



## Get clever with Home Security

for deaf, deafblind and  
hard of hearing women in  
Derby and Derbyshire.



**Derbyshire  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner**

Protecting Communities,  
Fighting Crime







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# Welcome!



This new leaflet '**Get Clever with Home Security**' is packed with useful information to help you to stay safe and protect your home from crime. Keeping people safe is a fundamental part of my Police and Crime Plan.

That's why I am pleased to work in partnership with Deaf-inately Women and support the organisation's wider work helping deaf and hard of hearing women across Derby and Derbyshire. Crime and the fear of crime can have a significant impact on our lives and mental wellbeing and as Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire I am committed to boosting projects that help to reassure people and increase public confidence.

**Deaf-inately Women** has listened very carefully to deaf and hard of hearing women about their experiences of living alone and the increased sense of vulnerability or isolation many feel as a result of their hearing loss. This leaflet is designed to provide women – and all members of the deaf community – with practical advice and information to reduce the risk of crime. We hope you find the information useful but there are organisations that can help if you require further support and advice and these are listed at the back.

Technology is constantly changing but this leaflet – and the accompanying video – is designed to remain relevant for many years to come. You can also check Derbyshire Police's website **[www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk)** for further information and advice on home security, how to report a crime and how to access support if you have been a victim of crime.

It is important to me that all communities across Derbyshire have access to the information they need to protect themselves against crime. I will continue to do everything possible to ensure you have the practical and emotional support you need to enjoy your day-to-day lives with confidence and reassurance. We are lucky to live in a safe county and I am determined to keep it that way.

Best wishes

**Angelique Foster,**

Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner





## Keeping your valuables safe

Think about making a list of your valuables and store this securely in your house. If you do get burgled then you already have a list that you can check against.

Also, think about taking out a contents insurance policy. Martin Lewis, Founder of the '**Money Savings Expert**' website, has useful ideas on how to keep the cost of insurance cover as low as possible. [www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com)

If you have lots of valuables, think about storing them in a safe or safe deposit box. Safe deposit boxes may incur additional costs, so always check first.

Keep any valuables out of sight. This will deter thieves, thinking it's not worth their time breaking in.

Think about marking your valuable items by using an ultraviolet pen to write your house number and postcode. If these are found after a burglary, then the Police will be able to return the stolen items to you.

Installing a CCTV camera could also be useful. However, please see the information below, as there may be additional costs to this equipment.

**It may be useful to think about putting your money away in a bank or building society.**



## Keeping you and your house safe

### Lights outside your back and front doors

There are several things that may be able to help you to see where you are going or what you are doing. For example, a keyhole light lamp (which is battery powered and has an automatic sensor motion detector) could be installed above your door keyhole to help you open and lock the door more efficiently.

Do you have a light above the doorway? This could be connected to the electricity supply in your home or choose to have one that is solar powered.

An outside motion sensor security light can also be useful to detect movement, which will turn on the light. This will help you arrive at your door safely, along with detecting anyone who could be lurking around the property.

### Losing your house key

It may be useful to install a key safe box outside, which is not too conspicuous to see. Always look out for 'Secured by Design' police preferred specification if you want a police-accredited key safe. If you cannot remember the key safe code, or have written the code somewhere secure within your house, this may not be the best solution!

### Who is at your door?

Can you see who is calling at your door? If not think about having one or all of the following:

#### ▶ A door safety chain

- Install a door safety chain but check what type of door you have as wooden or PVC doors require different chains.
- Is your house rented? If so, you may need permission from your landlord first before making any changes. Your landlord may be willing to do this for you!

#### ▶ A peephole

- Installing a peephole depends on the door material, for example if it is PVC or wood. If your house is rented you may need permission from your landlord before installing any changes. Your landlord may be willing to make these changes for you. Tell your landlord why you need this as you cannot hear who is at the door.
- If you have both sight and hearing loss, explain that you cannot see or hear who is at your door. Being unable to recognise who is at the door, causes increased risk for you, especially if you live on your own.

### ► A video doorbell

- Another suggestion is having a video doorbell installed. The cost of buying one can be very expensive as there may be a requirement to pay for subscription costs too! So always check for extra costs.

**A Wi-Fi connection and a smartphone will be required, so please check that the video doorbell you buy is compatible with your smartphone first.**

There are a lot of things to consider when buying a video doorbell which you need to be aware of. For example:

- If you live on a busy street, the doorbell is likely to alert you every time someone walks past, or a car drives past.
- Some models are motion sensor.
- Some require the person to press the doorbell before it alerts you on your mobile phone.
- Is it powered by batteries or electricity?
- Always check that this is secure and not susceptible to privacy being breached.
- Check for hidden costs - some may require a monthly subscription.

