



CrimeStoppers.

Spring 2023

Connections

Giving people the power to speak up and stop crime

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

One in six suffer sexual harassment by age of 10, Crimestoppers study reveals

FEELING SAFE AT HOME

Housing provider Abri launches new partnership

FUGITIVES FOILED

Making the most of Most Wanted

Supporting the Met to root out corruption

New dedicated Crimestoppers service among first steps to rebuild trust

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FOUNDER AND CHAIR'S WELCOME

Building trust, giving hope

Welcome to the 5th edition of Crimestoppers' Connections.

As we mark over 35 years since the charity was born, it gives me great pleasure to know how phenomenally successful Crimestoppers has become.



Connections magazine is all about spotlighting some of our key partnerships through the eyes of those we work closely with. It gives me incredible pride to know that there are so many organisations out there who share our values and want to cooperate with us (for the common good).

By working together, we are helping to break down the barriers to reporting crime, backed by our promise of anonymity.

Whilst our core partners are the police and the wider law enforcement community, we are proud to join forces with so many others, from public sector bodies such as the NHS, to charities, local authorities, housing associations and private companies. These include well-known brands such as high street and online banks, supermarkets and retailers.

We also value our vital relationships with the Home Office, national governments and assemblies, and the Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) who contribute to shaping our priorities. Their input keeps us relevant by focusing on the most harmful and pressing crimes and crime types.

The tools at our disposal include offering high-profile rewards, along with our Most Wanted appeals. Combining these with our campaigns – local, regional, national

and with our business partners – ensures we boost our profile so that those who may need us know we exist.

The reassurance of anonymity

Crimestoppers makes sure that there is an alternative way for law enforcement to benefit from untapped community intelligence.

This information might otherwise never come to light. We are uniquely placed to reach and connect with people and communities who simply won't, or are not able to, speak directly to the police.

Support for police partners

We know that policing – always difficult at the best of times – is experiencing amongst its toughest hours. And here too, we are playing our part by running both internal and public-facing reporting lines for forces to get the information they need to tackle abuse and wrongdoing from within.

We are keen to back law enforcement as they begin to take the necessary steps to rebuild trust and confidence.

We all depend on each other and, therefore, must support each other.

Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC, Founder and Chair of Crimestoppers

A snapshot of success

At Crimestoppers, we have a passion and a determination to help protect people and communities, reduce crime and ensure justice for victims and their families.

We achieve this thanks to the anonymous information we receive and pass on every single day.

On your side

It's a universal truth that everyone needs someone in a crisis.

Crime can make people feel anxious, scared and unsure about the best way to proceed. Indeed, talking directly to the authorities is simply not an option for around a fifth of people.

They may fear for the consequences or feel that, whilst they want to do something, using the 'normal' channels is not an option. And that's where Crimestoppers comes in.

The information we tease out is, in large part, as a result of the courage of those who contact us, and the effort and commitment of all our staff, especially in our busy 24/7 Contact Centre.

Breadth of activity

I hope you find time to look through Connections as we offer a snapshot of some of our work across the nations and regions.

The head of the Met Police's anti-corruption team spells out his vision for tackling abuse inside the Met following the launch of a Crimestoppers-run service.

Corruption harms policing – and the reputation of the majority of trustworthy, decent police and staff – so I'm keen for our charity to be involved in helping restore faith in the service.

We also learn about a major report, by the University of Suffolk and commissioned by Crimestoppers, which illustrates that sexual harassment in public places starts at a shockingly young age. The NPCC's VAWG lead reflects on the findings.

We've positive news about Most Wanted, our many campaigns including recent County Lines activity, and there's a report on developments at Fearless: a new website, a recent award, a card game with a difference, plus we follow 'a day in the life' of a Fearless worker in Wales.

The High Sheriff of Surrey pens his thoughts after learning more about Crimestoppers during a recent visit. And our volunteering update pauses to reflect on the wonderful life and contribution of Carolyn Randall.

Finally, there's a report about my trip to the BBC's Cardiff studios to appear on



the corporation's flagship Crimewatch Live programme.

Thanks again for appreciating the vital, but often unsung, successes of Crimestoppers – our staff, volunteers and those we work with.

In difficult times, partnership working and sharing challenges brings many benefits, not just for those involved, but crucially for the communities we serve.

Mark Hallas OBE,
Chief Executive of Crimestoppers

New Crimestoppers hotline helps Met Police root out corruption

Met Commander James Harman, head of the Anti-Corruption and Abuse Command, writes of the Met's determination to tackle abuse and restore public trust.

Trust and confidence in policing in recent years has been damaged by far too many cases of violence and abuse perpetrated by those entrusted to protect and uphold the law.

Those who perpetrate these crimes also harm the vast majority of those police officers and police staff who pride themselves on the work they do so professionally, and often courageously, every day – and who begin each shift wanting to do their very best for the public they serve.

Policing by consent

In the United Kingdom, policing only succeeds with the public's consent. Policing by consent is an unwritten concept that's endured since the first Met Police patrols took to the streets nearly 200 years ago.

But more recently, with the conviction of police officers for the most heinous crimes, it has become clear that the Met needed to do so much more to tackle corruption and abuse within its ranks.

As head of the newly created Metropolitan Police Service Anti-Corruption and Abuse Command, myself and all of my colleagues are determined to identify, expose and pursue those who work for us and abuse their position of authority – whether that abuse is financially motivated, sexually motivated or based in hatred and discrimination.

Independent hotline

This is why, as part of our plan, we have commissioned the charity

Crimestoppers to run The Metropolitan Police Anti-Corruption and Abuse Hotline. Crimestoppers is a nationally trusted organisation with decades of experience taking complex information from the public whilst guaranteeing anonymity.

