

3rd April 2018

This message is intended as an update regarding the policing of youth anti-social behaviour in Uckfield.

In the past few months Sussex Police have been responding to a number of issues of youth related anti-social behaviour at various locations in the town. We have identified those involved and have taken enforcement action against those most frequently coming to notice. This has involved collating lots of evidence and information from the community in order for the police and other agencies to take punitive action against the most prominent instigators. This has now happened and we believe is starting to have a positive effect.

We recognise that the Community are still experiencing some issues but the level of reporting has reduced in recent weeks – certainly from its height in the February half term.

In recent weeks I have met with a number of community groups and representatives of the local business community to discuss the police response. These meetings have been positive and led to wider conversations about youth provision in the town. We have also discussed how some of the larger businesses may be able to strengthen their own procedures for minimising youth related problems at their premises. We will be having a follow up meeting with key local businesses and community leaders later this month.

Solving the anti-social behaviour in the town remains a priority for the Wealden Policing team and we continue to monitor reporting on a daily basis. It is therefore important that people in the community continue to report things to us so that we can maintain momentum over the coming weeks.

Police resources have been identified to patrol the identified locations where anti-social behaviour has been occurring and have been instructed to take positive action to remove young people from any area where their behaviour is causing harassment, alarm or distress.

As I have stated in a recent press release, the vast majority of young people in the community are a credit to the town – it is the behaviour of just a few individuals that has been causing issues – and they will continue to be dealt with robustly each time they come to notice.

Inspector Jon Gross – Wealden Policing Team.