If you live in a rented property your landlord may be able to buy this for you - particularly if you are deaf or deafblind, at risk or vulnerable. Please ask your landlord and see what options are available.



## Feeling safer at home

There is a range of indoor and outdoor CCTV cameras, with some requiring Wi-Fi and a smartphone and/or a PC. Costs can be vast and some require monthly/yearly subscriptions for cloud storage. Always check for:

- ▶ Additional monthly/yearly subscriptions that come with the package.
- ▶ The amount of storage you need.
- ▶ Is the CCTV susceptible to privacy being breached?
- ▶ Where would you install one? Is it within reach? Could an intruder easily remove it?
- ▶ If it's an outdoor camera – is it waterproof?
- ▶ Make sure the CCTV camera does not invade your neighbours privacy.
- ▶ Who could install this for you? Check if you need a qualified and certified electrician.
- ▶ Does it have night and day vision?

There is a lot to think about! If you live in a rented accommodation and you're being harassed by your neighbours, do think about asking your landlord to provide you one - particularly if you are deaf or deafblind, living on your own and are at risk or vulnerable.

## Check your doors and windows

Check that your doors and windows can close securely. If they cannot be closed securely, think about getting these repaired. If you live in a rented property contact your landlord as they have a duty to keep you and your contents secure.

Some windows have locks with keys. Make sure you have keys available just in case there is a fire so you can escape quickly.

Visit Derbyshire Police website for more information:

[Window security](#) | [Crime Prevention](#) | [Derbyshire Constabulary](#)



## Alarm systems for deaf and hard of hearing people

Derby City and Derbyshire Adults Social Care can assess your needs for an alarm system to alert you if there is a fire or if your baby is crying, if someone has rung the doorbell at your door or if the telephone is ringing. If you already have one and it's not working, contact them now to ask for a replacement or a repair. Their contact details can be found at the end of this leaflet.

For more information or tips on keeping your house safe, visit:

[Keep burglars out of your property | Derbyshire Constabulary](#)

If you live in a flat, then you may find the information useful.

[How safe is your flat? | Crime Prevention | Derbyshire Constabulary](#)



## Keeping your garden safe

Derbyshire Constabulary have a useful website with tips on making your garden secure in order to protect your property. Here is a list of suggestions, although it is not exhaustive:

- ▶ Using padlocks to secure items and keep your keys in a safe place.
- ▶ Buy a bolt for a garden gate, shed or garage door. Make sure you buy the correct bolt as they are all different and it will depend on the make of the gate and door you have.
- ▶ A latch with a chain and a heavy-duty padlock to secure items could also be useful.
- ▶ Think about chaining and locking your bikes up inside the garage or shed. This will deter burglars if you make it more difficult for them to steal your belongings.
- ▶ Lighting and CCTV cameras can also be a deterrent too.

For more information or tips on keeping your garden safe, visit:

[Keeping your shed or garage safe and secure | Crime prevention | Derbyshire Constabulary](#)

[Keep burglars out of your property | Derbyshire Constabulary](#)



## Keeping you safe when outside

### Hollie Guard

Download the free Hollie Guard app on your mobile phone. If you are attacked all you need to do is shake your phone. On the second shake, the phone will generate a high-pitched alarm sound with a flashing light to attract help. This should make it clear to anyone in your surrounding area that an alert has been raised and to reduce the risk of an attack. The phone will display an obvious red alert screen and capture your GPS location and audio/video footage that may be used to assess danger and collate evidence. Visit Hollie Guard Personal Safety APP for more information.

### Panic personal alarm

There are a number of personal panic alarms that have been approved by **'Secured by Design' police preferred specification** if you want a police-accredited personal alarm. These can range from panic alarm keyrings, watches with a built-in panic alarm and high pitch equipment.

Visit: <https://www.securedbydesign.com> to get a range of products that are available to you.

**If you are attacked all you need to do is shake your phone.**





## Keeping your identity safe

Always keep your identity safe.

Before throwing your paperwork away (e.g. your bills) you can shred all paperwork or block the identity by using marker pens.

There are fraudsters who steal people's identity to falsely open bank accounts in their names in order to take out huge loans. They empty the accounts and the debt is left with the person not knowing that this has happened until it is too late. If this has happened to you:

- ▶ Contact the Police straightaway.
- ▶ Contact the Fraud department at the bank to let them know it is not you.
- ▶ Contact your nearest advice agency who specialises in debt to ensure that this debt is disassociated from you.

