

SOCIALISING

It's important to have fun, but don't forget to look after yourself and others:

- Never accept drinks from strangers.
- Don't leave your drink unattended.
- Try to alternate alcoholic drinks with water or soft drinks.
- Know your drinking limits. Alcohol lowers your guard and may affect your judgement and decision making.
- Stay with your group of friends and look out for each other.
- Plan your journey in advance, including the journey home. Try to travel with other people you know if possible.
- Make sure you have extra money in case you get stranded or miss the last bus or train.
- Avoid short cuts and isolated areas.
- Stay away from confrontational situations.

MOVING TO A NEW FLAT OR AREA

If you are moving out of student accommodation or moving to a new flat, check its security before moving in.

When living with a group of friends there will always have to be compromises; just make sure it's not on the security of the property.

- Get to know the area you are moving to. Speak to other students and check the crime statistics at police.uk
- Check the security of the property. Are the doors and windows secure? Does the property have an alarm? How many different people have keys? Read our home security pages at psni.police.uk for further advice.
- Find out if the property is registered with an approved scheme or code of practice. This will ensure that it has the appropriate safety and security certifications such as fire precautions, gas appliance safety and appropriate locks.
- Don't sign a contract until you are absolutely sure that the property is right for you.

REPORT IT

If you are being stalked, harassed or have been a victim of burglary or robbery and are in immediate danger, call us on 999. You can also report by calling 101 or report it online at www.psni.police.uk/report.

More help and support

For further advice or recommendations, visit psni.police.uk

Crimestoppers

crimestoppers-uk.org

Victim Support

victimsupportni.com

Women's Aid

womensaidni.org

Suzy Lamplugh Trust

suzylamplugh.org/
personalsafety-tips/

Nexus

(victims of sexual abuse)

