

## Boy hit by car is in hospital

A YOUNG boy has been rushed to hospital after he was struck by a vehicle in Clydebank.

The Scottish Ambulance Service said they received several calls following the incident on Dumbarton Road near the Cabin Inn public bar at around 8.30am on Wednesday.

He was taken to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital for treatment

Police Scotland said: "We received a report of a boy having been hit by a car on Dumbarton Road.

"Emergency services attended and the boy was taken to hospital."

## New priorities for the police



POLICE Scotland is to strengthen its focus on community policing following a consultation on new strategic priorities for the force.

Localism is one of the seven priority areas set by the Scottish Government to give a broad strategic direction.

Launching the new priorities, Justice Secretary Michael Matheson, above, said: "With recorded crime in Scotland at a 42-year low, I am confident that policing in Scotland is on the right track.

"I believe the new strategic police priorities, developed following extensive consultation, will be key to shaping the future of policing."

## Passenger is hurt in crash

A ROAD was closed in Ayrshire following a crash during rush hour yesterday morning.

Police and emergency services were called to the A760 'Haylie Brae' Largs to Kilbirnie Road at around 8.40am yesterday.

It is understood the car left the road, near Blairpark Farm outside Dalry, and landed on a slope.

Two women were in the car and one was taken to Inverclyde Royal Hospital.

The woman taken to hospital was the passenger and her injuries are said to be serious.

## RAPE INVESTIGATION UNIT SAYS VICTIMS SHOULD

# 'There is no time limit to reporting a sexual assault'

**EXCLUSIVE**  
By HANNAH RODGER

**S**PECIALIST sexual crime officers have vowed to hunt down those who commit sex attacks – no matter how long ago they carried out their crimes.

Police who work on Police Scotland's dedicated rape investigation unit have encouraged victims who may have been abused historically to come forward, as it may help them catch perpetrators who could have attacked others.

In an exclusive interview with the Evening Times, Craig Willison, Detective Inspector at Glasgow's divisional rape investigation unit, and Detective Sergeant Sarah McGill, a trained sexual offences liaison officer (SOLO) told of how they are committed to helping rape victims and catching their attackers.

In Glasgow, there is a dedicated team of officers, including three detective inspectors, five detective sergeants and 20 detective constables, who work only on sexual crimes, and help to support victims.

The squad make it their mission to help victims, and say their approach is victim-focused no matter how long ago their attack took place.

DI Willison said: "There is absolutely no time limit to reporting a rape or sexual assault.

"In our unit we've had a report from 1966, and others historically.

"No matter how long ago it happened, you have my assurances if someone comes forward we will take their report, we will investigate it thoroughly.

"They will get the quality of service they would get at any time, whether it is historic or whether it has happened recently.

"I would encourage people to come forward."

DI Willison said his team's approach is all about supporting victims of rape, and they work closely with partners at Rape Crisis to en-



Sexual crime officers Detective Sergeant Sarah McGill and Detective Inspector Craig Willison Picture: Kirsty Anderson

sure they get the best help.

He said: "The policy for Police Scotland is that all reports of rape will have a senior investigating officer allocated to it.

"It must be of the rank of at least inspector. We have oversight of the whole investigation."

He explained that SOLOs are a key part of the team and they make sure the victim is updated and liaise with services such as Rape Crisis.

He said: "We have SOLO officers to give victims of such crimes the best quality service we can give them.

"It means we can treat the victims the way they should be treated, give them a service they deserve and

make sure they are supported from the minute they come in to report it to the police, through the investigation, through referrals to our partners right through to the court process."

For the officers working on the unit, their biggest sense of achievement comes from catching perpetrators and ensuring victims are safe.

DS Willison described a recent case where the whole team pulled together and the culprit was behind bars less than 24 hours after the crime was reported.

He said: "The person came in the morning, and it was a live incident, it had just happened.

