



Dear Parents,

We hope this letter finds you well. As members of the Preston Community Safety Partnership, we are reaching out to address a growing concern within Preston that requires your attention and cooperation.

Recently, it has come to our attention that several empty buildings in Preston have been attracting children and young people. While we understand the curiosity and sense of adventure these places might provoke, it is crucial to highlight the serious dangers associated with entering and exploring empty buildings.

Empty buildings are normally secured to prevent access and boarded up doors and windows and locks and chains on gates mean that the building shouldn't be entered, gates shouldn't be climbed, and boarding shouldn't be removed or climbed to get inside.

#### **The Dangers:**

1. **Structural Instability:** Empty buildings are often in a state of disrepair, with weakened floors, ceilings, and walls that can collapse without warning. This poses a significant risk of injury or even fatality to anyone inside.
2. **Hazardous Materials:** These buildings may contain hazardous materials such as asbestos, broken glass, sharp metal, and other debris that can cause serious injuries or health issues.
3. **Electrical Hazards:** Exposed wiring and damaged electrical systems within these buildings can lead to severe electrical shocks or fires.
4. **Gas Leaks:** Gas supplies to empty buildings may not have been safely disconnected and where leaks occur gas can accumulate to dangerous levels inside.
5. **Presence of Unwanted Individuals:** Abandoned buildings can sometimes become havens for illicit activities or squatters, potentially exposing your children to unsafe and undesirable situations.

#### **Advice for Parents:**

- **Educate Your Children:** Talk to your children about the dangers of entering empty buildings. Explain why these places are unsafe and the potential risks involved.
- **Monitor Their Activities:** Be aware of where your children are spending their time, especially during weekends and holidays. Encourage them to stay in safe, supervised areas.



- **Encourage Safe Alternatives:** Promote engagement in safe and supervised activities such as sports, community clubs, or local youth groups. These provide constructive ways for children to explore and socialise.
- **Report Suspicious Activity:** If you notice children entering or loitering around empty buildings, please report it to local authorities. Your vigilance can prevent accidents and ensure the safety of our community's youth.
- **Stay Informed:** Keep up to date with local news and announcements from the Preston Community Safety Partnership regarding any measures being taken to secure and manage empty buildings in the area.

We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our children and young people. Your cooperation and proactive involvement are essential in helping us address this issue effectively. Let us work together to create a safer environment for all.

**Buildings which appear to be in a dangerous condition or are open to unauthorised access should be reported to Preston City Council.**

Reporting a dangerous building: [Report a dangerous building - Preston City Council](#)

Reporting a building open to unauthorised access [Reporting a housing standards issue - Preston City Council](#)

If you have any concerns or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Preston Community Safety Partnership on the email below, referencing 'Community Safety'.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Preston Community Safety Partnership

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