

# Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention

## Guidance Note

### Halloween



Norfolk and Suffolk Police wants everyone in the county to have a *'fang'tastic* time at Halloween.

#### Top Tips for Trick or Treaters:

- Always be accompanied by an adult when you are trick-or-treating.
- You should only go to houses of people you know and who are happy for you to call. Don't call at houses that have 'No trick or treat' posters on show. There may be elderly or vulnerable people living at these addresses who do not feel comfortable speaking to strangers.
- Stay safe, keep to places that you know and are well lit. Do not take shortcuts through gardens, alleyways or parks.
- Watch out for traffic - drivers might not see you.
- If you are wearing a mask make sure that you can see where you are going and are aware of your surroundings.
- Carry a torch and a fully charged mobile phone (if you have one). If you take one, keep it hidden from view and only use it if absolutely necessary.
- Never go inside someone's house – only accept treats on the doorstep.
- Always be respectful when you are calling at someone's door.
- Have fun, but have respect for others and do not damage property. Anti-social behaviour can result in a criminal record.

**For Further Crime Prevention Advice:-**

**For Norfolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Architectural Liaison Officer (ALO)**

**For Suffolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Safer Neighbourhood Team**

- Consider placing reflective or glow-in-the dark tape on your children's costumes.
- Set a time for children to get back, and make sure you know who they are with.
- Know where your children are trick-or-treating.

## **Householders**

### **You may not want trick or treaters knocking on your door**

If you don't want little devils on your doorstep – download a poster from the Norfolk or Suffolk police website.

If you feel unsafe:

- You don't have to answer the door to unknown callers.
- Use your spyhole, look out of a window, and use your door chain if you do decide to open your door.
- Have a contact number of a close relative or good neighbour to hand by your telephone, just in case you need to call them.
- If you are going to be on your own and feel vulnerable, let a family member, relative or friend know, so they can make contact to check you are okay.
- If trick-or-treaters do call on you and things get out of hand, or you feel intimidated, contact the police.

### **If you are happy to receive Trick or Treaters**

- If you are prepared to receive 'ghouls' and boys knocking on your door, please switch on your outside light, and if there are any trip hazards, remove them if you can.
- If you set lanterns outside your front door with candles in them, make sure that they are far enough out of the way so that costumes won't accidentally be set on fire.
- Excited children don't always do as they are expected on Halloween, so if you are out driving, please take extra care in residential areas.

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