



COPS CRACKDOWN ON UNDERAGE DRINKING

Police in South Lanarkshire are cracking down on underage drinking with a series of events.

Officers across Hamilton, Uddingston, Bothwell, Blantyre and Larkhall will be targeting areas that are known 'hot-spots' and where under 18's are suspected of having access to alcohol. The aim of the initiative, that runs until the end of March 2007, is to prevent youngsters buying booze by focusing on off-sales and alerting them to the issues raised, whilst highlighting the consequences of selling to under-agers.

As well as looking at the sale of alcohol, officers will be hoping to curb street drinking, youth disorder, violence and the carrying of weapons.

Superintendent David Thomson, Sub-Divisional Officer for the area said:

"At present, we are aware of a fear of crime within the local community, which mainly stems from disorder and street drinking.

"This is almost entirely due to younger residents in the area who are involved in vandalism, violent behaviour and other alcohol related crimes.

"We need to crack down on this kind of activity and highlight to any off-sales selling alcohol illegally that selling alcohol to under aged youths will not be tolerated.

"Every community should be safe and secure for all residents and not spoiled by the irresponsible few."

The move comes after consultation with various local organisations including residents associations and councillors and will be implemented with the help of South Lanarkshire Council and Trading Standards.

Leader of South Lanarkshire Council, Councillor Eddie McAvoy, added:



“The problem of underage drinking is one that everyone must work together to address.

“Targeting premises where under-18s are sold alcohol is a positive step forward and one which we are happy to help the police in any way we can.”