

Police use paid-for witnesses

Professional witnesses are being employed in Walsall to watch crack houses and trouble-spots and compile a dossier of evidence to help convict criminals.

Families are often too scared to make statements and give evidence – so Walsall Police have employed a private firm – The Surveillance Group, Hereford to help catch villains in the act. Career witnesses are paid to monitor dangerous situations and illegal activities.

Report by Lyndsey Hunt

The evidence is used to prosecute drug dealers, prostitutes, burglars and other criminals.

The latest successful Walsall case which involved professional witnesses came to court this week.

Class A drug dealer Delroy Murray was jailed for three years at

Wolverhampton Crown Court on Tuesday. Caldmore, was arrested at the property in October. Murray was found in possession of 29 wraps of heroin, £300 cash and a three-inch knife was strapped to his ankle.

Walsall Pc Carl Byrne said; “It is all in a day’s work for employed witnesses who we can send into virtual no-go areas and trust to report back with a full and accurate account of what goes on.

Police stamp message home with 14 arrests

Fourteen people were arrested by police during a two week operation to tackle anti-social behaviour in a Walsall community.

Operation Knockturn saw uniformed officers step up their presence in Caldmore as part of a joint campaign with Safer

Walsall Borough Partnership, Caldmore Housing Group and Walsall Housing Group to crack-down on problems which affect the area’s residents.

From October 10 to 18 a total of 14 men and women were arrested for offences including vehicle theft, possession of class A drugs, burglary and prostitution.

Pc Karl Byrne, of Walsall Police, said: “We are committed to tackling anti-social behaviour and this operation sends a clear message that it will not be tolerated. Our aim is to continue to crack down on anti-social behaviour to improve the quality of life for the local community and we will not hesitate to hold operations like this again in the future.”