

# THE SAFEGUARDING TIMES

## ‘Keeping Safe in the Community’ Edition

Written by young people, for young people.

### Our top tips for staying safe when out in the dark:

1. **Stay Together** - Always stay in a group and avoid wandering off alone.
2. **Stay Visible** - wear bright or reflective clothing that would be visible to drivers and keep a torch or phone light handy.
3. **Stay Public** - stick to familiar streets and areas that are well-lit. Avoid dark paths and alleys where possible.

### Spot the Signs: Exploitation

Exploitation is when an older person takes advantage of a young person, often by making them do things they don't want to do. It can happen in real life or online.

#### What are some of the signs?

- Being asked to keep secrets from family or trusted adults.
- Giving the young person gifts or money but expecting something in return.
- Pressuring the young person into doing things that make them uncomfortable.



If you think you, or someone you know, might be in this situation, tell a trusted adult straight away. You can also call Childline on 0800 1111. Remember, it's never your fault.

### E-Scooters: What You Need To Know

Did you know that it's illegal to ride a privately-owned e-scooter in public?



With more and more people using e-scooters, it's easy to forget that they riding your own e-scooter on roads, cycle paths and pavements is illegal.

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in the number of young people who have been seriously injured in accidents involving e-scooters. E-Scooters can hit high speeds, which makes crashes very dangerous for both the rider and any other people or vehicles involved.

#### If you see someone riding recklessly, remember the following advice:

- Stay clear and don't confront them.
- Note details of the time, location and the rider if you can.
- Report it to the police if it's serious.

Staying smart keeps everyone safe.



# People Who Help Us: Fire Safety

By Emmeline Williams & Aarikaa Vijaya Kumar

In late September, two young reporters interviewed Antonia Fawcett, who works at the Cleveland Fire Brigade. Her role as Fire Education Co-ordinator in the community is extremely important as she delivers education and intervention to primary and secondary school students throughout the community. She works with children and teenagers who are involved in fire crime and supports them whilst trying to change the way they view fire. Our reporters have put together a Q&A to find out about the work that Antonia does in keeping our communities safe.

## What's your favourite part of your job?

My job has two parts: it involves going to schools to give assemblies and teach lots of children how to stay safe around fire, and working one-to-one with young people who misuse fire to help them to understand the dangers they are facing and set them down the right path. My favourite part is being able to make a difference and keep young people safe.

## What challenges do the Fire Brigade face in the community?

Cleveland is one of the smallest brigades in the UK, but also one of the busiest. Unfortunately, sometimes dangerous trends on social media can lead young people to do unsafe things which can lead to a spike in callouts for avoidable accidents. Often young people who misuse fire do not understand the severity of the consequences of their actions, and the life-long injuries that can occur - not to mention the damage to public spaces and properties. If you see any unsafe trends online, please report them as soon as possible!



## What can the community do to support the Fire Brigade and help keep everyone safe?

Understand that the Fire Brigade are there to keep you safe, so if you do come into contact with them, treat them with respect and kindness and make sure to follow any instructions or advice that they give you. Make sure you (or your adults) are parked responsibly so that if an ambulance or a fire engine needs to get to an emergency, they can.

If you see someone mis-using fire, please report it as soon as possible!

There are lots of games and resources on **StayWise.co.uk** where young people can learn about emergency services and staying safe.



**Be smart, be safe, be responsible.**