

Sussex Alerts- Brighton & Hove Police

Friday March 29th 2024

As we wave goodbye to March we had hoped for some better weather to have blessed us by now but alas the rain remains. In spite of the relentless British weather, we have had a busy month and below are just some of the highlights which I wish to share with you.

Before doing that I wanted to draw your attention to a recent article published on our Sussex Police website [here](#). The article details an incident where one of our female officers on another division was assaulted and hospitalised in the line of duty. I wish to highlight this case and echo the words of our East Sussex Divisional Superintendent, Rachel Swinney. Our committed officers are here to protect the public and keep everyone safe and being assaulted, whilst being a risk faced by emergency workers, is absolutely unacceptable and not “part of the job”.

County Line Intensification Week

Between 4-10th March we joined our colleagues across the country for County Lines Intensification week and ramped up our efforts to combat wide-scale drug dealing in Sussex.

Brighton & Hove officers kick started the week with an arrest of two individuals, a mere 500 metres from John Street Police Station within 20 minutes of their shift starting. The pair had travelled from London in a hire car and were found in possession of 80-100 wraps of illegal drugs.

As well as making arrests and removing harmful drugs and weapons from the streets of Brighton & Hove, we worked with partners including local schools, councils and support services to get the message out there about protecting children and preventing them from becoming involved in County Lines drug-dealing. Our work out in the community was supported by a social media campaign to ensure we got the message out to as many people as possible.

Spiking Intensification Week

Spiking Intensification week took place from 18-24th March.

Firstly, I wish to reassure our local communities that incidents of spiking in Sussex are low, and we want to keep it that way. In 2023 there were 255 offences of spiking. By addressing spiking and working with our partners to help create safer spaces we can ensure that people can enjoy going out in Brighton & Hove without fear or harm.

During the intensification week, we worked with our partners to raise awareness about the dangers of spiking, shared information about how to spot the signs of spiking, provided reassurance on the range of action Sussex Police undertakes to tackle spiking and we carried out high visibility patrols in the night-time economy with the use of the drone and drugs dogs outside venues.

As always, intensification weeks simply aim to amplify and put a spotlight on the work we in fact do all year round, which includes:

- Licensing teams working with licensed venues to put in place extra safeguarding and security measures so that people can enjoy their nights out safely.
- Taxi marshals who ensure vulnerable people get home safely.
- Sharing information on safe spaces available.
- Extra patrols in the night-time economy.
- Night Safety Marshals working with our officers to safeguard vulnerable people.

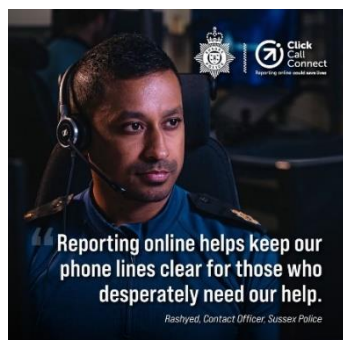
Safer Crime Business Action Month

Throughout March we have also been working very closely with the Brighton & Hove Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) for Safer Crime Business Action Month.

We have carried out a wide variety of work throughout the month which has included high visibility patrols, proactive activity against known offenders and crime prevention messaging.

The results will be published at a later date, but the month has seen some excellent results and some extremely positive interactions with local retailers and businesses in the city.

Click-Call-Connect



We simply cannot stress enough the importance of reporting but your decision about how to report can be the difference between saving a life or not. It is vital phone lines are kept clear for people who need to contact police during a genuine emergency and need assistance urgently.

Our Click Call Connect campaign is designed to help you decide how best to report a non-emergency.

All reports made online are assessed by one of our skilled Contact Officers – the very same people who you would normally speak to if you called 101. 101 does receive a high level of calls and so by reporting online you do not have to spend your time queuing to speak with us, it also leaves the lines clear for anyone who does not have access to the internet.

🖱️ Click report online at <https://www.sussex.police.uk/reportcrime>

☎️ Call 101 when you don't require an urgent response. In an emergency always call 999.

👮 Connect with us face-to-face at your nearest police station or contact point. Contact your local policing team for community matters.

Karen Osborn

Chief Inspector

News

Man charged with spiking and sexual assault in Brighton



Police in Brighton have charged a man with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at a hotel in the city.

A woman in her late teens reported being sexually assaulted after consuming drugs with a man at a hotel in Brighton on Tuesday evening (12 March).

She reported the incident to police and an urgent investigation was launched while she was supported by specialist officers. Read more [here](#).

Drug driver sentenced for causing serious collision in Brighton



A van driver who was over the drugs limit caused a serious collision with a motorcycle rider in Brighton.

James Pateman carried out a careless manoeuvre turning from Howard Terrace into New England Road in the city. Learn more [here](#)

Drug dealer sentenced after using taxi in Brighton



A drug dealer who was stopped by specialist firearms officers in Brighton has been sentenced.

Officers from the Tactical Firearms Unit were carrying out plain-clothes patrols in the city to support efforts to disrupt the supply of drugs. Read more [here](#).

Identity appeal following assault in Portslade



Police are appealing for information following an unprovoked assault in Portslade.

It is reported that at around 7.20pm on 7 March an unknown man assaulted a woman outside Tesco, Station Road.

Officers have now released an image of a person they believe can help with their enquiries.

If you recognise the man, or have any information, contact police online or call 101 quoting serial 1190 of 07/03.

