23rd October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Safety in Walsall Town Centre

Ahead of the darker, winter nights approaching, we wanted to inform you of the collective and committed efforts we are making as a partnership to ensure the safety of your children as they travel in and out of Walsall town centre.

The Safer Walsall Partnership is dedicated to improving the overall sense of safety and wellbeing within the town centre. A dedicated Town Centre Tasking Group brings together key partners, including Police, Council departments and services, outreach teams and local organisations, to deliver a multi-agency, problem-solving approach to emerging concerns and long-term issues. This joined-up model ensures that challenges such as anti-social behaviour, rough sleeping, street drinking and environmental issues are identified early and tackled collectively, with coordinated responses and clear accountability. The overall aim being to make the town centre a safer and welcoming environment for all the communities of Walsall and to importantly reduce the fear and perceptions of crime and increase feelings of safety.

High-visibility patrols form the foundation of the town centre's safety strategy, providing reassurance, visibility, and early intervention to protect children and young people as they travel through and spend time in the area. Targeted funding has enabled the commissioning of dedicated external resources to support this approach.

Community Support Officers maintain a regular presence in the town centre Monday to Friday, between 1pm and 7pm, offering reassurance to students and the wider public while providing an immediate point of contact for anyone feeling unsafe or in need of assistance. Their consistent visibility has proven effective in deterring low-level crime and anti-social behaviour, helping young people feel safer on their journeys to and from school.

Complementing this, youth detached workers from Engage Youth Empowerment Services (EYES) are in the town every Tuesday and Thursday, 3.30pm to 5.30pm, engaging directly with young people in and around key gathering areas. Their role focuses on building trusted relationships, offering positive guidance, and signposting to support or enrichment opportunities where needed. This proactive engagement has been successful in preventing incidents of anti-social behaviour and ensuring that young people feel listened to, respected, and supported.

In addition, the Steps Together route, operated by the Midland Langar Seva Society (MLSS), runs from Walsall College Monday to Friday, 2.30pm to 6.30pm, providing a visible, approachable presence along routes frequently used by students. This initiative offers reassurance during the busy after-school period and provides young people with safe, friendly adults they can turn to if they feel vulnerable or in need of help.

Collectively, these patrols and outreach initiatives ensure that children and young people are supported, safeguarded, and reassured throughout their time in the town centre. Their presence has been instrumental in deterring crime, reducing anti-social behaviour, and fostering a safer, more welcoming environment for all.

A further real success is the establishment of the Our Place youth hub in the Saddlers Centre. The hub is a dedicated space for young people travelling through the town centre to access support, participate in structured activities, and build positive relationships with trusted youth workers. Our Place currently operates from 3-6.30pm Monday to Friday during term time, and usually 12-4pm Monday to Friday during schools holidays (hours subject to change).

Youth Independent Advisory Panels, held at Walsall College, have further strengthened communication between young people, the Police, Community Safety, and Children's Services, ensuring that young voices inform priorities and decision making for the town centre.

Looking ahead, Community Safety partners are supporting Walsall Council Children's Services in developing a new 'Safe Spaces' initiative. This scheme is designed to offer immediate reassurance and support to children and young people who may feel vulnerable, lost, or in need of help while in the town centre. A number of locations have already been identified to act as designated safe spaces, and training packages are being delivered to participating hosts to ensure they are confident, informed, and equipped to respond appropriately. The Safe Spaces initiative will be launching week commencing 3rd November 2025, which aligns with national youth work week; this year's theme being "Building Brighter Futures: Safe places, trusted support, and opportunities to thrive". A website detailing where all Safe Spaces are located is currently being developed and will be shared with all schools and Colleges. We will send out further information about the scheme to schools when it launches, including some resources, including the official 'stamp' so young people know what they are looking for.

Together, these coordinated efforts, alongside a number of other wider initiatives, reflect the shared commitment of all partners to make Walsall town centre a safe, supportive and welcoming environment for children and young people, particularly during their journeys to and from school or College.

If you require support in reporting a specific issue, please find attached a useful guide with relevant contact details.

Our partnership with schools is important and so we welcome any concerns related to safety in terms of students travelling into and out the town centre. Please raise

directly with your school initially. Schools can then raise concerns on your behalf with our partnership and we will ensure these are addressed.

Yours faithfully

The Safer Walsall Partnership