

Working Together for Children and Young People in Knaresborough
Organised by the Knaresborough Police and Community Liaison Group
Thursday 10 September 2026
Meeting notes

1. Attendance

Present:

Cllr Kathryn Davies – KTC (Chair)
Martin Powell – North Yorkshire Police School Liaison Officer
Cllr James Pickard – KTC
Cllr Hannah Gostlow – KTC and NYC Councillor
Jess Ward – Inspire Youth Yorkshire
Lisa Holdsworth – King James's School – Deputy Head Teacher
Evie Griffiths – NYC - Senior Community Safety Officer
Helen Tomlinson – St Mary's Primary School – Head Teacher
Greg Wilgosh – The Forest School – Care Team Lead
Suhrah Bahman – Swift Project, Chain Lane Community Hub
Hannah Read – KTC – Community Projects Officer

Apologies:

Alex Hope – St John's C of E school – Head Teacher

2. Introductions, Background and Purpose of Meeting:

Cllr Kathryn Davies welcomed the group and explained the background and purpose of the meeting.

At the last Knaresborough Police and Community Liaison Group meeting in July (the group meet quarterly), members noted ongoing concerns regarding antisocial behaviour and the potential influence of criminal activity on children and young people within the community. The group emphasised the importance of strengthening preventative partnership work between local primary schools, King James's School, Inspire Youth Yorkshire, the neighbourhood policing team, and the police school liaison team. It was agreed that improved communication and coordinated activity would support early intervention and prevention efforts for children and young people.

To progress this work, a meeting in early September was proposed to explore shared approaches and joint preventative initiatives across these organisations – resulting in the meeting today.

Jess Ward who leads Inspire Youth Yorkshire shared recent instances of antisocial and threatening behaviour and the dangerous operation of potentially illegal motorcycles that she'd experienced in the area surrounding King George V Field in Knaresborough and the Inspire Youth Yorkshire Community Hub.

3. Role of Police School Liaison Officer

Martin Powell, Police School Liaison Officer, outlined his work delivering sessions across local primary schools on topics including online safety, ASB, County Lines, PSHE and road safety.

Themes are agreed individually with each school based on current issues. Martin also reported that several illegal E-Bikes have recently been seized.

Martin provided an overview of the monthly MACE (Multi Agency Child Exploitation) meetings, where emerging behaviours and trends are reviewed. The group requested that relevant updates and local insights be shared with the quarterly Police and Community Liaison Group where appropriate.

Multi-Agency Updates

Evie Griffiths, NYC - Senior Community Safety Officer informed the group of a monthly multi-agency MAPS meeting, which coordinates formal intervention processes.

The group discussed improved information-sharing, with several attendees at the meeting requesting invitations to MACE and MAPS meetings.

Community Engagement

Suhrah Bahman from The Swift Project (Chain Lane Community Hub) described his work as part of the North Yorkshire SWIFT Partnership supporting people who have migrated to the UK and settled in Knaresborough and the surrounding areas.

E-Bike Concerns and Public Awareness

The group highlighted the need to educate both young people and parents about the legal and illegal aspects of E-Bike use, as well as associated safety risks. Opportunities were identified for Martin to incorporate this messaging into school sessions, alongside potential leaflets or posters for parents and the wider community. Guidance would include what to look out for and how to report concerns via 101 or Crimestoppers.

Potential Awareness Event

Cllr James Pickard proposed organising a local E-Bike Awareness event involving schools, community partners and emergency services such as the Fire Service. The group agreed this idea should be explored further. **Action:** James will present it to Knaresborough Revolution as a potential lead organisation to shape the event.

4. Next Steps

The group agreed that the meeting had been valuable as a standalone opportunity for information sharing and networking. Attendees will be invited either to join the quarterly Police and Community Liaison Group meeting or to contribute to future agendas if they are unable to attend in person. Minutes will be shared with all primary school representatives going forward.

Action: Hannah Read to add primary school representatives, Martin Powell and Evie Griffiths to the Police and Community Liaison group and invite to the next meeting.

5. Date of next Police and Community Liaison Group meeting:

Wednesday 7 October 2026, at 11am at Inspire Youth Yorkshire Community Hub.