www.nexusni.org

National Stalking Helpline

stalkinghelpline.org

FRANK

talktofrank.com

ScamwiseNI

nidirect.gov.uk

24-hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline

Tel. 0808 802 1414
dsaheadline.org

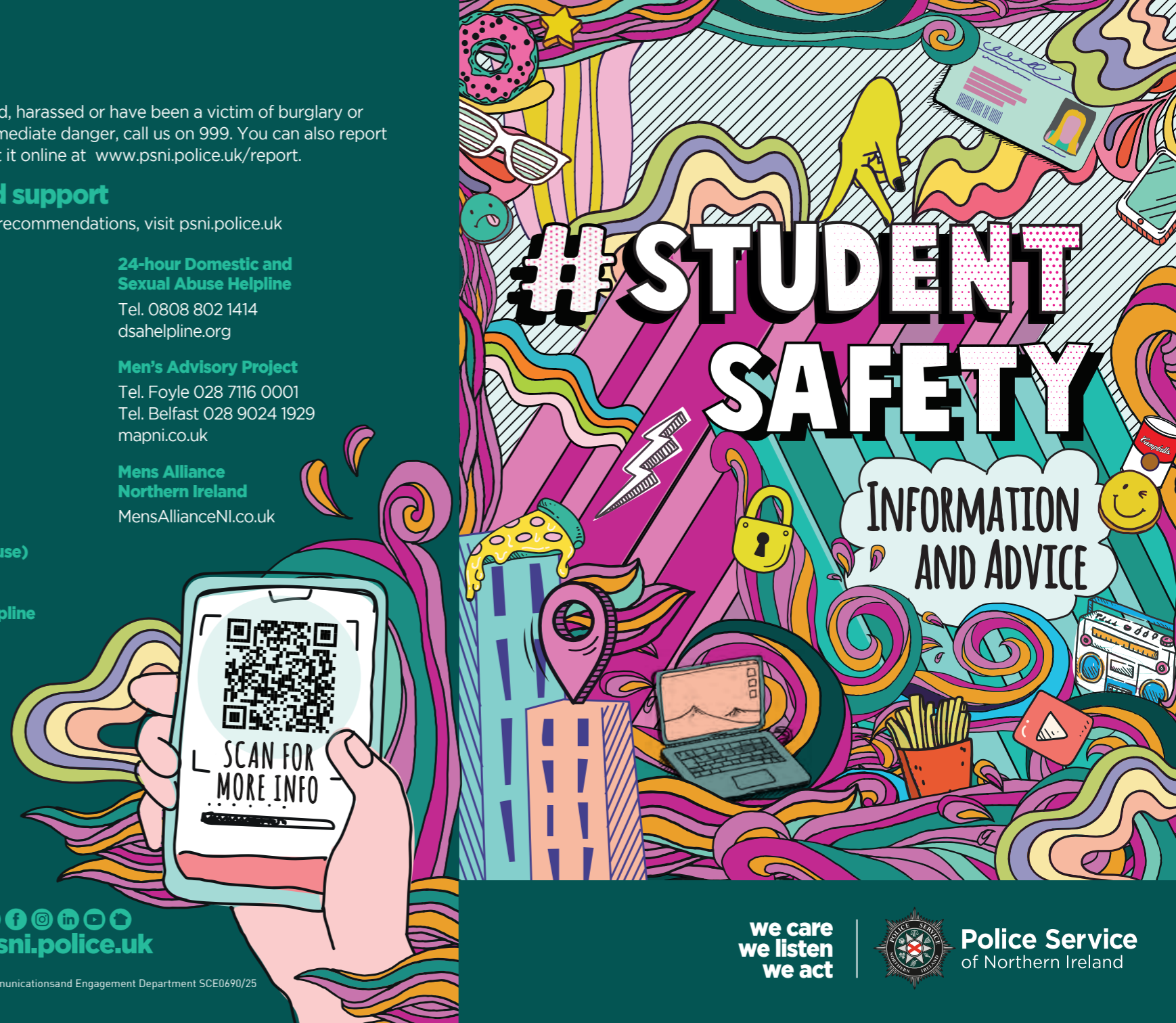
Men's Advisory Project

Tel. Foyle 028 7116 0001
Tel. Belfast 028 9024 1929
mapni.co.uk

Mens Alliance Northern Ireland

MensAllianceNI.co.uk

#STUDENT SAFETY

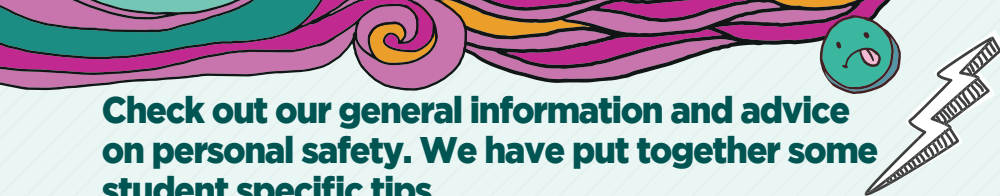


report online psni.police.uk

we care
we listen
we act



Police Service
of Northern Ireland



Check out our general information and advice on personal safety. We have put together some student specific tips.

YOUR FIRST FEW WEEKS

Whether you are living in student halls, or a city centre flat, there are simple measures you can take to keep yourself and your property safe:

- Familiarise yourself with the local area as soon as you can.
- Build relationships with your flatmates and swap mobile phone numbers.
- Find out where your local police station and hospital are and save the police non-emergency number 101 in your phone.
- Save the numbers of reputable taxi firms in your phone.

PROPERTY

Whether you are living in student halls, or a city centre flat, there are simple measures you can take to keep yourself and your property safe:

- Keep your doors and windows locked whenever you are out.
- Be mindful of tailgaters to your building.
- Keep your high value items such as laptops and tablets out of sight and secure when you are not using them.
- Consider marking your property before going to university.

BIKE SAFETY

Secure your bicycle. Double locking is the best protection for locking any bike. Whatever the type of lock, look for the SBD logo or “Gold Secure”:

- Secure your bike as close to the stand as possible to give any thieves little or no room to manoeuvre.
- Lock the frame and both wheels to the cycle parking stand.
- Locks are considered more vulnerable when they come into contact with the ground, so keep them off the floor.

PROPERTY MARKING AND REGISTRATION

We recommend that you mark and register your property using a Secured By Design Approved property marking solution and advertise the fact using window stickers. You can register your property FOR FREE using Immobilise, a national, police approved database.



MOBILE PHONE SECURITY

Keep your phone locked at all times - Lock screen with passcode, pattern, fingerprint or facial recognition. Lock when idle for 30 seconds - one minute.

Set secure passwords - Set strong passwords with uppercase and lowercase letters and numbers. Set a different password for each app.

Keep your devices updated - Make sure that your devices are updated with the latest software. Here's how - IOS > General > software update. Android > about phone > system update.

Connect to secure wifi - Beware of networks that aren't password protected and use a VPN.

Beware of downloads - Use verified app stores. Look at app reviews, recent updates and the contact information.

Encrypt your data - Your smartphone holds a lot of data. If it is lost or stolen your emails, contacts, financial information and more can be at risk.

To protect your mobile phone data:

- Install anti-virus software - can protect against viruses, malware and hackers.

- Don't jailbreak or root your phone - This is when you unlock your phone and remove safety features making it less secure and easy to hack.
- Enable apps to find and track mobile phones

For more information about staying safe whilst using your Apple or Android device visit: cyberstreetwise.com or getsafeonline.org

KEEP YOUR IDENTITY

Be careful with the amount of personal information you share online. Only have minimum information available on your social media profiles. Make it as difficult as possible to crack your personal passwords.

MONEY

- Check your bank statements on a regular basis.
- Cover the keypad when entering your PIN at a cash machine.
- If you notice anything unusual or suspicious activity at an ATM contact police immediately.
- Phone your bank to cancel your cards immediately if you think they have been lost or stolen.
- Report any unusual activity to Action Fraud. Contacts, financial information and more can be at risk.

MONEY MULES

Students have been increasingly targeted by criminals to facilitate their illegal money laundering operations. A money mule is a person who is used by criminals to move illegal funds between accounts, whether in person or electronically, in order to launder the money and evade authorities.

Avoid becoming a 'money mule':

- Be very cautious of unsolicited emails or approaches over social media promising opportunities to make easy money.
- Never give your bank account or any other personal financial details to anyone.
- Be especially wary of job offers from people or companies overseas as it will be harder for you to find out if they really are legitimate.
- Be vigilant - look out for any unusual activity in your bank account (for example, if you see that money has been deposited into your account and then removed).
- If an opportunity sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you think that your bank account may have been misused, or that you have become involved in a scam or money laundering activity, talk directly with your bank about this.

Alternatively you could report the issue to Action Fraud by calling **0300 123 2040** or visiting the Action Fraud website.

Find more information at:

- [facebook.com/scamwiseni](https://www.facebook.com/scamwiseni)
- europol.europa.eu
- moneymules.co.uk
- actionfraud.police.uk

ONLINE

Never disclose private information such as your phone number or address to others or on online sites.

- If you arrange to meet someone in person that you have met online make sure you meet in a populated public space. Do not accept lifts from the person you are meeting. Tell a friend or family member where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- Do not send compromising or explicit images or videos irrespective of what is sent to you. It may be a sexploitation scam.
- When using social networks be aware that much of the information becomes public by default and is easy to search for.
- Avoid posting personal details or anything that could be used to steal your identity.
- Assess your privacy settings on your social networking sites so that only friends can see your personal information.