



# Keeping Children & Young People Safe in B&NES

## Welcome to our 4th edition!

Due to our high rate of injury to children the council is continuing to keep 'Keeping Children Safe' as a priority within the 2018-2021 Children and Young Peoples Plan by the inclusion of the outcome to '**decrease the number of children and young people affected by unintended or accidental injury.**' In order to support your practice in contributing towards this outcome, we hope you find this quarterly newsletter helpful.

### Car Seat Safety

After seeing a rise in the number of car seats incorrectly fitted through the car seat safety clinics, B&NES Road Safety team are encouraging families to use the six key points below when transporting babies and children in cars to ensure they are providing the protection children need:

1. Is the car seat fitted correctly? *Ensure the seat is suitable for the car's make and model and also for your child's weight, height and age.*
2. Is the car seat sitting securely on the seat?
3. If forward facing and someone sitting in the passengers seat turn off the front airbag
4. Is the seatbelt secure and untwisted?
5. Is the seatbelt following the correct guides?  
**Forward facing** - RED route guides  
**Rearward facing** - BLUE route guides
6. Remove ALL thick clothing such as bulky winter jackets which can make the harness less effective.

We encourage families to visit the [Good Egg Car Seat Safety](#) website, to seek help and support and be confident the advice they are getting is correct and up to date.

If families are purchasing car seats then the '[purchasing checklist](#)' outlines 5 things the car seat retailer should ask you to be more confident that the seat will protect your child as intended. These include details about the vehicles the seat will be used in and your child including weight and height.



Why is it a problem for your child to wear a thick or puffy coat in their car seat?

1

The harness does not fit close to your child's body if a coat or jacket is worn.

2

Thick clothing can make it easier for your child to slip their harness straps off.

3

When the car warms up, your child can easily overheat.

## Purchasing Second Hand Car Seats

Whenever possible, children's car seat should be purchased as a new product, from a retail store who are able to give good advice.

When purchasing a car seat second hand, you cannot be confident about the history of the seat; if it has been involved in a collision, dropped, suffered damage or been tampered with.

Depending on the age, second hand seats may not meet current standards and instructions can be missing which is difficult to know if the seat has been fitted properly.



Sometimes though, we understand that purchasing a new car seat isn't always possible and so the Good Egg Experts have put [together 10 things to consider before deciding to buy a second hand car seat.](#)

## Save the date: Child Safety Week

This year's Child Safety Week runs from Monday 4th to Sunday 10th June with the theme **Safe children: together we've got this!**

Child Safety Week is here to help simplify the issues and highlight the quick win's and most effective ways to have an impact.

Much of the excellent work that goes on with families is about supporting them to grow in confidence and feel empowered about child safety. If you have any stories that you would like to share during the week please get in touch: [Public\\_health@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Public_health@bathnes.gov.uk)



## FREE Home Fire Safety Visit:

We encourage all residents to request a **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit** from **Avon Fire and Rescue Service** who will visit your home to provide advice relevant to your circumstances and fit free smoke alarms if required. Call **0117 926 2061** or Text 'Visit' to **07507 319 694** to book a visit.

<https://www.avonfire.gov.uk/our-services/home-fire-safety-visits>



## Garden Safety

Now we are slowly approaching the Spring and the evenings are lighter, the garden becomes a natural playground for children and more young people spend time outdoors, which is great for their health and wellbeing. It can however, be a place of danger where accidents can happen. **How many hazards can you spot in the garden picture below?**



Answers: (Pond left un-covered, cable across path, ladder left out, garden chemicals, power tools and cutters left unattended, broken wall, football goal by seating and drinks, gate left open into the road)

## Some top tips:

- To avoid accidental poisoning, keep all garden chemicals, sprays and seeds **beyond a child's reach** on a high shelf or in a **locked cupboard** in the shed or garage.
- **Lock garden tools and machinery away** when not in use, and never leave them lying around in the garden when children are playing anywhere nearby.
- **Garden trampolines** are becoming increasingly popular as a great way for children to exercise and have fun. However, accidents can happen. So always be there to **supervise**, never let more than one child on at a time and make sure shoes and socks are removed. Most important of all, remember that the trampoline should always be fitted with adequate safety netting.
- A small child could easily drown in even the **shallowest of garden ponds**. These should always be fenced and children supervised.
- Make sure climbable play equipment is **placed over a mat, grass or soft earth**, never over paving, tarmac or concrete.
- Keep washing lines above children's heads and **well away from play equipment** such as swings, slides and climbing frames.

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## Purchasing counterfeit chargers

### **Did you know 99% of counterfeit Apple chargers bought online fail a basic safety test?**

Electrical chargers supplied with branded electronic goods are made to the highest standard. Unauthorised and unbranded chargers, which are often cheap to purchase on the internet, fail to meet requirements of the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations Act 1994. Voltage and frequency varies from country to country and so can cause a potential hazardous fire risk. **We would therefore recommend that you look for a manufacturer's brand name or logo, model, batch number and CE mark. All genuine electrical items made in the EU should have a CE mark on them.**

You should not rely of a CE mark alone as a guarantee of safety it's simply a declaration by the manufacturer that the product meets all the safety requirements of European Law, but they can be easily forged. You can look for tell-tale signs of counterfeiting which include mistakes in brand names and logos, and plugs without the CE safety mark. Adequate warnings and instructions must also be provided. As a minimum, user instructions should provide information on how to operate the charger safely, basic electrical safety guidance and details of how to dispose of the charger when it is no longer required.



**It is recommended that you can safeguard your home from dangerous chargers by:**

- ✓ **Once your phone is charged, disconnect it and turn the charger off, do not over charge.**
- ✓ **Only using genuine charger made and licensed for use with your product.**
- ✗ **Never cover your device whilst it is being charged, don't put it under a pillow over night or in contact with bedding.**
- ✗ **Never use a damaged charger with a cracked case or frayed cable or one that is not working properly.**

Anyone who wants to inform Trading Standards of an issue can do so via the consumer service on 03454 04 05 06.

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We hope you find this quarterly newsletter useful and if you require any further information please do get in touch with us:

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