One of the key elements is giving the public a voice to report the actions and behaviour of officers or staff who abuse their power.

As is the case for a number of Crimestoppers dedicated lines, whilst anonymity is the primary guarantee, people can opt-in and give their personal contact details if they choose because, for example, they may wish to be updated or are willing to chat to the investigation team.

Allegations around prejudice, violence and abuse – along with controlling behaviour or associating with criminals – are some of the types of behaviours we are asking the public to report.

We have had an encouraging response since the hotline (and the secure online form facility via the Crimestoppers website) launched in the autumn of 2022.

My team assess the information and pass it to specialist detectives to begin an investigation, take steps to safeguard someone at risk or in danger, or record what they are told to inform future investigations.

Not only are we managing allegations within the Met, but many contacts are about wrongdoing in other forces – which we pass on to the relevant colleagues in those forces. This indicates that the issues in the Met are not exclusive, but a wider issue impacting upon policing that we all need to work together to address.



Commander James Harman

I should also mention that, in addition to the public-facing hotline, an established internal police integrity line – run by Crimestoppers – continues to offer staff an alternative way to speak up, both in the Met and across many other forces. It is positive that we have seen a significant increase in internal reporting into that line.

Rebuilding trust

Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley recently urged the public to be prepared for "more painful stories" as we confront this problem.

The journey ahead will be extremely tough. There will be more concerning headlines as a minority of officers are uncovered and face the criminal justice system that they had hoped to be immune from.

Tough, decisive action must be seen to be taken against corrupt officers and staff in the coming months and years – as well as systemic and cultural improvements in policing – and in doing so, we will demonstrate to the public that real change is happening.

One in six suffer sexual harassment by the age of 10, shock Crimestoppers survey finds.

A major new survey and report, commissioned by Crimestoppers, has shed light on general attitudes to sexual harassment and the age at which victims are targeted.

Of those that responded, around **one in six** people who answered said their first experience of sexual harassment in a public place happened when they were **aged just 10 or even younger**.

The report, by the University of Suffolk and commissioned by Crimestoppers in July 2022, pulled together the responses of 1,800 people.

It follows the impact of the #MeToo movement against sexual abuse and harassment. Crimestoppers also launched a national campaign in January 2023 to challenge attitudes and encourage reporting on those responsible.

Key findings are:

Around one in six participants (16.8%)

first experience occurred when they were aged **10 or younger** (3.7% aged 0-5, 13.1% aged 6-10)

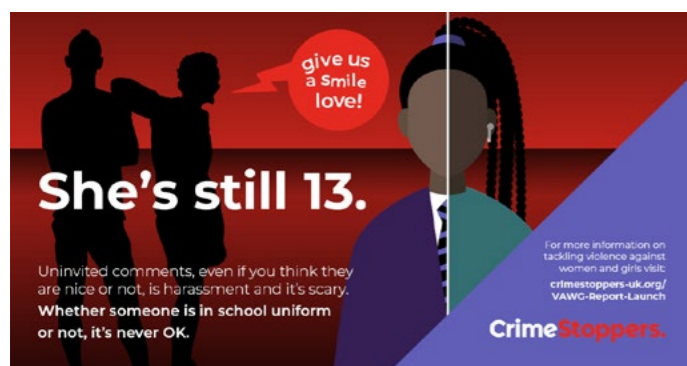
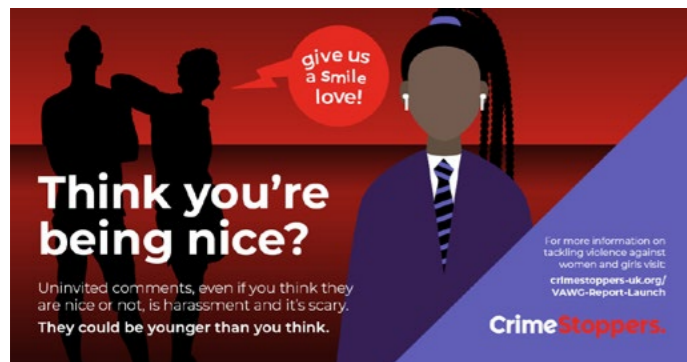
30.9% of participants

first encountered unwanted sexual behaviour between the ages of **14-16**

Almost the same percentage (29%)

first experienced unwanted approaches between **11-13 years**

These shocking findings demonstrate that **the majority** encountered **sexual harassment for the first time** during adolescence or childhood.



“I think a lot of the time, perpetrators are completely oblivious to how their actions are making the other person feel. Being sexually harassed makes me feel genuinely scared for my safety, and scared to anger the person in case they get violent.”

Participant in the study.

Crimestoppers' recent survey found one in six experienced unwanted sexual harassment in public by the age of 10. NPCC's VAWG lead Maggie Blyth reflects on the shocking findings.



DCC Maggie Blyth is the National Police Chiefs' Council Violence Against Women and Girls Coordinator

Since I started my role as policing's National Coordinator for VAWG, I have met with hundreds of victims and survivors, advocates and supporters, who have told me about their experiences.

For so many of them, their lives have been shaped and changed by the violence and abuse that they have suffered. It's their stories which compel me to tackle this epidemic of violence that tragically sees one woman killed by a man every three days in the UK. This is in addition to domestic abuse, which makes up 18% of recorded crime in England and Wales.

The only way that these tragic numbers are going to start reducing is if society comes together to call out the culture that allows this type of violence to flourish.

