

Jeze Rogers – South East Regional Organised Crime Unit

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West Sussex County Council Digital Safety Team/South East Regional Organised Crime Unit Cyber Crime Team Partnership

The SEROCU Cyber Crime Team lead the national response in the region for Cyber Protect, Prepare and Cyber Choices. These strands form part of the current Serious and Organised Crime Strategy as stipulated by central Government.

Cyber Protect and Prepare responsibilities include providing all enterprises with proactive notifications concerning cyber vulnerabilities and/or breaches impacting upon their cyber estate. Working with our government and wider law enforcement partners, we disseminate cyber intelligence to inform recipients about current cyber threats and attacks.

Additionally, we offer free presentations and resources to local government, education, charities and small to medium enterprises. These enable both leaders and staff to have a better understanding of the cyber threat landscape, what should be done, and what can be done to increase organisational resilience to cybercrime. Guidance is also provided that signposts organisations to information to mitigate the impact of an attack and how to respond and recover from a cyber-incident.

The key elements in the cyber landscape are consistent both locally and nationally: understand phishing in its entirety, how to recognise it and how to safeguard against it; understand the principles for password creation and management; understand the importance and reasons for updating and patching all software and 'apps'; the use of 2 step verification and the criticality of backing up data.

Cyber Choices aims to illuminate, identify, educate and divert young people displaying poor concerning behaviours around computer misuses in the cyber space. Serious cybercrime offences are dealt with by pursuing a conventional criminal justice outcome. The Cyber Choices team provide tactical post-conviction support following a conviction, to aide statutory agency partners with delivering cyber offender management.

Those on the cusp of cyber offending, or simply gifted and talented, are directed to the programme that educates them on the Computer Misuse Act and then signposts them towards academic and career opportunities, to maximise the cyber skill set they have displayed as these talents are in global short supply.

Education is the key, with the Cyber Choices and access to schools across West Sussex necessary to explain and illuminate the existence of the programme, how to refer and how to support young people in the cyber space. The dedicated Cybercrime Education & Partnership Coordinator is currently working to reach every Designated Safeguarding Lead across the region to embed appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures around computer misuse.

We The Cyber Crime Unit is a relatively small team with a significant geographic area of responsibility. Partnership collaboration is essential to enable us to achieve appropriate reach, impact and traction within our local communities.

The 'special' relationship' we have with the WSCC Digital Safety Team has been key to achieving the aims of the National Cyber Crime Network within West Sussex. Without this collaboration we would not have gained access to audiences of the quality, quantity, and diverse nature that Francesca Blow, and her team, have created.

In return, we have brought our expertise in to West Sussex to increase the understanding, resilience and knowledge of both individuals and organisations about Cyber Protect, Prepare and Choices.

This joint approach has increased cyber knowledge and understanding within the County Council and also across the communities that the Council serve.

The SEROCU Cyber Crime Unit view our relationship with the WSCC Digital Safety Team as a long term collaboration. We would ask that our existence and capability is understood beyond Digital Safety so that other Council teams can recognise potential collaborative opportunities.