



Staying Safe This New Year: A Community Approach to Reducing Crime

New Year's Eve is one of the most anticipated celebrations of the year. It's a moment to reflect, reset, and look forward with hope. But as excitement builds, so too can opportunities for crime. By taking a few simple precautions and looking out for one another, we can make sure the New Year begins safely for everyone.

Why New Year's Eve Needs Extra Awareness

The combination of dark evenings, busy streets, and people travelling between gatherings creates conditions where opportunistic crime can increase. Burglary, theft, and antisocial behaviour tend to rise when homes are left empty and people are distracted by celebrations.

The good news is that small actions—taken together—make a big difference.

Keep Your Home Secure

Even if you're only stepping out for a short while, make your home look lived-in.

- Leave a light on or use a timer
- Ensure all doors and windows are locked
- Keep valuables out of sight
- Ask a trusted neighbour to keep an eye out if you're away

A well-secured home is far less attractive to criminals.

Stay Safe While Out and About

Whether you're heading to a party, a pub, or a community event, a little planning goes a long way.

- Stick to well-lit, busy routes
- Travel with friends where possible
- Keep your phone charged
- Drink responsibly and stay aware of your surroundings
- Pre-book taxis or arrange a lift home

If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts.

Protect Your Vehicle

Cars and vans can be easy targets on New Year's Eve.

- Remove bags, tools, and valuables
- Lock your vehicle—even on your driveway
- Park in well-lit areas or secure car parks
- Consider using a steering lock or other visible deterrent

Criminals look for quick wins; don't give them one.

👋 Look Out for Each Other

Community spirit is one of the strongest tools we have.

- Check in on elderly or vulnerable neighbours
- Report suspicious behaviour promptly
- Share safety tips with friends and family
- Join or support your local Neighbourhood Watch

When communities stay connected, crime has far fewer places to hide.

🎆 Start the Year as We Mean to Go On

New Year's Eve should be a time of joy, not worry. By taking simple precautions and watching out for one another, we can help ensure that everyone in our community starts the year feeling safe, supported, and confident.

Here's to a peaceful, crime-free New Year—let's make it happen together.

🌟 Join Neighbourhood Watch for FREE! 🌟

Neighbourhood Watch is all about community, safety, and looking out for each other. By joining, you'll help reduce crime, share vital information, and make Bolton a safer, stronger place to live.

Together, we can protect our streets, support our neighbours, and build a communities we're proud of.

Sign up today and be the difference!

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW>



🌐 Oversharing on Social Media: Why It Matters More Than You Think

In an age where sharing online feels as natural as chatting over the garden fence, it's easy to forget just how far and fast our posts can travel. A quick update, a holiday snap, or a proud moment with the kids can seem harmless—but to the wrong person, it can be valuable information.

Oversharing on social media has become one of the most common ways criminals gather details about people's lives. They don't need to hack accounts or break into systems; they simply watch what we voluntarily put online.

🔍 What Counts as Oversharing?

Oversharing isn't just posting too often. It's sharing information that could be misused, such as:

- Announcing you're away from home or posting holiday photos in real time
- Sharing your full address, workplace, or daily routine
- Posting images that reveal valuables, security setups, or documents
- Sharing children's names, schools, or locations
- Accepting friend requests from people you don't actually know

Individually, these details may seem small. Together, they can paint a very clear picture.

🔴 Why It's a Risk

Criminals increasingly use social media to:

- Identify empty homes
- Target individuals for scams
- Build convincing phishing messages

- Steal identities
- Track vulnerable people

Even posts meant for friends can be shared, screenshotted, or seen by others if privacy settings aren't tight.



✓ Simple Ways to Stay Safe

A few small habits can make a big difference:

- **Think before you post:** Would you be comfortable saying this to a stranger?
- **Delay holiday photos** until you're back home
- **Check your privacy settings** regularly
- **Avoid posting personal documents** or anything showing addresses, bank details, or ID
- **Be selective with friend requests**
- **Review old posts**—you may be surprised what's still visible

🤝 A Community Effort

Staying safe online isn't just about protecting ourselves—it's about protecting our neighbours too. When we all take care with what we share, we reduce opportunities for criminals and strengthen our community's resilience.



☕❤️ Support Bolton Neighbourhood Watch ❤️☕

When you donate a coffee, your contribution doesn't go to an individual — it goes directly to Bolton Neighbourhood Watch. Every donation helps us provide crime prevention advice, strengthen local connections, and create a safer, more secure communities for everyone.

👉 Together, we can keep Bolton a place where neighbours look out for each other and families feel protected.

www.buymeacoffee.com/boltonneighbourhoodwatch

One Community - One Messaging System



**Neighbourhood
Watch**

