

Essential information for new arrivals in Derbyshire

# Derbyshire Constabulary



In Derbyshire, there are people from different backgrounds, ages, cultures and religions, who we hope feel they belong to one community. The information provided outlines the key elements of living in a cohesive community, as well as how to engage with various services to make the most for your life in Derbyshire.

The Derbyshire Constabulary's Community Safety Team at Force Headquarters has made every effort to ensure the information provided from its own and partner organisations, is accurate at the time of publication. The information may change over time and is for guidance purposes only.

Readers are therefore encouraged to obtain copies of the other leaflets designed to help new arrivals settle into their life within Derbyshire through accessing services available.

## Reporting a crime

To report a crime, contact the police in any of the ways provided at the end of this leaflet. When a crime is recorded you will be given a Crime Reference Number. If you do not speak English, stay on the line so the police can trace the call to assist you. Calls to the police are dealt with by the call centre who will advise as to how long the police may take to contact you. The police will decide whether or not to start an investigation. The police officer who is investigating may contact you to keep you updated on the progress made with the investigation. Remember to make a note of your Crime Reference Number as you will need this to be able to make an insurance claim in relation to the crime.

If you are a victim of crime:

- make as much noise as you can
- as soon as you can, go somewhere you know is safe
- get help immediately
- if you have been attacked, do not shower or change your clothes as this may destroy evidence

- if you have had your keys taken, change your locks as soon as possible

If you are a witness to a crime:

- in an emergency dial 999
- stay alert and safe
- do not physically interfere, you could get hurt
- write down everything that you can remember about the incident

## Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT)

Each area has a Safer Neighbourhood Team, who are a group of people who try and help members of the local community. If you have issues within your community, contact your local SNT on 0345 123 3333.

## Hate crime

A hate crime is any offence committed against a person or property which is motivated by the offender's hatred of people because they are seen as being different. Being different can include; race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, religion, faith, age and gender. Hate crime hurts; it can be confusing and frightening. It can involve name-calling, arson/fire, graffiti, damage to property, personal attacks or acts of violence. Derbyshire Constabulary takes hate crime seriously. To report a hate crime, contact the police using the contact details listed at the end of this leaflet.

## Stop Hate UK

Stop Hate UK is a national charity. If you have been a victim of hate crime you can call them in confidence without reporting it to the police. The charity provides independent and confidential support to people affected by hate crime.

You can report hate crime 24 hours a day on 0800 138 1625  
Text relay for people who are deaf, or have speech or hearing  
impairments 18001 0800 138 1625 and standard  
text 07717 989 025.

Letter address to Stop Hate UK, PO Box 484, Leeds, LS7 9BZ  
or by using an online form at [www.stophateuk.org/tell](http://www.stophateuk.org/tell)

## Domestic violence

Domestic violence can be any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been partners, or who are related within a family or domestic setting, regardless of their gender or sexuality. Domestic violence involves the abuse of power and control by one person over another which can increase in frequency and become worse over time.

If you are suffering from domestic violence, always dial '999' if you are injured or fear for your personal safety or that of others. If you are not at immediate risk, you can contact your local police using the contact details provided at the end of this leaflet. Your case may be passed on to the domestic violence unit. Within Derbyshire Constabulary, the domestic violence unit assesses each case. If the victim is at a 'high risk,' an officer will work with the victim, supporting and advising them and getting support from partner agencies. An Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) may act as a professional person within the court room to assist in the legal facts of domestic violence if necessary.

## Victim Support

Victim Support is the national charity, independent from police and courts, which help people affected by crime. They provide free and confidential support to help you deal with your experience, whether or not you have reported that crime to the police. Victim Support Derbyshire supports residents in coping with the effects of crime. Victim Support will also refer victims to other agencies who can offer

more specialised support, for example if you have been a victim or witness to domestic violence or are suffering from anti-social behaviour.

The Witness Care Service is a team of volunteers within Victim Support who work within the courts across Derbyshire. They are able to provide support to witnesses and victims who give evidence at court. This volunteer will be different from the volunteers who are able to support you both before and after the court appearance.

