

NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SERVICE

The current Neighbourhood Warden (NHW) team has a strength of 5. Recent changes to the team have seen Bev Owen leave to be replaced by Jeff Neathway as Senior NHW. Also, Craig Fellowes has left the team to become a Neighbourhood Management Officer (NMO) still remaining in SDC. We have completed the recruitment process to replace Craig, however the successful applicant is yet to start, this is expected to be at the beginning of April. The new warden is Mark Dodd, who comes from a fire service background.

The Senior Neighbourhood Warden role has also undergone changes, this role still has responsibility for managing the team but is also working on other project roles such as domestic violence prevention, tackling violence against women and girls and raising awareness of Hate Crime and the importance of reporting incidents.

We have made small changes to the areas that each Warden covers, this allows us to be more closely aligned to Tenant Services NMO areas, we envisage that this will forge even closer links between the services. The new map will be available on the NHW pages on the website and will also be emailed to all Town and Parish Councils.

Since the easing of restrictions, the NHW have helped to promote the national 16 days of action campaign, which promotes support available to those people who are at risk or suffering Sexual violence/Domestic Abuse. The team visited pubs, clubs, cafes and bars to re-enforce the “Ask for Angela” campaign by distributing promotional materials <http://www.glostakeastand.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Ask-Angela-Posters.pdf> and Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Services (GDASS) stickers have also been placed on toilet doors. They have also been placed on the doors of all public toilet cubicle doors in the district, as well as Stratford Park leisure centre, The Pulse and The Museum in the Park.

Two of the wardens have recently attended Hate Crime Bystander awareness training which was provided by Victim Support called the Stand by Me project. The project aims to make a difference by providing practical ways of responding to hate and empowering them to act and make their communities safer. It also shows that helping victims can be safe.

Domestic Abuse/Violence. The Senior Neighbourhood Warden and one of the Wardens have attended Domestic Violence bystander train the trainer courses. This course will initially be delivered to all SDC public facing staff. The Wardens took part in the launch of the Flare app and continue to promote the app.

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The Holiday Activity & Food (HAF) Project ran during the school summer and Christmas holiday periods. The wardens delivered food parcels to all schools in our district and did multi door to door deliveries to those people who were unable to collect due Covid isolation rules.

Public safety has remained a high priority throughout the Covid pandemic. The Wardens have worked closely with the COVID Protection Officers, carrying out joint patrols to support the recovering infrastructure.

The Wardens continue to deliver, collect, and where necessary install Careline equipment for those people who are not able to fit it themselves or have no one to do it for them.

The Wardens continue to have a strong working relationship with the Stroud Neighbourhood Police team and work with them on anti-social behaviour, community engagement and the reduction of the fear of crime. e.g., visible reassurance patrols were undertaken in Stonehouse following a sudden death. They also worked closely in order to hand deliver 1400 information leaflets along the River Severn corridor prior to Storm Eunice to those properties that were at risk of potential flooding.