

Community Safety

The newsletter from
Hart District Council



Issue 34 February 2024

This Newsletter aims to provide information around safeguarding and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), raise awareness of current issues across the district and promote the good work of our partner agencies and celebrate the successes we have had.

We can be contacted online: [Report antisocial behaviour | Hart District Council](#)

by phone: **01252 774476** or by e-mail: communitysafety@hart.gov.uk

Online Dangers and Measures to Protect

6th February 2024 marked this year's Safer Internet Day which followed Part 10 of the Online Safety Act 2023 coming into force on the 31st January 2024. The following new communication offences have been created:



- [False communications offence](#)
- [Threatening communications offence](#)
- [Offences of sending or showing flashing images electronically](#)
- [Offences of encouraging or assisting serious self-harm](#)

The Act has also created the additional offences of **sending photographs or film of genitals** and **sharing or threatening to share intimate photograph or film** which are to be inserted into the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Such offences have been known to lead to losing control of the image(s)/video(s), blackmail or bullying and experiencing online harassment which can all have a profound impact of mental health of those involved.

These new offences deal with serious issues affecting vulnerable people, victims of domestic abuse and children, therefore it is important to create strong partnerships among professionals, schools, charities and communities to prevent harm and promote awareness.

Hart Community Safety Team have begun partnership work with local policing teams and schools to engage with young people to help with education and support around this topic. It is absolutely key that any partnership work includes parents/guardians as much as possible so schools will advise parents/guardians when assemblies covering the Online Safety Act 2023 will take place so discussion can be had at home around the input the students have received.



safe4me

For further information, see [the guide to the Online Safety Bill 2023](#) and Hampshire Constabulary's free education resources through their [Safe4Me](#) webpage.

Involving Young People

The Youth Commission for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (HIOW) is a brilliant opportunity for all young people to gain new knowledge, skills and experiences, and have their say on crime and policing issues that matter most to them and can even have the power to help shape decisions about policing and crime.

[Applications](#) are now open for young people aged 14-24 to apply to join the Youth Commission and we would encourage all of you to share this with your networks to promote a diversity of voices to be included and in particular for the north of the county to be well represented as issues affecting our young people may differ from what their peers in the south of the county experience.



In addition, our young people also have the opportunity to join the HIOW Youth Independent Advisory Group.

This provides young people a chance to have a say in how the Police deliver their service, contribute towards strategic planning, work towards building trust and confidence between young people and the Police and present recommendations to Police Boards, the Police & Crime Commissioner and other partners.

Community Safety in Action

The Hart Community Safety team took part in **Community in Motion** training last week supported by the Safer Streets 5 funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner for HIOW. These sessions promote leadership within communities and are designed to support action to be taken, no matter how small, to be able to make a difference when we witness domestic abuse or violence within our communities.

It is not about encouraging anyone to put themselves at risk, or to wade in and potentially escalate a situation further but it is about understanding the psychology behind why we sometimes shy away from 'getting involved' and how to be able to make a difference by taking the active choice to do something to help. Put in simple terms, it moves to an action breeds action standpoint rather than inaction breeding inaction.

We will be delivering this session to our colleagues shortly and will then look to offer the session out to community groups - **if you are interested in attending this training, or are part of a group that you feel would really benefit from this**, please drop us a line at communitysafety@hart.gov.uk and we will be in touch to arrange a session with you.

Please also drop us a line if you are interested in becoming a trainer in this subject yourself as the 2 day Train The Trainer course is planned to take place again 0900-1600 on 2nd and 22nd May 2024 (you need to attend both dates to cover the complete course content) – venue as yet to be confirmed but likely to be in Winchester as this is a county wide offering. **There are 20 spaces available.**

Quick Reminder - Have Your Say

Hampshire County Council's public consultation is still open to ask for people's views on the future of some local services to help the Authority meet the £132 million budget shortfall by April 2025. [Submit your response here](#) – the consultation closes 31 March, 2024.

Independent Custody Visitors

Are you interested in people? Do you have some spare time? Would you like to ensure people in police custody are well looked after? If you have answered yes to these questions, you could become an Independent Custody Visitor and receive training to carry out a minimum of 8 visits per year to the Police Investigation Centre in Basingstoke (travel expenses refunded).

This role helps to support vulnerable people at a very critical point in their lives and ensures all detainees are treated fairly and with respect.

For more information, contact: opcc.icv.scheme@hampshire.police.uk

If you have received this monthly **Hart Community Safety Newsletter** forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe and receive it directly, please drop us a line with your request at:
communitysafety@hart.gov.uk