

## **If it happens to me - Burglary**

Dear resident,

Lewisham Police are working hard to reduce burglaries on the Borough. However we understand that we cannot prevent every offence from occurring.

If you are a victim of burglary, below are some actions that you can take to improve our chances of catching the suspect and bring them to justice.

- Remember to always report to police as soon as possible. For non-emergency reporting use 101. If it is an emergency call 999.
- Establish if objects have been moved. Have any drawers or cupboards been opened? List where these items are and try to keep them untouched for when Police attend.
- Try to find the place of entry and exit that has been used by the burglar. Try to keep this area untouched. Are there any footprints? If you find a route that you think was used, try to find another route to use so as not to disturb evidence.
- Has anything been eaten or drunk out of? Are there discarded cigarettes or tools? If so note where and let officers know when they attend.
- If you feel comfortable, make enquiries with neighbours. Did they see or hear anything? Try to get a time and any specific details to pass on to officers.
- If you believe they have been stolen, cancel bank cards and inform your phone company as soon as possible.
- Think back over the past few days. Has anyone been hanging around, acting suspiciously? The smallest piece of information can help identify a suspect.
- If you saw the suspect and think you would recognise them again, tell the reporting officer so they can give you the opportunity to identify them.
- You will be asked to make a statement, think of all relevant details that the officer may need to help progress the investigation.
- Please let us know whether you have any special requirements i.e. you are disabled or feel particularly vulnerable.

We hope that you are never in a position where you need to take this advice however if it does happen to you we hope that it will assist you.

For advice on Burglary prevention please go to our Operation Bumblebee website or speak to your local ward officers. Contact details are on the reverse.

Best Wishes

Inspector James Weston

Safer neighbourhoods,  
Lewisham borough.