

# SUMMER SAFETY

#DITCH  
THE  
BLADE

## Knife Crime

Are you feeling pressured to carry a knife as you think everyone else is? The reality is that 99% of 10-29 year olds DON'T carry a knife.

Carrying actually increases your chance of being stabbed or slashed. The risk is real, your knife could be used against you.

Speak up now! You can get help and advice on how to ditch the blade at [www.knifefree.co.uk](http://www.knifefree.co.uk)

County Lines is when gangs and organised criminal networks move illegal drugs into other areas of the country, often smaller areas.

Dealers will take orders from drug users through mobile phones and take advantage of young people to move and store drugs and money. They often do this through blackmail, intimidation and violence.

COUNTY  
LINES  
THE REALITY

DON'T GET  
TRAPPED IN IT!

It may start off as a couple of jobs a week for some much needed cash but you will end up getting caught up in drug trafficking and gangs.





If you feel like there is no way out or you are worried about a friend you can get help and advice at:

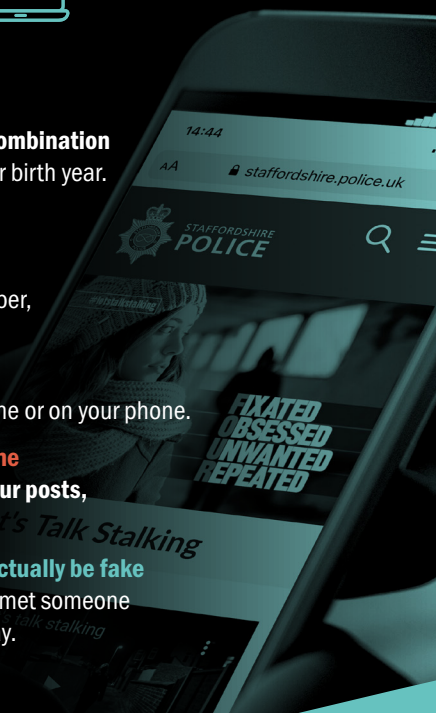
[WWW.STAFFORDSHIRE.POLICE.UK/COUNTYLINES](http://WWW.STAFFORDSHIRE.POLICE.UK/COUNTYLINES)

## STAY SAFE ONLINE



Follow these top tips when online:

-  Choose a good password and keep this secret. The best passwords have a combination of letters, numbers, and other characters. Avoid using your name, birthday, or birth year.
-  When you are online or using apps check your privacy settings to see if your information is public or private.
-  Stop and think if someone online asks for your full name, address, phone number, school or a photograph. Don't share these details with anyone online.
-  If a message makes you feel uncomfortable you don't have to reply. Always tell a parent or guardian if you are worried about anything you see online or on your phone.
-  Do not say anything or publish pictures that might later cause you or someone else embarrassment. Be aware of what friends post about you, or reply to your posts, particularly about your personal details and activities.
-  You can't always believe what you see online, some of the information can actually be fake - this can include fake facts, images, videos and even people. If you haven't met someone in real life before you chat online be very careful as they may not be who they say.



# OUTDOOR FIRE SAFETY

Respect the outdoors and remember these points when you are out with your friends this summer:



**Take your rubbish home or put it in a nearby bin.**

Don't leave glass bottles lying on the ground. Sunlight shining through glass can start a fire.



**Call 999 if you see a fire – don't try and tackle it yourself** and leave the area as soon as possible.



**Don't use disposable barbecues in the countryside** – they can easily set fire to the ground and spread.

## DON'T BE BLAMED FOR THE FLAMES

# Be Water Safety Aware

When the weather is warm the water can seem so inviting, but it is a risk that is simply not worth taking. Swimming in rivers, canals and lakes is dangerous. Remember these points when out and about this summer:



**Only swim in properly supervised pools**, the dangers of water include: **very cold temperatures, hidden currents, fast flowing water, deep water, locks and weirs, pollution, hidden rubbish and debris.** It may also be difficult to get out and there will not be lifeguards present.



**If you see another person or a pet in trouble in the water do not enter the water yourself. Raise the alarm or if you have a mobile phone call 999** and ask for the fire service. Try and give an exact location of where you are and look for and signs or landmarks. If there is a lifebuoy or throwline nearby throw it to them. If not, throw anything to them that will float.



**If you fall into water by accident try to fight your instinct to thrash about, instead lean back and float on your back while you catch your breath.** Once you are calm call for help or swim for safety if you are able.

Off-road bikes and e-scooters are illegal to use in any public space such as pavements, roads and green spaces. They can only be used on private land with the permission of the land owner.

## Keep busy this summer!

Space runs fun activities for 8-17 year-olds during the school summer holiday across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

For more information about what is on and to book a place visit:  
[www.staffordshirespace.uk](http://www.staffordshirespace.uk)

**Space**  
Live • Laugh • Learn

[www.staffordshirespace.uk](http://www.staffordshirespace.uk)

# You're Not Alone

If you feel unable to cope, worried about your own mental health or someone you care for, you're not alone - help is available.

Call your local NHS urgent mental health helpline 24/7  
📞 0300 123 0907

These services also offer confidential advice:

## Samaritans

- you can talk to someone 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. 📞 116 123

## Shout Crisis text line

- a free, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope. 📞 Text 'SHOUT' to 85258



## Useful Contacts

We want young people to be happy, feel safe and listened to.

We want you to know there is always somewhere to turn to if you need help.

Here are some other helpful websites and numbers:

**Childline** - a free, private and confidential service where you can talk about anything. They can also advise on how you can report and remove a nude image shared online.

📞 0800 1111 🌐 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**NSPCC** - help young people at risk and find the best ways to prevent child abuse from ever happening.

📞 0800 1111 🌐 [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

**Victim Support** - there for anyone who has been affected by crime, whether it was reported or not, and no matter how long ago it happened. Victim Support will provide **free, confidential support** so you can move forward with your life. The Victim Support website also includes a live chat function.

📞 0808 1689 111

🌐 [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)

**Fearless** - an independent charity that allows people to pass on information about crime **100% anonymously**. They provide a route for passing details of crime **securely and safely via the Fearless website**.

🌐 [www.fearless.org/en](http://www.fearless.org/en)