

SaferMK Newsletter

Working together to keep Milton Keynes safe

December 2009



Who is working to deliver a SaferMK?

Making Milton Keynes a safer place is a job that no agency or organisation can do on its own. SaferMK is made up of five key partners; Milton Keynes Council, Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, The Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust and Thames Valley Police Authority. We work with the community to make you safer by reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, tackling drug and alcohol misuse and the fear of crime.

Current Campaigns we are running to make a SaferMK

'Lock it Light it'

At this time of year when the clocks have gone back and the evenings are longer we often see an increase in burglary. To combat this SaferMK has launched the 'Lock It Light It' campaign, to help residents keep their houses safe and secure during the dark evenings.

If you take some of the precautions listed below you will greatly reduce your chance of becoming a burglary victim.

- Make your house look occupied when you are out, use a light timer switch. Don't just leave a hall or landing light on
- Shut and lock doors and windows when a room is unoccupied
- Don't leave any keys near to your letterbox or cat flap where a burglar can hook them out
- Valuable items including laptops, game consoles and jewellery should be kept out of sight. Security mark all valuables with your postcode and house number and keep a record of the property you have marked
- Register items such as mobile phones, sat navs, jewellery, game consoles and MP3 players for free with Immobilise: www.immobilise.com



Buy with Confidence

Thinking of having your driveway re-laid? Need some gardening doing or fancy some redecorating? Does your car need servicing? Give cowboys the boot! Choose a trader approved by Milton Keynes Trading Standards and you can be confident that you won't become the victim of a rogue trader. For more information about the scheme, which is called Buy with Confidence, visit the Trading Standards website www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/trading-standards and you will find a list of all the approved traders or call Consumer Direct on 08454 040506 and ask for a paper list of Buy With Confidence Traders.

Break the Silence on Domestic Abuse

SaferMK has launched a new campaign: Break the Silence on Domestic Abuse. Using a 'see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil' concept, the campaign seeks to encourage people to help those suffering from domestic abuse by speaking out about it. It also provides advice on what to say to someone who may be suffering from domestic abuse, to reach out and offer support without being judgmental.

Caroline Knowles, Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordinator, said "Victims of domestic violence are usually afraid or unable to speak out.

Our new campaign aims to encourage people to help victims by offering help and support, even if only to give someone a number to a helpline. It really can help save someone's life." If you are being abused by someone close to you, or are worried about someone who is, please call MK ACT on 0844 375 4307 or visit www.safermk.com for support and advice.

Oi! Who's eyeing you up?

This personal safety campaign is aimed at reminding residents of MK to be aware of what's going on around you when out and about. For example, using your mobile can be a distraction, a mobile phone is stolen in half of all robberies. If wearing a shoulder bag with a flap have it facing in towards you. It's also important to wear the bag across your body. Don't carry any more money than you need. For more information please visit the personal safety homepage on www.safermk.com or look for the "Oi who's eyeing you up" postcards for more information on personal safety.

Safe at Home Scheme

The Safe at Home scheme has been improving the quality of life of many people living in Milton Keynes since it was launched in 2007. The scheme aims to keep the vulnerable, particularly older people, safe in their homes for as long as possible.

Community based workers such as the fire service, police officers and Community Safety Wardens, will visit a person at their home to assess for any risks, such as damage to property or the absence of an MK Community Alarm System. Any risks identified are highlighted on an action form and sent to the scheme coordinator. For example, if a social worker spots that the person does not have a working smoke detector they can inform the scheme coordinator, who will liaise with the fire service to ensure this is resolved. To find out more information about the Safe at Home scheme please contact: Lyn Davis, Safe at Home Co-ordinator Tel: 01908 557886 Email: lyn.davis@milton-keynes.gov.uk



How Can I get involved?

Many people in Milton Keynes choose to take part in Neighbourhood Action Groups to help deliver and promote a SaferMK.

A Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) is made up of local residents and other partners including Thames Valley Police, Milton Keynes Council, Parish and Town Councils, local businesses and voluntary groups. Each NAG consults with their local communities to identify the top three problems in their neighbourhood which affect residents' everyday quality of life. Your NAG's three priorities can be found at www.safermk.com on the Safer Neighbourhoods homepage.