



# VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch  
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police  
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## ➤ SCAMS & OLDER PEOPLE

There are dozens of different types of scam, but older people are particularly at risk of certain types. Age UK reports that 43% of older people - almost five million aged 65 and over - believe they have been targeted by scammers. Those with dementia are at particular risk.

Scams can be committed over the phone, through the post, on the internet or face-to-face, often on the doorstep. Because older people are more likely to live on their own, they become targets for fraudsters. Age UK reports that in one study, it was found that 27% of single people responded to a scam, compared with less than a tenth of their married counterparts. In England, the number of people over 65 living on their own is expected to rise from 3.5 million in 2015 to just under five million by 2030, and the number of people with dementia is projected to rise from 850,000 now to 1.14 million by 2025. This means that in future more older people could be at risk from being scammed.

For some people, their main form of social contact is with commercial organisations, legitimate or fraudulent. They might receive telemarketing calls, e-mails or letters, or open the door to a scammer purporting to be a bona fide salesman or tradesman or working for charity. Sometimes strong relationships can develop between scammers and their elderly victims, if a high level of contact is maintained. The average age of victims of mass-marketing postal fraud is 75.

And, once people realise they have been scammed, they often feel ashamed to have been duped and so will seldom report what has happened. Once a person falls victim to one con artist, their personal details are often added to what is known as "suckers lists" and sold onto other criminals, so they are targeted again and again.

The impact can be devastating – people who have been defrauded in their own homes are two and a half times more likely to die or go into residential care within a year.

**DON'T BECOME A SCAM VICTIM - IF SOMETHING SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT USUALLY IS.**

- Never respond to any e-mails, text messages, letters or social media that look suspicious, or that have bad spelling or grammar.
- A genuine bank will never contact you out of the blue asking for your PIN, full password or to move money to another account. If you receive a message like this, ignore it.
- If someone you have never met before asks you for money, that should be a red flag. Do not give them any money.
- Always question uninvited approaches. This applies whether the contact is on the doorstep, over the phone, by post or online. Instead, contact the company directly yourself using a known e-mail or phone number.
- If you are even a tiny bit suspicious, check with someone else - a trusted relative, friend or neighbour - before responding to the communication
- Never automatically click on a link in an unexpected text or e-mail
- Make sure you use strong passwords on all your online accounts, and change them often
- Always have anti-virus software and a firewall installed on your computer, and update all software as soon as new versions become available
- Trust your instincts. If you feel at all wary or suspicious, you're probably right!

## Help For Older People

- **Action on Elder Abuse:** It is difficult for many people to believe that they are witnessing or experiencing abuse, and how it can seem equally difficult to escape what is happening to them. One key way to help is through the confidential freephone helpline 0808 808 8141, which provides information, advice and support to victims and others who are concerned about or have witnessed abuse, neglect or financial exploitation.
- **Age UK Advice:** a free, confidential phone service for older people, their families, friends, carers and professionals. Age UK Advice Line: 0800 055 6112 Lines are open 8am-7pm, 365 days a year.
  - Do you know what benefits to claim and how to claim them?
  - Worried that you can't afford to retire?
  - Anxious about a planned hospital stay and how to cope when you leave?
  - Need advice on choosing the right care home?
- **The Silver Line:** a helpline and friendship service for people aged 55 and over. A confidential, free helpline for older people across the UK 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The helpline number is: 0800 470 8090.
  - Information, friendship and advice
  - Links to local groups and services
  - Regular friendship calls
  - Protection and support for older people who are suffering abuse and neglect
  - Callers are free to express their feelings in privacy, and describe their lives honestly
  - In cases of abuse or neglect, with the callers' permission, we will involve specialist safeguarding organisations such as Action on Elder Abuse or the appropriate social services team.
- **National Dementia Helpline:** Information, support and advice about dementia. Phone 0300 222 1122 Monday to Wednesday 9am – 8pm; Thursday and Friday 9am – 5pm; Saturday and Sunday 10am – 4pm

## ➤ CONTACTS

- ❖ **SY Police:** for non-emergency calls, to report a crime, or give information: 101 or from the main SYP web page ([www.southyorks.police.uk](http://www.southyorks.police.uk)) in the Contact Details tab under Report a crime.  
**Local contacts:** Police Sergeant Mark Worrall and Inspector Caroline Bakewell; also on Twitter @RothSouthNHP and Facebook at Rotherham South NHP.  
**Weekly drop in sessions:** meet team members and discuss the issues that are important to you: Dinnington Resource Centre, 131 Laughton Road, Dinnington; every Wednesday 1.30 – 3 pm.
- ❖ **Crimestoppers:** To give information about crime: (you don't have to give your name) 0800 555 111 Monday-Friday 08:00-22:00; Saturday and Sunday 10:00-16:00 <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>
- ❖ **Crime Prevention - police site:** <https://www.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice>  
**SYP:** <https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk> - under **Useful links**  
**Crime Prevention - independent Crime Prevention and Home Security advice:** website <https://thecrimepreventionwebsite.com>  
**Action Fraud:** The national fraud-reporting centre. To make a report contact the Action Fraud contact centre on 0300 123 2040. You may make the report anonymously. Text phone users can ring 0300 123 2050. Specialist fraud advisers are available: Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm; Saturday 9am to 5pm; Sunday 10am to 5pm  
Report fraud online at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)
- ❖ **Rotherham & District Citizens Advice**  
The Rain Building, Market Hall, Eastwood Lane, Rotherham, S65 1EQ  
Advice Line: 03444 111 444 open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm  
<http://www.citizensadvicerotherham.org.uk>
- ❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194

**Crime figures for July were not available at the time of printing.**