You can contact Victim Support Derbyshire direct on 01629 825864, or you can make contact with the Witness Care Service department through the Magistrates' and Crown Courts across Derbyshire. If you have reported a crime to Derbyshire Constabulary, they will also offer to put you in contact with Victim Support: [www.victimsupport.org](http://www.victimsupport.org)

## Offensive weapons

An offensive weapon means any article that can be made or adapted for causing injury or intended to cause injury, such as a bladed or sharply pointed instrument. It is illegal to carry knives with a blade longer than 3 inches (7.62 centimetres), gas sprays, pen knives, or any other weapons considered to be offensive. There are some cultural and legal reasons why offensive weapons may be carried but you should consult your local police for further information on this. If you are found guilty of carrying an offensive weapon, you may be arrested and undergo a criminal investigation. The highest level of punishment would be 6 months imprisonment and/or a £5,000 fine.

## Motor offences

Within the United Kingdom (UK), there are certain motoring offences which you should be aware of. These may be different to your own country's legislation. It is an offence to drive whilst under the influence of drugs and/or over the limit of alcohol. It is also an offence to be caught driving dangerously or carelessly. You cannot use a hand-held mobile phone while you are driving.

You should also be aware that many motoring offences could result in points on your driving licence. Drivers are disqualified if they get 12 or more points and have to re-apply for their driving licence when the period of disqualification ends. For further information on driving within the UK and abiding by the laws and regulations, drivers should read the UK Highway Code, which can be bought from local book stores and is available on loan from your local libraries.

## Drinking and driving

If you have been drinking alcohol, there is no sure way to tell if you are within the legal limit to drive. It depends on several factors, such as your weight, gender, age, and the amount and type of alcohol you have drunk. The police have powers to breath test drivers who:

- are suspected of drink driving
- have been involved in an accident
- have committed a moving traffic offence

The penalties for exceeding the legal alcohol limit for drivers are:

- up to six months imprisonment
- a fine of up to £5,000
- a minimum of 12 months' disqualification from driving

## UK law on drugs, alcohol and smoking

It is against the law to:

- possess or sell certain drugs
- buy alcohol or drink alcohol on its own in licensed premises when you are under 18 years of age
- smoke in an enclosed public place or workplace
- buy tobacco products for anyone under the age of 18

## Stop and search

The power to stop and search people can help the police to detect crime and make your community safer. 'Stop and search' is when a

police officer stops and searches you, your clothes, your vehicle, or anything you are carrying. The police officer should give you their name, the station where they are from, the reason for the search and a written notice explaining these details. A leaflet 'Stop and search – know your rights' is available at [www.apa.police.uk](http://www.apa.police.uk)

## Rights of a detained person

If you have been arrested and detained, under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, the police have the power to detain you for up to 96 hours. On arrest you are entitled to:

- be treated humanely and with respect
- know why you have been arrested
- ask for someone to be notified of your arrest and where you are being held
- consult with a solicitor privately (free of charge)
- have access to an interpreter (free of charge)

At the police station you have the right to have a solicitor present when being interviewed. The interview will be tape-recorded, during which the police will ask you questions about the allegations made against you. Following the interview, the police will either:

- make further enquiries
- release you with no charge
- bail you to return to the police station at a later date
- formally caution you
- charge you with an offence

If you have been charged with the offence the custody officer will read out the charge(s) against you and ask if you have anything to say. You will receive a written copy of the charge(s) and the date of your court appearance. The police then have to decide whether to release you or keep you in custody until the next court hearing.

If you are under the age of 17 or a vulnerable adult who has mental health needs or you appear to be suffering from another disorder, you cannot be interviewed without someone being present to look after your welfare. The police will therefore arrange for an appropriate adult to be present to safeguard your welfare during the interviewing process.

## Useful contacts

You are advised that you can attend any of the 46 Derbyshire County Council's state public libraries, which have 400 public PC's with free broadband access. These will assist you in accessing some of the information which is provided on the websites listed below.

