



Autumn crime prevention reminder

Your latest Smart Alert.

We are reminding residents to take simple crime prevention measures this autumn as burglaries often increase at this time of year.

To keep opportunist burglars at bay:

- Always keep doors and windows locked, even when you're in. Remove the keys from the lock and keep them out of view or reach.
- Use timer switches to turn lights on when you are out. Alternate the times and lights that you use.
- Make sure your alarm and any outside lights are in working order. Always activate your alarm when you leave the house and go to bed.
- Don't leave items of value on show through ground floor windows (i.e. laptops, tablets, mobile phones, car keys etc.)
- Lock your garden gates and side entrances. Keep ladders and tools securely stored away, don't leave them outside where they could be used to break into your home.
- Consider joining our Smart Alert scheme and following your neighbourhood policing teams on Facebook and Twitter so you can receive crime alerts and prevention advice from your local police officers.
- Look out for your neighbours, especially the elderly and vulnerable, and remind them to follow the STOP, CHAIN and CHECK rule when people call at the door:
STOP: If you are not expecting anybody and they don't have an appointment, don't let them in.
CHAIN: Use your door chain or bar before opening the door.
CHECK: Ask to see ID and double check this.
- Local residents are encouraged to contact the police if they have any suspicions about doorstep callers or witness any suspicious behaviour.

For further advice and a comprehensive guide, please see:

<https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/keep-your-home-safe/>

To report a crime please call 101, or send a direct message to Staffordshire Police on Facebook or Twitter. Ring 999 immediately if the crime is in progress.

Police Contact Advice:

Telephone 999 in an emergency where there is a danger to life or a crime is in progress.

Telephone 101 for **non**-emergencies where police attendance is required, to report a crime or to report any other incidents. Calls to 101 have a fixed cost of 15p per call.