

## COFFEE WITH A COP



*Roving Reporters Catherine, Derrick and Jonathan interviewed Karen from The Policing & Community Safety Partnership & Police Officers Lisa Stevenson and Sandy Boyd over a coffee*

Downpatrick TILII heard about the 'Coffee with a Cop' initiative and thought it would be really great to do a roving report on such an important scheme to help keep the community safe.

The Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) have joined together with Police Forces throughout Northern Ireland to help raise awareness and help the public to stay safe. TILII interviewed Karen from the PCSP and she explained how 'Coffee with a Cop' brings police officers and the community together over coffee to discuss issues and learn more about each other, which breaks down barriers between police officers and the community they serve.

Sitting down and having a coffee and a chat is something TILII love doing. If there is a nice cake as well it makes it even better!!! Everyone, no matter what country or culture they are from all over the world, love to have a drink and a chat. This excellent idea not only allows the community to see that the police are approachable but also helps to raise awareness about safety. Crime prevention is really important to everyone as we all have the right to be safe and secure and it lets the community know that the police force is there to do an important job. They are not only approachable but actually want to work with the community to help everyone learn to live their life as safely as possible and to teach them how not to become a victim of crime.

Lisa and Sandy who are Police Officers don't just sit and have a chat but they also give out leaflets on safety and offer free security items, for example they gave us a personal alarm which rings very loudly when the button is pushed if someone is threatening and or trying to hurt you. Roving Reporter Catherine asked if that happens very often and Lisa and Sandy explained that sadly it does happen but you would need to check the crime figures to see how often but if a personal alarm protects one person it is worth having. TILII Downpatrick agree it is about helping as many people as we can and one person is important. In fact, we are all important and have a right to be safe. The police also help people to keep their money and belongings safe. Lisa and Sandy gave us little bells which not only sounded like Santa's Sleigh was on its way, which is very appropriate for the time of year we are doing this roving report, but the bells also help to prevent your purse or wallet being stolen from you bag or pockets as you hear the bells ringing. They also gave us a Protector wallet for our bank cards to make sure that no one can scan your cards and steal the cash from your bank which of course would be very upsetting.

Roving Reporter Catherine said It was really useful not just to learn about how to be safe at home and also how to try and protect your belongings when you are out, but also just to talk to a policeman and policewomen and realise that they are kind and helpful. Roving Reporter Derrick said getting to know your local police is important as they are very approachable and it makes it easier to ask for help. That is their job after all and they are nice.

### **TILII TIPS**

- If you hear about 'Coffee with a Cop' please go to it as it is fun and helps you to learn how to be safer at home as well as when you are out in the community
- Never be afraid to do the right thing
- If you are lost, scared or in danger ask a police officer for help
- Use the security items that the police and community partnership give you to help prevent crime
- Read the safety leaflet and get your parent and carers to help you follow the suggested safety measures in the leaflet



**WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OUR REPORT AND DON'T FORGET TO STAY SAFE AND HELP STOP CRIME. IF 'COFFEE WITH A COP' COMES TO YOUR LOCAL CAFÉ, PLEASE GO AS IT IS REALLY GOOD. THE ONLY RECOMMENDATION TO MAKE IT BETTER IS TILII SUGGESTS IT SHOULD BE 'COFFEE WITH A CAKE AND A COP'!!!! YUMIE YUMIE.**