

# Scouts

## Safety Team



### Security and Martyn's Law – The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025

[scouts.org.uk/join](https://scouts.org.uk/join)

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## Focus on being prepared, not on fear.

As with Safety and Safeguarding, it is important to do what is practicable and proportionate to the risk. Planning the risks and knowing how to enact them in difficult situations is key.

- **Know your space.** Whether it's your normal meeting place, a familiar campsite or new setting, walk around and think about exit and entry points and plan safe areas just as you would for fire.
- **Plan.** You have a plan for a fire evacuation, think how you'd adapt this for a terrorist event. You can't plan for every possibility but consider different scenarios.

- **Vigilance.** This is a good scout skill so encourage young people to notice their surroundings. Who is nearby? Is it a stranger? Why is the door open when it should be closed? Whose bag is that?

Get your teams together to discuss these issues. You won't have all the answers, but if you start to ask the right questions you can be prepared.

[Security Guidance](#) | Scouts

Special thanks to Buckinghamshire Scouts and their County Safety Adviser for sharing their county paper on this topic with the Safety team.

### The Legislation

Following the attack at Manchester Arena in 2017, the family of one of the victims - Martyn Hett, campaigned for years to improve public venue safety. Legislation, also known as Martyn's Law, was passed in 2025 requiring event organisers to assess the risk of potential attacks and put appropriate measures and plans in place. We are currently in the implementation phase of the legislation, and these laws will likely become enforceable in spring 2027.

The key requirements of the law are:

Events with 200- 799 people:

- Assessment of risk of harm from an act of terrorism
- Staff/volunteer awareness training
- Emergency planning
- Clear communication protocols

Events with 800+ people:

- As above, plus
- Formal security plans
- Physical security where practical
- Rehearsal of emergency plans

Threats of violence are not limited to these events, so we want to make sure that thinking about security is considered not only for events but also for our premises and weekly meetings. We have [Security Guidance](#) available, which throughout this period we will keep updating as appropriate. In Scouts we want to apply the principles to everything we do - to make assessing a threat of violence as natural as thinking about safety, health and safeguarding. Although the law is not yet in force, it is good to start preparing. We want to protect everyone, so we all need to start thinking about how to apply the principles from today. Start thinking about how to expand your risk assessment process for safety and safeguarding, to include security attacks.

### External Guidance

Protect UK provides free [immersive digital scenarios](#) where you can explore fictional events as a group with your local team. They also provide free [awareness e-learning](#) that can be completed by anyone.

The National Youth Agency also provides a guide for [Physical Security in Youth Work Settings](#).