



accidents don't have to happen

## Homeword



## Newsletter 215

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## HOMEWORD 215

Welcome to Homeword 215. For nearly 20 years, staff at RoSPA have been bringing you up to date information about what is happening in the community safety world. Thank you for signing up to our newsletter and supporting us.

### Alliance events

The Cabinet Secretary has invited the ALLIANCE, which are a member of the Mobilisation Recovery Group to lead engagement work with people in Scotland in order to ensure those who use services are heard. 5 online events in partnership with Healthcare Improvement Scotland will therefore be held. You can sign up to these here: <https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/events/a-conversation-with-the-people-of-scotland/>

### Halloween safety and fireworks - webinar

RoSPA's next webinar in their series covering a variety of safety-related topics will be held on Wednesday 21st October at 10 am. This webinar will provide information on Halloween and Fireworks Safety and will include the latest information on the new Fireworks Safety Campaign for schools in Scotland. If you want to find out more and are a parent or carer of children under the age of 18 you will find all you need to know about how to stay safe this year. Speakers include: RoSPA, the Scottish Government and Scottish SPCA. You can sign up here: <https://t.co/61aCWhrVCw?amp=1> Please share this information with your contacts.

### Message from British Red Cross

At the British Red Cross, we are committed to delivering help to those who need it most. Over the last few months, the number of people at risk of feeling lonely or isolated has increased – in some groups at a disproportionate rate – as connections with friends and family may have shifted or changed in light of lockdown.

As part of our response to the Coronavirus crisis, we have partnered with the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on 'Tackling Loneliness Digitally', an initiative to provide or improve digital connections for those more likely to experience loneliness.

A core element of this programme focuses on creating online resources to help empower people who may be feeling lonely, and provide them with tools to build confidence, coping skills, and connections. All of our resources are free and can be found at [www.redcross.org.uk/loneliness-resources](http://www.redcross.org.uk/loneliness-resources)

We would love if you could:

- Try out our new resources independently, with friends or family, or in groups
- Share them with individuals or groups who you think may find these useful or interesting
- Fill in this form to sign up to be kept updated when new resources are available



We are really excited to have this new educational material available and will be continuing to develop these between now and the end of the year. We look forward to hearing from you. Thanks for your help and support.

### Useful information from the Registrar General's Annual Review

- The number of households is growing faster than the population, with 1 in 5 people now living alone
- Due to delays in publishing cause of death statistics for 2019, there are no cause of death breakdowns included in this chapter. NRS has not received some of the information that it relies on to categorise many deaths. More detail on the reasons for the delay in publication of these statistics is available on our website. We hope to be able to publish the 2019 cause of death statistics in November and December 2020.
- Annual Review available at: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/stats-at-a-glance/registrars-general-annual-review/2019>

### New legislation on Domestic Smoke Detection

The Housing Scotland Act 1987 (Tolerable Standard) (Extension of Criteria) Order 2019 comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021. It requires:

- One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes
- One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings
- One heat alarm installed in every kitchen
- All alarms should be ceiling mounted and interlinked.
- There is also a requirement for carbon monoxide detectors to be fitted where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance (such as boilers, fires (including open fires), heaters and stoves) or a flue.

Further information is available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes/> where you will find the potential cost of compliance.

### Blind Cord deaths

RoSPA has been made aware of several recent deaths involving young children and looped blind cords. Please remind those you work with and members of the public of the potential dangers of loose blind cords. Sadly, the following case was recently highlighted in the media:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8834581/Two-year-old-boy-accidentally-hanged-getting-entangled-cord-window-blind.html>

### Raising awareness

Please feel free to share any information contained within any of our editions of Homeward. You are welcome to add content to your own newsletters or post on your websites. Additionally, please support RoSPA to help share vital information by advising your contacts of our series of free webinars and share the link



<https://www.rospa.com/home-safety/UK/Scotland/Projects/Community-Safety-Scotland-webinars> . If you or your colleagues/clients have any requirements for further webinars on particular topics please do not hesitate to contact us on [communitysafety@rospa.com](mailto:communitysafety@rospa.com)

### Attitudes to product safety

This recently published research report from the Office for Product Safety and Standards: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/product-safety-research> highlights:

- Consumers believe existing regulations ensure products in the UK are safe to use
- Consumers rarely consider product safety when making purchase decisions
- Few consumers habitually register their products.

### Virtual help to avoid falls

The following link gives details on virtual guidance useful for fall prevention practitioners:

<https://www.laterlifetraining.co.uk/lt-guidance-in-response-to-covid-19-fame-oep-delivered-as-virtual-exercise-programmes-home-alone-guidance/>

### Did you know?

There are as many children on the Child Protection Register in Scotland as there are admitted to hospital every year due to an accident in the home? See Children's social work statistics Scotland. 2018-2019. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-social-work-statistics-scotland-2018-2019/pages/4>

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