The statistics in the report, compiled by the University of Suffolk and commissioned by Crimestoppers, demonstrated that 30% of the respondents had first encountered unwanted sexual behaviour between the ages of 14-16. This shocked me, but sadly doesn't surprise me.

Child sexual harassment

Sexual harassment, at any age, can lead to people feeling anxious and depressed. It can also impact self-esteem. When this happens to schoolchildren, it can lead them to avoiding areas where the abuse occurred. This can have a significant knock-on effect on people's education.

Many police forces across the country support their local schools with special educational packages designed to talk about healthy relationships, consent and what constitutes sexual harassment. Working with our colleagues in education is important if, as a society, we want to get to the root causes of violence against women and girls.

We have formed a partnership with the PSHE Association (personal, social, health and economic), and are looking to undertake work on sexual behaviour and the law, to evaluate the role that the police can play in education, by supporting the Personal Social Health Curriculum.

Safe space for all

Everyone has a right to live their lives free of unwanted sexual behaviour. This is why we also support the Government's 'Enough' campaign, which aims to help people call out inappropriate comments and challenge verbal abuse.

Schools should be a safe place for all, so it's important that we listen to the voice of victims and understand how to prevent harm from happening in the first place.



New Fearless website launched

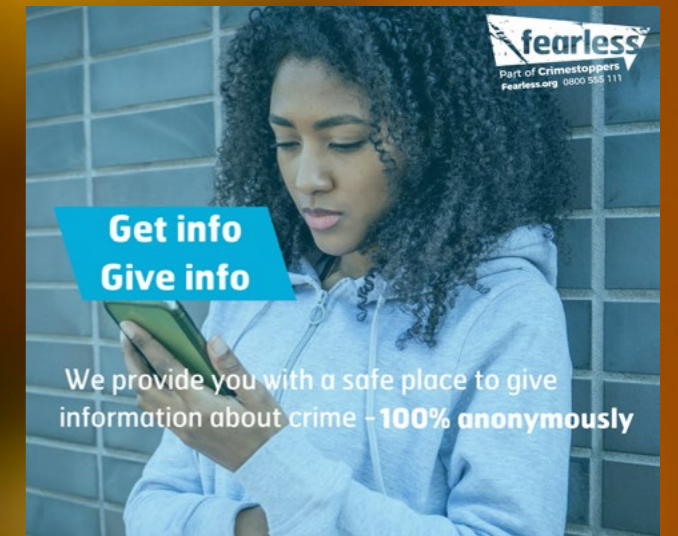
Fearless has updated its website to provide young people and professionals with more information about their service, including a dedicated section for young people to learn more about a range of crime topics.

The most noticeable change is that the Fearless website can now be accessed directly from the Crimestoppers home page by clicking a tab at the top, as well as by visiting www.fearless.org.

What's new on the Fearless website:

- A whole new 'Crime Types Explained' section for young people, which replaces and further builds on the A-Z of crime
- A page dedicated to parents and guardians, providing them with information about Fearless and how best to talk to young people about their options when reporting crime
- A page explaining the Bystander Approach and what it means to be an active bystander
- An all new 'Crime Types Explained' section tailored for professionals and parents/carers
- An FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) page, created in consultation with our Youth Panel.

The ambition is that refreshing the Fearless website to become more integrated with crimestoppers-uk.org will make the service more aligned and accessible.



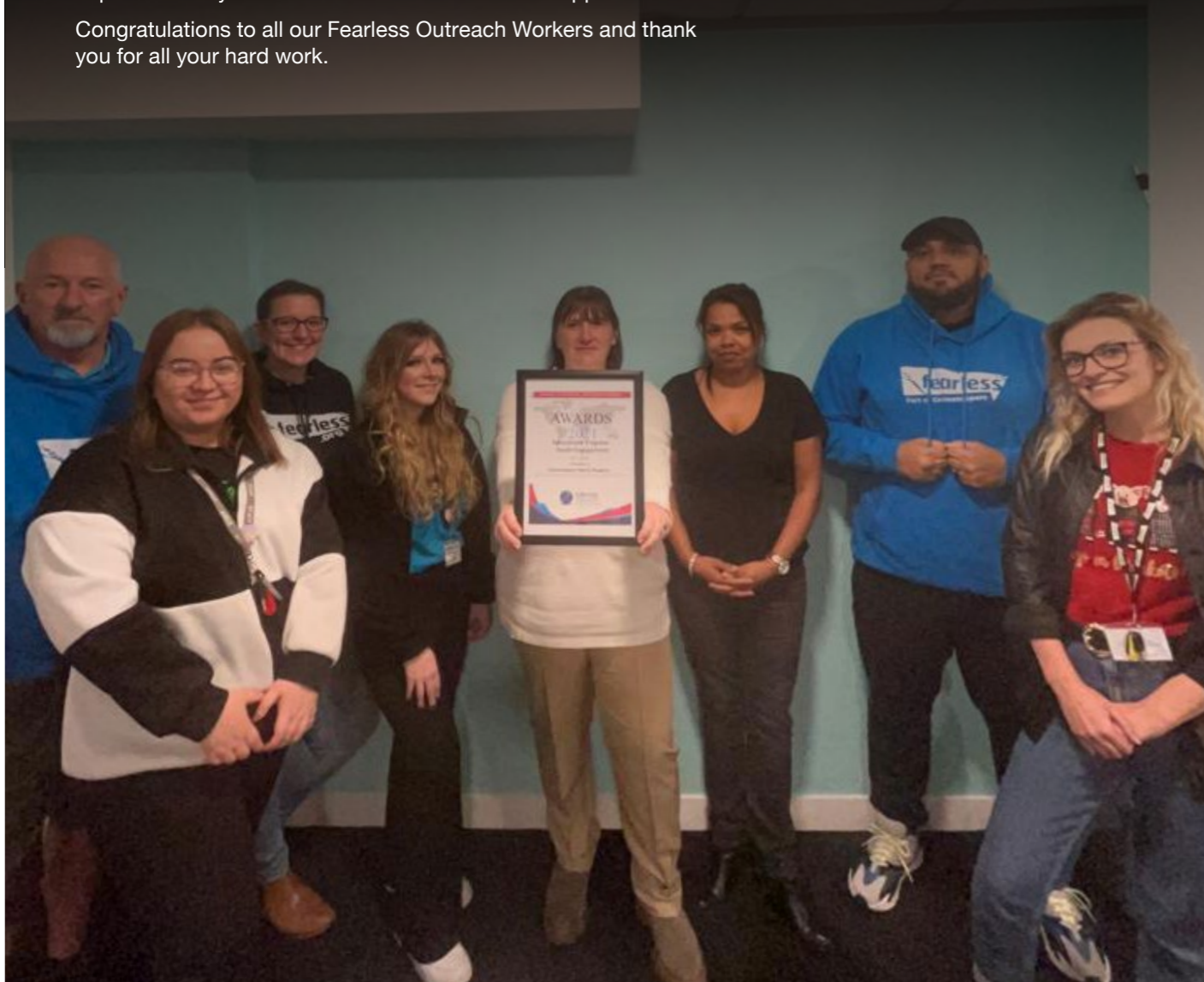
Fearless scoops award at prestigious CSI event

