** or email: precep@lewes.gov.uk

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) WORKING GROUP

Confidential monthly meeting to consider the worst cases of anti-social behaviour and deal with priority and persistent offenders. The group includes representatives from the police, council, youth offending team, education welfare, social services and probation services. To report any anti-social behaviour, contact Lewes Police on **0845 60 70 999** or visit any of the area's police stations.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CO-

ORDINATORS Deals with non social housing nuisance neighbour problems, the development of the Local Action Teams and general advice on local anti-social behaviour related services. The ASB coordinators for Lewes District are Alistair Parkin and Julie Thompson who can be contacted on **01273 484339**.

CLEAN AND GREEN TEAM

Lewes District Council is creating a district-wide Clean and Green Team which will be able to issue Fixed Penalty notices to anybody committing environmental crime eg. litter and fly-tipping, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and dog fouling. For more information please contact Ian Stratton on **01273 484369** or email ian.stratton@lewes.gov.uk

DOG WARDENS

Collection of stray dogs, dog fouling enforcement, animal welfare, animal nuisance and promotion of responsible dog ownership. To report an incident contact Community Services on **01273 484999**.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS

Take action to deal with litter, fly-tipping and

noise nuisance. To report an incident contact Community Services on **01273 484999**

HIGH HEDGES

For any complaints about hedges over two metres high which unreasonably restrict light to a home and/or garden, there is now a process to resolve complaints where the matter could not be resolved amicably. To report an incident contact Community Services on **01273 484999**

HOUSING OFFICERS

Ensure that council tenants behave in a civilised manner and comply with their tenancy agreements. Action taken includes visits, warning letters and in the worst case eviction and injunctions. To report social housing related anti-social behaviour, ring **01273 471600** and ask for your area housing officer.

INDEPENDENT MEDIATION SERVICE

Provides free and independent advice including help to resolve difficult neighbour disputes about noise, abusive behaviour, animals, boundary issues or vandalism. To access this service contact Community Services on **01273 484999**

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

(PCSOs) These officers work throughout the district to provide a high visibility presence and deal with anti-social behaviour, minor offences and support front line policing. To contact your PCSO call Lewes Police on **0845 60 70 999** or visit your local police station.

Useful Web Sites:

www.caddie.gov.uk

www.crimereduction.gov.uk

www.together.gov.uk www.sussex.police.uk

www.crimeinfo.org.uk www.lewes.gov.uk

This booklet can be made available in other formats on request. Please contact Lewes District Council on **01273 484141 or email lewesdc@lewes.gov.uk**



Working together for a safer community

The Lewes District Crime Reduction Partnership consists of Lewes District Council, Sussex Police, East Sussex County Council, Sussex Police Authority, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and the Primary Care Trust.

It is our shared aim to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for all residents of the District. To be able to achieve this, we have developed a three year strategy, which you can find at the following website:

www.lewes.gov.uk/community/5231.asp

Be part of a Local Action Team

One of our most recent initiatives is to involve local people in action groups called Local Action Teams. The main purpose of a Local Action Team is to deal with specific, local crime issues. There are five Local Action Teams in our District: The Rural Local Action Team, Lewes Town Local Action Team, Peacehaven & Telscombe Local Action Team, Seaford Local Action Team and Newhaven Local Action Team.

The Crime Reduction Partnership needs YOU!

If you have any issues on crime or Anti-Social Behaviour, please use the relevant phone numbers set in the booklet.

For Lewes and the Rural areas please call Alistair Parkin (Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator) on **01273 484339**

For Peacehaven & Telscombe, Newhaven and Seaford please call Julie Thompson (Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator) on **01273 484339**

Alternatively, you can email: alistair.parkin@lewes.gov.uk
and julie.thompson@lewes.gov.uk

