



## Think First Streetwise - Darker nights resource

Each year In Dudley, West Midlands Police and partners run a 'darker nights' campaign with the aim of reducing antisocial behaviour and crime that sees a seasonal increase when the clocks go back.

It was agreed in 2013 that a resource should be developed that can be used year on year, which is accessible to any individual working with young people in Dudley. This will address specific topics highlighted over the winter months, such as trick or treating, throwing snowballs and firework safety among others.

The community safety team, youth service and youth offending service have worked with several groups across the borough to identify what young people think the key issues are in relation to crime and safety and ultimately what advice they would give to other young people to enable them to stay safe and out of trouble over the 'darker nights'.

It is hoped that this resource can be built on over coming years, as and when appropriate.

The resource includes two flexible session plans that can be adapted to suit the group being worked with, the topic identified and the time available to deliver.

A darker nights quiz has also been developed which can be used as part of either session or as a standalone shorter session. The quiz can be downloaded here

<http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Darker-Nights-Interactive-Quiz.pdf>

Links to additional websites and resources have also been included.

In addition a darker nights edition of the good news and bad news cards for use with the Streetwise board game has been developed. More information about the board game can be obtained from [katriona.lafferty@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:katriona.lafferty@dudley.gov.uk)

## Session plan one

<b>Aims:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify activities that young people may get involved in over the autumn/winter months</li> <li>To identify how some of these activities could reduce the safety of young people</li> <li>To identify how some of these activities may result in young people becoming involved in antisocial and/or criminal behaviour</li> <li>To encourage young people to think about their behaviour and the possible consequences</li> </ul>	
<b>Resources required:</b> Flipchart and pens	
<b>(Approximate) Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
0 - 10	Introduction to session followed by: <i>Whole group discussion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What different kind of things or activities might you do when the nights get darker?</li> </ul>
10 - 25	<i>Small groups:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give each group a different topic, e.g. bonfire and fireworks, snowballing, trick or treating, carol singing, hanging around with friends (include alcohol and drugs if appropriate to group), Christmas shopping/new presents</li> <li>Ask each group to identify the possible PERSONAL dangers of the activity. Once identified ask each group how to reduce the risk of these dangers – feedback to whole group</li> </ul>
25 - 40	Swap topics around so that each group have a new topic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask the groups to identify how they could get into trouble (either with parents, members of the community or the police) in the activity</li> <li>When identified ask the group to list what the consequences of these behaviours may be</li> <li>Feedback to the whole group</li> </ul>
40 – 50 (or longer)	<i>In small groups:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List top ten tips to stay safe in darker nights</li> </ul>

## Session two

This can be used as a follow up to session one, a session on its own or as a session to explore a specific topic using the relevant scenario

<b>Aims:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify activities that young people may get involved in over the autumn/winter months</li> <li>To identify how some of these activities could reduce the safety of young people</li> <li>To identify how some of these activities may result in young people becoming involved in antisocial and/or criminal behaviour</li> <li>To encourage young people to think about their behaviour and the possible consequences</li> </ul>	
<b>Resources required:</b>	
Flipchart and pens, Scenarios, Facilitator notes	
<b>(Approximate) Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
0 - 10	<p>Introduction to session followed by:</p> <p><i>Whole group discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recap on previous session – what did individuals learn/what do they remember?</li> </ul> <p>If no previous session:</p> <p><i>Whole group discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What different kind of things or activities might you do when the nights get darker?</li> </ul>
10 - 25	<p><i>Small groups:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give each group a different scenario and ask them to answer the questions. NB. if looking at a specific topic give all groups the scenario relating to that topic</li> <li>Feedback to whole group</li> </ul>
25– 50 (or longer if required)	<p><i>In small groups do one of the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design ‘top ten tips to stay safe in darker nights’ poster</li> <li>Create a photo story/story board for a magazine or a short film using the scenario and the groups own ending</li> <li>Create a photo story/story board for a magazine or a short film using the groups own ‘darker nights story’</li> </ul>

It was the weekend after bonfire night and Tom and Dylan were bored. After messaging each other for a couple of hours they decided to meet up and go to the local park to see who was around.