Fearless won an award at the Crimestoppers International conference

The accolade was given to Fearless for 'Specialised Program - Youth Engagement'.

The Fearless team – and all of us at Crimestoppers – were very excited by this news as, across the globe, different Crimestoppers International members now know about Fearless and the importance of youth-focused work within Crimestoppers.

Congratulations to all our Fearless Outreach Workers and thank you for all your hard work.



Card game with a serious purpose produced with Boys Brigade

by Joe Harrison, Boys Brigade Programme Lead



Joe Harrison, Boys Brigade Programme Lead

The Boys Brigade is a uniformed youth organisation that seeks to inspire children and young people, challenging them to live their lives in the fullest sense. We also believe in people's abilities to inspire and act as positive role models to others.

With this value in mind, we saw a great opportunity to partner with Crimestoppers' youth service, Fearless, to develop a 'Fearless & Crime' activity card aimed at the Seniors age group (14-18 years). Sessions or workshops using the card are designed to encourage them to think about a series of scenarios linked to crimes that typically affect young people and to explore further what they might do in each situation. The card also encourages debate and discussion around the choices and consequences being made. The session ends by introducing Fearless.org and explaining how the service works and how they can help to keep their community safe.

Boys Brigade Chief Executive Jonathan Eales said: "It's great to be working in partnership with Fearless to produce a new resource for our Seniors age group. This activity card aims to raise awareness of an important service that was developed through consultation with young people, and aims to break down any barriers that might prevent young people from reporting crime."

Further building on this partnership, Fearless' Youth Projects Coordinator, Lauren Geater, delivered an engaging webinar for our Boys Brigade Leaders. The webinar provided the group of leaders with the opportunity to learn more about Fearless as a service, as well as the barriers that young people face when speaking up about crime. The Leaders were also offered tips and advice on how best to deliver these types of sessions with young people.



A day in the life of a Fearless worker

- Kieron Porter, Gwent, Wales



9:00am

First up is breakfast while I log on and check emails. I respond to any booking enquiries and ensure all my appointments are confirmed for the day ahead. Before setting off, I make sure all my routes are planned to avoid being late.

12:00

Time to head out to my first booking of the day. A local school in Newport is having issues with young people who are said to be showing signs of being involved in County Lines. It's super important to us that we attend and make sure our Fearless message is promoted, and hope the young people take this on board.



5:30pm

Off to our evening session in Hengoed Youth Centre. Delivered a hate crime workshop to a small group of young children who had a lot of concerns about hate speech and how this can be used as a method to bully young people. I spoke with the group and told them about the different types of hate speech among other hate crimes, and was sure to remind the young people to remember to report crimes anonymously through our Fearless website if they did not want to speak to somebody directly.

fearless.org



10:00am

On most days, there will be more than one workshop to run so our job involves a lot of travelling to different locations and venues. We also deliver to various types of groups, from children as young as ten to professionals in work settings. I will often spend time modifying our presentation to fit the needs of the different groups we are delivering to.

11:00am

Catch up with the Fearless Wales team for a 30 minute Teams call to share ideas and talk over any upcoming events.



2:00pm

On to the second workshop of the day at Coleg Gwent this afternoon to discuss the risks, dangers and consequences of knife crime. We'd been informed ahead of time that several young people in the area had heard about or witnessed an incident involving a knife. So it's important we get access to these schools, not only to remind young people of the dangers of carrying weapons, but to make sure they know how they can report crime anonymously through our Fearless website.

4:00pm

Back at home to make changes to the current presentation, as I have a booking for a youth club session – but to a younger group than both of today's sessions. I spend a little bit of time making sure this presentation is age appropriate, as the member of staff requesting the session has mentioned that the group may be a bit worried by some of our more hard-hitting content.

Protecting vulnerable people from courier fraud



Lee Parish, Detective Chief Inspector, City of London Police

City of London Police (CoLP) and Crimestoppers worked together on an initiative in late 2022 to not only raise awareness of courier fraud but to also help generate new leads about known or suspected perpetrators.

