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Important Information for Parents and Carers: The Use of E-Scooters

Dear Parent or Carer,

We are writing to raise awareness of a significant increase in the use of privately-owned electric scooters (e-scooters) by young people across our communities and to ensure parents and carers understand the current legislation, the potential consequences of unlawful use, and the safety risks associated with these devices.

The Law

Many parents are unaware that privately-owned e-scooters are currently illegal to use on public roads, pavements, cycle lanes, public footpaths, parks, and other publicly accessible areas unless they form part of an authorised rental trial scheme. Under current legislation, privately-owned e-scooters are classified as motor vehicles. This means that to be used legally on public roads they would require:

- Vehicle registration
- Insurance
- Vehicle tax
- Appropriate lighting and safety requirements
- A valid driving licence

As privately-owned e-scooters cannot currently meet these legal requirements, they can only be used on private land with the permission of the landowner.

Police Enforcement

Officers across the area are encountering an increasing number of young people riding e-scooters illegally. Where offences are identified, police may take enforcement action which can include:

- Seizure of the e-scooter
- Reporting riders to court
- Reporting parents or guardians where circumstances indicate offences related to permitting unlawful use
- Potential points on a driving licence for those who hold one
- Impacts on future driving licence applications and insurance premiums

The financial implications of recovering a seized e-scooter can also be significant, with recovery and storage fees often exceeding the value of the scooter itself.

Safety Concerns

Alongside the legal issues, there are serious safety concerns surrounding the use of e-scooters.

Hospitals across the UK continue to report increasing numbers of injuries associated with e-scooters. These injuries range from minor cuts and bruises to serious fractures, head injuries, and life-changing trauma. Importantly, these incidents do not only affect riders. Pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users can also suffer injury following collisions involving e-scooters.

Many e-scooters are capable of travelling at considerable speeds, often with limited rider protection. The risks increase significantly when riders:

- Ride without helmets or protective equipment
- Use pavements where pedestrians are present
- Carry passengers
- Use e-scooters during hours of darkness
- Ride whilst distracted by mobile phones or headphones
- Modify scooters to increase their speed or performance

We have particular concerns around young riders who may not fully appreciate the dangers posed to themselves and others.

How Parents and Carers Can Help

We ask all parents and carers to:

- Familiarise themselves with the current legislation surrounding e-scooters.
- Speak to their children about the legal restrictions and safety risks.
- Ensure any e-scooters owned by their family are only used on private land with the landowner's permission.
- Encourage safe and responsible travel choices.
- **Understand that purchasing an e-scooter for a child may unintentionally place them at risk of police enforcement action and serious injury.**

Working Together

Our aim is not simply enforcement, but education and prevention. By working together with parents, carers, schools and our communities, we can help keep young people safe, reduce injuries and ensure everyone understands their legal responsibilities.

We would be grateful if you could discuss this information with your child and help us promote safe and lawful behaviour.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

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