

## County Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting 9th April 2024

### No More

There have been 494 fewer domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police during the period April-September, than the previous year. However, it is determined that the figures were so high previously due to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as other factors, such as football events and changes in police recording. Following exploration with partners, it is suggested that the current trends are now more typical for the county after a long period of unstable trends associated with the pandemic. The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Domestic Abuse communications group continues to issue communication messages, and there will be targeted campaign during the World Cup. Within Warwickshire it is estimated that 17,384 women and 7,223 men aged 16+ experienced domestic abuse in year ending March 2022. WCC will be signposting to help for victim-survivors of #DomesticAbuse and Sexual Violence as part of @UKSAYSNOMORE. Follow the conversation and for help and support go to [www.talk2someone.org.uk](http://www.talk2someone.org.uk) In an emergency dial 999. There is also a focus on male victims of domestic abuse.

I advise looking at, ***My Wife My Abuser Channel 5. It's quite shocking.***

### A Network of Care for Children and Foster Families

Michelle and her husband Raymond have been fostering with Warwickshire County Council for three years and were inspired to start their journey following their work with other young people in care.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5077/beyond-fostering-building-a-network-of-care-for-children-and-foster-families->

### Child Exploitation Awareness

There are many different types of child exploitation! Can you spot the signs?

What to look out for:

receiving unexplained and expensive gifts or money

- having no money but in possession of cigarettes, alcohol and other expensive items (could be a sign of running up debt)
- being picked up from school by strangers
- substance use (drugs / alcohol)
- changes in mood
- showing signs of self-harm

- regularly going missing from school and home
- being secretive about where they are going
- being secretive with their mobile phone, laptop, tablet or other electronic devices

If this sounds familiar or you think this may be happening to someone you know, please get help by calling **01926 414144** between 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday or report it to Warwickshire Police via their website or calling them on 101. Visit <https://www.somethingsnotright.co.uk/> for more advice.

### **New strategy launched to prevent serious violence in Warwickshire**

Warwickshire communities at risk from serious violence will benefit from the launch of a new strategy to tackle both the occurrences and underlying causes of violence.

The Serious Violence Prevention Strategy 2024-30 sets out how members of the Safer Warwickshire Partnership will deliver on a shared long-term commitment to prevent violence before it happens and keep communities safe.

Whilst Warwickshire is a safe place to live, it is not immune to serious violence and the strategy acknowledges the devastating impact that violence can have, tearing families apart, dividing friends, and creating fear in our schools and our communities. Find out more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5115/new-strategy-launched-to-prevent-serious-violence-in-warwickshire](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5115/new-strategy-launched-to-prevent-serious-violence-in-warwickshire)

### **Living Well to combat loneliness**

It's estimated that half a million older people go at least five or six days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone at all, and 45% of adults in England - of all ages - sometimes feel lonely. Living Well also signposts people who are feeling lonely or socially isolated to advice on ways to tackle loneliness.

Residents are encouraged to visit <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/livingwell> to find out more.

### **Supporting people to stay healthy and independent**

Warwickshire County Council is encouraging residents to learn more about the ways they can help themselves to maintain their independence for as long as possible. Find out more:

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5116/supporting-people-to-stay-healthy-and-independent](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5116/supporting-people-to-stay-healthy-and-independent)

## **Measles**

Two doses of the MMR vaccine offer protection for life against measles, mumps and rubella.

For people who do not touch any pork products, there is a version of the MMR vaccine which does not use porcine gelatin in its production. This vaccine is safe and effective.

Are you and your loved ones protected? If you're not sure, contact your GP about getting catch up jabs. One infected measles case can infect 9 out of 10 unvaccinated people if they spend 15 minutes or more with them. More info: <https://www.nhs.uk/MMR>

## **Whooping Cough**

Whooping cough affects all ages, but for unvaccinated babies and very young children it can cause serious complications.

It's vital that pregnant women get vaccinated to protect their babies from birth and parents ensure infants receive their vaccines at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age or as soon as possible after that.

We're encouraging all pregnant women in #Warwickshire to contact their GP surgery or antenatal clinic to get vaccinated.

## **New measures to help protect poultry industry from bird flu.**

New registration requirements for bird keepers in Great Britain - all bird keepers must register their birds and update records annually. New measures to better protect the poultry sector from future avian influenza outbreaks have been set out by the Government. Under the changes announced there will be new requirements for all bird keepers regardless of the size of their flock to officially register their birds. Currently only those who keep fifty or more poultry must do so, limiting the effectiveness of our national disease control measures. The new rules cover owners of backyard flocks, birds of prey and pigeon fanciers. For more information, please visit [www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-help-protect-poultry-industry-from-bird-flu](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-help-protect-poultry-industry-from-bird-flu) To find out more about Warwickshire Trading Standards, Visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards)

## **Past High Sheriff**

Sophie Hilleary, the past High Sheriff of Warwickshire 2023/24, held a special event in Warwick to recognise some of the outstanding individuals and organisations working to make Warwickshire the best it can be. Gill Hawtin from Flower Thyme Florist in Kineton also received an award for contribution

to the community Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5105/high-sheriff-recognises-outstanding-contributions-to-warwickshire-communities-in-her-annual-awards>

## **High Sheriff Inauguration**

At a formal inauguration on Maundy Thursday 28 March, Raji Kaur Gill became Warwickshire's 690th High Sheriff and will serve the County for the 2024/25 Shrieval year. Raji Kaur Gill succeeded Sophie Hilleary from Chadshunt. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5109/introducing-the-high-sheriff-of-warwickshire-2024-25-rajvinder-kaur-gill>

## **Police and Crime Commissioner Elections 2024**

Have your say in the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections on Thursday 2 May 2024. Visit [www.wheredoivote.co.uk](http://www.wheredoivote.co.uk) to find your local polling station and remember to take photo ID with you to vote.



Chris Mills

County Councillor

