

Operation Darknight launched to target winter burglaries – Milton Keynes

Thames Valley Police in Milton Keynes started its three-month winter burglary operation on Tuesday 31 October to combat dwelling burglaries and target offenders during the darker winter months.

Operation Darknight has run four times in recent years in Milton Keynes and has helped to significantly reduce the numbers of dwelling burglaries over the winter period. During the operation the Milton Keynes Neighbourhood teams will be running crime prevention activities on estates offering general crime prevention advice and SmartWater; an international crime prevention company with a track record for deterring criminal activity.

Residents are advised that, with the clocks having gone back, now is an important time to check that your home is not vulnerable to burglary.

If you have any concerns, or just want some crime prevention advice and information, feel free to approach your local neighbourhood officers who will be able to assist you.

We would urge residents to get in touch with any information they may have in relation to criminal activity occurring in their neighbourhood. We require the help of the public and will treat any information with the strictest of confidentiality.”

Residents can follow the crime prevention tips below:

- keep front and back doors locked, even when you're at home
- install a burglar alarm with a visible alarm box
- fit a door chain and spyhole for extra security
- keep all valuables and keys out of sight and out of reach of doors and windows
- store high value items in a hidden safe
- mark your belongings and register them for free with [Immobilise](#)
- fit energy efficient security lighting
- don't leave spare keys in obvious places such as under doormats or plant pots
- keep items that could be used to break into your property such as ladders, tools and wheelie bins stored safely away
- lock side gates to prevent easy access to the rear of the property
- check fencing regularly to keep it in good repair
- use pea shingle on driveways or under windows, as it crunches loudly when stepped on
- trim overgrown hedges and plants to remove hiding places and improve surveillance
- use a timer switch to make your house look occupied, even when it isn't
- consider joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme

Residents in Milton Keynes can obtain localised information by following the Milton Keynes Twitter account @TVP_MK and looking out for #Op_Darknight.

For regular updates on crime and disorder in your area you can sign up to Thames Valley Alert, and you can call the non-emergency number 101 and ask to speak to a Crime Reduction Advisor.