



Preparing to celebrate the biggest night of the year

Enjoying Halloween safely right across Derry and Strabane

As Halloween approaches, communities across Derry and Strabane are gearing up for what is undoubtedly one of the most celebrated occasions in our area.

From elaborate spooky displays in neighbourhoods to thousands of children taking to the streets for trick-or-treating, Halloween holds a special place in the hearts of local families and is deeply woven into our traditions.

However, with such widespread celebrations comes the need for careful preparation to ensure everyone can enjoy the festivities safely.

Derry and Strabane Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) is working closely with local police to promote safety awareness and responsible celebration throughout the district.

PCSP Chair Keith Kerrigan emphasised the importance of community cooperation during this busy period: "Halloween is a magical time for families across Derry and Strabane, and we want everyone to enjoy the celebrations safely. By working together and being mindful of our neighbours, we can ensure Halloween remains the positive,



community-spirited occasion it has always been in our area. I encourage everyone to celebrate responsibly and look out for each other during what is always one of our busiest nights of the year."

Neighbourhood and Local Policing Team officers across Derry and Strabane will be on patrol to provide reassurance to residents and businesses as the use of fireworks increases at this time of year.

Police will carry out operations in areas where it's suspected fireworks are being sold illegally, and will encourage anyone with information about illegal fireworks supply to report it.

Police say that while most people are responsible, they urge everyone to be considerate and mindful of others when it comes to celebrating Halloween

— including family pets who become very distressed at this time of year. What might seem like harmless fun to one person may actually feel like antisocial behaviour to another.

If you have any concerns about antisocial behaviour or the use of illegal fireworks in your community, particularly if you know someone selling them to make extra cash, you can contact police on 101, or 999 in an emergency.

Remember, you can be fined up to £5,000 for breaking the law in relation to using fireworks illegally.

For more information about fireworks licencing, visit: www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/fireworks.

To help ensure everyone stays safe during the festivities, consider ensuring children's costumes are bright

or have reflective materials for visibility, accompany young children while trick-or-treating, check all treats before consumption, keep paths well-lit and clear of obstacles for visitors, consider using battery-operated candles in jack-o'-lanterns instead of real flames, and plan your route in advance, sticking to familiar, well-lit areas.

PCSP encourages all residents to play their part in making Halloween 2025 memorable for all the right reasons.

By acting responsibly and looking out for our neighbours, we can maintain the positive spirit that makes Halloween such a special time right across the Derry and Strabane district.

It's so important to make home security part of your daily routine

With the darker nights upon us for the next few months, it's more important than ever for residents across Derry and Strabane to be vigilant about home security.

The seasonal change brings with it increased opportunities for crime, making this the perfect time to review and strengthen your home security arrangements.

Police are urging all householders to take proactive steps to protect their homes and property during this period.

Burglary is a deeply personal and intrusive crime which can have a significant and lasting impact on victims and their families, affecting not just material possessions but also peace of mind and sense of security within one's own home.

PCSP Chair Keith Kerrigan emphasised the importance of community vigilance during the darker months saying: "As we enter the period of longer nights, it's crucial that we all take responsibility for our own security and look out for our neighbours.



"Simple daily habits can make all the difference in protecting our homes and communities. By working together and staying alert, we can help ensure everyone feels safe and secure in their own homes throughout the winter."

Police urge everyone to make home security part of their daily routine. This means ensuring you lock all doors and windows before leaving the house or going to bed, making sure alarms are working properly and tested

regularly, and storing valuables out of sight from windows and doors. These simple steps, when done consistently, can significantly reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime. The same apply to garages, sheds and outbuildings, which are often overlooked but can contain valuable items such as tools, bicycles, and gardening equipment. Ensure these structures have locks and alarms where needed,

and ensure valuable items are secured and appropriately marked for identification purposes.

Police also urge anyone who sees something out of the ordinary or seems suspicious where they live to report it immediately.

Community vigilance is one of the most effective tools in preventing crime, and residents' observations can provide vital information that will help to keep our neighbourhoods safe.

If you need advice on home security or wish to report suspicious activity, you can contact your local PSNI Crime Prevention Officer on the non-emergency number 101.

Remember, effective home security doesn't require expensive equipment or major changes to your property. Often, the most effective measures are the simplest ones - locking doors and windows, using timer switches for lights, and keeping valuables out of sight. By making these practices part of your daily routine, you can help protect your home and contribute to the overall safety of your community.



Home security tips for Autumn and Winter

- Install outdoor lighting to compensate for shorter daylight hours and ensure all pathways are well-illuminated during evening darkness.
- In rural areas install motion sensors at property entrances to alert you about approaching vehicles.
- Secure outdoor furniture that could be used by intruders as climbing aids or weapons.
- Replace burned-out bulbs promptly and consider upgrading to LED lights that perform better in cold temperatures and last longer through winter months.
- Secure outbuildings, barns, and sheds with quality locks, as these structures often contain valuable equipment and tools that attract thieves during colder months.
- Trim tree branches that may have grown closer to windows or roofs during growing season, preventing access points after leaves fall.
- Use timers on interior lights to maintain occupied appearance during longer periods of darkness, varying the schedule to appear natural.
- Consider backup power solutions for security systems, as rural areas experience more frequent power outages during winter storms and extended darkness periods.
- Keep paths and drives clear of ice to prevent slips while also maintaining easy escape routes during emergencies.

New leaflet to help people beat the scammers

A NEW leaflet highlighting ways to avoid scams has been launched as part of a joint initiative by Derry City and Strabane District Council's Age Friendly team and Derry and Strabane Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP).

