

Baby Put At Risk By Fleeing Suspect In Hastings - 26.06.18

Police close to apprehending a wanted man in Hastings are concerned that an escape bid on Thursday (21st June) put a young family, including a baby boy, in danger.

At 11.15am, a man believed to be Grant Searle, 26, from St Leonards-on-Sea, wanted for recall to prison after a previous conviction for burglary, realised officers were closing in on him and fled in a Volvo XC60 car previously reported stolen from Brighton.

In a dash to get away, the car collided with three other vehicles, including an Audi Q7 car driven by a 33-year-old local woman accompanied by her three-year-old and nine-month old sons.

As the Volvo headed west along Lower Park Road from its junction with Bethune Way, Hastings, it also struck a parked Volkswagen Caddy van and a Renault Traffic van before coming to a halt.

The suspect then ran from the vehicle, dodging through woods and gardens to eventually evade capture, despite a search supported by a helicopter from the National Police Air Service.

No one was injured in the incident, but Chief Inspector Steve Curry, Hastings divisional police commander, said: "Given the manner of driving displayed it is fortunate that nothing more serious occurred."

Grant Searle is thought to have recently been associating with two other wanted men - Connor Mackay and Taylor Clarke - in the Hastings area. Both have £500 rewards on offer against them and Mackay is also wanted by police in Brighton.

Chief Insp Curry added: "I would urge anyone seeing Searle or knowing of his whereabouts, or who may also have information concerning Clarke and Mackay, to contact us immediately by phoning 999."

Details can also be passed by contacting the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Callers should quote Operation Spiderman.

Help Us Keep Sussex Safe

Seen something suspicious or have information about a crime or incident? Please [contact us online](#), email us at 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk or call 101.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111, or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org