

OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

Date: 20 November 2020



Tel: 101
www.scotland.police.uk

Dear Parent/Guardian,

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Being a parent or guardian during these trying times has additional challenges, and it is completely understandable that young people will want to be outside meeting friends at the moment when visiting each other's homes is not an option. While young people do still have the ability to meet with their friends outdoors, there remains a limit as set out by the Scottish Government and we urge everyone to continue following these guidelines.

It is not just restrictions that need to be taken into account though – congregating in large groups is also a public health risk currently, while the sight of a large gathering of people, whatever their ages, could be intimidating to other members of the community as we all try to navigate our way through this challenging time.

Across Aberdeenshire, the large majority of young people who have been out socialising with friends have been following the guidance and their conduct has been exemplary - I would like to thank them for their support and for helping to keep their communities safe. However a number of young people have unfortunately been involved in incidents of anti-social behaviour, leading to reports being raised and Police involvement.

Anti-social behaviour causes alarm and distress to our communities, particularly during a period where anxiety is heightened. Therefore we ask that you speak to your children regularly to discuss what they are up to when they go out to meet friends, ensuring they are not breaching the Covid-19 restrictions and that they know the importance of not causing fear or alarm to their communities. This will ensure not just the safety of other residents, but their own too.

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Young people can access advice about criminality online from the charity Fearless - www.fearless.org - which aims to provide a better understanding of the consequences of being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. It also provides them with a safe place to anonymously provide information about crime in their area, however I must also stress that local Police officers are always here to help too.

Anti-social behaviour is when you act without considering others and, during this difficult time, thinking about other people is the most important thing we can do. For further information on the current restrictions, please visit the Scottish Government website - www.gov.scot

Yours faithfully,

PC Mark Green
Aberdeenshire Early Intervention Worker
Police Scotland

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