The leaflet is aimed at older people who are often targeted by scammers, featuring useful information on a range of measures to avoid being caught out

Mayor Cllr Ruairí McHugh, joined the PCSP Chair, Alderman Keith Kerrigan, and Council's Age Friendly Officer Pauline O'Neill, for the launch, and encouraged people to check out the advice.

"We are all aware of an increase in this kind of activity, so this leaflet is particularly timely," Cllr McHugh said.

"Scammers are becoming more and more sophisticated in their approaches and this leaflet sets out a range of practical support and advice on how to spot and avoid situations which may lead to someone gaining access to personal information.

"I encourage anyone with concerns to check out the advice and help beat the scammers."

PCSP Chair, Alderman Keith Kerrigan said: "The PCSP is pleased to support Council to raise awareness and proactively help tackle



Mayor Cllr Ruairí McHugh recently launched the Scam Awareness leaflet. He is joined by PCSP Chair, Alderman Keith Kerrigan, Aileen Murphy, PCSP Project Co-ordinator and Council's Age Friendly Officer Pauline O'Neill.

this increasing issue. Perpetrators are constantly on the look out for new victims and everyone must remain vigilant.

"Older people are often targeted so by becoming

more informed and scam savvy we can all reduce the risks."

• You can download the leaflet from www.derrystrabane.com or email agefriendly@derrystrabane.com for a printed copy.

Derry Strabane PCSP supporting local initiatives



PCSP Chair Keith Kerrigan was joined by Cllr Ruairí McHugh, Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, at the recent End of Programme Celebration for the Rural Leadership Pathfinders Programme in Castleterg. At the event certificates were presented to the inspiring young people who completed this fantastic 10-month Rural Youth Leadership Programme.



PCSP Chair Keith Kerrigan with young people from Cathedral Youth Club (above) and Hillcrest Trust (below) who took part in Summer Diversionary Programmes funded through PCSP's Consensual Grant Programme.



PCSP Vice-Chair Karl Duncan visited St Mary's Youth Club in Creggan to see the incredible Willow bull sculpture which was the centrepiece of this year's Lúnasa celebration, part of Féile Derry.



Community Safety Warden Alan handing over Card Minder Sleeves to Linda Watson from Caw Nelson Drive Action Group.



Community Safety Wardens Gary and Matt at a dementia information event in St Columb's Park House organised by the Western Trust.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

CALL THE POLICE

101

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

101 is the non-emergency number to contact the police.

Using 101 for situations that do not require an immediate police response helps keep 999 free for **emergency** incidents.

When to dial **101**

- Report a crime not currently in progress - for example a stolen car, burglary, or damaged property
- Give information to the police about crime in your area
- Speak to the police about a general enquiry
- Contact a specific police officer or member of staff

When to dial **999**

- When there's a danger to life
- When violence is used or being threatened
- When someone is injured
- When a crime is in progress
- When there has been serious damage caused to property

For more information about 101 or 999 visit psni.police.uk

Keeping People Safe

You are not alone

Police (Non Emergency)	101
Lifeline (24hrs)	0808 8088000
Samaritans (24 hrs - Free Call)	116 123
Hurt (Mon-Fri: 9am to 4:30pm)	02871 369696
Zest (9am-5pm)	02871 266999
Calms	02871 268698
Childline (24hrs)	0800 11 11
CRUSE	02871 262941
StepChange Debt Charity (Helpline)	0800 138 1111
Altnagelvin Hospital (24 hrs)	02871 345171

FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE

Foyle Search and Rescue
T: 028 7131 3800

If you think you have been the victim of a scam.

helpful contacts

Visit our Facebook page at [ScamwiseNI](https://www.facebook.com/ScamwiseNI)

Action on Elder Abuse

Helpline: 0800 8808 8141
Tel: 020 8835 9280
enquiries@elderabuse.org.uk

Trading Standards

Consumerline: 0300 123 6262
www.nidirect.gov.uk/consumerline
consumerline@economy-ni.gov.uk

Action Fraud

Helpline: 0300 123 2040
actionfraud.police.uk

Victim Support NI

info@victimsupportni.org.uk
www.victimsupportni.co.uk

CALL THE POLICE 101

Police Service of Northern Ireland
Non-emergency 101
Emergency 999

Keeping People Safe

Emergency Numbers

Emergency Services
999

Flooding Incident Line
0300 2000 100

NI Electricity Networks
03457 643 643

NI Gas Emergency
0800 002 001

NI Water
03457 440 088

Housing Executive
03448 920 901

Report a blocked road
0300 200 7891

domestic and sexual abuse helpline

0808 802 1414

Freephone confidential 24/7 helpline
Call now.

City and Rural Community Safety Warden Scheme

TRIAX/Waterside Wardens
(Bogside, Brandywell, Fountain Estate, Creggan and Waterside urban areas) Telephone: 07709 457690

Outer North/Outer West Wardens
(Shantallow, Galliagh, Ballyarnett, Culmore, Rosemount, Glen, Ballymagroarty, Hazelbank areas) Telephone: 07736 213140

Rural Wardens (Strathfoyle, Eglinton, Claudy, Park, Maydown, Newbuildings, Strabane, Sion Mills, Newtownstewart and Castlederg areas) Telephone: 07736 213152

Safety Wardens hours of service

Thursday 5.30pm - 3am
Friday 5.30pm - 3am
Saturday 5.30pm - 3am
Sunday 5.30pm - 3am
Monday 12 noon - 5pm
Tuesday 12 noon - 5pm
Wednesday 12 noon - 5pm