It was about 4pm, so was getting dark but as it was a Saturday neither of them had to be back home for a while. They met up at the corner of the street and made their way to the local park where they often met up with friends.

As they got to the bandstand they saw a group of teenagers and walked over thinking that they were from their school. As they got closer they realised they had never seen them before but because of the dark, by the time they realised this, they thought they would look stupid if they just walked away so said hello to the group.

The group seemed quite friendly so they decided to stay with them for a bit. Tom noticed that some of them were drinking but none of them seemed drunk so it didn't bother him too much.

After about half an hour Dylan tried pointing something out to Tom – he had seen a box of fireworks next to one of the group, one of the girls saw Dylan and asked what his problem was, Dylan didn't want to get into a fight so just commented that fireworks were cool. Another member of the group decided that it would be a good idea to set one of the fireworks off – after all, it didn't look like anyone was around . . . .

***What five things should the group have done to keep themselves safe and out of trouble?***

***What should Tom and Dylan do now?***

***What could be the possible outcomes? (either list these or finish the story)***

Chloe and Megan were best friends and had been since primary school. This weekend they were looking forward to going out trick or treating for Halloween. Both girls had sorted out their outfits weeks ago, Chloe was going as a witch and Megan was going as a black cat. The plan was simple – tell their parents they were going to a party at the youth club and then meet up with some others from their year group and knock on doors to get some sweets and money!

They were due to meet outside the school gates at 6.30pm so Chloe got dropped off at Megan's at 6.15pm. As the rest of the group turned up they were laughing and talking and saying how great each other's costumes were. When everyone was there off they walked into the local housing estate.

Before long they were taking it in turns to knock on doors in pairs. Megan and Chloe went first; they knocked on the door of one of the group's nan's house and got their first lot of chocolate, another pair knocked on another door which had Halloween decorations up and came back with a handful of sweets each, the next pair went and knocked on another door, but the lady behind shouted at them to go away.

All of a sudden eggs seem to come from nowhere and landed on the lady's window – some of the group started laughing and saying that's what they should do to all the houses that didn't give them anything.

Chloe and Megan didn't like it, they weren't even meant to be out so they couldn't risk getting into trouble. Chloe suggested they should split from the rest of the group and go off on their own – it meant going to a few houses in an area they didn't know that well but they could still get a few houses in before finally getting to the youth club and not get found out by their parents . . .

***What five things should the group have done to keep themselves safe and out of trouble?***

***What should Chloe and Megan do now?***

***What could be the possible outcomes? (either list these or finish the story)***

It was a Friday afternoon and it had been snowing all day, the school had decided to close because of the weather so Callum, Jack and Caitlin were walking home.

Suddenly a snowball landed on the back of Jack's head, they all turned around and a few of their friends from their estate were behind them. They went to a different school but they had been sent home too because of the weather.

Callum picked up some snow, rolled it into a ball and threw it at the others – but completely missed and within a couple of minutes they were having a huge snowball fight. It was really good fun but they were all getting wet so started to make their way home.

As they passed the bus stop one of the others scooped up a load of snow from the seat and threw it at a passing car the others found this really funny and started scooping up the snow again to throw at other passing vehicles, one of them hit a bus, another got another car.

Caitlin felt really uncomfortable about this as last year when someone had hit her dad's car with a snowball it made him lose concentration and he skidded on some ice which was quite scary. She told Jack and Callum how she felt just as she saw one of the others roll up a stone in a snowball ready for the next car. . . . .

