

Dorset Council Trading Standards is a Friend Against Scams

Dorset Council Trading Standards has become a Friends Against Scams Organisation, committed to take a stand against scams in Dorset!

Scams are fraud and many people are contacted by criminals by post, phone, online or on the doorstep. Over half of people 65+ have been targeted by criminal scams. Age UK found that worryingly only 5% of people report scams, so 95% of people don't. Silence is a scammers best friend as it allows perpetrators of these crimes to continue unchallenged and victims to remain unsupported.

There is a scam for everyone and anyone can be affected. Young people can be scammed when buying a first mobile phone or paying online letting agents for student accommodation. Older people may fall for fake lotteries, prize draws and catalogue scams. Others may lose money when contacted out of the blue by someone purporting to be from their bank.

People who are more vulnerable to scams can receive multiple contacts a day by fraudsters and there are many reasons why people reply. Some feel they have an obligation to respond to letters or enjoy the routine of opening and responding to post. Some people want to receive the cheque for their promised winnings.

Friends Against Scams aims to break the silence around scams, giving people information to be able to spot the signs of a scam, talk with and support others and report scams. It is a national and growing scheme that aims to recruit 1 million 'Friends' by 2020.

Anyone can become a 'Friend', many people are, and you could too. Visit the national website www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk to learn more about scams.

For advice about scams and to report something to Trading Standards call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.