

Blackburn Town Centre and Townsmoor PSPO Consultation responses:

Blackburn Youth Zone (Town Centre Partner):

We have reviewed our end and feel the order can disproportionately affect young people who simply use the street and public open spaces to socialise. This (may) impinge on two of their Human Rights. - Article Ten (freedom of expression) and Article Eleven (Freedom of Assembly and Association).

Our hope is that young people posing no threat or problem will not routinely be moved on (a common problem when these are granted and a misconception.) If they are doing nothing wrong, they have every right to associate.

I have spoken to M.L (Ex Police who works for BYZ) , who advised there is little point in making a formal challenge to the PSPO as these have only been upheld twice in the last two years for England.

We would be happy to be a part of any dialogue with multi-agency partners' problem-solving efforts in this area and also facilitate this with young people.

Community Safety Team Response:

Hope you're well! Thank you for forwarding the response on behalf of Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone. I appreciate the time taken to review the proposed extension order and providing your views. We understand your views around the common misconception of youths congregating but posing no threat being challenged or routinely moved on however the order specifically states the conditions we can enforce action on which are the following:

1. No persons shall consume alcohol or have an open alcohol container within the Prohibition Area after having been requested by an Authorised Officer to cease consumption of alcohol or hand over the container (unless in an otherwise lawful premises).
2. No persons shall ingest, inject, smoke or otherwise use intoxicating substances within the Prohibition Area.
3. No persons shall urinate or defecate in any public place (other than a public toilet) within the Prohibition Area.
4. No persons shall, whilst in the Prohibition Area, place themselves in a position that implies they are begging for money or attempting to solicit.
5. No persons shall act or incite others to act in an anti-social manner likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to any person within a public space within the Prohibition Area.

We can assure you any groups of youth will not be prosecuted based on the fact of being within a group unless they or any persons breach any of the conditions mentioned above – PSPO's are not designed to prevent social gatherings rather designed to prevent ASB and anything that could possibly effect the quality of life on the community.

We hope this answers your queries and resolve any issues you may face.

If you have any further questions or would like to speak further in more detail please let me know.