

Joint news release

20 November 2018

Grosvenor Centre strikes back at shoplifters

Every one of the 60 retail units in Northampton's Grosvenor Centre has been signed up to work in partnership with the Northampton Retail Crime Initiative (NRCI), which is part of the Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership (NBCP).

The Grosvenor Centre's new management team wanted to take action to support and protect retailers in the centre, so has enrolled each Unit into the NRCI to enable them to benefit from initiatives designed to prevent, disrupt and deter retail crime.

The NBCP is non-profit making company that works in close partnership with the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner's and Northamptonshire Police. It provides retailers with the latest information and intelligence around prolific shoplifters and allows retailers to report incidents to NBCP and crimes online to Northamptonshire Police.

The NBCP also facilitates an Exclusion Order Scheme that targets prolific shoplifters and bans them from member stores. This means that any person who is excluded under the NRCI scheme is not only banned from the whole Centre but from all 180 member stores throughout Northampton. The Exclusion Order lasts for a minimum of 12 months.

The NBCP operates six similar Retail Crime Initiatives covering the whole county and now has almost 500 retail store members.

Steve Lang from the NBCP said: "Shoplifting is not a victimless crime: The Centre for Social Justice estimated that nationally, police-recorded shop theft topped 385,000 offences last year but the true figure, based on Home Office assumptions, is closer to 38 million offences. In 2017, they estimated that shop theft cost £6.3bn – equivalent to £270 for every household in the country.

"Our Northamptonshire scheme is not replacing Police response but appropriately empowers retailers and Centre security. They now will be able to identify prolific shoplifters at point of entry and then prevent, disrupt and deter them before they steal. We are really looking forward to working with the Centre management, security and their retailers to make Northampton a better and safer place to shop and work."

Stephen Mold, Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner, said: "I am pleased to see such a positive and proactive approach from the new management of Northampton Grosvenor Centre. Teaming up with the NBCP will promote a safer

environment for shop staff and help make the Centre a more pleasant and secure place for shoppers.”

James Roberts, Grosvenor Shopping Centre Manager said: “ Both Retailers and Public deserve a safe, secure and friendly environment. This initiative is just one in a series of projects to help change the face of shopping within Northampton Town Centre. The Centre Management Team are looking forward to working with the NBCP to help achieve this goal.”

Ends

Note to news editors: the figures quoted are from the Centre for Social Justice report that can be found

<http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/core/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CSJ-Desperate-for-a-fix-WEB-1.pdf>

Also attached case study by Littoralis on NBCP (For Background information & NBCP Logo for inclusion in the article.