

## Rother Police Weekly Update - 16.02.17

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**Message sent by**

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**Thursday 16 February 2017**

### **Local Policing Activity And Updates**

#### **Sussex Police Backs Knife Surrender Campaign**

#### **Convicted Hastings Drugs Offender Kyle Gilmore Wanted For Recall To Prison**

Sussex Police is offering a £500 reward for information leading to the arrest of Hastings man Kyle Gilmore, 23, who is wanted on a warrant for recall to prison.

#### **New plan to support officers assaulted doing their job**

Working for the police can often be dangerous and unpredictable but being assaulted must never be seen as "part of the job".

#### **Mayfield Pair Sentenced For Fraudulent Activity Involving Elderly Victims**

A crooked couple from Mayfield who defrauded elderly women in East Sussex of cash and possessions were sentenced at Lewes Crown Court on Monday (13 February).

#### **Fraud Alert - House Purchase Money Transfers**

**Action Fraud, the UK's fraud and cyber crime reporting centre, is continuing to receive reports where parties involved in house purchases are targeted to transfer money to bank accounts controlled by fraudsters, resulting in large losses for house buyers or solicitors.**

"Conveyancing fraud" is committed by criminals who hack into the email chains between sellers and buyers and their solicitors and estate agents.

Waiting for the right time (usually on the day of sale completion) fraudsters send a spoofed or mimicked email informing the parties that bank account details have changed at the last minute and that money should be put into a different account. Sometimes they have hacked into the genuine email account of one of the parties, therefore sending an email from the genuine account to request the change.

The purchaser then transfers the sum of money into the new bank account, which is controlled by the fraudster, leaving the solicitor or client at a substantial financial loss. As fraudsters have monitored previous communications, they can make emails appear identical to genuine ones, and they can delete real emails from accounts.

#### **Protection Advice**

This social engineering trick can be difficult to spot, but there are ways to protect it from

happening to you:

Review internal processes regarding how clients are permitted to amend bank details held for them.

Do not feel pressured into changing any bank details. If you receive an email requesting a change to the bank details, don't be afraid to question its authenticity. If in doubt phone the sender to confirm.

At the start of the conveyancing process, agree the terms to which any changes in bank details will occur, such as in person.

Buyers and sellers should avoid using public Wi-Fi systems to check emails when house purchases are being made. Fraudsters can easily hack into vulnerable Wi-Fi systems.

Avoid posting statuses on social media about buying/selling your house or getting a mortgage. Fraudsters may get hold of this information and know the next step is a large financial transaction.

Make sure you have strong passwords for your accounts and have anti-virus installed on your devices. To create a strong password, use at least 8 characters, a mix of letters and numbers, not dictionary words or names. You could choose a phrase or lyric meaningful to you and initialise it. Ensure that both your email and banking passwords are strong and unique. Remember that your email, if hacked, could be used to re-set passwords on many of your other accounts. **To report a fraud and receive a police crime reference number, call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040**

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If you saw or heard anything, or have any information about any incident in this message please [contact us online](#), email us at [101@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@sussex.pnn.police.uk) or call **101**, quoting the reference number provided.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity **Crimestoppers**, anonymously, on **0800 555 111**, or online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)



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