

Don't make it easy for car thieves

SURREY is one of the safest places in the country but theft of and from vehicles is still one of the biggest challenges faced by Surrey Police. Although vehicle crime in the county is low in comparison to other areas, motorists continue to tempt thieves by leaving items such as satellite navigation systems, laptops and mobile phones in their cars and vans rather than taking them with them.

To encourage drivers to help reduce car crime and save themselves the cost and inconvenience of repairs or having to replace expensive items, Surrey Police has launched a campaign with the simple message 'Don't make it easy for them', which includes the advice to remove all valuable items from vehicles and to make a note of serial numbers because without them stolen items cannot be traced.

Advertising is being used to get the message across and will appear on the back of 57 buses on major routes across Surrey for four weeks, as well as running on Eagle Radio, Radio Mercury and Radio Jackie for two weeks.

In addition, 30,000 homes will receive a letter and leaflet offering car crime advice. On one side of the leaflet is a notice that drivers can leave under the windscreen informing would-be thieves that 'On the advice of Surrey Police I have left no valuables in my vehicle'. The other side carries a reminder to drivers of the simple steps they can take to help reduce car crime, as follows:

- Lock the doors, windows, boot and sunroof every time you leave your vehicle
- Use the vehicle's security devices
- Don't leave valuables in your car. Take them with you at all times
- Make a note of serial numbers. Without them, your valuable items are untraceable
- Keep driving documents and personal correspondence at home
- Lock the car and remove your keys from the ignition at petrol stations. Keep the keys with you
- Call the police if you see anyone acting suspiciously.

Enhanced police operational activity during the campaign will target car thieves across the county with arrests, warrants and undercover operations as well as extra patrols in vehicle crime 'hotspot' areas, forensic fingerprinting and increased Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) activity.