

Dear Parent/Carer

JOINT PATROLS IN KILMARNOCK

Following an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) around the Kilmarnock area, Police Scotland & Vibrant Communities have been working in partnership to undertake a series of joint patrols on a Friday and Saturday evening.

The partnership have been patrolling a number of areas where large groups of young people are congregating, mainly Kilmarnock Rugby Club, Kay Park, Burns Monument, Dean Park and New Farm Loch.

So far we have achieved some significant results, as we have been engaging positively and building relationships with the young people - with a reduction in the number of calls received by Police – and this has had a positive impact on the perceived behaviours of some of our young people.

Our local patrols are here to help. If your young person sees something that worries them, an illegal activity or if they are concerned about the wellbeing of one of their friends, please encourage them to speak to the staff or officers present.

Overall, our main objective is to ensure that our young people are, and remain, safe. However, parents should note that a number of actions are being pursued by Police Scotland for the protection and welfare of our young people. This is particularly pertinent to issues in and around New Farm Loch where the behaviour of some young people is escalating.

We encourage all of our residents, young and old, to take pride and ownership of their community and their surroundings. Be proud of where they stay and empower them to make Kilmarnock the best that it can be....for everyone.

These are challenging times and we need all parents and carers to work with us to ensure that our young people can make the most of the freedoms they are allowed under the COVID-19 guidelines. This will keep them as safe as possible, while also reducing the number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reported in the town over the weekend and throughout the Festive period.

Please encourage your young people to engage positively with each other, and remind them of Scottish Government's restrictions and safety guidance:

- Young people aged 12-17 can meet in groups of up to 6
- They must maintain 2m physical distancing at all times
- Face coverings should be worn in shops and public transport

Please discuss this letter with your young person/s and encourage them to adhere to the government's COVID-19 guidelines. Together we can make Kilmarnock a safer place.