Derbyshire Constabulary

Force Headquarters, Butterley Hall, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3RS

Fax: 01773 571102 For non-emergency call 0345 123 3333

In an emergency always dial 999

If you have minicom equipment, contact 0845 604 9010

If you are deaf, or hard-of-hearing, you can send a non-emergency text message (SMS) to 07800 002 414

To find out where your local police station is visit

[www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk) and enter your postcode. This will also display your local Safer Neighbourhood Team

If you wish to make a complaint about the police you can do this either in person at any police station or by making a complaint to the Independent Police Complaints Commission on 08453 002002  
email: [enquiries@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk) [www.ipcc.gov.uk](http://www.ipcc.gov.uk)



Hate Crime

Chesterfield Law Centre Tel: 01246 550674

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Age Concern Tel: 01246 273333

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Our Vision - Our Future (self help for people with learning disabilities)  
Tel: 01246 556694

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Derby and Derbyshire Racial Equality Council Tel: 01332 372428

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Derbyshire Friend (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Support  
and Advocacy Services)  
Tel: 01332 207704 [www.gayderbyshire.org.uk](http://www.gayderbyshire.org.uk)

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Equality and Human Rights Commission Tel: 0845 604 6610  
[www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)

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Refugee Action Tel: 020 7654 7700 [www.refugee-action.org.uk](http://www.refugee-action.org.uk)

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Crimestoppers is a national charity. You can report a crime or give any information you may have relating to a crime without giving your name. This information can be passed onto the police to be dealt with. You could also receive money as a reward for the information.  
Tel: 0800 555 111 [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

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Next Step (Against Domestic Abuse) is a registered charity that provides free support and services to anyone living in South Derbyshire affected by domestic abuse. This includes family members and friends of victims and perpetrators.  
Tel: 01283 229854 (helpline) email: [nextstep2@btconnect.com](mailto:nextstep2@btconnect.com)  
[www.next-step.org](http://www.next-step.org)

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Amber Valley & Erewash Domestic Abuse Support Service (AVEDASS) will work with anyone who has been a victim of domestic abuse within these two boroughs. They offer a confidential service on a one-to-one basis, offering emotional and practical support to victims.  
59 Ray Street, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7GF Tel: 01773 530043

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Derbyshire Support and Advice for Men (SAM) provides a county-wide service to male victims of abuse through telephone helpline, drop-in services and outreach work.

9 Marsden Street, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 1JY

Tel: 08000 198668 (helpline) Tel: 01246 551889 (general enquiries)

[www.derbyshiresam.org.uk](http://www.derbyshiresam.org.uk)

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Women's Aid is the key national charity working to end domestic violence against women and children.

Tel: 0808 2000 247 [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

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Magistrate's Courts within Derbyshire and surrounding areas

Buxton County Court

1-3 Hardwick Street, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6DH

Tel: 01298 23734

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Burton-upon-Trent Magistrates Court

The Court House, Horninglow Street, Burton-upon-Trent, DE14 1NG

Tel: 01785 223144

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Chesterfield County Court

St Mary's Gate, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S41 7TD

Tel: 01246 501200

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North East Derbyshire and Dales Magistrates Court

Tapton Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S41 7TW

Tel: 01246 224040

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High Peak Magistrates Court

Peak Buildings, Terrace Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6DY

Tel: 01298 23951

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Ilkeston Magistrates Court

The Court House, Pimlico, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 5HZ

Tel: 0115 932 0286

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Southern Derbyshire Magistrates Court  
The Court House, St Mary's Gate, Derby, Derbyshire, DE1 3JR  
Tel: 01332 622600

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Crown Court within Derbyshire  
Derby Combined Court Centre (Crown and County)  
Morledge, Derby, Derbyshire, DE1 2XE  
Tel: 01332 622600

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It is legal to smoke tobacco in private or in designated smoking areas. For more information on drug classifications, visit [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

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Some key council services are dealt with by Call Derbyshire  
(Derbyshire County Council's contact centre)

Tel: 08456 058058 (weekdays 8am-8pm and Saturdays 9:30am-4pm)  
[www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)

If you require this leaflet in Braille, large print or another format,  
please write with your request and contact details to:  
Force Headquarters Butterley Hall Ripley Derbyshire DE5 3RS  
or Tel: 0345 123 3333.

[www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk)



In producing this and associated leaflets, various partner organisations were engaged with in the development and implementation, we would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

