



# Protecting Vulnerable People Newsletter

Issue 8 - December 2017

## Message from Detective Chief Inspector Gavin Dudfield

Increasingly fraud is becoming more complex and deceptive, much of which is targeted at vulnerable and elderly people.

The impact of fraud on victims is not only financial. The emotional impact is significant and includes guilt, misplaced trust and diminished confidence, which can have detrimental effects on the physical and mental health of the victim, as well as increased social isolation.

Understandably, everyone is busy preparing for the festive season, but it is important to remember that vulnerable members of our communities still need the vigilance and support of professionals and other members of the public to help protect them from being targeted.



Detective Chief Inspector  
Gavin Dudfield

**Public Protection lead  
for adults**

## Fraud types

Fraud is when trickery is used to gain a dishonest advantage, which is often financial, over another person. It can be initiated through emails, letters, telephone calls and face to face contact. Fraudsters attempt to trick people with flashy, official looking documents, websites and technical jargon, with the sole purpose of financial gain.

A list of scams and fraud affecting Dorset can be found by visiting [dorset.police.uk/fraud](http://dorset.police.uk/fraud)

## Cyber-crime

Cyber-crime is a fast growing area of crime. Today, nearly everything can be done online and criminals are exploiting the speed, convenience and anonymity of the internet to commit a diverse range of criminal activities.

Cyber-crimes include traditional crimes such as theft and fraud, referred to as cyber-enabled crimes, for example phishing emails containing insecure attachments, and passwords that are easy to penetrate are commonly targeted by cyber criminals.

Cyber-dependant crimes target the integrity of computers and computer networks. These pose a threat to not only individuals and business, but to national security and infrastructure too. Ransomware and CEO fraud are common kinds of cyber-dependent crimes.

For more information about cyber-crime and how to stay safe online visit [www.dorset.police.uk/cybercrime](http://www.dorset.police.uk/cybercrime)



If you think your staff or local community would benefit from a cyber-crime prevention presentation from Dorset Police's Cyber-Crime Prevention Officer Jake Moore, please email [cybercrimeprevention@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cybercrimeprevention@dorset.pnn.police.uk)

## Telephone scams

Scammers will telephone a potential victim purporting to be from their bank, the police or other well-known agencies. They then trick the person into handing over large quantities of cash, vouchers, debit or credit card numbers, personal information, or even their PIN.

Fraudsters are cunning in their phone-scam tactics and it's not always easy or obvious to tell straight away whether it's a scam. Some are even claiming to be from internet providers requesting remote access to devices in an effort to extract personal details and money. You will never be asked for your personal banking details over the phone and should never give them to anyone. Never give anyone remote access to your device unless you can verify who they are.



## Doorstep crime

Doorstep crimes are carried out by dishonest sales people who call, often uninvited, at people's homes under the guise of a legitimate business or trade. There are two types of doorstep crime:

**Distraction burglary** whereby someone attempts to use convincing stories to manipulate their way into someone's home. They may claim to be from a reputable authority such as a utility company. Once inside the property they will steal goods or distract the occupier while an unseen accomplice takes items.

**Rogue traders** offer a home occupier services such as gardening work, gutter cleaning, window cleaning or other maintenance and claim the work is necessary for the occupier's own safety or that the local council has authorised the work. They will then demand payment for the work at a cost often higher than quoted.



For more information about how to protect you and your personal information visit [dorset.police.uk/scams](https://dorset.police.uk/scams) or [buywithconfidence.gov.uk](https://buywithconfidence.gov.uk)

## How can you help?

One of the most important things you can do is to simply talk to vulnerable people you care for within a professional role, as well as relatives and neighbours, to make them aware of what sorts of scams could be targeted at them and how to protect themselves from becoming victims.

### Prevention advice:

- Be suspicious of all 'too good to be true' offers and deals
- Do not agree to offers immediately. Take decisions in your own time – don't feel pressurised to make hasty decisions
- Do not hand over money or sign anything until you have checked the credentials of the company or individual
- Never let anyone into your property or send or give money to anyone you don't know or trust
- Check people are who they say they are – contact the company directly to confirm their identity
- Don't share your personal information with anyone
- Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on links provided in an email
- If in doubt phone a relative or a friend
- Fraud is a crime, please report it! By reporting it to Action Fraud we can work to prevent them deceiving others

Visit [dorset.police.uk/fraud](https://dorset.police.uk/fraud) for more information and the latest fraud alerts to be aware of in Dorset.

# Sign up for crime alerts and prevention tips in your area



Find out more information  
and sign up for FREE at  
[www.dorsetalert.co.uk](http://www.dorsetalert.co.uk)

To receive the latest alerts by email or phone, sign up to the community messaging service Dorset Alert by speaking to your local neighbourhood officers, neighbourhood watch coordinator or by visiting [www.dorsetalert.co.uk](http://www.dorsetalert.co.uk)

## How to report

Fraud is known to be under-reported as victims describe feeling ashamed and in addition, vulnerable members of our society may be even less likely to speak up if they have been exploited. That is why it is so important that professionals and other members of the public ensure they support vulnerable members of the community and report any concerns if they believe someone is a victim of fraud or is being exploited.

As the UK's national fraud reporting centre, Action Fraud should be your first point of contact if you or someone you know has been a victim of fraud.

- Action Fraud: **0300 123 2040**, or online: [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)
- Crimestoppers: **0800 555 111**

If you believe **anybody** is being exploited in **any way** please contact the police immediately.

**ActionFraud**  
Report Fraud & Internet Crime  
[actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk)

 **Dorset  
CRIMESTOPPERS**  
**0800 555 111**  
Working in partnership with the police



## For more information

Are there any areas of PVP you would like to know more about?

Please email [PVP@Dorset.PNN.Police.UK](mailto:PVP@Dorset.PNN.Police.UK) or visit [www.dorset.police.uk/pvp](http://www.dorset.police.uk/pvp)

Dorset Police is asking for your opinions on this newsletter. What information do you need or want to see? What resources can we provide you with?

Please provide feedback or unsubscribe by emailing [PVP@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:PVP@dorset.pnn.police.uk)