Courier scammers prey on the most vulnerable victims in our society. Posing as police officers, banking staff or other officials, they predominantly focus on older people to steal large amounts of cash, jewellery or anything of monetary value.

A recent Crimestoppers campaign commissioned by CoLP supported police by improving the public's understanding of the issue, offering signs to spot, along with key prevention advice.

The campaign used eye-catching targeted social media posts with stakeholder engagement across established platforms, and a series of printed materials for distribution.

With clear linking to Action Fraud, the campaign promoted safeguarding and signposting to other charities who provide support to victims.

For more information, please visit the Crimestoppers website.

Could you protect someone from courier fraud?

Criminals are ruining vulnerable people's lives with this cruel scam.

Speak up to our charity. 100% anonymous. Always.

Working together with

ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
actionfraud.police.uk

Crimestoppers.
Online and on the phone, 24/7, 365 days a year
crimestoppers-uk.org
0800 555111
100% anonymous. Always.

Could you protect someone from courier fraud?

Criminals are ruining vulnerable people's lives with this cruel scam.

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Peoplesafe CEO and Chair of BSIA Lone Working Group Naz Dossa said:

“Personal safety concerns are rising, with nearly 7 million employees worrying about their safety at work or on their commute every week.

“More than 200,000 people have our easy-to-use mobile apps and safety devices to help them stay safe 24/7, giving them confidence and peace of mind wherever they are and whatever they're doing.

“We are proud to be working with Crimestoppers, and other forward-thinking organisations, to help raise awareness of how to improve personal safety and the technology that can help.”

Abri, one of the largest housing providers in the south of England, has launched a unique partnership with Crimestoppers. Their Head of Customer Partnerships, Jim Bruckel, explains.



Jim Bruckel, Head of Customer Partnerships at Abri

Whilst providing affordable and quality housing is key to Abri's purpose, our mission extends far beyond this. Ensuring our customers feel safe in their homes and communities is at the very core of what we do. With over 40,000 homes and 100,000 customers across our wide geography this is no easy feat, but something we've always been committed to.

Reporting reluctance

Our dedicated Community Safety teams work closely with our communities to tackle domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour. However, it's not unusual for customers to tell us about crimes that haven't been reported to the police. We know that there are many reasons why someone might not report a crime. Fear of having their identity revealed is often a big concern, especially for our more tight-knit communities.

That's why we became the first housing provider to partner with Crimestoppers. As anonymity is important to our customers, our partnership focuses on raising awareness that any crime can be reported anonymously through Crimestoppers. Our goal is to increase confidence across all parts of the community, to show that reporting issues is at the very heart of making our neighbourhoods safer and better places for everyone to live.

Different communities, different challenges

A campaign-driven and targeted approach has been key to reaching our customers. No two of our communities are the same, nor do they face the same challenges when it comes to crime. By using insights

from front line colleagues and looking at where there has been a serious incident or reports of a particular crime type, we're able to focus specific campaigns in areas where there are known issues. For example, our first campaign centred on tackling drug crime, which can have a huge impact and leave customers feeling vulnerable and unsafe in their homes.

We boosted the campaign in areas where there have been a high number of drug crime incidents. The ambition is to raise awareness and educate our customers on how to spot the signs of drug-related activities and how best to report it. In order to spread our message, we've been working closely with Crimestoppers to create co-branded materials that we can share with our customers. These are then circulated among our communities through our colleagues on the ground and via targeted social media campaigns.

Early success

We're already noticing some early signs of success from the partnership and look forward to seeing what the future holds. Ultimately, we hope that our work with Crimestoppers empowers everyone in our communities – not just our customers – to feel safer when it comes to reporting crime issues that impact their lives.



Computer modelling aids Contact Centre resourcing scenarios

Making sure Crimestoppers has the right resources to meet public demand in our Contact Centre is critical to providing good customer service and ensuring we look after our staff.

We have benefitted from a great pro-bono relationship with The Operational Research Society and Simul8.

Together, their skills and easy-to-use software package helped us replicate and model how upcoming staffing levels could potentially impact our operations.

For instance, launching a new service such as the Metropolitan Police Anti-Corruption and Abuse Hotline, we needed to explore different scenarios in terms of the potential increased number of contacts and the staffing levels that were therefore required.

This kind of modelling is invaluable. As a charity, we are unable to employ more people at short notice when demand grows. Evidence, which Simul8 offer, is needed to support any future plans in terms of resources. It also helps us have greater confidence when making changes to relieve

pressure on our staff and help them feel supported. This is all vital when taking phone calls and processing online information across different services, including those involving complex and emotional situations.

SIMUL8

More information about this partnership can be found on the Simul8 website.

Renewed push to warn about the dangers of meter tampering amid cost-of-living crisis



Aiysha Andrade, Senior Analyst at RECCo

Crimestoppers provides a platform for the public to report energy theft anonymously via the Stay Energy Safe website and phone line. The reports are then sent on to suppliers and network operators to investigate.

The Retail Energy Code Company (RECCo) have been working with Crimestoppers for almost two years, having taken over the existing Energy Theft Tip Off Service (ETTOS) when responsibility for Energy Theft matters migrated across to RECCo in readiness for the introduction of the Retail Energy Code (REC).

Energy theft is a serious crime that not only puts people's lives at risk, but also costs the energy industry and the wider public billions of pounds every year. That's why the Stay Energy Safe platform operated by Crimestoppers is essential in helping the energy industry raise awareness and put a stop to this illegal activity.

