

Crime Updates Archive

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Bogus callers target Shoeburyness (4 November 2010)

We have received reports of bogus callers targeting addresses in Shoeburyness.

Two males arrived in a white van with a roof rack, claiming to be from Springboard Housing Association's contractors, at around 4pm on Wednesday 3 November.

They flashed a photocopy of 'the contractor's' letter headed note paper which did not contain the resident's address, and stated they were going to paint the fence and guttering at the rear of the property.

The resident knew that the contractors normally use red vans and contacted Springboard Housing who said they were not aware of anyone being sent to carry out work at that address.

The two males made a hasty retreat when a younger family member came to the door.

PC Paul Hanson of Shoebury policing team, said: "If you suspect that someone is not who they claim to be, contact the police. Do not allow them access to your property, regardless of what they say. If you are in any doubt, check their credentials by using a directory enquiry to get the company's telephone number."

The first male was described as white, approximately 45 years old, of stocky build with curly brown hair and wore a checked shirt.

The second male was also white, approximately 45 years old and had brown hair.

A similar incident has also been reported in nearby Avon Way.

If you are concerned about bogus callers, or know an elderly or vulnerable neighbour who might be, the Southend Nominated Neighbour scheme can help.

The scheme involves the concerned resident referring unsolicited callers to their 'Nominated Neighbour' who will then determine the true identity of the caller, on their behalf.

For more information on this initiative, please contact Mick Holland on 01702 464199.

ENDS