



WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Leeds police District

Crime Reduction Team

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Local residents

Surrounding area of: Leeds District.

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Dear local residents,

I am a West Yorkshire Police Crime Reduction Officer for Leeds District and as such wish to make you aware of recent crime trends within your area. Please note and consider my recommendations to prevent yourselves becoming a victim of crime. I would appreciate it if this correspondence could be shared with any social media sites you are members of or local sports or social clubs you are involved with. Circulate this message to raise awareness of criminal trends and encourage as many as possible to implement some of the recommendations suggested.

Criminal activity

It is apparent that professional burglar's prefer to target properties in order to steal desirable vehicles. Specifically, houses are more at risk if certain makes of vehicle are associated with them. The favoured targets have proven to be **VW's, Audi, BMW and Mercedes**. However if they find the keys all makes are at risk. The in-built security of these vehicles often requires an offender to be in possession of the keys which is where the burglary comes into play. Although some of these modern desirable vehicles may be fitted with an SOS sim tracker, this should not be considered as sufficient security or relied upon to locate a vehicle once stolen. The after sales security of expensive vehicles is still considered to be the owner's responsibility. Seek professional advice in terms of additional tracking devices and improve the chances of a stolen vehicle being recovered.

Burglary Dwellings.

PRIORITY. Door cylinder locks.

- Your door locks, are they Euro profile cylinders? As found in PVC or composite doors. If so ensure they are Snap Safe cylinders.
- Secure by Design **TS007 three star** cylinders or **Sold Secure Diamond standard** are the police recommended specification. Easy to fit, you can do it yourself in seconds. Many locksmith sites have instructions on how to measure and how to fit them.
- The 3 stars can either be obtained with a lone cylinder or by using a 1* cylinder and adding a security handle which adds a further 2 stars. The majority of composite doors will have the lock size 30/30mm or 35/35mm. Rear outward opening French doors or PVCu doors will be different, so measure before purchasing the new locks.
- A security handle will add a further two stars to whatever your cylinder is although, if you have a three star cylinder then the addition of a security handle may be added expense over and above the recommended standard it would however add a further visual deterrent.

- The handles are usually size (A) small (screw holes under the spindle and under the cylinder) or (B) large, (screws at the top and bottom of the handle). There are some variations so check first.
- New on the market is the 'Lock Lock' by Brisant. This is a single security handle which locks the handles spindle in place at the flick of a switch and is compatible for full through cylinders, half cylinders or no cylinder doors. This is a secure by Design product and is accredited with 2 stars as are all makes of security handle.
- **Car key security.** If you have an expensive desirable car then spend a little more on your house security and look after your keys.
- Take them to bed with you. If you are concerned offenders will come into your bedroom for them, then consider this. Chances are they won't but just in case take them upstairs and leave them on the landing outside your bedroom. In any case block in the most desirable car with the least desirable.
- They maybe retro but steering locks are still a good deterrent.
- Consider a battery operated driveway alert that will notify you of external movement.

Consider warranties before doing the following.

- Add Sash Jammers to doors and windows. Note that these do not fit to flush fitting doors such as composite or uPVC. All doors, windows and their component parts should reach the **PAS24 standard**.
- **Outward opening double patio doors.** Fasten the sash Jammers to the top and bottom of the door then two more to the central beam of the second opening door. There will probably be no metal security strip under the plastic to contend with here unlike on inward opening external door frames.
- Where warranty issues arise, consider using a 'Patlock' which is a Secure by Design product designed for double handled French opening doors or as previously mentioned the Brisant Lock Lock handles also Secure by Design.
- **House Alarms.** If you are to get one fitted professionally ensure the company is SIA or SSAIB accredited and get three quotes for the identical capabilities. There are however, DIY wireless versions available that would be sufficient for a typical town house or mid- size residence. Under £200 will secure one. If you have a centrally positioned town house an alarm is still recommended.
- **Windows.** Fasten Sash Jammers to the largest openers and always start at the rear of the house, then the side and finally the front which is the least likely to be attacked.
- **Internal security.** Make sure all your gold, jewellery and other valuables are security marked look at using UV marker pens, Smart-water or Selecta Mark DNA marking kits.
- Take a close up digital photograph of each item especially identifiable features or markings, then take a further photograph of you wearing it proving ownership. Then download them and make a copy. Keep one with your household documents and the other with another family member.
- Its traumatic enough being burgled but having to deal with insurance companies when you have no proof of ownership often compounds the matter.
- Smartphones, do you know the EMEI security number of your phone. You can get this by putting in *#06#. Log it and keep it safe, it is needed to block your number after a theft.
- Does your phone or computer have a Tracker App? if so keep it switched on

- TV's and computers can be security cabled to wall bracket and stands to make them more difficult to move.