ETTOS and Stay Energy Safe's work is far from over. The public still needs to be educated on the dangers of energy theft and how to spot the signs. That's why their services are crucial options for anyone who suspects energy theft in their area. This is particularly relevant during the cost-of-living crisis where incidents of meter tampering may increase.

By working together, we can help to make our communities safer and more sustainable for everyone.

Find out more by visiting stayenergysafe.co.uk



Our outgoing Director of Business Development Rodger Holden – who is leaving for pastures new – was once listed by the Evening Standard as one of London's most influential people. Having doubled income for the charity over the past decade, Rodger reflects on his era at Crimestoppers.

"I have worked at the charity for over ten years and, during that period, have seen it grow from strength to strength. I am more certain than ever of the organisation's important role in crime reporting, especially as a service for the most vulnerable people in our communities.

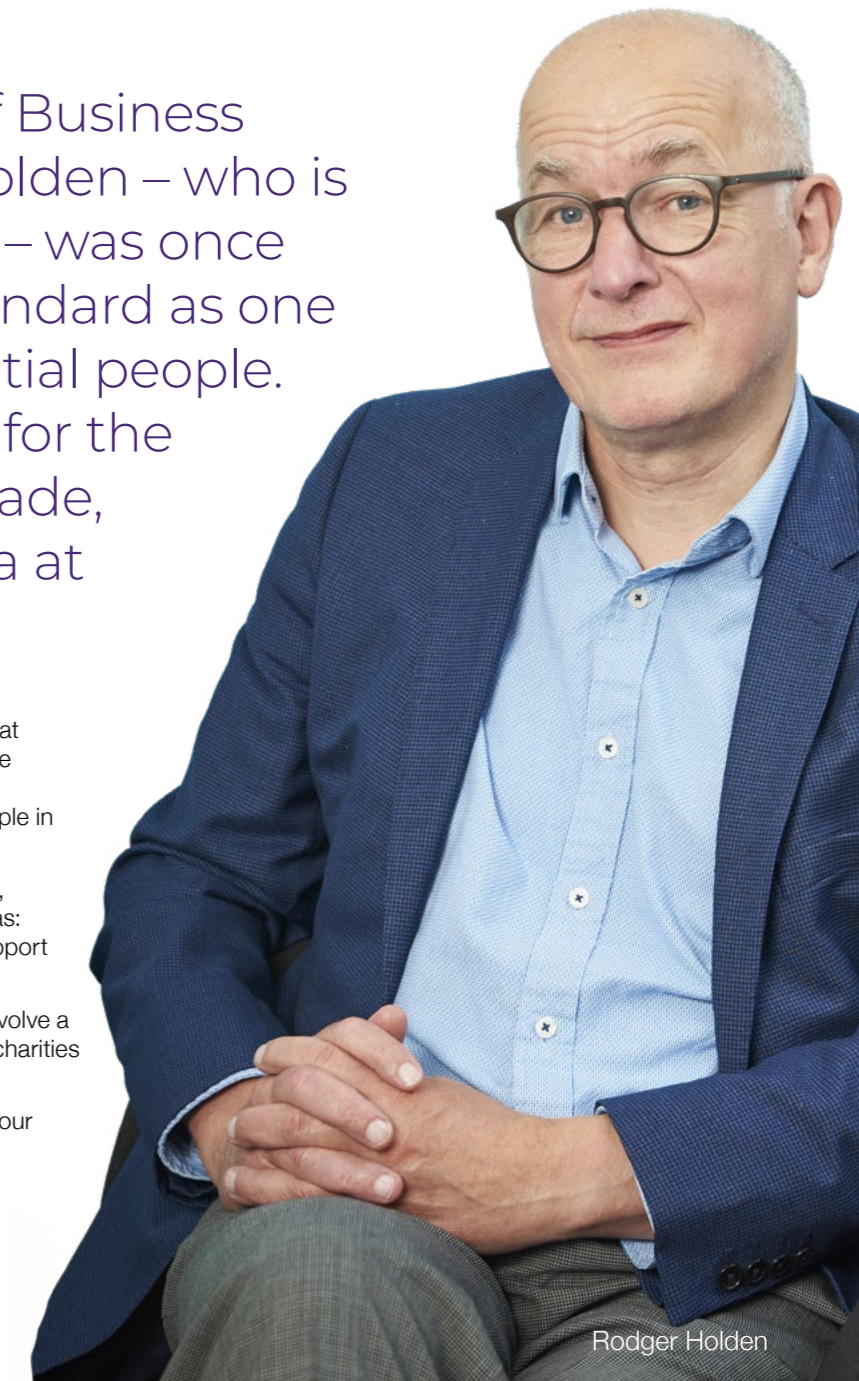
"These are challenging times and budgets are tight. However, Business Development's income continues to grow in all areas: commercial, statutory and trusts. This revenue also helps support our regional managers and Fearless youth workers.

"Equally important are our national campaigns which often involve a coalition of partners from the commercial and public sector, charities and law enforcement.

"In my role as Business Development Director, I am proud of our collective achievements within the team and with our partner organisations.

"As I leave Crimestoppers in pursuit of new adventures and challenges, a new Director of Business Development – David Crawley - has been appointed.

"I wish David and everyone at Crimestoppers the very best."



Rodger Holden



"I've long believed in the cause of giving people an alternative option when reporting crime. I'm really looking forward to starting my journey with Crimestoppers."

David Crawley, new Director of Business Development

Making the most of Most Wanted

Launched in 2005, Crimestoppers' Most Wanted has been highly successful with over 4,900 arrests to date. It gives the public the opportunity to help identify offenders, and to pass on their location if they know where fugitives are hiding.

In March, we spotlighted five people who are wanted for serious crimes, including murder, rape, sexual assault, large-scale drug dealing and money laundering.

