

# KEEP YOURSELF



## What is Doorstep Crime?

**Doorstep crime** involves someone deceiving a resident into letting them into their house through seemingly legitimate means so they can steal or con possessions or money from the residents. There are two main forms:

- 1. Distraction burglars** have a range of methods in order to keep residents preoccupied, one normally keeping the resident busy, as the other sneaks into the home unseen.
- 2. Bogus Callers** can be very persuasive, and convince the resident into believing there is an urgent job that needs doing on their property, charge high rates for their service and then pressure the resident to pay for it. They have even been known to go as far as driving the resident to the bank to withdraw cash.

This particular crime unfortunately is targeted at the older and more vulnerable residents with official figures reporting 19,000 doorstep crimes being committed against older people in a year. However because 51% of older people fail to report such incidents, the real number is estimated to be much higher.

## What is the Safe Project and how can it help?

The Safe project is a **partnership** between Lancashire Constabulary and Lancaster University's Volunteering Unit (LUVU), created after a Home office initiative to reduce doorstep crime. The **main aim is to decrease the likelihood of doorstep crime** occurring in the homes of local residents, making the Lancaster district safer.

Student volunteers are **trained** by the fire, police services and LUVU and are able to:

- **provide up to date information** on home safety and doorstep crime prevention,
- **assess** the resident's security requirements,
- **install** spy holes, door chains and vocal reminder devices,
- **provide** UV security property markers,
- **refer you to reliable sources** for a vast range of additional needs (fire, handyman, trading standards etc).

This all takes place in the comfort of the resident's **home**. The service and equipment is provided completely **free** of charge and is **strictly confidential**.

## How to sign up...

Contact: **01524 593693** or [luvu@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:luvu@lancaster.ac.uk)

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