Information & Advice

Immobilise



[Immobilise](#) is a free online national property register which enables the public to record details of their property, including valuables and phones. Police forces are given access to the database with the aim of enabling them to identify and repatriate stolen property to its owner.

Home Security

Going away this Easter?

Follow these tips to help keep your home safe while you're away:

- Make sure all access points are secured (doors, windows, gates) and activate any external security lighting that you may have
- Lock and remove the keys from windows and doors and put them in a safe place when you leave the house
- Ask a trusted neighbour or friend to collect post, open and close curtains

- Ensure gardening equipment, tools and ladders are put away and securely stored. Don't leave them lying around in your garden as they could aid burglars
- Ensure that any sheds and outbuildings are locked and secured. Use good quality locks on garages and sheds (ensure screws on latches and hinges cannot be undone easily from the outside) and where possible ensure that they are alarmed

You can find more safety advice on our website [here](#).

Hate Crime




A hate crime is committed when a person is targeted due to their disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Hate crime will never be tolerated.

If you're a victim or witness a hate crime, we want you to tell us about it.

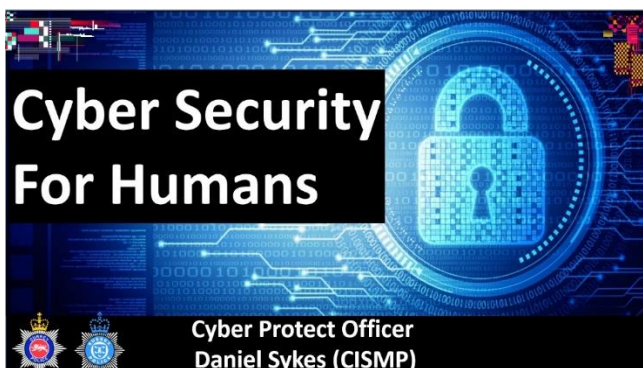
You can report:



 online <http://spkl.io/61804L1Z8>

 Via our 101 non-emergency number or 999 in an emergency.

Every report made helps us to better protect our communities and catch criminals. Nothing is too small to report.

Online Safety



 You can see and register for upcoming webinars here. [Online Safety and Cyber Security Webinars | Eventbrite](#) 

Delivered by our Protect Officer for Surrey and Sussex Police Cyber Crime Unit to empower you with knowledge to navigate the digital world safely.

General Cyber Security and Online Fraud Awareness – For those already somewhat comfortable using technology. This session will cover everything you need to know to massively reduce your chance of becoming a victim and also empower you with knowledge to help the ones you love and care for. 📱

Gentle Learning Version – This session covers the topics above but in a slower paced and more accessible format for people less confident with technology. 📱

Safeguarding Humanity: The risks of AI (Artificial Intelligence) – AI has taken the world by storm and introduces many benefits as well as highly sophisticated methods of Fraud and Cyber Crime. This shorter yet cutting edge talk will empower you to use AI tools safely whilst also making yourself and your family resilient to AI generated scams. 🗂️

Sussex Safer Roads Partnership



It's illegal to hold and use a phone, sat nav, tablet, or any device that can send or receive data, while driving or riding a motorcycle.

THE FACTS: This means you must not use a device in your hand for any reason, whether online or offline. For example, you must not text, make calls, take photos or videos, or browse the web.

The law still applies to you if you're:

- ✗ stopped at traffic lights
- ✗ queuing in traffic
- ✗ supervising a learner driver
- ✗ driving a car that turns off the engine when you stop moving
- ✗ holding and using a device that's offline or in flight mode

EXCEPTIONS: You can use a device held in your hand if:

- ✅ you need to call 999 or 112 in an emergency and it's unsafe or impractical to stop
- ✅ you're safely parked
- ✅ you're making a contactless payment in a vehicle that is not moving, for example at a drive-through restaurant

✔ you're using the device to park your vehicle remotely

Staying in full control of your vehicle The police can stop you if they think you're not in control because you're distracted and you can be prosecuted.

Mental Health Services

Details of free mental health services in Sussex for anyone who needs help or support. Remember, you are not alone. Please reach out if you need to speak to someone.



Night Time Economy



If you know or suspect someone who has spiked people with drugs or alcohol, give information at <http://Fearless.org>

You can contact Fearless and report 100% anonymously - a safe space to give information on crime.



Concerned about needle or drink spiking in Brighton & Hove?

We want to emphasise that we take your reports about this seriously.

If you think you have been spiked, report it to police as soon as possible.

Spiking is still nationally under-reported, so every piece of information you give us is vital and may help us catch an offender later down the line.

If you're concerned about someone's safety on a night out and think they might have been spiked, speak to bar staff, and ask for their help.

For tips on how to stay safe from drink spiking, visit our website or Talk to Frank:

<https://www.talktofrank.com/news/spiking>

To report spiking to us - report online or call 101.

In an emergency, call 999.



For non-emergency incidents or crime prevention advice, click www.sussex.police.uk, (If you report a crime online, we will assess it in the same way as a 101 call).

Call 101 when you don't require an urgent response. In an emergency when life is threatened or there is immediate danger always call 999.

Connect with us face-to-face at a police station or contact the local policing team at www.sussex.police.uk/area/your-area.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, you can contact us using TypeTalk on 18000 or by sending a text to 65999.

Follow your local Police team on social media, find us on  **and** 