

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.

Welcome to something a little different, for this week.

Due to the patrols conducted on West Bromwich town centre over the past few days as part of Project Guardian, and the results that have been achieved as a result of them, I have decided to dedicate an entire iteration of the newsletter to talk about what

Guardian is, how it works, and what it has achieved in West Bromwich over the past few days.



What is Project Guardian?

Project Guardian, in its simplest form, is an operation tasked with tackling knife crime and under-25 violence in the region, with proactive patrols and intelligence-based stop searches being pivotal to the success of this.

Whilst there are dedicated officers who work exclusively as part of the Guardian task force, all officers are able to work in support of Project Guardian – with officers from the neighbourhood team frequently working overtime to conduct Guardian patrols around West Bromwich town centre.

What has made this week's patrols different?

For the past five days, specialist Project Guardian officers have operated alongside the neighbourhood team, as a mix of uniformed and plain clothes officers. This ensured a strong police presence on the town centre, with over twenty officers being present on the town on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th – a factor which several members of public and local businesses commented on. The additional officers also ensured that extra vehicles were at our disposal, allowing for increased flexibility, and greater resources for stopping vehicles for road traffic offences.

How did these patrols work?

By having specialist officers working alongside us, we were able to operate in a slightly different way to normal. With these officers trained in Behaviour Analysis Screening Skills (BASS), they were able to identify behaviours and reactions that indicate suspicious activity – allowing for other officers to observe these individuals, and should there be a strong enough suspicion, detain these persons and search them.



Alongside the BASS trained officers, covert, plain clothes officers were operating in the area. Knowing that a lot of the regular faces from the town centre recognise our officer's faces, even out of uniform, officers working from different areas were brought in for these operations.

What did we achieve?

On Saturday 10th July, we started the week as we meant to go on. Project Guardian officers attempted to detain a young male on West Bromwich High Street, but the male had other ideas and attempted to make off. After a brief chase, the male was apprehended, and his reason for fleeing was found – a roughly 25cm hunting knife that was found on his person (pictured right).



When we returned on Monday 12th July, based on community intelligence, a vehicle was stopped by Guardian officers in West Bromwich. Neighbourhood officers then arresting the male, after weapons and small amounts of drugs were found in the vehicle. The vehicle had also been used in a number of theft offences, and as such, was seized.

Tuesday 13th July proved to be our busiest day of the week, and had some fantastic results. As mentioned before, we had over twenty officers on hand to conduct an operation around the town, which led to a significant number of stop searches. Whilst some searches yielded little or nothing, the following are some of our best results:

A youth was spotted by officers patrolling around West Bromwich Ringway noted a teenager who they had had prior dealings with, making active attempts to avoid them. As they approached him, the male ran, heading towards the rear of Kings Square service yard, before he was apprehended. A search of the male uncovered a pouch containing several hundred pounds worth of class B drugs, and a search of the immediate area where the male was apprehended uncovered a large combat knife (right), which had been freshly discarded a few feet from where the male was found. Search of his home address yielded further items of interest, and he was remanded into custody.



It was not the only knife found on that day, however. Two other knives were also found, along with quantities of Class B drugs, with a total of four people being arrested.

Additionally to this, officers have submitted significant amounts of intelligence on both persons and vehicles that we have had dealings with during this operation. This involves everything from reports of current association to reports being added to vehicles, to assist our colleagues at WMP traffic in stopping these offending vehicles.

All in all, the operation has been a great success – and it one that we hope to replicate in the near future!