Visit Fighting back against scams - Derbyshire County Council to find out what to do and keep up to date on how to protect your identity.

## Do you have everything that you need to keep yourself safe?

The best way to check if you have everything you need is to contact your landlord (if you have one) and Adult Social Care services for deaf and hard of hearing people in Derby and Derbyshire.

If you need someone to install the items you may be able to contact your council-funded handy person scheme.

If it is anything electrical then think about getting a qualified and certified electrician. Go to Derbyshire's Trusted Trader.

**Trusted Trader - Derbyshire County Council**

## Organisations who may be able to support you

### **Deaf-ininitely Women**

Room 57, The Strutts Community Centre, Derby Road, Belper, DE56 1UU.

Email: [info@deafinitelywomen.org.uk](mailto:info@deafinitelywomen.org.uk)

Phone: 01773 828233

Text: 07421 827162

[www.deafinitelywomen.org.uk/keepingyourselfsafe](http://www.deafinitelywomen.org.uk/keepingyourselfsafe)

[www.springderbyshire.org.uk](http://www.springderbyshire.org.uk)

### **Derby Deaf team**

If you live in Derby the contact details are:

Email [deafservices@derby.gov.uk](mailto:deafservices@derby.gov.uk)

Phone – 01332 640715

SMS text: 07860 020207

Minicom – 01332 344358

Write to – Deaf Services, 1st Floor, Council House, Corporation Street, Derby DE1 2FS

If you are using Whatsapp or Facetime text/ email us and let us know then we will contact you for a video conversation or you can book an appointment to meet us.

Or to contact the main council - Sign language service - Derby City Council

[Sign language service | Derby City Council or email them](#)

[deafservices@derby.gov.uk](mailto:deafservices@derby.gov.uk)

### **Derbyshire Deaf team**

If you live in Derbyshire then their contact details are:

Email: [deafteam@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:deafteam@derbyshire.gov.uk)

Phone: 01629 533319

Minicom: 01246 861852

Text: 86555 start your text with BSL then press space and then start your message

Write to: Deaf team, Derbyshire County Council, High Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, S45 9JB

Or use the Sign Live service to contact Call Derbyshire and ask to be put through to the deaf team. Visit [here](#) for more information on how to contact them.

[Deaf and hearing impaired - Derbyshire County Council](#)

## Who could install equipment for you?

### Free installation

Contact your local handy person scheme who may be able to do this for free but is dependent on eligibility.

**If you live in Derby:** Derby Handyperson Service  
[The Handyperson Service | Derby City Council](#)

Phone: 01332 640134

Email: [home.repairs@derby.gov.uk](mailto:home.repairs@derby.gov.uk) to enquire about a Handyperson Service.

**If you live in Derbyshire:** Derbyshire Handy Van service  
[Derbyshire County Council](#)

Phone: 0203 535 4999

If you're having problems in accessing this service, please let Deafinitely Women know as may be able to persuade the council to do this for you free of charge.

### Trusted Trader

If you cannot find someone to do this for you, go to Trusted Trader where there is a list of tradespeople who can install things for you for a fee. Visit: [Trusted Trader - Derbyshire County Council](#).





## About Deaf-initely Women

Welcome! We hope you find this leaflet informative, which has been designed to help you to make you and your home secure to the best of your ability. If you cannot find any information or would like to learn more about home safety and security, please get in touch!

You can do this by contacting Deaf-initely Women on: **01773 828 233** SMS/Text: **07421 827 162**, email: **info@deafinitelywomen.org.uk** or visit **www.deafinitelywomen.org.uk**

If you have any useful tips or suggestions, we can feature these anonymously via our social media platforms and website for you.

Lastly, we would like to thank **Derby and Derbyshire Deaf Adult Social Care teams, Derbyshire Constabulary and Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner** for their support in creating this leaflet.

*From all at Deaf-initely Women*



## How to contact?

### **Home Security Community Worker: Deaf-initely Women**

Email: [info@deafinitelywomen.org.uk](mailto:info@deafinitelywomen.org.uk),  
Text: 07579 809 766 or Phone: 01773 828 233

## Accessibility

All services, visits and workshops are fully accessible. We provide sign language interpreters, subtitles/speech to text and voiceover.

Home visits are best, but if you don't feel ready yet with COVID, we can chat on video mobile or Zoom if you prefer.



This Home Security (As Safe As Houses) service is free, as it is funded by Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Vulnerability Fund.