"We threw all our resources at it – two people dealing with the victim, someone looking at where it happened and the suspect, a team looking at CCTV, a team asking witnesses, and we also had someone doing telephone work.

"By 8pm that night, the guy was locked up. That's what it is all about for us.

"We try our best to give a victim the best service they can get.

"We want them to walk away with some sort of closure, we want ultimately to give them a good result.

"Ultimately we want them to get their life back."

DS Sarah McGill is one of the 20

## NOT BE AFRAID TO COME FORWARD



Forensic evidence collected at the scene of a rape can provide vital clues to the identity of the attacker

SOLOs who act as the single point of contact for individual victims from the moment they report their attack.

They have to have special training over a week, and are assessed before they can work as a SOLO.

She said it helps victims, who have often never told anyone about their rape, to cope with the new legal and police environment which they are usually not familiar with.

"I have taken a number of statements over the years when the victim has never told anyone, and they have got the courage to come in," explained DS McGill.

"That's the main concern in some cases, just telling someone. After that we help them through the process.

"The SOLO is responsible for taking a statement from the victim.

"We appreciate it can be traumatising, so wherever they want to do the statement we will do it – in their house, in the police office or even with our partners such as Rape Crisis.

**W**E are also there during the forensic medical, and are responsible for updating them as the inquiry progresses, even up to the very end stage when it goes to court.

"It's always the same person. It's very much victim-centred."

DS McGill said working with Rape

Crisis provides an excellent opportunity to further support the victim and give them access to as much help as possible.

She said: "As a SOLO you realise how fundamental Rape Crisis can be at getting the victim on board and maintaining that cooperation with the police enquiry.

"Often people will detach from the enquiry but they are very good at asking people to keep on board and its good to work in partnership with someone else who has the same goal."

● If you are a victim of rape, domestic violence or sexual abuse, contact the police on 101, or Glasgow Rape Crisis on Freephone 08088 00 00 14.

## Meat cleaver attacker jailed for 30 months

By LOUISE HOUSTON

A MAN who attacked a mum with a meat cleaver has been jailed for two and a half years.

Naihui Yu, 51, threatened to kill Mei Qian Yu's family and brandished a meat cleaver at him before attacking his wife, You Wu, with the weapon.

When he then chased after the accused after he ran off, he was pushed to the ground and attacked with a pole.

Yu stood trial at Glasgow Sheriff Court where the couple gave evidence against him.

Mrs Wu, 37, claimed she was attacked because she turned up with Yu's requests for money and sex.

But, after evidence from them and other witnesses, Yu admitted three charges of assault on May 1, last year, at Lymburn Street, Argyle Street and Parkgrove Terrace in the West End, including an assault on Mei Qian Yu to his severe injury.

Martin Jones QC jailed Yu for 30 months yesterday.

The courts heard Yu approached Mei Qian Yu when he was in his car, threatened to "hack his whole family to death", and brandished the meat cleaver.

He then went for Mrs Wu, who was walking nearby.

He threatened to kill her family and assaulted her with the cleaver.

She told the court she met Yu

when she arrived from China in 2007 before her husband came to the country.

Describing the attack in court she said: "He was running towards me, he looked very angry and was running, mumbling something I couldn't hear.

"Then he took something out from his body, it was covered with paper then hit my head and then threatened to kill my family."

She said she was hit by the flat part of the meat cleaver and suffered a sore head.

Mrs Wu said that she then saw her husband, who followed Yu, and when she later caught up with him he was covered in blood.

Yu went on to attack Mei Qian Yu at Parkgrove Terrace, where he was thrown to the ground and repeatedly hit on the body with a metal pole.

The victim suffered fractured ribs and a punctured lung.

Prosecutor fiscal depute Mark Allan asked Mrs Wu: "Are you saying this man threatened you and your family and struck you with a meat cleaver because you had refused to give him money?"

She replied: "Also the demand for sex."

He continued: "Are you telling the truth about this?" and she replied "Yes."

It was suggested to her that her husband had owed Yu money but she denied that.



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