

Safeguarding Alert - URGENT

On Wednesday 24th September 2014, as part of a routine operation on the bus network, West Midlands Safer Travel Police Team had cause to speak to an individual. When questioned, the man informed the officer that he works for Pupil Watch, Birmingham City Council. When asked to produce his BCC ID he was unable to do so. An officer from West Midlands Safer Travel Police Team has contacted Education Welfare with this information and we were able to confirm that the individual did not work for Pupil Watch. The incident is now being investigated by West Midlands Police.

All Pupil Watch Safeguarding patrol activity conducted jointly by Education Welfare Staff and West Midlands Police came to an end in July 2014. Under Section 16 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, Police Officers still hold the powers to approach any person whom they believe to be of school age, to ascertain why they are not in school.

It appears that an individual may be using Pupil Watch as a cover for approaching children and or young people. I would therefore be grateful if you could ensure that all pupils are made aware of the following:

- **Pupil Watch patrols have now ceased.** If they are approached by any individual stating they work for Pupil Watch, they must not give any personal information. They should bring this approach to the attention of their parents, school staff and West Midlands Police.
- If any individual stating they work for Pupil Watch requests that the pupil leaves the location with them then **they must refuse to go** and should seek assistance as a matter of urgency from parents, staff and West Midlands Police.
- If any pupil is approached by a Police Officer, even if they are in full uniform then they are strongly advised to ask to see their warrant card and if in doubt seek assistance.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring all of our pupils are made aware of the situation. I trust you will know how best to pass this advice on to your pupils in a way that ensures they remain safe but not unduly alarmed. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on any of the contact details below.

Christine Brolan

Community Action Team Coordinator, Education Welfare Service

Office 0121 303 8900

Direct 0121 464 3368

Mobile 07766 94 497