# Police arrest 11-year-old amid mounting youth disorder in Hoo, Kent



Police investigations into a series of alarming incidents in the rural village of Hoo, Kent, have led to the arrest of an 11-year-old boy. Local residents have voiced frustrations over what they describe as a 'feral' group of youths terrorising the community, with reports of aggressive behaviour and threats made towards local businesses. Allegedly, staff at a newsagents have received daily threats of violence, particularly when they request identification from customers attempting to purchase age-restricted items like cigarettes and vapes.

Eyewitness accounts reveal a community shaken by these events, with vulnerable residents, including the elderly, expressing fear of venturing outside after dark. One concerned local, who requested anonymity, stated, “There are issues all the time with youngsters running amok. They are a pain in the a\*\*\* a lot of the time, shouting, swearing, stealing from the corner shop and riding their bikes dangerously in the road.” Such statements reflect a growing sentiment of frustration and fear among the population, exacerbated by tangible incidents of aggression.

In response to these escalating concerns, Kent Police intensified their patrols in the area. Officers gathered evidence from CCTV footage and interviewed witnesses following an incident where the young suspects were accused of throwing a liquid from a bottle at customers. The altercation reportedly occurred on 12 April. The boy, whose identity has not been disclosed, voluntarily attended a police station with a parent before his arrest and has been released on bail.

Inspector Paul Diddams of Medway's Community Safety Unit noted ongoing efforts to address the rising reports of disorderly conduct. “While we continue to investigate recent reports of disorderly behaviour in Hoo, we have taken steps to address the issues that have been raised,” he stated, emphasising the importance of community reporting to facilitate effective policing.

The situation in Hoo is part of a wider trend of anti-social behaviour affecting Kent. In nearby areas, including a shopping parade just half a mile away from Hoo, residents have faced similar disturbances. Reports highlight incidents of theft from convenience stores and public altercations, contributing to a sense of danger and instability in the community. A particularly violent episode occurred three months prior when a teenager sustained facial injuries in an attack involving a weapon.

As part of their proactive approach, Kent Police have implemented measures such as dispersal orders to tackle disruptive behaviour. These orders allow officers to remove individuals involved in anti-social conduct and carry penalties for non-compliance. Recent crackdowns have resulted in multiple arrests related to anti-social behaviour, showcasing a determined initiative by local authorities to restore safety in the area.

Moreover, community engagement efforts have increased, indicating that law enforcement is prioritising dialogue and support for victims of persistent anti-social behaviour. As highlighted during a recent Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week, collaboration between police and local agencies aims to foster a cohesive strategy for improving community safety.

Despite these interventions, the community remains deeply concerned about the ongoing threats posed by unruly youths. With calls for sustained action from both the police and local authorities, the residents of Hoo cautiously await tangible improvements to their environment and a return to a sense of peace.

As authorities continue to monitor the situation, the balance between public safety and the rights of young people remains a delicate issue, with the community hoping for a resolution that addresses the root causes of such distressing behaviour.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
2. Paragraph 6
3. Paragraph 5
4. Paragraph 6
5. Paragraph 6
6. Paragraph 6
7. Paragraph 6

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14703671/boy-arrested-liquid-sprayed-customers-kent-village.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/medway/news/nuisance-vehicles-moved-on-during-police-crackdown-293356/> - In September 2023, Kent Police conducted a 48-hour dispersal order in Hoo to address complaints about nuisance vehicles and dangerous driving. Officers fined a driver for careless driving and not displaying a number plate, and ordered several motorists exhibiting anti-social behavior to leave the area. The operation aimed to tackle irresponsible driving and ensure public safety. Inspector Dan Blatter emphasized the commitment to targeting those causing disturbances and warned that persistent offenders risked having their vehicles seized.
3. <https://www.kent.police.uk/news/kent/latest/policing-news/rookie-police-dog-help-tracks-down-suspects-linked-to-violent-assaults-in-hoo/> - In August 2024, rookie police dog PD Boss assisted in tracking down two men linked to violent assaults at the Five Bells pub in Hoo. The suspects, both 39 and from Manchester, fled the scene after allegedly assaulting three people and attempting to steal a CCTV device. PD Boss located one suspect hiding in a field, leading to their arrest. The men were taken into custody and released on bail pending further investigation.
4. <https://www.kentlive.news/news/kent-news/police-crack-down-car-meets-8058778> - In January 2023, Kent Police issued dispersal orders in Medway City Estate, parts of the Hoo Peninsula, and Strood Retail Park to prevent potential car meets. These gatherings had previously resulted in dangerous and anti-social driving behavior. The orders granted officers the authority to disperse groups causing harassment, alarm, or distress, with fines up to £2,500 and/or three months' imprisonment for non-compliance. The initiative aimed to maintain public safety and deter disruptive activities.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-27792414> - In June 2014, Kent Police and Medway Council introduced dispersal areas in the Medway City Estate and Hoo to address anti-social behavior caused by car racing. The six-month orders allowed officers to disperse groups causing harassment, alarm, or distress, with fines up to £2,500 and/or three months' imprisonment for non-compliance. The initiative aimed to reduce disturbances and improve community safety in the affected areas.
6. <https://www.kent.police.uk/news/kent/latest/policing-news/week-long-crackdown-on-anti-social-behaviour/> - In July 2023, Kent Police conducted a week-long crackdown on anti-social behavior, focusing on nuisance and abusive conduct. The operation resulted in multiple arrests for alleged drug dealing, the seizure of a car and several motorbikes for anti-social driving, and the enforcement of dispersal orders. The initiative aimed to raise awareness and engage with communities to combat anti-social behavior effectively.
7. <https://www.kent.police.uk/news/kent/latest/policing-news/kent-police-supports-anti-social-behaviour-awareness-week/> - In July 2023, Kent Police participated in Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week, joining forces from across the country and partner agencies at Westminster to raise awareness of anti-social behavior. The event highlighted the ASB Case Review, which allows victims of persistent anti-social behavior to request a multi-agency review. The initiative aimed to address the impact of anti-social behavior on communities and promote collaborative solutions.