



## News Information

Telephone: 01772-412333 Website: [www.lancashire.police.uk](http://www.lancashire.police.uk) Voicebank: 0871-550-8022  
Corporate Communications, PO Box 77, Hutton, Preston, Lancashire PR4 5SB  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/lancspolice> Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lancspolice](http://www.facebook.com/lancspolice)

### Police fight car crime on the Fylde coast

MOTORISTS in the Fylde are being urged not to tempt thieves by leaving their cars unlocked with property on display.

The warning comes after a spate of incidents where thieves have deliberately targeted insecure vehicles.

So far this month there has been 12 thefts from insecure vehicles, eight of those were in Lytham St Annes and four in Kirkham and rural Fylde.

Patrols have been stepped up as part of Operation Angel and police are reminding people to follow simple measures to avoid falling victim to car crime.

Security tips for motorists include:

- Lock the doors when you get out of your car
- Don't leave items on display
- Remove valuables from the car and get rid of any signs

PC Tracey Carruthers, Community Beat Manager for Ansdell & Fairhaven said "Make sure that you secure your windows and lock the doors when you get out of your car – even if you are only popping into a shop. Also remove valuables from the car and get rid of any signs – such as suction marks on the windscreen or MP3 cables or a thief may assume you have stored them in the glove box or boot.

"Remove items from display - you may think that the few pence you've left out aren't worth taking but anything can prove to be a temptation. If a thief sees something that may be of value they will take their chances – especially if you have made it easy for them by leaving your vehicle unlocked"

Operation Angel started in April, following a rise in the number of burglaries and break-ins where owners had left their property unlocked. Officers have been going through safety checks with people when they respond to reports of crime at an address, as well as Neighbourhood Police teams offering advice on crime prevention measures during routine visits to homes.

Anyone with any information can contact police by calling **101**. Alternatively, information can be passed to the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111** or on-line at [Crimestoppers-uk.org](http://Crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

**ENDS**

20/11/12