



**DE-ICE AND EASY DOES IT:** Stay with your car when defrosting it, warn police.

# Freeze out car thieves

THE weather can have a big effect on the kind of crime people face. In the warmer months, residents leaving the windows of their homes open can be inviting opportunistic thieves. Likewise, leaving back yard gates and sheds insecure makes life all too easy for burglars. In the winter months these kinds of crimes may be less likely, but the cold doesn't keep the criminals away. Drivers who leave their cars running to defrost them on icy mornings and then head into the house for a quick cuppa have fallen victim to thieves this winter. One Tameside mum was shocked when her car was stolen while she left it defrosting on her driveway. The mum of three was especially worried because she said she often leaves her children in the back of the car while she runs in and out with warm water to pour over the windscreen. Fortunately on this occasion her children were safely indoors. But as if the theft of the car was not bad enough, the nightmare didn't just end there for the family. The mum explained: "At the end

of the day it's just a lump of metal, but it's the inconvenience and all the things you don't think about. "I have had to have my house locks changed as my house keys were in the car. "My little girl was sent home from school because she was so upset, she saw it all." Police urge motorists to stay with their vehicles while de-icing them. PC Tony Lawton from Stalybridge said: "We have had so many cars stolen in the early hours of the morning while being defrosted. "Our advice is to use de-icer or sit in your car while it is defrosting, as tempting as it is to leave the engine running while you get ready, don't do it. "These thieves are opportunists and it will only take a few seconds for them to steal your car." The mum of three added: "It really is a wake up call. "You just don't think, you're in a rush and you want to get the car and the kids ready. "It's frightening. "I now know the dangers of what can happen if you leave your car unattended for a split second."

# Helping you to get home safely

**Take a taxi you can trust!** THINK safe, drink safe is the message behind the recently launched laminated 'taxi you can trust' card. The same size as a credit card it contains all the details needed to ensure a safe journey home after a night out. As well as a comprehensive list of private hire taxi firms phone numbers it also gives you pointers on the dos and don'ts when choosing which vehicle to get into. Whereas Hackney Carriage (black cabs) taxis are easily recognisable, because private hire taxis come in all shapes, sizes and colours, the card tells you to: \* Ensure the driver is wearing their driver's badge \* Make sure the vehicle is fitted with taxi licence plates and try to make a note of the number \* Check the meter is engaged at the start of every journey.

**GET HOME SAFELY USE A LICENSED TAXI**

Service	Telephone	Service	Telephone
A1 Private Hire	0161 343 9050	Radio Cars	0161 330 2990
Britannia Cars	01457 783 0000	Swift Radio Cars	0161 363 0137
Call A Car	0161 328 7171	Ring A Car	0161 338 6885
Cavalier Radio Cars	0161 328 4055	Stamford Radio Cars	0161 339 4411
Denton Links	0161 336 2620	Tameside Cars	0161 366 9585
Metrocars	0161 368 8888	Central Cars	0161 330 2888

These firms are private hire operators and are not licensed taxi drivers. For more information on the card or the Think safe, drink safe campaign phone the licensing unit on (0161) 301 3021.

# Teaching our young people to be socially responsible

## Vital lessons in Life Skills



### REPORT BY NIGEL PIVARO

**THERE were more young people presented with awards certificates at the Village Hotel in Hyde recently than you could point a firefighter's hose reel at.**

Well almost, as nearly 60 young people from across Tameside were presented with Life Skills certificates after completing their courses with the Fire Service at Hyde Fire station earlier this year. The children were hand picked after being identified as those that might benefit most from the courses which focus on social responsibility, creating a safer environment and pointing the way to possible future career opportunities. The course, lasting six weeks, is funded by New Charter Housing with participation from Tameside Road Safety Unit. The students took part in car crash rescue, basic fire fighting and fire prevention. They attended lectures on fire safety, car crime and making the right decisions that help lead to risk aversion. Life Skills Graduate Jamie Walsh found that the course gave him a few shocks. He said: "It helped me realise how dangerous things can be. "I learnt the consequences of silly actions like hoax calls and starting fires." One of the various exercises includes experiencing a car accident from the crash victim's perspective. Life Skills coordinator, Jonathon Knowles Community Fire Safety Officer based at Hyde added: "This particular exercise focuses the



**ACHIEVEMENT:** Young people receive their certificates.

mind of most of our kids and is very effective in steering them away from car crime." The students also took part in a driving simulator as part of the course in education about car crime. Another graduate Frankii Cole said: "It was quite shocking. Two girls from Tameside were killed getting into a car

with a drunk and drugged-up mate. "It was really upsetting listening to the victims' mothers talking about their daughters and how much they miss them." Jonathon Knowles said: "Specifically, the scheme is aimed at reducing malicious fires and calls, hostilities towards firefighters and cutting car accidents.

"The presentation night was a great evening and the students were rewarded for all their hard work with a well deserved sense of achievement." If you are a school or youth group wishing to nominate candidates that might benefit from the course, then telephone Fire Safety Officer Jonathon Knowles on (0161) 609 1617.



# No cold calling thank you

TAMESIDE Trading Standards are working with residents who no longer want uninvited salespeople calling at their door. Some of this information has been picked up from completed Community Diaries and from a national survey that indicated that 98 per cent of people don't want persons calling uninvited to their doors. As part of ongoing crime prevention activities Trading Standards, with other agencies, are working to reduce distraction burglaries, bogus callers and rogue traders. Many callers at the door are genuine but some turn up unannounced and try and trick their way into your home, or may pose as builders, gardeners or use other guises and persuade you into paying large amounts of money for unnecessary work. It is now well established that distraction burglaries and rogue traders are linked. Tameside Trading Standards now have seven NO COLD CALLING ZONES in Denton, Hyde and Droylsden. The purpose of the schemes is to empower residents to have the confidence to say 'NO' to uninvited salespeople and to warn rogue traders and cold callers that they are unwelcome. The areas chosen are based on crime statistics, Trading Standards information from the Community Diaries and local knowledge. They are usually known as 'hot spot' areas and may house vul-

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING A NO COLD CALLING ZONE**

**TRADING STANDARDS**  
0161 342 3671

nerable people of the community. Each scheme has 100 per cent support of all the residents, this is achieved by consultation, not only to get their consent but also to raise awareness of the issues and encourage community involvement. Signs identifying the zones are erected at the end of the road and all residents receive an information pack, leaflet, etc. Any cold callers will be questioned by the resident and their details reported to Trading Standards, who will then contact the person/trader making the call in the NCCZ and insist on future compliance. During the year many talks are given to community groups, sheltered housing, young carers, Age Concern and other resident groups warning of the above and the Community Diaries are handed out on a regular basis.

# Taking a STAND to reduce violent crime

**VIOLENT crime in Tameside has dropped with recent figures showing that there are fewer victims of violent crime when compared to the same period last year.** This reduction reflects the work of police and their partners against crime over the past year and in particular the regular STAND (Safer Tameside Against Night time Disorder) operations in Ashton and Stalybridge town centres. STAND is put in place during the summer months and over the festive period to promote sensible drinking and personal safety through marketing materials developed by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council. High visibility patrols by police

and police community support officers, together with Tameside Patrollers are increased to ensure swift and positive action is taken where needed and that incidents are diffused before they get out of hand. The emphasis is on preventing alcohol-related disorder and making sure people have a safe and enjoyable time while they are out in Tameside.

**SAFER TAMESIDE AGAINST NIGHT-TIME DISORDER**

**STAND**