



Newsletter  
Autumn 2021

# SafeHome

## Keeping Children & Young People Safe in BANES

Welcome to the 9th edition and the new design of the 'Safe Home' newsletter, formerly called 'Keeping Children & Young People Safe from Injury in B&NES'. Unintentional injuries in and around the home are a leading cause of preventable death and are a major cause of ill health and serious disability for children under five. This edition showcases the Home Safety Equipment Service. It also includes top tips for staying safe at Halloween and on Bonfire night, information about workforce training, how to get involved in road safety awareness week, warnings on products and information about First Aid workshops for young people.

We'd value your feedback on both the content and the new format of this newsletter.



## A SPOTLIGHT ON THE HOME SAFETY EQUIPMENT SCHEME

We interviewed **James Roberts**, Area Co-ordinator Lead of the B&NES Home Safety Equipment Scheme provided by We Care Home Improvements, who gave us the low-down on this important service....



### Why is the scheme important for children, young people and families?

All parents are heroes but they're not superheroes! Evidence shows that lone parent families with multiple young children are at a higher risk of accidents to those children than families with multiple parents at home or fewer children. This makes sense of course as Mum or Dad can't be everywhere at once – even excluding these households there are many other vulnerabilities or family dynamics where a little extra support goes a long way. Having free safety

equipment gives busy parents back precious moments where they can know their child is safe in a contained part of the home without worry.

### What are the main things that the scheme can help children and families with to reduce risks of unintentional injury in children?

We fit a high volume of stair gates and cupboard and drawer locks. Having safety equipment like drawer locks in the kitchen or a stair/safety gate placed at the entrance to it can stop a child from having a harmful accident.

The same is true of other areas in the home like entrances to living rooms, bedroom and stairs.

### Please give us an example of a difference that the scheme has made.

Ms W was worried because her young son was crawling and very curious – with our help she consolidated her bleach and other cleaning products in a cupboard that we secured with a magnetic lock. We also put a safety gate in place to the kitchen as another line of

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continued from page 1

defence and secured the door to the stairs with the same. With a fire guard put in place around her electric fire in the living room she feels she can now leave her son to play in that room and make a cup of tea or answer the door without worrying that his curiosity will get him into trouble!

**The service clearly has a big impact on home safety improvement. Is there anything else that you would like to add?**

We hear from our equipment supplier that we are one of the longest running customers they have. We have provided equipment like this to children in the South West for the best part of a decade helping hundreds of families during that time.

This equipment is designed for the first 24 months of life (safety gates) and 3-5 years for cupboard and drawer locks. Therefore, identifying risk and referring early to schemes like this one has the greatest impact.

For further information and to refer, email [vcl.wecareandrepair@nhs.net](mailto:vcl.wecareandrepair@nhs.net)

## SCARE SAFELY THIS HALLOWEEN!



The spooky season is upon us. Unfortunately, Halloween costumes can be a safety hazard. How can you help?

**1) Share the following tips from Avon Fire & Rescue with parents and carers:**

- Only buy costumes and accessories from reputable retailers
- Ensure costumes have a CE mark on the label and labelled as flame-resistant
- Avoid costumes with long, trailing parts
- Do not use flammable materials like bin liners to make costumes with
- Keep costumes away from tea lights, candles and naked flames
- Use LED tea lights and candles to create a spooky atmosphere. Naked flames present dangers no matter how careful you are.

Children can be kept even safer by ensuring they know how to **STOP, DROP** and **ROLL**, by practicing the following in advance. If clothing catches fire:

- **STOP** where you are. Running around will only make the flames bigger...
- **DROP** onto the floor lying flat with your legs out straight...
- And **ROLL!** Keep rolling over and over again until the flames are out.

**2) [Download the Halloween Safety leaflet](#) to share on social media and on your website.**

For further information, [visit Avon Fire and Rescue](#)

### REMEMBER, REMEMBER...

With bonfire night on the horizon, now is a particularly good time to talk to children about fire safety.



- ✓ Please share these [tips from Avon Fire & Rescue Service](#) with parents and carers about how to keep bonfires, fireworks and sparklers as safe as possible.
- ✓ A [fire safety leaflet and safety videos](#) aimed at parents and children are also available.
- ✓ View this [checklist on what children should know](#) in general about fire safety all year round.

### WARNING ON SUPER STRONG MAGNETS IN THE LEAD UP TO CHRISTMAS



British Association of Paediatric Surgeons (BAPS) has warned parents about the dangers of super strong magnets. This follows a sharp increase in children needing emergency surgery for bowel complications caused by swallowing the tiny magnets.

Found in toys, jewellery and fridge magnets, and often bought online, the magnets can be 10 times stronger than legally permitted.

Read more about [magnet safety here](#).

## REDUCING UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS – EARLY YEARS WORKFORCE TRAINING

Following popular demand, we are delighted to announce the launch of an interactive virtual two-and-a-half-hour workshop which aims to help multi-agency early years staff to develop the most effective ways of engaging with families to prevent accidents in and around the home for babies and young children.

There will be six dates to choose from over the Autumn and Winter. You will just need to attend one.

For further information and to book, email Caroline McAleese, Health Improvement Officer, Children's Public Health and Early Help: [caroline.mcaleese@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.mcaleese@bathnes.gov.uk)

## ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK: 15-21 NOVEMBER

The theme of Road Safety Week 2021 is 'Road Safety Heroes' celebrating the heroic work of road safety professionals and explaining how we can all play a part in making journeys safer for everyone.



What can you do?

- 1) Find out how you can become a road safety hero on the [brake website](#).
- 2) Find out more about what is happening locally to [raise awareness of road safety here](#).
- 3) Read, download and share the road safety resources at the [think.gov website](#). This includes educational resources for all ages, information on vehicle safety checks for new drivers, and tips and advice for cyclists and drivers.
- 4) Use and share [this key stage 4 road safety education resource](#) aimed at generating discussion around a wide range of real-life issues, relevant in young people's lives. Co-produced by local PSHE teachers in West of England.



## ONLINE FIRST AID WORKSHOPS FOR 10-19-YEAR-OLDS

Organised by British Red Cross, this free workshop aims to build the confidence and willingness of children and young people to help someone in an emergency, using everyday objects. The workshop also outlines where children and young people can get support if they have an injury or illness. [Read more here](#)

For further information, email [RedCrossEducation@redcross.org.uk](mailto:RedCrossEducation@redcross.org.uk)

## RECALL OF FISHER PRICE 2-IN-1 SOOTHE 'N PLAY GLIDER

This product has been recalled globally due to reports in the United States of four infant deaths associated with a similar product sold in North America. [Read more here](#)

We hope you have found this quarterly newsletter useful. If you have contributions for the next newsletter or need further information please do get in touch with us:

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**Bath & North East Somerset Council**