

Knaresborough Police and Community Liaison Group Meeting

Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday 8 July 2026

1. Attendance

Present:

Cllr Kathryn Davies – KTC (Chair)

Stg Sam Johnson

Cllr Hannah Gostlow – KTC and North Yorkshire Councillor

Hannah Read – KTC Community Projects Officer (minutes)

Jess Ward – Inspire Youth Yorkshire and Knaresborough Youth Council

Lisa Holdsworth – King James's School – Deputy Head

Apologies:

Cllr James Pickard – KTC

Helen Dennis – Stockwell Community Wellbeing Hub – Centre Manager

Charlotte McEvoy – Chain Lane Community Hub

Sue Vasey – Chain Lane Community Hub

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 25 February 2026 were approved.

3. Nuisance motorcycles and e-bikes

The group reviewed recent instances of antisocial behaviour and the dangerous operation of motorcycles across several locations in Knaresborough. It was noted that these incidents have been formally reported to the Police, who are aware of the individuals involved and are monitoring the situation.

4. Police update

Sgt. Sam Johnson informed the group that the local neighbourhood policing team continues to work diligently despite operating with limited resources. It was positively noted that Knaresborough remains classified nationally as an area with low levels of antisocial behaviour and crime.

Operation Tornado

The group received an update on Operation Tornado, which continues to rotate across North Yorkshire on a monthly basis. This initiative provides additional policing resources for a concentrated 24-hour period. A county-wide Operation Super Tornado is scheduled for later in the year and will include targeted activity within Knaresborough, with a primary focus on tackling illegal and counterfeit goods as well as drug-related activity.

Intelligence Gathering and Reporting

All intelligence gathered between now and then will support the preparation of warrants for Op Tornado. Both community-provided intelligence and police-led intelligence are being actively reviewed and assessed. Residents and business owners are encouraged to continue reporting any crimes, concerns, or suspicious activity through official channels to NY Police or Crimestoppers to support ongoing enforcement efforts.

<https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

5. Call-handling delays with 101 – service experienced by residents – advice requested

The group discussed the challenges some residents experience when reporting crime or concerns through the 101 service. While frustrations regarding the system and the length of the reporting form were acknowledged, the importance of first-hand reporting was strongly reiterated. The Police rely on the accumulation of evidence to build cases and secure warrants, making direct reports from residents essential.

Alternative Reporting Options

Crimestoppers was highlighted as an anonymous route through which individuals can report concerns relating to crime or antisocial behaviour. This option provides a confidential way for residents to share information that may support ongoing policing activity.

6. Updates from Group members / organisations

The Group received updates from Knaresborough Youth Council, Inspire Youth Yorkshire, and King James's School.

The group discussed the following issues as they were raised through the updates:

- **Vapes** – use by younger children (aged 11 years) and the selling of vape batteries
- **Alcohol** – visible use of alcohol amongst children aged 14 / 15 years. The availability of 'buzzballz' (alcohol sold in brightly coloured fun packaging) is concerning.
- **The school summer holidays** - staying safe will be a central theme across summer groups and activities, including Inspire Youth's Beyond the Gates programme delivered in schools with Year 9 students. Work will also focus on promoting safety in the community for children and young people, covering key topics such as water safety, consent, risk-taking, and drug and alcohol awareness.

7. Any other business

The group discussed the importance of strengthening collaborative preventative work between local primary schools, King James's School, Inspire Youth Yorkshire, and the neighbourhood policing team. Members agreed that enhanced communication and coordinated partnership activity would support early intervention and prevention efforts.

A meeting in early September was proposed to explore opportunities for improved communication, shared approaches, and joint preventative initiatives across these organisations.

ACTION: Hannah Read to coordinate a stakeholder meeting and issue invitations to all relevant partners to progress discussions on preventative partnership work.

8. Date / time of next meeting

The next meeting of the group will be on **Wednesday 7 October 2026 at 11am.**

Venue to be confirmed.