

Staffordshire Independence Programme



● MODULE 4: *HOME SAFETY*

If you do not already know, this module will help you to:

1. Protect your property from theft;
2. Identify basic health and safety risks in the home;
3. Respond appropriately in case of emergency;
4. Identify someone close to you that could entrust a spare house key to;
5. Know the consequences social media can have on your tenancy.

● MODULE 4:

HOME SAFETY

First off, let's see what you already know...

1. In what situations should you contact the emergency services?
 - a. There is strong smell of gas in your property
 - b. None of your upstairs lights will turn on
 - c. There is a flood in your bathroom
 - d. You return home to find your door ajar
2. True or False: It is best to leave your house keys in a convenient spot near to the door in case you need to leave quickly.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. Which of the following are good ideas to maintain the safety of your property?
 - a. Leave valuables on show
 - b. Only tell close family and friends when you are going on holiday
 - c. Ask any workmen or women to show you their ID before letting them into the property
 - d. Only let people you know into your property or communal area in an apartment block
 - e. Leave spare keys in a convenient hiding place e.g. in a plant pot by the door
4. Your fuse box keeps tripping. What should you do?
 - a. Call an electrician
 - b. Unplug everything and plug everything in individually to see what it is that is tripping the electricity
 - c. Keep switching it back on whenever it goes off
5. What could be the consequence for advertising a house party at your property on social media?
 - a. More people could turn up than you thought
 - b. People could damage the property
 - c. You could have a fun night
 - d. There could be people who turn up that you don't even know
 - e. Your landlord could see the post on social media
 - f. You could risk losing your tenancy
 - g. All of the above

● MODULE 4: *HOME SAFETY*

Emergency Scenarios

When you live in your own home there are a number of situations you could find yourself in that you will have not experienced before, now is a good time to think about how you may react. Have a look at the scenarios below: don't worry if you don't know what you would do in each of these scenarios... this is why you are working through this programme before moving to live on your own.

You return home after a long day at work to discover there is a leak on your living room ceiling. When you go and look at where the water is coming from, you see there has been a leak from your toilet and water is dropping down through the floor into the living room directly underneath.

What do you do?

You return home after a couple of drinks at the pub, to find your friend, who is staying with you at the moment, smoking in the living room. You remind them to smoke outside as you go up to bed, however you awake in the middle of the night for a glass of water and can smell smoke from downstairs.

What do you do?

You are at home on your own on a Sunday night and there is a lot of noise coming from outside. You look outside the window and there is a large group of people hanging around on the street in front of your house. They are shouting and swearing, and you begin to feel intimidated, as you worry that they may damage your property.

What do you do?

You have been staying at a friend's house for the weekend, when you return home you open the door to find strong smell of gas.

What do you do?

● **MODULE 4:**
HOME SAFETY

Health and Safety True or False

1. It is best to avoid overloading an extension lead with plugs.
2. The best place to leave your house keys are near the door.
3. It is important that you make sure you have a clear fire exit from your property
4. You should regularly check your fire and smoke alarms to test that they are working.
5. Leaving a key with a close friend or family member is a good idea as it means they will not have to rush if you have to leave the house when they are visiting.

● MODULE 4: *HOME SAFETY*

Top Safety Tips

- Although it is clever to leave your house keys near the door so you can pick them up on your way out, avoid leaving them within reaching distance of the door.
- Try not to let friends or family stay in your house when you go out, even when you feel like you are helping them out.
- Always make sure you have a clear fire exit from your property, to do this, avoid hoarding items and get rid of any clutter regularly.
- Regularly check that your fire and smoke alarms have a working battery in them, and if not, change them straight away.
- Be careful inviting friends to your house for parties as it is not uncommon for friends to invite people they know, which can lead to you having strangers in your home. This can be dangerous for a number of reasons.

● MODULE 4: *HOME SAFETY*

House Insurance

Getting home and contents insurance is crucial, as this will protect your accommodation as well as all of your items.

Buildings Insurance:

Buildings insurance covers the cost of repairing damage to the structure of the property. Buildings insurance often covers the full cost of rebuilding your house. Buildings insurance commonly covers loss or damage caused by:

- Fire, explosion, storms, earthquakes
- Fallen trees, lampposts, aerials/satellite dishes
- Frozen or burst pipes
- Theft/attempted theft, vandalism

* If you rent your property, your landlord may already have buildings insurance cover, so it is best to check with them if you would need buy a policy.

Contents Insurance:

Home contents insurance commonly covers the cost of your personal and home possessions should they be:

- Lost
- Stolen
- Damaged

* It is not essential to take out a contents insurance policy, but it is advised to protect your belongings. When you take out a policy, you can often choose to name specific possessions if they are valuable.

Handy Tip: Price comparison websites are great for saving money! If you are buying insurance or swapping an energy provider, it is good to see where you could get the best policy for the least money. There are often benefits to buying insurance policies from a price comparison website too, including Compare the Market offering Meerkat Meals for customers for 12 months!

● MODULE 4: *HOME SAFETY*

Useful Links –

Compare the Market for home insurance price comparison –

- https://www.comparethemarket.com/?SRC=CU03&TrackerID=43700005298498543&ds_rl=1251650&ds_rl=1251650&ds_rl=1251650&gclid=EAlalQobChMItdzVifSc3wIV7JPtCh0d8Az3EAAAYASAAEgIwfd_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

For guidance on when to phone the non-emergency 101 instead of 999 –

- <https://www.police.uk/contact/101/>