

Warning over 'Nottingham Knockers'

Local police have recently become aware that a group of young salesmen, dubbed the 'Nottingham Knockers', have returned to our part of the county.

Named after a scam originating in Nottingham, young people travel across the UK targeting a town at a time.

They knock at doors and claim to be ex-convicts attempting to mend their ways, before trying to sell the householder everyday household products at very high prices.

Police always advise residents to refrain from buying at the doorstep and not to buckle to pressure from salespeople offering supposedly one-off 'buy it now' low prices. However, often kind-hearted residents feel they are helping the Nottingham Knockers to turn their lives around so agree to buy their wares.

Police say: "These Nottingham Knockers work in groups across the country but they are not involved in any officially recognised offender rehabilitation programme and many do not possess Pedlar's Certificates, which are issued by police and are necessary for salespeople to be legally allowed to sell door-to-door.

"Sympathetic members of the public are being duped into buying cheap products at highly-inflated prices and, indeed, on analysis of crime data, some UK regions have discovered a notable rise in crime during the times their local areas were being visited by this group.

If any salesperson comes to your door, we'd suggest you ask to see their Pedlar's certificate - these are only issued to individuals under very strict conditions. You can contact the police station it was issued at in order to prove if it's genuine. If a Nottingham Knocker visits you, please inform police in order for us to keep track of where they are."