

## Doorstep crime Action Network Launched

Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire County Council Trading Standards have launched a new initiative that aims to look out for and lock up doorstep criminals across the county.

Every day in Northamptonshire people are prone to falling victim to distraction burglars and rogue doorstep traders. Most of the victims are elderly or vulnerable.

A **Doorstep crime Action Network** (DAN) has been set up comprising members of the public together with public, private, charity and community sector organisations.

The launch took place at the Sports Pavilion in Wootton Hall Park, on Monday 7 September and was attended by colleagues from across the Force, Northamptonshire County Council Trading Standards and representatives from the sector organisations eager to join 'DAN'.

Assistant Chief Constable Dean Smith said "Doorstep crime is often carried out by highly organised groups, who are involved in both rogue trading and distraction burglary across the country.

"Doorstep crime of any kind is despicable and often has a real impact on the victim's sense of confidence and security in their own home.

"In Northamptonshire, we are working closely with other agencies to share information and respond to offences, which ensure that we use all the powers available to us to close the net on criminals and make this county a difficult place for them to work.

"Anyone in the community can join DAN by keeping a look out and passing on gentle reminders to help prevent vulnerable persons from falling victim to doorstep crime."

"Cabinet member with responsibility for customers and communities, Councillor Andre Gonzalez de Savage said "Trading Standards Officers often receive complaints about poor or incomplete work carried out, high pressure, intimidating sales tactics, failure to provide written cancellation rights and substantial price increases from the original price quoted for work, with as much as £18,000 being paid for work worth less than £100.

The DAN initiative is part of ongoing efforts to crackdown on rogue trading in the county. As a county council we are committed to working in partnership to fight this issue. Our advice is always the same; if you're not sure don't open the door."

A range of leaflets, door stickers and posters have been produced and a dedicated section on the Northamptonshire Police website has more details about what to look out for and a range of downloads available at [northants.police.uk/lookout](http://northants.police.uk/lookout)

Above all, the message to pass on is, if anyone has suspicions or concerns that distraction burglars or rogue doorstep traders are operating in your neighbourhood or targeting someone you know, ring us the dedicated doorstep crime number on 0345 23 07 702

Pictured at the launch are Paul Blantern, Corporate Director of Customer and Community Services (Northamptonshire County Council) and Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Dean Smith