



# News

## Communications Unit

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## **Save Our Young People— Parents and Young Drivers tell their stories**

A new drive to keep young people safe on the roads is being promoted across North Yorkshire. 95 Alive the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership is bringing together a wide range of initiatives that work to persuade the drivers of the future to put road safety first.

In the past ten years 173 youngsters aged between 15 and 24 have been killed and 1,567 seriously injured in York and North Yorkshire. Last year young people accounted for 29 per cent of the fatalities in the area, they make up 12 per cent of the population.

The aim is to encourage young people to take responsibility and drive safe.

To help show them the reality of what a fatal or serious collision can mean a series of DVD's and videos have been made telling the real stories of what can and has happened.

One of the DVD's has been made by the parents of a 17 year old youngster who died three weeks after passing his driving test. David and Janet Warin have worked with the North Yorkshire Road Safety Team going into schools across the County at special events to tell students the story of Daniel's death and the devastating effect it has had on their family. The event, Drive Alive, has worked with over 20,000 students in the past ten years teaching them one of the most vital lessons they will ever learn, how to stay safe on the roads.

Videos have also been made with other victims, parents and youngsters whose lives have been torn apart by road crashes, along with a short film following a Drive Alive event. These will all be aired on the 95 Alive You Tube channel <http://www.youtube.com/ninety5alive>, and will be used to encourage students to enter the 95 Alive video competition Call the Shots.



North Yorkshire County Council's Director of Business and Environmental Services David Bowe, Chair of 95 Alive said: "These are the drivers and road users of the future, we need to encourage them to think Road Safety the second they get into a car.

"The hope is that these DVD's and video's will make them realise the dangers. Some of these stories are truly harrowing and we can only applaud the people who have been brave enough to put them on video, but it is the reality of what can happen which we believe can help get these crucial messages across."

North Yorkshire County Council Road Safety Officer Andrew Santon, who created Drive Alive said: "The DVD made with David and Janet is aimed at parents, it also features North Yorkshire Police crash investigation team giving crucial advice on how they can help keep their sons and daughters safe before and after they pass their driving test."

David Warin said they don't want to put young people off learning to drive: "We want them to drive, to get a car, to enjoy their life, but most importantly to be safe, and for their families not to have to go through what our family has gone through. Our lives changed forever the day Daniel died.

Janet Warin added: "You can't help wondering what if, if he had been here he would have been a teacher I know he would, it was his lifelong ambition, and he would have been a good teacher. Looking at his other friends we could have been grandparents by now. We miss him; we miss his sense of humour, his kindness, his care of others."

Videos on the YouTube Channel will also include;

Sarah McGaughey, 18, who was in a coma for five weeks after suffering severe head injuries when her car crashed. She wasn't wearing a seat belt.

Keith Houlistan's son Neil was killed in a crash on Christmas Day five years ago. He wasn't wearing a seat belt.

Michelle Wheatley, 24, was badly injured but saved by her seat belt after her car left the road and ended up hanging over a cliff edge.

### **Photograph Caption**

**David and Janet Warin launch the DVD at Lady Lumley's School in Pickering, accompanied by members of the North Yorkshire Road Safety Team and students**

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