

Community Safety series - article 8

Play your part to prevent anti-social behaviour

Some problems with anti-social behaviour can stem from young people being able to buy alcohol, cigarettes, fireworks and knives even though they are under-age.

Young people may also be obtaining alcohol from home, or have it bought for them by an older person.

Suffolk County Council is tackling traders who flout the laws prohibiting the sale of age restricted products to young people, as part of its work to improve community safety.

Such underage sales are a criminal offence, which may lead to a prosecution, an on the spot fine, or a review of a trader's alcohol license.

Trading Standards officers work closely with the police and licensing authorities to gather intelligence about shops and pubs that are illegally selling these products to young people.

You can play your part by reporting underage sales. It may be that there are often underage drinkers in your local pub, or perhaps you have seen young people being sold alcohol, cigarettes or fireworks locally or at the supermarket?

Trading standards officers will contact the premises to advise them of their legal obligations and offer advice on how they can prevent future illegal sales. A covert test purchase by a trained underage volunteer may also be set up to check if the trader has heeded the advice.

Play your part by reporting any concerns to Trading Standards via Consumer Direct on 0845 404050, or contacting your area Safer Neighbourhood Team on 01473 613 500, or visit www.suffolk.police.uk