A reward of up to £5,000 was offered for each fugitive for information we received that leads to their arrest.

Playing detective

It's often said that the public like to 'play detective' which is why the news media regularly publicise those who are on the run, especially locally and regionally.

Users can search by UK region, keyword and by crime type and can then give information that helps law enforcement to make an arrest.

Our latest Most Wanted campaign informed audiences about the danger of those who may be hiding within their communities.

How does Most Wanted work for police forces?

Police from across the UK upload their Most Wanted individuals directly to the Crimestoppers Most Wanted platform. They choose who goes on and how much information to provide. They also remove them from the platform after arrest.

At Crimestoppers, we are keen for more police forces to better utilise Most Wanted by regularly uploading wanted individuals so that together, we can keep our communities safe and remove them from our streets.

Visit Most Wanted to find out more.

Most Wanted testimonial

South Wales Police used our Most Wanted platform to publish an appeal for the whereabouts of a man suspected of violent domestic assault. He had been wanted for over six months. Just nine days later, he was arrested in another part of the country, charged and remanded.

Detective Superintendent Dean Taylor of South Wales Police said:

"It's been really encouraging to see members of the public coming forward with vital, actionable information, which in this case has led to the speedy arrest and charging of a violent offender who had been wanted for some time.

"Seeing this example of the reach and success of Crimestoppers' Most Wanted makes me want to encourage any member of the public who knows something about the whereabouts of anyone listed on the Most Wanted platform to tell the charity what you know – your information really can make a difference.

"I would also thoroughly recommend the service to any police force not currently using it."

All information and images correct at time of publication.



Pan-Midlands approach to tackling County Lines drug gangs sees all local forces unite with Crimestoppers in new initiative. West Mercia County Lines Coordinator Christopher Stockton reflects on the challenges.



Christopher Stockton – West Mercia Police County Lines Coordinator

“I’ve just found crack cocaine in my son’s bedroom, he’s only 14 years old!”

This is a genuine call received by a police call handler and, you can imagine, one of the worst nightmares for any parent: drugs.

A core vision for police is to protect people from harm, and we know calls like this mean there is a whole family now potentially at risk.

Is the teenager experimenting? Are they a courier, dealer, or being targeted and exploited? Are they holding the drugs for a mate, in a gang, or are they a risk to others?

A web of gang activity

For West Mercia Police, keeping communities safe across our three counties of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire, and meeting the challenge of County Lines head on, is vital in order to stop parents like this from being confronted with the reality of drugs and the dangers they bring.

We are primarily affected by two metropolitan ‘exporting’ areas: West Midlands, largely affecting Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire; and Merseyside, supplying to Shropshire and Herefordshire.

Cross-border drug supply continues to be a threat with associated violence, as these gangs challenge provincial drug markets. This, in turn, leads to increased demand in terms of reactive investigations, planned operations, addressing vulnerability and risk management.

Partnership is key

We find that including Crimestoppers in our communications often benefits our work - most recently, we communicated the relaunched ‘Most Wanted’ campaign across the force. We also signpost our schools, colleges and universities with Crimestoppers information during National Intensification Weeks, as well as providing Crimestoppers contact details in all our external communications.

At West Mercia Police, we believe Crimestoppers is a key component in our collective goal to reduce the damage of drugs on our communities, and together we can target the most wanted, responsible for the most harm.



Studio spot for Crimestoppers on the flagship BBC Crimewatch Live



CEO Mark Hallas in the Cardiff studios at BBC Crimewatch Live

BBC One’s Crimewatch Live remains the corporation’s flagship crime programme, offering viewers reconstructions of unsolved cases as well as using CCTV footage and interviewing relevant police investigators.

Crimewatch is a natural ally for our charity. Recently, our Chief Executive, Mark Hallas, was invited for a studio interview at BBC Cymru Wales in Cardiff for a live interview discussing our work, our anonymity guarantee and why our charity exists.

It was a great opportunity to reach a wider audience – with the studio interview coming off the back of an impressive feature which was recorded earlier in 2022 when a crew visited our Contact Centre.

Crimestoppers is keen to build on our relationship with the Crimewatch team as recognition for our charity’s work continues to grow.

The Office of High Sheriff is a Royal, non-political appointment lasting for a year. His Honour Christopher Critchlow DL, the High Sheriff of Surrey 2022-23, offers his thoughts following a recent tour of our headquarters.

Since 1988, national charity Crimestoppers has grown into arguably the greatest support for the police and the forces of law and order in the country.

Anyone can contact Crimestoppers and report criminal behaviour with absolute anonymity. Personal details of the caller are never sought. The mantra is “just one call can make the difference”. A report is made by the agent who takes the call – or reviews an online form – and which is passed onto the relevant force or appropriate agency. Over 600,000 contacts are received each year, over 1,500 a day, and more than 185,000 reports of vital information were passed on to the police in 2021/22 - another record number. Thousands of offenders have been brought to justice as a result.

First-time visit

On 6th February, my wife and I visited the charity and heard details of the work of Crimestoppers nationally from its CEO Mark Hallas OBE and Lynne Hack, the Chair of Crimestoppers in Surrey. We also spent time talking to Contact Centre leaders regarding how the agents are trained to best manage calls. They need to have the ability to engender trust, ask pertinent questions, and record with complete accuracy what they are told. An average call lasts no more than 3 minutes. However, it's estimated that around 85% of people now contact Crimestoppers online by completing a secure and anonymous online form.

