

## Safe and Sound (Redditch)

August 2017

### North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership

Chair – Sue Hanley

Welcome to August's edition of Safe and Sound. This month I would like to draw your attention to doorstep crime.

Doorstep traders can be genuine, but sometimes rogue traders turn up on your doorstep claiming they are on official business from the council, are there to read your gas or electricity meter or sometimes even from the water board, which doesn't exist! Once you've let them into your home, they distract your attention and steal money or goods, often by having a second person working with them.

Research shows that fewer crimes are committed in areas where there is a supportive community. You can help to support the elderly or vulnerable people around you, who may be potential targets for rogue doorstep traders, by being aware of the tactics they use and how to handle them.

For example, you can call 101 to let the police know about suspicious people, activity or vehicles in your neighbourhood, however insignificant it may seem. Encourage vulnerable people not to open the door if someone they are not expecting or they do not recognise is at the door. Remind them to always secure the door bar or chain (if they have one) before opening the door and check the caller's identity carefully - if in doubt, keep them out! Tell them that it's OK to say 'no'! It's their doorstep and their decision; encourage them to have the confidence to say to the caller:

- I don't buy goods or services at the door
- I'd like more time to think about it
- I want to shop around and get other quotes or
- I have to discuss it with someone else

If a distraction burglary has taken place, report it straight away to Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 08454 04 05 06 and contact West Mercia Police on 101. You can also report scams on the Action Fraud website at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk). Always dial 999 if a crime is in progress. More information and a No Cold Calling leaflet to display in your door is available at <https://www.westmercia.police.uk>.

For further information about North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership, please visit [www.nwcsp.org](http://www.nwcsp.org). Follow us on Twitter @SaferRedditch.