# Teenage Groups Cause Disruption and Antisocial Behaviour in Sussex, Prompting Police Intervention



Groups of teenagers have been causing significant disruption in Brighton city centre, engaging in daily thefts, assaults, and shoplifting. This pattern of antisocial behaviour, affecting cities, towns, and villages across Sussex, has necessitated police intervention. Dispersal orders have been issued in various locations, including Barnham village, which has been recently affected.

Sussex Police recorded 34 public order offences, 74 shoplifting incidents, and 80 violence and sexual offences in Brighton city centre in March alone. Shop workers in the area have reported frequent verbal abuse and assaults.

A Poundland employee, who chose to remain anonymous, described the situation as chaotic, stating that incidents are particularly common between 4 and 7 pm, especially during school term. Another employee recounted multiple assaults by groups of teenagers, including being struck and sprayed with aerosols.

Similar issues have been reported at Bert's Home Store and Primark on Western Road, where staff have faced aggression and theft by teenagers. The problem has also extended to public areas, with youths riding bikes recklessly, running red lights, and verbally abusing pedestrians.

Local councillors Alison Thomson and Andrei Czolak have acknowledged the issue's impact on high streets and are encouraging businesses and residents to report incidents. Chief Inspector Simon Marchant of Sussex Police emphasized the importance of community reporting to address antisocial behaviour effectively.