

## WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TRADING STANDARDS UPDATE: 1 May 2020

PLEASE SHARE THESE WARNING AND INFORMATION WITH THE PEOPLE YOU ARE SUPPORTING -  
THANK YOU

### Warwickshire Trading Standards warn of Rogue Rubbish Collectors

With household waste recycling centres across the UK closed, reports have been coming in from Councils of an increase in the amount of fly-tipping. Warwickshire Trading Standards is asking residents not to inadvertently contribute to this problem by employing criminals and unlicensed operators who offer to remove household rubbish for a fee before dumping it a few streets away. These individuals may be working door to door or advertising on social media. The householder is responsible for where the rubbish is left. If it is fly-tipped and items are traced back to the householder, they could be prosecuted or issued with a fixed penalty notice! Current advice is to store bulky items until such time as the recycling centres can safely re-open.

#### **Help and Advice**

- Do not buy goods or services from unexpected doorstep callers
- Current advice is that all households should make full use of their kerbside waste collection service. Waste that cannot be accepted at kerbside, such as bulky items should be stored until such time as the recycling centres can safely re-open. For more information and to report fly-tipping, please visit: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/waste-recycling>
- Report suspicious doorstep visits or any type of scam to the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133. Citizens Advice can provide telephone support and advice. They will also alert Warwickshire Trading Standards Service who can provide additional advice.
- Keep up to date on the latest scams: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/scams>
- An online copy of this email alert can be viewed here: <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/2020/04/28/rogue-rubbish-collectors-warning/>

### Warwickshire Trading Standards warn of COVID 19 Loan Scams

Fraudsters are exploiting people and businesses with COVID-19 related financial concerns, Warwickshire Trading Standards is warning.

People struggling to obtain loans and similar finance from recognised High St. lenders may be tempted to go online where there are many scammers waiting to offer bogus loans or business funding. The scammer's websites encourage individuals to make an online application and in doing so gather telephone numbers and email addresses. Those searching for loans or similar are then contacted and offered money. However, the fraudsters ask for an upfront fee – usually between £25 and £450 - as part of the 'application' process. Once paid, the money (loan or funding) never materialises and the fraudsters disappear.

#### **Information and Advice**

- Be wary of any unexpected approach offering you loans or similar
  - Never make an upfront payment to secure a loan
- Struggling with your finances? Free and impartial help and advice is available, visit:**
- COVID-19 help and advice: <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2020/03/uk-coronavirus-help-and-your-rights/>
  - Debt advice charity: <https://www.stepchange.org/how-we-help/debt-advice.aspx>

- Debt advice charity: <https://www.nationaldebtline.org/>
- UK Government COVID-19 help and advice for individuals and businesses: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- Report any type of scam to the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133. Citizens Advice can provide telephone support and advice. They will also alert Warwickshire Trading Standards Service who can provide additional advice.
- Keep up to date on the latest scams: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/scams>
- An online copy of this email alert can be viewed here: <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/2020/04/28/covid-19-loan-scam-warnings/>