



Tewkesbury Borough Council has joined forces with Gloucestershire Constabulary to thwart bogus callers who prey on vulnerable people.

The **0808 1000 777** Helpline is available for anyone who is concerned about the identity of a caller at the door. This Helpline will help to make sure that everyone who lives in the area of Tewkesbury Borough will not become victims. The Helpline operator will be able to give reassurance that it is okay to question the identity of callers and to remind them to make sure they keep unwanted callers out of their homes. It is aimed at anyone of any age, and remember, genuine callers will not argue when asked to wait.

Chief Superintendent Steve Ackland from the Gloucestershire Constabulary said "we fully support any initiative which will reassure people who feel uncertain about the identity of strangers who call at their home. I believe that this helpline will make it difficult for bogus callers to operate."

If anyone would like the leaflet and stickers for themselves or anyone they know, please contact the Crime and Disorder Partnership on (01684) 272201.

Although the reality of crime is low in the Tewkesbury area, some people still feel very threatened about becoming a victim.

We understand one of the main fears people have is about being burgled. Our continual focus on tackling this crime has resulted in a significant drop in home burglaries - year on year.

Regardless of this success, burglary remains an extremely distressing experience, particularly when the victims have been befriended by a doorstep caller with whom they placed trust or been offered help. These criminals are most commonly known as bogus callers, to the police these criminals are referred to as artifice or distraction burglars.

One of the best ways to tackle crimes committed by bogus callers is to make as many people as possible aware of how such criminals work, so you can reduce the chances of yourself, your friends, neighbours or relatives becoming a victim. It is also important you know what to do if you suspect a crime has occurred. For these reasons we have produced a leaflet.

If you would like a copy of the literature and a sticker for your door, please e-mail us at communitysafety@tewkesbury.gov.uk