Crimestoppers believes everyone has the right to feel safe from crime,

wherever they live. Both their phone and online operation are available 24/7, 365 days a year. There are also anti-corruption and anti-abuse lines which will assist in rooting out any police officer who is an offender. Approximately 100 staff and 300 volunteers around the country are working for the charity. Many volunteers are former police officers. The costs are c.£7m pa. There are grants from all the police forces, the PCCs and the Home Office, in addition to money raised commercially and locally at committee level.

The Fearless programme is part of Crimestoppers. This is another key means of helping people who need advice relating to crime. In Surrey, there is a dedicated Fearless worker, who has spoken to over 7,000 young people across the county and given training to over 1,000 professionals, including GPs, social workers and teachers. The role is funded by the Office of the Surrey PCC.

Tackling violence against women

I was particularly interested to learn about the reports of domestic abuse and violence against women. In 2021, Crimestoppers passed on over 8,500 anonymised reports on domestic abuse, up 45% on the previous year. The charity is vital for someone who is anxious or reluctant to contact the police directly.



In January, the charity published a report about Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) to encourage reporting of this serious crime. Due to anonymity, Crimestoppers can only take information from those who have witnessed or have their suspicions (such as neighbours, family or friends). Therefore, domestic abuse victims who make contact are signposted to specialist support services.

Remarkable work

As High Sheriff and a former Circuit Judge in the Crown Court, I have known of Crimestoppers for a number of years. But I was not aware of the scale of its operation nationally nor of the location of its HQ.

It does remarkable work and supports so many. It needs to be given further publicity, so that more and more people become aware of its existence, especially the young. It is a vital operation in the fight against crime, its impact is significant and it lives up to its name.

Introducing the new Chair of our Wales volunteer committee



Jon Drake, Chair of Crimestoppers in Wales.

Hello, I'm Jon Drake and it is my absolute pleasure to recently become the Chair of Crimestoppers in Wales.

Prior to retiring, I was a police officer in Staffordshire and South Wales Police for over 31 years. I then became the Director of the Wales Violence Prevention Unit.

Throughout my career, I have therefore had a close working relationship with Crimestoppers, and have been a passionate advocate and supporter of their work. I wanted to take this opportunity to explain a little more as to why.

Valuing community intelligence

The fact is that without high-quality information and intelligence coming from our communities, policing - and in fact public service more widely - cannot have a true understanding of the threat, risk and harm that is facing people. Gaining this understanding is like piecing together a jigsaw, and without community intelligence many of these pieces are missing.

Where good quality community information and intelligence is received, then harm can be prevented. Like other Violence Prevention (or Reduction) Units, the Wales unit commissioned services such as those that steer young people away from involvement in serious violence and organised crime.

The work of Crimestoppers' youth service Fearless in Wales is an example of understanding the threat of knife crime and serious violence in areas, and delivering inputs to young people

to help prevent this harm. However, I am also aware of cases where community information has not been shared - and this has contributed to tragic outcomes.

Complementary role

Crimestoppers is clearly not the only route by which communities can submit information. However, it is totally unique in the way it allows anonymous reporting, and therefore people who may not wish to contact the police still have an opportunity to speak up about their concerns.

Crimestoppers also entirely complements other positive work in areas, be that through policing itself, or the broader fantastic community safety work spearheaded by Police and Crime Commissioners.

A key priority for myself and Crimestoppers in Wales will therefore be to develop our approach to ensure we effectively reach even more communities. I look forward to working with Crimestoppers in Wales, and also learning more about the outstanding work of the charity and its partners across the UK.

Scotland – the power of partnerships

Across Scotland, Crimestoppers and Fearless work closely with key partners and stakeholders, including Police Scotland and Scottish Government’s Building Safer Communities.

Strong partnership links enable our charity in Scotland to work at a local to national level and, crucially, link in with many charities, services and communities on the ground.

Working with Police Scotland’s Partnerships, Preventions and Community Wellbeing Division (PPCW), the charity is able to plan and co-ordinate campaigns and activities that reach the heart of communities who need our service the most.

From Police Scotland and Scottish Government to small community-led groups, each and everyone has a unique part to play in ensuring communities know and trust us.

“The clear, significant impact that the information provided to Crimestoppers has had on tackling crime shows the power we all have to help keep our communities safe.

“It is extremely encouraging to see so many young people – through Fearless – play their part to help tackle crime.”

Minister for Community Safety Elena Whitham

“Scotland’s communities remain confident in using the Crimestoppers service. The information provided anonymously helps Police Scotland’s officers tackle crimes that affect our citizens.

“We also want to acknowledge the support that Fearless provides to our young people, in schools and our communities, which undoubtedly helped their resilience during the past few difficult years.”

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Ritchie, Executive Lead for PPCW



Paying tribute – Volunteer of the Year

Carolyn Randall worked for Crimestoppers for over 25 years. A huge champion of our volunteers, she supported and encouraged them, and made sure the whole charity saw their individual contributions.

We always look forward to spring, a time when we reflect on and celebrate the achievements of our fantastic volunteers over the past twelve months with our annual Volunteer Awards.

We were very saddened to hear about the passing of Crimestoppers’ Carolyn Randall, who was a highly-respected member of our volunteer team.

As a response to her years of dedication, and with her family’s permission, we have renamed our Volunteer of the Year Award: The Carolyn Randall Volunteer of the Year Award.

Carolyn’s passion, care, wisdom and friendship has left a significant impression on our organisation. We are better because of her efforts and the impact she made will be felt for many generations to come.



What does anonymity mean?

We never ask for your personal details, only what you know about the crime.

Speak up and stay safe with Crimestoppers.

**100% anonymous.
Always.**

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.
[crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)