

**Neighbourhood Policing Team  
Whitehaven Police Station**

**Chief Constable**  
Chief Constable Robert Carden  
Police Headquarters  
Carleton Hall Penrith,  
Cumbria  
CA10 2AU



**Telephone:** 101

**Your reference:** [www.cumbria.police.uk](http://www.cumbria.police.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Anti-social behaviour and associated criminality in Whitehaven Town Centre.**

In recent weeks we have seen an increase in anti-social behaviour involving children congregating around Bridges Retail Park and Whitehaven Town Centre. Many young people were spoken to by police officers this weekend after reports were raised by members of the public that children were misbehaving, disrupting customers in shops and fast-food outlets, and refusing to leave when asked. There has also been a rise in shoplifting offences involving young people in the area.

Whilst we appreciate that it is incredibly difficult to know where your child is at all times, we urge parents to take some responsibility for the actions of their children and teach them that this is not acceptable behaviour.

The level of anti-social behaviour has reached such concerning levels that dispersal orders have had to be put in place to effectively manage the issues and exclude those responsible from the Town Centre. Any young person identified as responsible for such behaviour will now be subject to police action and you will receive a visit from a local officer where appropriate action will be taken.

Police have a variety of powers to deal with anti-social behaviour and will work with our partners to effectively deal with those responsible. If you live in social housing, then this could place your tenancy at risk. A significant number of the occurrences reported to us have been supported by CCTV from the premises involved. As a result, we have been working closely with the local schools to identify those responsible. There are a number of possible outcomes for offenders, which include out of court disposals, referrals to the Youth Justice Service, or being charged to appear in court.

Everyone has the right to be able to go to about their day without being abused or intimidated by youths and we will be taking robust action against those identified.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team is appealing for your assistance in this matter by ensuring that your child is not involved in this sort of behaviour. You can help us to reduce these incidents and prevent your child from becoming involved by following the advice in the attached leaflet.



## Do *you* know where your children are?

In recent weeks Cumbria Constabulary has seen a major increase in reported incidents of antisocial behaviour and criminality in this area linked to gangs of young people.

Whilst we appreciate that it is incredibly difficult to know where your child is at all times we urge parents to take some responsibility for the actions of their children and teach them that this is not acceptable behaviour.

You can help us to reduce these incidents and prevent your child from becoming involved;

### ➡ **Before they go out, ask them:**

- What they are planning to do?
- Where they are going?
- Who they are going with?
- What time, and how they will be getting home?

### ➡ **Tell them:**

- To think about what they are doing
- Not to cause distress or annoyance to others
- Not to cause damage to property
- Not to put themselves or others in danger

### ➡ **Access to Alcohol:**

- ASB and accidents are commonly linked to alcohol, children often take it from home without parents' knowledge
- Keep alcohol in a safe place
- Keep a regular check on the alcohol you have, to know if any goes missing.

### ➡ **Young people can also be the victims of crime and disorder:**

- Make sure they know how to stay safe
- Make sure they know what to do if they are victim of crime
- Make sure they can contact an adult at any time and who it is
- Make sure they know how to use the police 101 and 999 services



101 or in an emergency 999



[www.cumbria.police.uk](http://www.cumbria.police.uk)



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**pcc**  
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Peter McCall