



STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

The chance of becoming a victim of crime in South Staffordshire is very low but Staffordshire Police is urging residents to take precautions to reduce that risk even further in the run up to Christmas

Out and about..

- Stay alert in crowded places; keep purses and wallets close to your body in a secure pocket
- Be aware of jostling groups or individuals that may distract you in order to steal your purse or wallet
- **NEVER** leave handbags in shopping trolleys or put purses or wallets down whilst paying for items, always carry them on you
- Be aware of who is around you at cash points. Try to use cash machines inside banks or get cash back when shopping. Always shield your PIN
- Consider purchasing card minder wallets to keep your cards safe against contactless credit/debit card fraud – these can be purchased online – just type 'card minder wallets' into your web browser for retailers
- Only take the money and valuables you need when you go out
- **NEVER** write down your PIN or keep it with your debit/credit cards
- If you take the car, park it in well-lit busy places and don't leave property on view or unattended in your vehicle
- Keep car doors locked at all times even when driving
- Ensure valuables are removed from vehicles when unattended

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.
- Look out for your neighbours, especially the elderly and report any suspicious activity immediately.
- Consider joining our Smart Alert scheme when you can receive localised crime alerts and prevention advice from your local police officers.