

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
11 SEPTEMBER 2013	Public Report

Report of the Strategic Manager: Safer and Stronger Peterborough

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SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2011-14

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee on the progress and performance of the Safer Peterborough Partnership's approach to tackling antisocial behaviour in accordance with the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2011-14.
- 1.2 For the committee to scrutinise that progress and performance in accordance with its statutory responsibility as set out within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, revised by The Police and Justice Act 2006.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the approach, progress and performance thus far; to endorse the partnerships direction of travel and to make any comments or suggestions as appropriate.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy aims to deliver a bigger and better Peterborough, through improving the quality of life for all. The Partnership Plan covers those aspects that fall within the Strong and Supportive Communities priority; this report covers progress towards part of that plan.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires that a Community Safety Partnership is formed, bringing together agencies who are responsible for crime and disorder in the local area. It is acknowledged that far more can be achieved to make Peterborough a safer place if agencies work together rather than in isolation.
- 4.2 The Crime and Disorder Act specifies responsible authorities as Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, NHS Peterborough, Cambridgeshire Fire Authority, Cambridgeshire Police Authority and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust.
- 4.3 These responsible authorities also invite other agencies who are able to contribute to the work to *co-operate* and Cross Keys Homes (representing Registered Social Landlords in the city) is one of these organisations. Other agencies, particularly from the voluntary and community sector are also *invited to participate* in the work of the Partnership. At present these organisations are PCVS, Peterborough Racial Equality Council, HMP Peterborough and The One Service.
- 4.4 The Safer Peterborough Partnership is one of the partnerships that form the Greater Peterborough Partnership.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires that the Community Safety Partnership publish an annual Partnership Plan. The Safer Peterborough Partnership works to a three-year strategic plan (2011-14) and at its meeting of 4th June this committee reviewed the annual refresh of that plan.
- 5.2 The Safer Peterborough Partnership agreed one single target for the three year plan – to reduce victim based crime by 10% by end of March 2014.
- 5.3 In order to achieve this there were three identified priorities:
- Reduce Victim Based Crime
 - Tackle Anti-Social behaviour and Hate Crime
 - Build Stronger and more supportive communities
- 5.4 This report concentrates upon progress and performance in relation to tackling anti-social behaviour and hate crime.
- 5.5 This report outlines the commitments, targets and methods of the SPP in tackling anti-social behaviour in the Peterborough.
- 5.6 **Definition of anti-social behaviour**
- 5.7 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defines anti-social behaviour as “acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the offender”.
- 5.8 The Government deliberately define anti-social behaviour using broad terms as it can mean different things to different people.
- 5.9 Anti-social behaviour can affect entire communities or individual people. For example, a neighbourhood may feel threatened by a small group of people, or an individual may feel intimidated by a neighbour.
- 5.10 During 2012/13 the City worked successfully to reduce levels of recorded anti-social behaviour. Work continues to tackle the issues as well as perceptions.
- 5.11 Some behaviour is clearly unacceptable and must be addressed through dialogue or appropriate and proportionate enforcement. Many incidents of anti-social behaviour can be addressed promptly by established professionals; i.e. excessive noise – environmental health, or criminal damage – the police.
- 5.12 Other examples may require longer term community mediation involving more than one agency.
- 5.13 This issue is complicated by the need to accommodate all those who live and work in the Peterborough, along with their different lifestyle choices. Anti-social behaviour does not necessarily mean the same thing to everyone: what could be put down to a mere clash of lifestyle to one person could cause great distress to another.
- 5.14 **The Vision**
- 5.15 **To work in partnership with the local community and agencies across Peterborough to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour and to promote respect for one another.**
- 5.16 The SPP works to support and protect people’s rights to live and work free from anti-social

behaviour, we seek to protect these rights through **problem solving** around cases and using **prevention, intervention** and **enforcement** measures where anti-social behaviour is occurring. However, we will always take a **proportionate** response to anti-social behaviour.

5.17 **Objectives**

5.18 Based on our commitments to protect rights and encourage responsibility, our main objectives as a partnership are listed below. We will seek to:

- **Prevent anti-social behaviour before it occurs and to prevent escalation where it is already happening**
- **Reduce the number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour**
- **Establish swift and efficient processes in tackling antisocial behaviour, using the appropriate tools and methods on a case by case basis**
- **Involve the public more in how anti-social behaviour is tackled**
- **Target problem locations where anti-social behaviour is occurring**
- **Target problem individuals**
- **Seek to improve the built environment when possible where this will aid solutions to anti-social behaviour**
- **Ensure clear lines for reporting incidents of anti-social behaviour are in place and widely publicised**
- **Understand the perceptions people hold around antisocial behaviour and to seek to reassure the public through the use of media**
- **Improve the support given to those who are victims and/or witness anti-social behaviour**

5.19 **Solutions**

5.20 **Multi-agency working.** The SPP takes a preventative, proactive and reactive approach to anti-social behaviour.

