

# 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

<b>District/ Boro</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Rugby</b>	24	23	45
<b>N Warks</b>	19	19	12
<b>N&amp;B</b>	24	24	29
<b>Warwick</b>	31	30	24
<b>Stratford</b>	23	18	22
<b>Total</b>	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

# 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
- Merchant of Menace online
- Tradeline across the county
- Window Cards continuing
- Safer Neighbourhood Teams
- Distraction Burglary Group disbanding