



Re. Preventing Street Robbery and what to do if it happens

Dear Students, Parents / Carers and Headteachers

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Force lead for Robbery. Whilst we continue to see crime and in particular Robbery falling in Essex, we generally see a rise in Robbery at this time of the year. I wanted to use this opportunity to raise awareness of the potential risk and provide some crime prevention advice to help to keep young people safe on their way to and from school.

Advice to help young people stay safe from robbery

Sharing and discussing the following crime prevention advice with young people, can help prevent them from becoming a victim of robbery:

- Be aware of surroundings when out.
- Try to avoid using a mobile phone in public or having valuables on display.
- Smartphones in particular are attractive to thieves – a more basic mobile phone will enable young people to stay in touch but be less of a target.
- Make a note of the phone's 15-digit International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number. The IMEI number can be found by dialling *#06# on the device. This can be recorded on <https://www.immobilise.com/> website; this will help police recover it if it's ever stolen.
- Earphones can make young people more vulnerable as they are less aware of your surroundings.
- Have conversations with young people about the safest route home, avoiding shortcuts and less public places

Essex Police, PO Box 2, Headquarters, Springfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA

Report non-emergency crime and anti-social behaviour online at **www.essex.police.uk** or ring **101**

If a crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger, always ring **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000** or the **999 BSL app**

- Don't confront a thief – it's not worth risking personal safety for possessions that can be replaced.

What to do when a robbery happens

If a robbery happens then calling 999 straight away on a friend or trusted adult's phone gives police the best chance to provide an immediate response. It also gives us the best opportunity to catch the suspects, recover stolen items and, most importantly, ensure young people are safe. If it is not possible to report at the time, there is also the option to report the robbery online as soon as possible via www.essex.police.uk or by calling 101.

Report information anonymously to Fearless

Sometimes young people may feel concerned about reporting crime to the Police. Fearless is an organisation which provides non-judgemental advice about crimes that affect young people and they also provide a safe place for young people to give information about crime 100% anonymously, without fear of reprisal.

Any child who has witnessed a robbery, or has information about a robbery, can contact Fearless completely anonymously at www.fearless.org, if they prefer to do that rather than speak directly with the Police.

Get support after a crime

Although following crime prevention advice can help reduce the chances of being robbed, it may still happen. It can be a frightening experience which can leave young people feeling worried and scared afterwards.

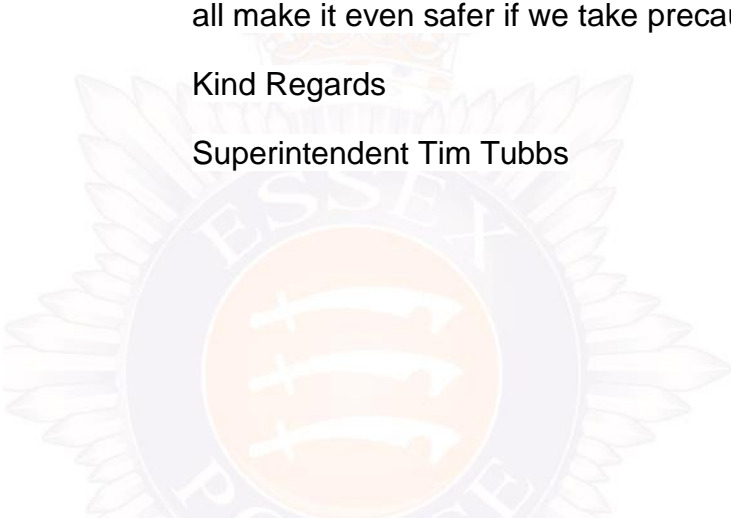
Victim Support are an independent charity with a specialist team who help young people cope with the impact and effects of crime, including advice and support for witnesses who may attend court. Young people can speak to trained staff any time of day 0808 1689 111 or via the live chat function on their website.

www.victimsupport.org.uk/children-and-young-people.

I want to reassure you that Essex is a safe place to live, work and visit, but we can all make it even safer if we take precautionary actions.

Kind Regards

Superintendent Tim Tubbs



- ▶ If you don't want to talk to police – contact Fearless online, without giving your name, at:

www.fearless.org

- ▶ Memorise or keep a note of a parent/carer's phone number in a separate place in case of emergency.



YOU CAN HELP US PROTECT AND TRACK YOUR PHONE IF IT'S STOLEN.

HERE'S THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO:

- ▶ Your phone will have security features such as a passcode or fingerprint/face ID. Make sure you use it to protect access to your phone.

- ▶ Tracker apps can help locate your phone if it's lost or stolen. Ask a parent to show you how to set one up.

- ▶ Record the phone's IMEI number in a separate place at home. Find this by typing in:

***#06#**

You'll need to give this number to police if it's stolen.



A SMALL GUIDE ON HOW TO KEEP YOUR PHONE SAFE

KEEPING YOU AND YOUR PHONE SAFE

Getting a phone is really exciting. You can stay in touch with friends and find out more about the world.



AS POLICE OFFICERS, OUR JOB IS TO KEEP YOU SAFE

It's also our job to stop people who want to steal property like phones, cash, earphones and even expensive coats or trainers. You can help us do that by being careful where you use your phone and taking care of cash and other valuable items.

FOUR TIPS TO KEEP SAFE

- ▶ Keep your phone and valuables out of sight and in a safe place. Take care when you take them out especially near bus stops and train stations.
- ▶ Stay alert and remember earphones/headphones can distract you from being aware of someone approaching from behind you. Thieves can approach on mopeds, e-scooters and pedal cycles.
- ▶ Don't fight back, it's not worth the risk when a phone can be replaced.
- ▶ Tell us if someone robs you or tries to. It's important you get help straight away by dialling **999** using a friend or trusted adult's phone rather than contacting police when you get home. This gives us the best chance to catch the suspects, recover stolen items and make sure you're safe.