



Dear Parents & Carers,

As we head into the summer holidays, Sussex Police and Adur and Worthing Councils would like to share some information and resources that we hope will help ensure that your children can safely enjoy their summer break.

As this is the first summer in two years without any form of restriction in place, we know that our young people want to enjoy themselves and make the most of their holiday. However, Police, Schools, the Council and other partners have recently seen an increase in reports of youth violence and youth anti-social behaviour including shoplifting and vandalism. There has also been an increase in drug litter associated with cannabis and nitrous oxide (NOS) use in locations we know many children choose to spend time.

The majority of children are completely safe when they are out and about in our towns but we are asking parents and carers to be vigilant, to be aware of where your children are going, who they are spending time with and in particular, how they are using social media.

What Can You Do?

Talk to your children- find out where they are going and who they are going with.

Make a safety plan – ask your children to think about what they will do if they feel unsafe whilst out and about- who will they approach? Would they call the Police?

Be aware of who they are talking to online - it is not just adults who encourage children to get involved in harmful behaviour.

Keep in contact with other parents and carers to share information.

Keep informed of current trends.




Ensure that if you or your child are a direct witness to any worrying incidents, this is reported. You should call 999 if it is an emergency and contact 101 (101@sussex.police.uk) for the passing on of information.

Share any videos/images of incidents of criminal behaviour that your child may receive via social media with Police. This can be done via the email above.

Report any incidents seen on the rail network to British Transport Police (BTP). You should call 999 in an emergency but for the passing on of information you can text 61016 or call 0800 405040.

Safety Apps

There are now a number of apps that focus on personal safety. You may wish to share these apps with your children and encourage them to download them onto their smartphones.

Logo	Name	Description
	What 3 Words	<p>The app has divided the entire world into 3 metre squares. Each square has a unique combination of three words and you can share your exact location with friends, family or emergency services.</p> <p>An example of a location would be: stag.sushi.damage</p>
	Safe Space Sussex	<p>The app gives users a map of the local area they are in with 'red pins'. The pins indicate a safe space where you can ask someone for help if you feel unsafe whilst out in the community.</p>
	Walk Safe	<p>This app helps you get home safely. If you are walking home at night, you can use the app to connect to loved ones and keep them up to date about your whereabouts. It also helps you plan safe routes home.</p>

Conclusion

We know that by working together with you, our wider community, we will have a greater chance of making Adur and Worthing a safer place for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you very much for your time in reading this letter and we wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable summer break.

Yours faithfully,

Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership