

Sweep sucks in suspects

**BY DAVID BRUCE
CHIEF CRIME REPORTER**

TWO north Leeds suburbs have become the target of a massive crime and grime clean-up operation. The initiative, in Gledhow and Roundhay, was in response to appeals from local residents. The operation, by partnership agencies including the police and council, involved removing abandoned vehicles from roads, clearing up litter – and targeting suspected drug dealers and burglars.

The move follows the opening of a joint services, one-stop shop in Lidgett Lane, Gledhow.

The open-door joint services centre enables people to go in and speak to representatives from the local neighbourhood policing team, Leeds North East Homes, Leeds Youth Services, ward councillors and Brackenwood Tenants' and Residents' Group, about any concerns.

A 41-year-old woman from the Brackenwood area was arrested yesterday after a quantity of suspected crack cocaine, heroin and cannabis was recovered. Officers from the neighbourhood policing team also searched three addresses as part of the community clean-up. Local community officer PC Dave Brook said: "This has been a huge success and well received by the local community.

"The NPT has handed out leaflets which include details about the Dob in a Dealer campaign to every house in the area and already the intelligence is flooding in. "The open-door centre has been open only a week and already we are able to carry out warrants on the back of the information passed on to us. "By working so closely with the public and our partners, we are able to share information and support each other in making the area a better place."

The clean-up has also involved:

Leeds North East Homes and pupils from Moor Allerton Primary School, who cleaned up the area as part of their personal safety week;

The anti-social behaviour officer, who has been working in the area to identify people who may be need to be served with an Anti-Social Behaviour Order; Police Community Support Officers, who have been handing out leaflets and offering crime prevention advice in the run up to the darker nights

PC Brook added: "In the Brackenwood estate we were averaging around 100 crimes per month last year. "After our last operation this dropped to just 34. "We expect this crackdown to have the same effect, as any local drug dealers or burglars will be well aware of our presence."

Anyone with information on suspected drug dealing in any area in West Yorkshire is urged to Dob in a Dealer by calling Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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