

Doncaster Town Centre Partnership Group

Dear Parents/Carers and Guardians

I hope this message finds you all well, I'm contacting you to inform you on some of the challenging incidents of anti-social behaviour involving young people that we have been facing in Doncaster Town Centre and in particular the Frenchgate Shopping centre and Interchange.

As a group of services from Doncaster Council, Doncaster Children's Services Trust, South Yorkshire Police, British Transport Police, The Interchange and the Security Team from the Frenchgate we have significant concerns that incidents of anti-social behaviour are escalating.

The volume of youth related anti-social behaviour can leave victims feeling harassed, alarmed and distressed that this can have a profound impact on our communities and how safe people feel in the town centre. As a Town centre partnership we are dedicated and committed to providing the public with the best level of service possible and tackle this type of behaviour and crime.

Over recent weeks the town centre partnership has been able to map approximately **100 Young People** from CCTV footage who have been involved in anti-social behaviour and criminality, with some of these incidents causing injury to security staff, other young people, and shoppers. The incidents range for minor to extremely serious that are described as near misses with the potential to cause seriously injury or death.

The Frenchgate shopping centre along with the Interchange have also been the subject of a significant number of mindless incidents of criminal damage costing the centre and retailers thousands of pounds in repairs. This is where we need your help and our **request is simple** to ensure that these terrible incidents don't become the subject of a life changing injuries or a child death, and that our partners at Frenchgate don't face the spiralling costs caused by mindless criminal damage.

Much is being done and whilst we all recognise the value of preventative activity and early intervention in schools and with partner agencies like EPIC across our borough, our work does **include enforcement**. This is an approach we wish to avoid, but it has resulted in numerous arrests and exclusions from the town centre. In the current circumstances, it is an approach that will continue. So as we ramp up our operations to safeguard young people in the town centre with increased policing and patrols to reduce incidents of criminal damage we are asking you as parents/carers/guardians ;-

1. **To be aware of where your child is after school and on weekends.** This weekend incident in the Frenchgate involved over 100 young people and we hope that your child was not caught up in the group we witness causing distress alarm in both the shopping centre and the interchange. If arrested the consequence **can be severe**.
2. Ensure wherever possible that your **child is in school** or with their educational provider during key school hours.

Finally we are keen to create a shopping experience at the Frenchgate where all visitors feel safe and welcomed, our request for help is to ensure that we continue to provide the high quality retail experience we feel all visitors demand and is free from anti-social behaviour.

Yours Sincerely

Inspector Mark Payling: South Yorkshire Police: Chair of Doncaster Town Centre Partnership

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