Think like an offender. The majority of attacks are at the rear of the premises. Look at your house and identify the weaknesses from as far away from your building line as possible

- Is the gate locked? Or could it be?
- Does the house have an alarm box? Does it look new and in good working order? It needs to be.
- Would defensive planting assist in protecting ground floor windows?
- Deterrent signage, is there any? 'Beware of the dog'. CCTV in operation. 'Covert CCTV'. 'Premises alarmed' etc.
- Consider using a fake or simulated light activated TV in an upstairs bedroom.
- When you leave the house, leave lights on and a radio. If there isn't anybody in then it should look like there is. Don't just put lights on a timer also use one on a radio that can be heard from outside.
- Does a security light come on as they approach? Get lighting. Dusk till dawn is recommended and cheaper to run. **Failure to put in place a combination of the above may draw the offender closer to you building line.**

Gates.

- Would a side gate be feasible to block access to the side and rear of your premises? This is important. Make it high enough and not like a ladder to climb over. Aim for over 1.8 meters and add to the height with none weight bearing trellis inter-woven with spikey cuttings. In addition look at adding a product called Prikka Strip or fence spikes to the tops of fences or gates. This is a cheap option at about £10 for four metres and it does not have a height limit.

Rear garden.

- Remove the means to commit crime. If they get this far, have you left anything out for them to smash a window or force a door. Is there a shed to break into? If you could do it, so could they? Think Shed Bars, quality padlocks and use security screws and coach bolts to fasten hinges and hasps.
- Is it alarmed with a shed alarm or an extension to your house alarm? Can offenders see what's inside? If you have nothing valuable inside let them see. If you keep bikes, mowers etc in there then don't let them see and fasten them all together with security cables. The glass could be mirrored with a fine dusting of silver spray paint on the inside. This lets light in but reflects light back out especially torches.
- Fasten roof and wall struts together with L brackets. Glue external beading down and secure with security screws, cross head and slot head screws alternately leaving them slightly proud, this holds the glass in place if the beading is split.
- Use a Secure by Design (SBD) Shed Shackle to secure all valuables to the inside of the shed or if you have a concrete floor use a ground anchor and chain.
- Move wheelie bins away from the building line and flat roofs. Prevent them being used as a climbing aids and chain them together. Do the same with ladders.

Number Plate theft.

- These are stolen for a variety of reasons. To mask the identity of like vehicles already stolen or as part of a planned future targeted theft. They are also used on vehicles to assist in the theft of fuel from service stations. Ensure they are secure with security screws.

- Please note that no one preventative measure will secure a premises or vehicle. A layered approach to security is the most effective deterrent. Very much like peeling an onion whereby you start deterring offenders from as far away from your building line as possible. An offender will take into account a number of visual aspects to your property when deciding to commit an offence. These recommendations are designed to change an offenders mind at the earliest possible opportunity.

Domestic safes.

- Don't put them in the bottom of your wardrobe, this is too obvious. If they are not of the appropriate standard then they are nothing more than metal handbags and the more valuable contents may not be covered by house insurance.
- The standard required for domestic use is Euro grade 0 (zero) which is Association of Insurance Surveyor (AIS) approved. This allows content cover of £6,000 cash and £60,000 worth of jewellery or other valuables. Floor safes are available in the same standards. Contact a security company who's a member of the Master Locksmiths Association for appropriate advice. Check with your insurer during the process to ensure cover.

A single preventative measure will not suffice, a layered approach to crime reduction is required to cater for the variation in house locations and styles. Different offenders use different methods for different reasons dependant on what their target is and what their abilities are. The aim is to reduce the highest percentage risk to your property from the different types of offender and the varied methods they use.

There are so many products and tactics available when it comes to protecting your vehicle and property with only some being generic to all. The priority here is ensure your locks are of the appropriate standard and your pride and joy it still on the drive in the morning.

Why would you protect personal, sentimental items and vehicles worth thousands with cheap sub-standard and vulnerable Euro profile cylinder locks?

These suggestions are just a few that may well assist. Please help us by preventing crime in your area. Reduced crime and improved security reduces insurance premiums for vehicles and properties.

Go onto the WYP website and start up a Neighbourhood watch within your area.

Your NW co-ordinator is diane.winder@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk . Look at all information available about your local police contacts by following links on www.westyorkshire.police.uk/npt

Please report any suspicious activity to the police. Use 101, **Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111** or report on line. Consider times, dates, makes and colours of vehicles, registrations, clothing and descriptions etc.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding crime reduction matters then feel free to contact me and I will do my best to recommend potential solutions.

Regards,

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