



1st December 2010

Police launch Christmas Crackdown Campaign on drunk and disorderly behaviour

Police and councils as Safer North Devon are urging people to be on their best behaviour while out enjoying the local night-life and everything North Devon has to offer, in the run up to Christmas and over the festive season. With the start of their Christmas Crackdown on Alcohol Campaign on the 1st December, police are warning that drunk and disorderly behaviour will not be tolerated and that offenders might end up being arrested and getting a criminal record.

The Christmas Crackdown on Alcohol Campaign is being launched to get the message across that drunk and disorderly behaviour will not be tolerated. Materials being distributed will raise awareness of the risks of alcohol and warn people of the consequences of their behaviour if they don't drink in moderation, to ensure that everyone can enjoy a happy, trouble-free night out. The campaign's success will be dependent upon the community, police, partners and licensed premises working together; all of whom have given their full support to the campaign to help make a difference this year.

Sergeant Mark Harper said: "We are not stopping people drinking and having a good time but asking people to drink in moderation and to take responsibility for their own behaviour and its impact on others. We will be warning people who don't know their limits where it could lead. For example, we will be talking to taxi drivers and bus companies to find and target groups in fancy dress to give them the message that if they don't behave, whatever costume they're wearing, it won't look so amusing if they're behind bars."

A number of initiatives are planned as part of the Christmas Crackdown on Alcohol campaign including local Partners and Community Together (PACT), Street Patrols starting on the 1st December. The teams will patrol streets in our main towns as a preventative measure, to target drunken people who are out on the streets, early on in the evening, to remove them from the area to prevent crime later on.

PC Paul Daw, Neighbourhood Beat Manager for the Night Time Economy said: "We will be targeting people over the limit and what we call pre loaders - people who drink alcohol at home before going out. We will also be using our new Alcoblows* device which detects alcohol on the breath, to test people out on the streets and help protect young people from harming themselves or others, while under the influence of alcohol. Any drunken people found out on the streets will be dispersed or detained."

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Licensed premises and pubs will be playing the 'Three Strikes and You Are Out' DVD on a loop throughout December on 7½ inch plasma TV screens. The football-style referee scheme uses red and yellow cards to warn late night troublemakers of the consequences of their behaviour. Strike 1 is a warning, strike 2 means a three-month ban from participating pubs and clubs, and strike 3 means a referral for an ASBO.

The DVD and posters give the message that you can go out and enjoy yourself, but anti social behaviour isn't fun – it's boring. Commit three offences in 12 months for an ASBO and plenty of nights in, with the DVD and posters illustrating the consequences for one offender, who replies by text in the DVD to a friend; "Hi mate! I can't come out for drinks, stuck inside for next 12 months, as I've been Red Carded. Have a good night. Make sure Susan doesn't go off with that bloke!"

Kevin Harris, Superintendent for Northern Devon said: "Local police will have a high visible presence this Christmas out on the streets explaining the risks of drinking and giving out warnings now so people know what they can expect if they engage in drunken and disorderly behaviour. This is a time of year when people need to be aware of their limits and to particularly think about the impact of their drinking on themselves, their family and the wider community. We want everyone to be able to go out and enjoy a good night out and will not tolerate drunken anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related crime."

Local colleges** will be working with police at the start of December to help raise awareness among students of the risks of drinking. Leaflets and posters will be given out in sixth form and dining areas with Youth Intervention and Neighbourhood Beat Officers on hand to answer questions and to demonstrate Alcoblows*. Drinks calculators will be available giving guidance on safe drinking limits and how to calculate how much alcohol you have drunk and 'Drinks-I-Drunk' diaries which let you work out how many units you have drunk in a week and how many calories are in those units.

A new fold-up pocket sized leaflet; **5 lessons in Alcohol** will also be handed out to help bring home some of the facts about alcohol and Lessons in life to skip, with each Lesson asking "will this be you tonight?". For example Lesson Two on the leaflet is about health; after drinking alcohol, 1 in 5 people had sex they later regretted. Lesson Three is about geography; if you're drunk you're more likely to take an unsafe route home which can put you at risk of assault. The fold out leaflet also contains other facts such as; 'every year 19,000 sexual assaults are related to alcohol' and 'almost half of all violent crime is alcohol related.'

Amanda Palmer, Safer North Devon Manager said: "North Devon is a great place to live, work and visit and we want to keep it that way, particularly over the holiday season. Police, councils and partners, as Safer North Devon, will be working hard with colleges and other local voluntary organisations to ensure the Christmas Crackdown on Alcohol Campaign is a success. We want to reduce the impact of alcohol-related anti social behaviour so everyone can enjoy all that North Devon has to offer for a great night out."

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Note to Editors:

*Alcoblows is a new device which detects alcohol on the breath which is being used by police in North Devon to help protect young people from harming themselves or others, while under the influence of alcohol. It works on a traffic light system and shows, by blowing onto the device, whether someone has alcohol on their breath. It flashes red if a high level of alcohol is detected, amber if a low level of alcohol is detected and green if no alcohol is detected. It can also be used to check containers, such as bottles, cans or glasses, to see if alcohol is present.

**Petroc College will be running an awareness event at the college on Wednesday 8th December, Ilfracombe College will be running an event on Thursday 9th December and Bideford Sixth Form College on Friday 10th December.

Police and councils work with other partner agencies as Safer North Devon to ensure North Devon and Torridge remains a great place to live. The Partnership covers both North Devon and Torridge Districts and is supported by agencies who are accountable under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act to deliver on a reduction in Crime, Fear of Crime and Anti-social Behaviour as well as others with a local stakeholder interest. Our accountable bodies are North Devon and Torridge which include: Devon County Council, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, North Devon Council, Devon Primary Care Trust, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Torridge District Council and Devon and Cornwall Probation Area.

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