



Press Release

“No Free Pass for Yobs”

Police in East Cheshire have warned “Halloween is not a ‘free pass for anti-social behaviour”.

Chief Inspector Chris Brierley said, “Halloween should be an event which people of all ages can enjoy. Anyone who thinks it is an excuse for intimidation, vandalism or drunken violence will find that they will be dealt with very quickly.

“Additional Police Officers will be on duty on October 31st, patrolling areas which are hotspots for trouble and responding to calls. We will issue fixed penalty fines or arrest people, whichever is appropriate.”

In a repeat of last year’s strategy, Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service have teamed up to tackle the Halloween and Bonfire Night period under the ArcAngel initiative to prevent alcohol-related disorder and crime.

Alex Waller, Cheshire East Unitary Performance Manager for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service said: “We are all working together to keep people safe and make sure an exciting and enjoyable period is not tarnished by an increase in anti-social behaviour and nuisance fires”.

Chief Inspector Brierley added, “Where children are concerned parents are the key. Adults should always accompany young children on trick-or-treat tours to make sure they are safe.

“If they have teenage children they should know where they are and what they are doing. There are a small number who may use Halloween as an excuse to go out drinking and threatening people. Parents must make sure that does not happen.

“People who are organizing Halloween parties for adults should ensure they do not degenerate into drunken disorder.”

During the past few weeks Police Community Support Officers visited schools to spread the message about behaviour on Halloween night.

Window posters with a “yes” or “no” message for Halloween callers are available from Police and Fire Stations and from other public buildings and can be downloaded from the Cheshire Police website.

Chris Brierley said, “These have proved very popular over the past few years. Some people just want to be left in peace and they should have that option.

“Over the past three years we have drastically reduced the number of incidents of anti social behaviour and we are determined to see that Halloween does not become a nightmare for anyone”

Ninety anti social behaviour incidents were reported in East Cheshire on October 31st 2008. The following figures show the breakdown for each neighbourhood Policing Unit area.

Congleton	NPU	23
Crewe	NPU	30
Knutsford	NPU	1
Macclesfield	NPU	21
Nantwich	NPU	5
Wilmslow	NPU	10

Total		90