5.21 Local residents are encouraged to tackle issues themselves where possible and to be prepared to be part of the solution in tackling anti-social behaviour. Effective solutions to tackle or prevent anti-social behaviour are the responsibility of many agencies and organisations. Therefore, in Peterborough we take a multi-agency approach to tackling anti-social behaviour. Council services involved include the Community Safety and ASB Team, Social Services, Education, various environmental services, Leisure, Youth Services and Legal Services. Other agencies include the Town and Parish Councils, the Youth Offending Service (YOS), Probation, Peterborough Police, Registered Social Landlords, Cambridgeshire Fire Service, Residents Associations, Business Against Crime and Street and Pub Watch.

5.22 **New National Categories of ASB**

5.23 A national review has led to a revision of the categories of ASB. The categories change the emphasis from recording and responding to incidents, to identifying those vulnerable individuals, communities and environments most at risk and in need of an enhanced response before the problems escalate.

5.24 The three new categories are:

1. Personal
2. Nuisance
3. Environmental

Below is directly taken from Home Office guidance and explains what the 3 new categories mean in more detail.

- 5.25 **Personal** ASB identified by the caller, call handler or anyone else perceives as deliberately targeted at an individual or group or having an impact on an individual or group rather than the community at large. It includes incidents that cause concern, stress, disquiet and/or irritation through to incidents, which have a serious adverse impact on people's quality of life. At one extreme of the spectrum it includes minor annoyance; at the other end it could result in risk of harm, deterioration of health and disruption of mental or emotional well being, resulting in an inability to carry out normal day to day activities.
- 5.26 **Nuisance** Those incidents where an act, condition, thing or person causes trouble, annoyance, inconvenience, offence or suffering to the local community in general, rather than individual victims. It includes incidents where behaviour goes beyond the conventional bounds of acceptability and interferes with public interests including health, safety and quality of life. Just as individuals will have differing expectations and levels of tolerance so will communities have different ideas about what goes beyond tolerable or acceptable behaviour.
- 5.27 **Environmental** This includes incidents where individuals and groups have an impact on their surroundings including natural, built and social environment. This category is about encouraging reasonable behaviour whilst protecting and managing various environments so that people can enjoy their own private spaces as well as shared or public spaces.

People's physical settings and surroundings are known to impact positively or negatively on mood and sense of well-being, and a perception that nobody cares about the quality of a particular environment can cause those effected by that environment to feel undervalued or ignored. Public spaces change over time as a result of physical effects caused, for example, by building but the environment can also change as a result of the people using or misusing that space.

5.28 **ASB includes:**

Misuse of Public Space

- substance abuse and drug related activities,
- street drinking
- prostitution/kerb crawling – loitering, pestering residents

Inconsiderate Behaviour

- noise and nuisance behaviour
- urinating in public, fire-setting, inappropriate use of fireworks, climbing on buildings,
- racing cars, off road motorcycling, quad bikes
- rowdy and drunken behaviour: shouting, fighting
- animal-related problems

Acts directed at people

- harassment: racial, homophobic, sexual, religious etc.
- intimidation and bullying, making threats and offensive comments
- verbal abuse: using obscene and offensive language
- hoax and malicious calls

Environmental damage

- criminal damage/vandalism
- graffiti: defacing public/private property
- litter/rubbish fly tipping, fly posting
- abandoned/burnt out cars
- dog fouling

5.29 **How we are tackling ASB in Peterborough**

- 5.30 An important and developing strand of our partnership work has been to address those causes of crime that impact upon our residents at a neighbourhood level and affect their quality of life. These include the menace of criminal damage, arson, speeding traffic and environmental crimes such as noise nuisance, graffiti, fly tipping and littering.

5.31 These issues all have direct impact on the quality and appearance of our neighbourhoods and can cause considerable damage to the esteem of individual's and families most directly affected. These offences often associated with Anti Social Behaviour can often develop into far more severe problems and crimes and therefore are a priority for the partnership.

5.32 **We aim to:**

5.33 **Prevent:**

- Make best use of our knowledge and by sharing information with our communities to enable them to reduce the risk of crime, disorder or ASB.
- Design out crime seeking opportunities to develop, enhance and promote cleaner, greener and safer environments
- Encourage greater awareness of individual responsibility and active citizenship
- Promote positive behaviour of young people
- Increase all reporting of ASB

5.34 **Intervention:**

- Deliver an efficient framework for taking action at the earliest possible opportunity, including restorative justice.
- Use proportionate and effective action to stop ASB
- Provide support to those at greatest risk of ASB
- Provide targeted support services to perpetrators of ASB.
- Improve co ordination with agencies that provide support for victims and witnesses
- Provide victim support through information and devices to reassure and repeat victimisation
- Increase victim satisfaction with the service being provided by the partners
- Encourage victim led solutions to tackling ASB

5.35 **Enforcement**

- Effective use of all ASB tools and legislative powers to tackle offending
- Detecting offences and bringing perpetrators to justice through the criminal justice system.
- Targeted use of enforcement powers to improve standards of the environment

