



To whom it may concern.

I am Inspector Bobby Woodhall of Merseyside Police, currently stationed at Eaton Road Police Station. I am currently the neighbourhood Inspector for the council wards of Yewtree, Dovecote and Knotty Ash.

I can report that for a number of years the local community, including Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School, has suffered at the hands of local youths committing anti-social behaviour offences within the area. The policing neighbourhood team have worked closely throughout that period with the school and local business premises to address this issue. However during the last 9 months this problem has escalated.

During this period the area has seen a dramatic increase in the levels of Anti-social behaviour and the associate crimes the accompany this. Since the start of the 2015-16 school year that small vicinity, which includes the High school and the small group of shops opposite, have needed to call the police to assist with these youths on 103 separate occasions. This figure includes 34 calls made from the school premises itself.

The nature of these calls range from rowdy youths on the site intimidating genuine school / sport centre users, to actual crimes being committed in the form of criminal damage to the school premises, trespass and drug taking.

Cardinal Heenan High School have worked closely throughout this period to address this matter not only to protect their own premises, but to improve the quality of life of the residents of the surrounding community. We have utilised both ASB legislation and sanctions from within the school to address the offenders, as well as working with local youth groups to provide diversionary opportunities.

As part of this collaboration and with a view to designing out this problem to provide a long term solution, a Merseyside Police crime prevention officer has conducted an assessment of the school site, with a view to making it more secure, reduce the level of crimes that have occurred and protect those vulnerable users of the site. From this assessment a number of recommendations were made and provided in a comprehensive report the school.

The school have looked to address a number of these recommendations, which has already had a positive impact on the problem, however in order to resolve this anti-social behaviour problem for both the school and the surrounding community for a long term solution, the completion of the remaining recommendations is strongly advised. Therefore as the local policing inspector for the area, I fully support Cardinal Heenan High School in any bid they make to address this matter.

Bobby Woodhall
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