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23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Partners working together on community safety**

I know that you will be aware of the incident last week involving a small group of young people in Worthing town centre where a 16-year-old boy was seriously assaulted, and I'd like to update you on the work taking place to respond to community concerns about anti-social behaviour and violence.

This was a distressing incident for those involved and we appreciate it will be a concern for people who live locally.

Sussex Police have made arrests in connection with the incident and investigations are ongoing. Police have also increased patrols in the town centre and put in place extra powers to stop and search people to prevent further incidents and provide reassurance.

Through the Safer West Sussex Partnership, agencies including Sussex Police, West Sussex County Council and district and borough councils work closely on an ongoing basis to provide a co-ordinated approach to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. Together, we are working to respond to this unacceptable behaviour so that you and your family can feel safe about the area in which you and your children live, work and go to school.

The partnership has met with local schools to provide support to staff and students. Trained youth workers have also gone into local schools to work directly with children affected and youth services in the town centre have been increased.

Police officers will maintain an increased and visible presence in Worthing town centre and at schools wherever possible. Anyone with concerns should speak to officers or call 101. In an emergency, always call 999. Anyone with any information on this incident is asked to report it to Sussex Police, quoting Operation Central.

Our advice to anyone under 18 who may feel threatened, unsafe or scared as a result of this incident is to try to talk with your parent or carer or talk to Childline for help on 0800 1111 or via the Childline website.

If you as a parent or carer are concerned someone you care for is at risk, try to talk with them in the first instance or seek advice from Family Lives on 0808 800 22 22.

Yours faithfully,

**Mark Andrews**  
Chair of the Safer West Sussex Partnership