

Police Sergeant Liz Williams

Gleadless Valley Neighbourhood Policing Team

Woodseats Police Station

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I am writing in my capacity as your Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant, to introduce myself and to offer our support to keep your families and community safe.

As we approach the dark night period, which runs between Halloween and Bonfire Night, our focus is on reducing anti-social behaviour and protecting young people from the risks associated with the misuse of fireworks. Our aim is to reduce the risk of harm to children and prevent them becoming involved in ASB which could lead them to getting caught up with more serious criminal behaviour.

We know most children and parents in our community are sensible and enjoy the dark nights period safely. However, unfortunately in previous years, we have seen an increase in firework discharges and associated antisocial behaviour from children and young adults in the community; some of which have been directed at other members of the public and vehicles which have been lucky not to cause serious injury or damage.

I want to make it clear that this is not acceptable and is illegal.

- **It is an offence for any person to throw a firework in a public place.**
- **It is an offence for any person under 18 to possess a firework in a public place.**
- **Using or buying fireworks illegally can result in a £5,000 fine or imprisonment for up to 6 months.**
- **This may result in being arrested, receiving a criminal record and causing serious injury to you or others.**

In recent years we have seen three people charged with Violent Disorder related to Fireworks within Sheffield. If convicted for this offence individuals face up to five years imprisonment. A police custody suit is not where your children should be.

To that end we advise parents follow the steps below:

1. Talk to your child about the risks and dangers around Fireworks.
2. Know where your children are and who with.
3. Set appropriate curfews so they are home at a reasonable time.
4. Do not allow you child to have access to fireworks unsupervised.
5. Do not allow your child to have access to E-Bikes and E-scooters.
Electric assisted peddle bikes can only be ridden legally by people over 14 years of age, E-scooters are illegal to use on roads and public places. The only place an E-scooter can legally be used is on private land with the landowner's permission.

Below are two links that can provide further helpful advice and clarity around the law in relation to fireworks and electric powered vehicles which can be found on our internet page –

- <https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/>
- Fireworks - <https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/fireworks/>
- E-scooters and Bike - <https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/advice-escooters/>

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy, safe and trouble-free festive period.

Kind Regards

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South Yorkshire Police