



## **Crime Prevention Advice for Care Homes**

Police Scotland are currently investigating a series of break-ins to care homes across Scotland where items have been stolen from office areas. Significant efforts are being made to identify those responsible but we also ask care home owners and managers to consider their building security.

### **There are some simple measures you can take to protect your property;**

- Ensure that all outside entrances and inside security doors have adequate security mechanisms fitted, and that locks, bolts and other fittings are security rated standard. Check the locks and fittings on a regular basis to ensure that they are working and fit for purpose.
- Ensure all windows are fitted with good quality locks and limiters and are fully secured, ensuring that both the fittings and window glass meet the required standards.
- With particularly vulnerable windows, at ground floor, or others that are easily accessible, consider fitting security bars or grilles where fire safety regulations allow. Laminated glass or security film that can be applied to existing glass to make it more resistant to hostile attack.
- Store cash and valuables securely, preferably in a room with CCTV. An insurance rated safe should be bolted to the floor. Anti-tamper sensors can be fitted to set off an alarm if attacked.
- Ensure that a competent, recorded 'locking up' procedure is in place. Nominate trusted members of staff to check that all doors and windows are closed and locked at the end of each day.
- Maintain good visibility around the perimeter of your building, for example cutting back any overgrown hedges or plants.
- Ensure you have adequate security lighting around your building during hours of darkness. Focus on doors, windows, skylights and any other entry points. Install cages over exterior lights and power sources to prevent tampering.

- Consider CCTV and ensure it covers entrances, exits and any rooms critical to your business - particularly offices where cash may be kept.
- Be vigilant for any suspicious activity around your premises and if in doubt notify police.
- Most break-ins occur at the rear of properties as it is “out of sight”. Consider erecting weldmesh fencing to ensure access to the rear of the building is controlled.

Further crime prevention advice can be found here:

<https://www.sbrcentre.co.uk/media/4564/sme-business-resilience-introductory-guide.pdf>

Consider signing up for regular crime alerts at:

<https://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/sign-up-for-alerts/>

**To report a crime or any suspicious incident contact police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.**