***What five things should the group have done to keep themselves safe and out of trouble?***

***What should Callum, Jack and Caitlin do now?***

***What could be the possible outcomes? (either list these or finish the story)***

Sophie and her twin brother Josh decided to go shopping to spend their Christmas money. They dressed up in their new clothes and took Sophie's new iPod and Josh's new phone so that they could show their friends if they saw them.

When they got to the shopping centre they split up because Sophie wanted to look at trainers and Josh wanted to look at games. They went different ways and agreed to meet back up outside the main shopping centre.

They both got what they were after and a few extra bits too in the sales! They met up and decided to go for a burger before going home, because it was so busy Sophie decided to put all her bags into one so that they didn't take up too much room.

Once they were sitting down Josh wanted to show Sophie his new game, she agreed it looked great so they planned to play it when they got home, the bus was due so they got up to leave but when Sophie reached down for her bag it wasn't there. They had a look round and asked if it had been handed in but somebody had stolen it – everything she had bought as well as her purse and bus pass!

Sophie was really upset so a member of staff suggested that Josh phone their parents to collect them - it was then that Josh realised he had left his phone on the table after uploading a photo of his new game to Facebook – that had disappeared too . . . .

***What five things should Sophie and Josh have done to keep themselves and their property safe?***

***What should they do now?***

***What could be the possible outcomes? (either list these or finish the story)***

Bethany and Ryan were going to a Halloween fancy dress party at Daniel's house. Daniel was a couple of years older but Ryan knew him from football and got on really well with him. Daniel's parents had gone on holiday but Bethany and Ryan had told their parents that there would be an adult around.

When they got there Daniel offered them a can each, Bethany had a cider and Ryan had a lager. Daniel had put the party on Facebook so there were lots of other people there too. Daniels parents had an open patio burner that he had lit to make it feel like there was a bonfire in the garden. It was a clear evening so lots of people were outside.

Bethany and Ryan were having a great time, meeting new people and having a few drinks, they went to find Daniel and he was outside, Ryan was shocked to see that he was smoking weed with a few others but didn't say anything – after all he was older and it didn't seem like it was the first time he had done it.

After they had been talking to Daniel for a while they noticed he was acting strangely, he kept staring into the fire like he was deep in thought and fascinated by the flames and then he started saying that there were people in the house he didn't know and hadn't invited and he was worried that they were going to steal his mum's jewellery. He also started to get uneasy whenever someone in a mask came close to him.

Bethany and Ryan were starting to feel uncomfortable, especially when Daniel offered them some of his cannabis . . . .

***What five things should the group have done to keep themselves safe and out of trouble?***

***What should Bethany and Ryan do now?***

***What could be the possible outcomes? (either list these or finish the story)***



## Useful websites and resources

*Please note: safe & sound, Dudley's community safety partnership, are not responsible for any information or content on external websites*

<http://www.fearless.org/> - Part of Crimestoppers and aimed at young people. Information about many community safety topics including weapons, street crime, violence, abuse and cybercrime

<http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org/young-peoples-pages/> - Dudley safe & sound young people's pages. Various community safety topics, information and links

<http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org/young-peoples-pages/think-first-2/> - Dudley's Think First resource

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/westmidlandspolice/sets/72157627989157690/> - West Midlands Police, Halloween and darker nights advice

<http://www.talktofrank.com/> - Information about drugs

<http://letstalkdrink.com/> - Dudley's alcohol website

<https://www.immobilise.com/index.php> - The UK's National Property Register

<https://www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law> - Fireworks and the law

<http://www.wmfs.net/content/firework-safety-1> West Midlands Fire Service

<http://www.nhs.uk/LiveWell/Fireworksafety/Pages/Fireworksafety.aspx> - Firework safety

[http://www.fireworksafety.co.uk/fws2010/?page\\_id=11](http://www.fireworksafety.co.uk/fws2010/?page_id=11) - Firework information for practitioners

Various videos about firework accidents can also be found on youtube - here are just a few:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PST0ILN-gwg>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRebuUw4Qvw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMKSGGfANTQ>