# Liverpool steps up police patrols amid rising youth-related anti-social behaviour in city centre



Residents and visitors in Liverpool city centre are expressing growing concern over the rise of large groups of youths whose intimidating behaviour is detracting from the area's reputation as a vibrant destination. Incidents reported in prominent public spaces such as Chavasse Park and Liverpool ONE reveal a distressing atmosphere that includes allegations of drug dealing and blatant acts of aggression such as spitting, kicking, and verbal harassment.

Merseyside Police have acknowledged these issues, launching measures aimed at enhancing public safety. Intensified patrols are set to take place, particularly over weekends, as authorities respond to escalating reports of anti-social behaviour. The police have made it clear that they will not tolerate actions that threaten the safety and comfort of both residents and tourists. Recent photographs shared by locals underscore the gravity of the situation, capturing large gatherings of youths and police intervention attempts amid rising tensions.

One concerned resident, who requested anonymity, illuminated the deteriorating scenario, stating, "Over the last month and a half, things have noticeably worsened." He described how gatherings usually begin in Liverpool ONE before intensifying as youths surge down steps and into the surrounding areas, leading to heightened intimidation. While he acknowledged improvements in police presence, there is a palpable anxiety that drastic measures, such as the implementation of dispersal orders, may soon be necessary.

Online community discussions amplify these worries, with local forums revealing further troubling accounts. One person recounted a disturbing episode where a group hurled plastic bottles at young women in Chavasse Park, prompting questions about the environment in which these incidents are occurring. Another individual recounted a near-assault, feeling physically threatened while simply navigating the city.

In response to the concerning incidents, Neighbourhood Inspector Jack Woodward has highlighted the focus of police efforts on curbing anti-social behaviour in high-traffic areas. Woodward remarked on the mixed conduct of youths, noting that while many are merely socialising, some have engaged in significant threats and criminal actions. Emphasising a cooperative response, he confirmed ongoing collaboration with local businesses and civic partners, aiming for a well-coordinated strategy to ensure the safety of the area, particularly as warmer weather draws more people outdoors.

This is not the first time Liverpool authorities have implemented proactive measures to address youth-related disturbances. In September 2023, Operation Park Safe was launched, which aimed to enhance safety in public parks, arrest individuals involved in drug-related activities, and engage with local communities to educate them on crime prevention. Initiatives like these reflect a broader trend in cities grappling with similar challenges, highlighting the urgent need for targeted community engagement and strong law enforcement.

Furthermore, grassroots initiatives, such as a free basketball tournament held in Chavasse Park, demonstrate attempts to provide constructive outlets for young people. The event served as an opportunity to promote sports as a means of engagement, funded by local partnerships aimed at reducing youth violence and enhancing community spirit.

As the summer months approach, the need for effective strategies to tackle anti-social behaviour will only grow. With heightened police visibility and community-led programmes, Liverpool aims to preserve its reputation as a family-friendly destination while addressing the concerns of residents and visitors alike.

### Reference Map

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

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2056479/major-uk-city-centre-where-locals-becoming-too-scared-shop> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2023/september/joint-operation-targets-asb-in-liverpools-parks-and-open-spaces/> - In September 2023, Merseyside Police and Liverpool City Council launched 'Operation Park Safe' to enhance safety in Liverpool's parks and open spaces. The initiative involved increased patrols to address antisocial behaviour, drug-related activities, and the illegal use of off-road vehicles. The operation led to multiple arrests, vehicle seizures, and community resolution orders, demonstrating a proactive approach to maintaining public safety in these areas.
3. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2025/march-2025/dispersal-zone-in-liverpool-city-centre-this-weekend/> - In March 2025, Merseyside Police implemented a Dispersal Zone in Liverpool city centre in response to ongoing reports of criminal and antisocial behaviour. The order, effective from 5pm on March 8 to 0.59am on March 10, aimed to provide a visible police presence and address issues such as drug use, intimidation, and public disturbances. The initiative was part of a series of measures to ensure public safety in the area.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c255pw021r8o> - In June 2024, a free 3x3 basketball tournament returned to Chavasse Park in Liverpool, aiming to reduce violent crime among young people. Organized by Toxteth El8te CIC and funded by Merseyside’s Violence Reduction Partnership, the event provided a positive outlet for youth engagement during the school holidays. The initiative received support from local authorities and community groups, highlighting the importance of grassroots sports in promoting community cohesion and safety.
5. <https://news.liverpool.ac.uk/tag/community/> - In March 2023, the Police and Crime Commissioner launched a survey on antisocial behaviour, inviting community members to share their experiences and concerns. The initiative aimed to gather insights to inform strategies for addressing antisocial behaviour, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in shaping effective policing and safety measures.
6. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2024/may/merseyside-police-use-hotspot-patrols-to-tackle-antisocial-behaviour/> - In May 2024, Merseyside Police announced the use of targeted hotspot policing patrols to address antisocial behaviour across the region. This strategy involved increased visibility and engagement with local communities to deter criminal activities and provide reassurance. The approach aimed to create a safer environment for residents and visitors, particularly during the summer months.
7. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2024/july/hotspot-patrols-lead-to-significant-drop-in-serious-violence-and-antisocial-behaviour/> - In July 2024, Merseyside Police reported a significant decrease in serious violence and antisocial behaviour in areas targeted by hotspot patrols. The initiative led to a 47.9% reduction in serious violence and an 18.8% decrease in antisocial behaviour, demonstrating the effectiveness of increased police presence and community engagement in enhancing public safety.