

## **Thanks for choosing to live and study in Stoke, but DON'T BE A NUISANCE!**

As a student, you can have a positive impact on an area. You can bring vibrancy to a neighbourhood and boost local communities. But the irregular hours you tend to live can cause noise problems. Research shows that over a quarter of us are bothered by noise from neighbours and one million people have moved house because of it. Here are some top tips to avoid causing a noise nuisance:

### **Noise**

Noise affects people in different ways and can cause friction between housemates and neighbours. It usually becomes a problem when it is excessive and being made at an inconvenient time. Prolonged exposure to irritating noise can cause physical and emotional distress. Any noise which is loud or obtrusive enough to affect someone else's enjoyment of their property can be a nuisance. Don't make a lot of noise late at night i.e. after 11pm.

### **Understanding**

Remember that the house or flat you live in was probably not purpose built for multiple occupation and any noise you make will travel. As most of the student accommodation in Stoke consists of terraced houses, it is likely that your lifestyle will affect your neighbours, so try to be considerate. When closing doors try not to let them bang behind you, do not shout and try to avoid running up and down stairs.

### **Introductions**

It is always worth getting to know your neighbours so that you can understand each other better and iron out any difficulties as they arise. If you are having a party let your neighbours know in advance. Try to arrange it for a Friday or Saturday when neighbours are less likely to have to get up early the next day.

### **Street noise**

Please be thoughtful as you go home after a night out. Laughing and talking in the street at night when everything else is quiet can cause distress to some residents. If you are having a party, don't let it overflow into the street. Try to keep guests inside rather than standing in the garden or on the street. Try to ensure that your guests leave the area quietly.

### **Anti-social behaviour**

Any persistent behaviour that causes harassment, alarm and distress to a member of the community can be deemed as anti-social. Stoke-on-Trent city council work closely with the police and other agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour. If you get a visit from the police or the local council, please do as they ask.

### **Neighbours**

Please consider who your neighbours are. Some may lead different lives from yours. The elderly may go to bed early and families with young children will be unhappy if the kids are woken up by your activities. If you keep on good terms with your neighbours, they will probably be willing to keep an eye on your house while you are away.

### **Control**

Control noise levels as much as you can. Keeping stereos and TVs away from walls and speakers off the floor will reduce noise levels. Use headphones whenever possible. Control the number of people you invite to a house party. Don't try to get 300 people into a 3 bed roomed terraced house!

### **Environmental Health**

Environmental Health are responsible for investigating noise complaints. If there is evidence that you are causing a statutory noise nuisance then a legal notice may be served on you. If you carry on making the noise in breach of the notice you could be taken to court and fined up to £5000. Your sound equipment could also be confiscated.