

Safe and Sound (Wyre Forest)

May 2017

Sue Hanley, Chair of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership

This month we would like to highlight how you can help to prevent your home from being burgled. As a Partnership, we are not complacent as we know that although rare, when this type of crime occurs it is extremely distressing for victims and we are committed to keeping these offences to a minimum.

Crime prevention doesn't have to be complicated and costly. Taking just a few steps can make a big difference in helping to keep your home safe from burglary.

Homes with no security measures in place are five times more likely to be burgled than those with simple security measures. In most burglaries, the house or flat was broken into through the door, either by forcing the lock or kicking it in, so make sure your doors and windows are strong and secure and remember to lock them.

Here are some things that you can do to help yourself from becoming a victim of crime:

- Keep all keys out of sight and away from the letterbox or cat flap
- Leave radios or lights in your house on a timer
- Remove valuables from view of ground floor windows
- Mark your property with postcode and house number and register it for free with www.immobilise.com a national database that police can access and compare against items that have been found or recovered from suspected criminals
- Join (or start) a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme <http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/>
- Install good, working outside lighting
- Make sure the fences around your garden are in good condition
- Trim high hedges that would-be burglars could hide behind
- Ensure side gates are locked to prevent access to the rear of the property
- Keep ladders and tools stored away; don't leave them outside where they could be used to break into your home
- Secure bikes by locking them to an immovable object inside a locked shed or garage
- Costly, but consider installing a visual burglar alarm

For more crime prevention advice, visit www.nwcsp.org Follow us on Twitter! @saferwyreforest and like our Facebook page SaferWyreForest (Community Organisation).