

Distraction Burglary

Ensuring the Safety of Older
People Who Live Independently

21 February 2007

Distraction Burglary

Definition: *“Any crime where a falsehood, trick or distraction is used on an occupant of a dwelling to gain, or try to gain, access to the premises to commit burglary”*

Home Office: 2003

Distraction Burglary

National Picture

- Level of offences low – 4% of all burglaries
- Underestimate – may be 12% report
- High social and economic costs
- Vulnerable older people as victims
- Offenders

Distraction Burglary-Warwickshire

District/ Boro	2004	2005	2006
Rugby	24	23	45
N Warks	19	19	12
N&B	24	24	29
Warwick	31	30	24
Stratford	23	18	22
Total	121	114	125

Distraction Burglary

Local Picture

- Low levels – 5% of burglaries
- Links to bogus callers
- High social and economic costs- to continue to live independently
- Vulnerable older people as victims – average age 81

Distraction Burglary

- Warwickshire's Distraction Burglary Group
- Set up 4 years ago
- Membership
- Remit
- Funding
- Decision-making
- Disbanding of the Group

Distraction Burglary

- Preventing Distraction Burglaries- National Guidance
- Problem-solving approach
- Data analysis
- Awareness raising
- Reducing vulnerability
- Reducing impact

Distraction Burglary

- Preventative Work in Warwickshire
- Data analysis
- Window Cards
- DVD- Merchant of Menace
- Personal alarms
- Calendar 2006
- Bank project
- Tradeline

Distraction Burglary

What Next?

- Information Pack
- Tradeline across the county
- Window cards continuing
- Safer Neighbourhood Teams
- Distraction Burglary Group disbanding