

West Bromwich Neighbourhood Policing Team

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Entries in this publication generally relate to events that have occurred over the previous 6 days. Personal details of individuals related to our dealings are not disclosed, in compliance with the Data Protection Act (1998). If you have any further queries, please email the team, and we will get back to you.

COVID-19: TIER 4/NATIONAL LOCKDOWN UPDATE

Over a month ago, it was announced that the entire country was going into a 'National Lockdown', following moves in Scotland and Wales that accomplished the same. Whilst major steps have been taken in the distribution of vaccines for the most vulnerable in this time, it is imperative that people continue to abide by the government restrictions to help prevent the spread of the virus. As stated at the start of this post-Christmas lockdown, in Government press release 'National lockdown: Stay at Home' from 04/01/2021:

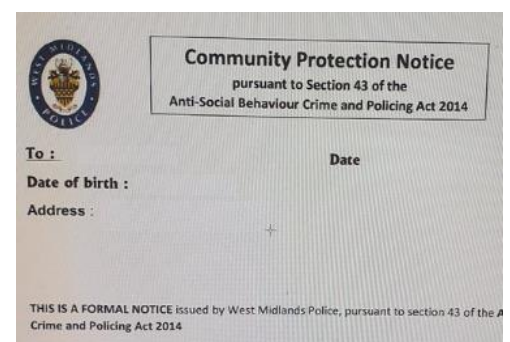
You must not leave or be outside of your home except for where you have a 'reasonable excuse.' This is the law. The police can take action against you if you leave home without a 'reasonable excuse', and issue you with a fine (Fixed Penalty Notice).

Whilst the guidance is extensive, it is also relatively self-explanatory. Unless you absolutely need to leave your home for a reason, be it work, essential food shopping, attending a location for medical reasons, or anything else that ABSOLUTELY requires you to go outside, you must stay indoors. Failure to comply will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued, which starts at £200. Further offences result in this fine doubling each time – up to a maximum fine of £6,400. Further Fixed Penalties can also be given; for those who hold, or are involved in holding, an illegal gathering of fifteen people or more, can now be issued with fines of £10,000. Furthermore, any persons found to be attending any indoor gathering can also now receive a larger fine than standard, with attendees of such events eligible to receive fines of £800. This also applies for persons attending indoor gatherings where there are fewer than fifteen people present. Furthermore, the Fixed Penalty Notices for other Covid breaches are still being used, with four people discovering this the hard way, this week!

Remember: Stay at home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.

NUISANCE BEGGAR ISSUED COMMUNITY PROTECTION NOTICE

Following a spike in recent reports of his activity around the town centre, a prolific beggar has been issued with a Community Protection Notice (CPN). The beggar in question had previously been issued with a Community Protection Warning, but he had failed to adhere to its terms – as such, the Warning was escalated to a Notice. Should he fail to comply with this, we will seek an injunction. We are thankful to Astle Park and the surrounding businesses for reporting this particular beggar every time he is seen at the location, as it allows us to act swiftly and build our case against him.



COUNTY LINES WEEK

From 01/02/2021 to 07/02/2021, police forces across the county have taken part in County Lines Week – a period of time where we have heavily focused upon County Lines drug operations. This has involved increased focus around major transport hubs – with a particular focus around train/metro stations, in a bid to identify and arrest members of gangs involved in the transport of drugs across the country.

County Lines is a way to describe a specific type of criminal exploitation. This is where gangs and organised crime networks exploit children to sell drugs. They are often forced to travel to different counties, and they use dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to sell these drugs. This is where the term comes from. By enticing young people into running drugs across county lines, often by offering gifts and showing the 'perks' of the lifestyle (including cash, designer clothing, etc.), gangs are able to lure young people into a life of crime. As a result of this, we are dedicated to disrupting such operations, and safeguarding young people.

Over the course of the week, officers have managed to undertake:

- Three searches of persons, and one search of a vehicle, under the Misuse of Drugs Act.
- Detention of a known drug dealer, along with the seizure of his phone and a substance we believe to be a quantity of Class B drugs.
- The arrest of a different offender, for possession with intent to supply for a Class B drug.



VEHICLE SEIZED FOR DRIVING WITHOUT INSURANCE

Following a recent sighting, officers have seized a vehicle that has been driving without any form of insurance. Shockingly, intelligence suggests that the vehicle has been believed to have been operating by an uninsured driver for several months – thankfully, officers were able to stop the vehicle on 04/02 with the uninsured driver behind the wheel. As such, the vehicle has been seized and impounded.

YOUTHS DETAINED FOLLOWING ASSAULT ON SHOP WORKER

On 05/02, a group of youths was detained following an assault on a shop worker. This was assisted by some excellent communication on the Townlink radio, which allowed officers to track and pursue the suspects, from Victoria Street up until the point of detention on the corner of High Street and Shaftesbury Street. Members of the group detained are required to attend the police station for interview, in relation to their roles in the offence – with the offence in question involving common assault and criminal damage. The investigation remains ongoing.

