



Keeping our communities  
safe and reassured



Leek Police Station  
Fountain Street  
Leek  
Staffordshire  
ST13 6QT

30 March 2017

Telephone: 101

Dear Parent or Carer,

Staffordshire Police regularly receive reports about people causing a nuisance around Leek Bus Station. This includes reports of underage drinking, damage to property, shouting and swearing, climbing onto the roof of the Smithfield Centre, playing football, throwing things at buses, verbally abusing people and racing cars.

On one occasion, a lit gas canister was thrown into the gentlemen's toilets area whilst the janitor was present. There have also been cases of suspected drug dealing.

We are concerned about the safety of young people hanging around in this area. The behaviour also causes problems for nearby residents, people using the bus station, local shop owners and other passers-by.

In response, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order. This order will make it an offence to do the following in the area around the bus station:

- a) Congregating or loitering as part of a group of five or more people  
**unless waiting to board a bus that departs within the next 20 minutes.**
- b) Playing football or other sports
- c) Climbing onto the roof
- d) Engaging in vehicle-related nuisance
- e) Playing loud music
- f) Lighting fireworks
- g) Using foul or abusive language
- h) Consuming alcohol

- i) Behaving in a manner that causes, or is likely to cause, alarm, distress or harassment to others.

Anyone who does not comply with the requirements of the order may be prosecuted and could be fined up to £1,000.

Signs are being placed in the area to alert people to these requirements.


We are hoping that the Order will stop the problem behaviour without the need to take further action. However, individuals will be prosecuted if they ignore the order.

A criminal record can have a huge impact on someone's life. The majority of employers will ask about previous convictions (people applying for certain professions - such as doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers and police officers - will always have to disclose any previous convictions). If a student applies for health, social care and education courses then they will generally be refused a place if they have a criminal conviction and if they are already on a course they could be asked to leave. People with previous convictions may find difficulties in getting visas or entering certain countries (particularly the USA). There is a duty to disclose unspent convictions in an application for a mortgage and a person with previous convictions can find it almost impossible to get any kind of insurance.

Please help us by making sure that your child is aware of the new order and explaining the importance of following the new requirements.

Further information about the order can be found at [www.staffs Moorlands.gov.uk/pspo](http://www.staffs Moorlands.gov.uk/pspo).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Thorley', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Inspector 4683 Mark Thorley