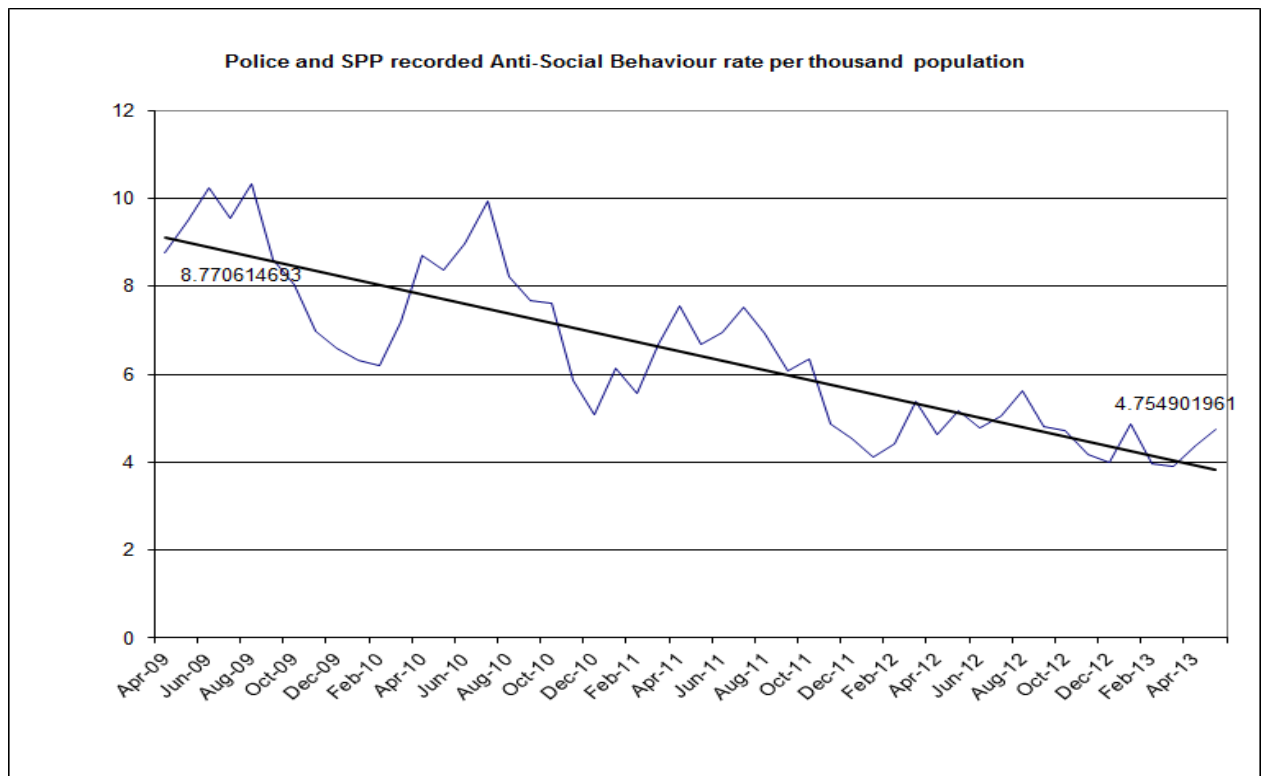
5.36 **Tools Available**

- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- Anti Social Behaviour Contracts
- Anti Social Behaviour Orders
- Parenting Orders
- Family Intervention
- Crack House/ASB Closure Orders
- Mediation
- Child Safety Orders
- Designated Public Place Orders
- Closure of Premises
- Gating Orders
- Directions to Leave
- Dispersal Orders

5.37 • Demoted Tenancy

Results so far:

Reports of ASB are falling. In 4 years reports have reduced by 46%



5.38

Recent developments

- ASB Governance group led by Executive Director Operations and including: Council, police, BTP, RSLs, Enterprise, YOS, 8-19, Councilors, Noise pollution, Fire, Housing, Homelessness Prevention, city centre services, CCTV
- Weekly case management meetings, emerging trends, people, hot spots.
- Partnership problem solving model
- Standardised risk assessment
- Development of microbeats across the City.
- Complex and intractable cases resolved (innovative, focused, robust)
- Range of preventative interventions
- Management information
- ECINS multi-agency case management database rolled out across Peterborough to enhance partnership working, reduce bureaucracy, and reduce the time spent at case review meetings.
- Recruitment to a new post of Anti-Social Behaviour, Hate Crime & Victims coordinator.
- Partnership ASB officers engaged fully with the Connecting Families Programme.

5.39

The future:

- ECINS rolled out to partner agencies across Peterborough
- RSL Forum to be restarted Sept 2013
- ASB Task and Finish restarting October 2013
- Cambridgeshire Partnership Forum starting early 2014
- Change in ASB legislation – Spring 2014, to include
 - Community Triggers, Community Protection Orders, Criminal Behaviour Order and Crime Prevention Injunction

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Fewer victims of ASB, better perceptions of ASB make Peterborough a safer place to live and

improve the quality of life of all of our residents.

7. NEXT STEPS

7.1 That the committee endorse the approach taken by the partnership in its efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

8.1 None

9. APPENDICES

9.1 None

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