



Devon & Cornwall  
**POLICE**

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s)

As we approach the warmer months, it's usual to see an increase of young people enjoying the wonderful outdoors spaces we have close by in Teignbridge and the surrounding areas.

This time of year, the local council Community Safety Partnership and Police teams see an increase in reports of youth-related anti-social behaviour. We are regularly seeing groups of more than 100 young people along the Teignmouth Sea front meeting on Friday and Saturday evenings whereby drug and alcohol use has been prevalent. With a high proportion of young people being under the age of 18, concerns have been raised due to the disruptive behaviour displayed in the local towns and surrounding areas as well as concerns for the safety of the young people. Whilst alcohol and drugs will be seized by our police teams, we ask that parents and guardians help us in our efforts to ensure that Teignmouth remains a safe environment for all. With recent reports since mid-April of multiple hospitalisations of young people due to suspected Ketamine and MDMA use we must work together to keep young people safe.

To ensure that Teignmouth is a welcoming environment for everyone, there will be an increased police presence, officers will patrol the key areas over the spring and summer months. Whilst reports of anti-social behaviour may only be attributable to a minority of young people, it's important that our police teams are doing what they can to keep everyone safe, including young people. By increasing our proactive patrols, we will have a robust approach towards anti-social behaviour, including underage alcohol and drug consumption, vandalism, fighting, excessive noise and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

Our expectations of Parents and Guardians:

- **Open Communication:** We encourage you to engage in open dialogue with your child about the behaviour observed and the consequences it may have on themselves and others if they engage in this behaviour. Regular communication will help reinforce the importance of respecting others and acting responsibly.
- **Setting Clear Expectations:** Establish clear expectations and guidelines for behaviour both within our towns and in the wider community. Reinforce the importance of demonstrating kindness, empathy, and respect towards others.
- **Seeking Assistance:** If you are worried or believe that your young person is attending a local town or community and worried about their involvement or behaviour, please seek help using the contact details below or contact the school your child goes to.
- **Knowing Outcomes:** Any young person that is identified responsible for the behaviours displayed we will be using our Anti-Social Behaviour escalation process which includes warning letters and acceptable behaviour contracts, this will be in collaboration with schools and police. Any criminal offences will be progressed with by The Police.

As a parent or guardian, we are asking you to not drop your children down to Teignmouth or support them using public transport on the Friday and Saturday evenings. Please can you remind young people not to get involved in any form of anti-social behaviour, please be aware of their whereabouts, and ensure they follow safety advice to keep themselves and their friends safe.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us prevent crime and anti-social behaviour - we really value working with parents and guardians, and we remain committed to encouraging positive and healthy

behaviour. If you need to report a crime, call 101 or log the report on our website here: [Report a crime | Devon & Cornwall Police \(devon-cornwall.police.uk\)](#). If it is an emergency or if a crime is taking place, call 999.

Useful resources are available to help parents and guardians have conversations with young people about difficult topics. The 'Let's Talk' programme, aims to help parents and guardians understand more about the challenges young people are facing today, including drugs, alcohol, and mental health. The programme contains a mixture of resources that are completely free, including virtual toolkits and online sessions to support parents and guardians with young people aged 9-18. Resources are available here: [Let's Talk Teenagers - Safer Devon](#).

Yours sincerely

Teignbridge Neighbourhood Policing Team  
Teignbridge Community Safety Partnership