



Dear Parents and Carers,

West Yorkshire Police would like to make you aware of a concerning trend involving large-scale outdoor gatherings, commonly referred to as “field parties”, which have taken place across the Dewsbury and Cleckheaton areas in recent weekends.

These events are organised through social media and messaging platforms and are primarily aimed at young people. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own alcohol. Attendance at some events has grown significantly, with up to **300 young people** present.

The ages of those attending have ranged from just **11 to 18 years old**. Officers have encountered a number of serious safeguarding concerns. Many young people have been found heavily intoxicated through alcohol consumption, while others have appeared to be under the influence of illegal drugs. We have also received reports raising concerns about possible drink spiking at some of these gatherings.

Particular concerns were identified around the level of intoxication amongst some young females, several of whom were unable to account for their whereabouts, had become separated from their friends and in some instances were found partially clothed, placing them at increased risk of harm and exploitation.

In a number of instances, police have had to identify and locate parents before arranging for children to be taken home safely. Children have been returned to addresses not only across Kirklees but also Leeds. Parents had been misled about their whereabouts or were unaware of where they had gone.

As we move into the summer period, we are asking for the support of all parents and carers in helping to keep children safe. Please:

- Know where your child is and who they are with.
- Verify any plans they have made and ensure you know the location they intend to visit.
- Discuss the dangers associated with alcohol, drugs and unsupervised gatherings.
- Encourage your child to contact you immediately if they feel unsafe or wish to leave a situation.
- Maintain regular communication with your child when they are away from home.

West Yorkshire Police is actively investigating how alcohol is being obtained and supplied to young people attending these events. Where offences are identified, robust legal action will be pursued wherever possible.

In addition, safeguarding referrals will be submitted in respect of any child who comes into police contact in these circumstances, ensuring that appropriate support and intervention can be considered where necessary.

We recognise that many young people attend these events without fully understanding the risks involved. By working together, parents, schools, partners and the police can help prevent harm and ensure that young people enjoy their summer safely.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Liz Lockwood

Inspector Elizabeth Lockwood

Dewsbury Neighbourhood Teams

Kirklees District

Website: www.westyorkshire.police.uk

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