

Local anti-social behaviour – trends, issues and partnerships

Briefing Note

Briefing note date	Quadrant or District covered	Author/presenter
20/01/2017	Edgbaston district	Kirsty Steward – ASB Partnership Manager (South)

Purpose

The purpose of this briefing note is to ensure that Councillors are aware of relevant anti-social behaviour issues which are affecting or likely to affect the local communities they serve. It is also to update and brief Councillors about what multi-agency, partnership activity is taking place to address those issues, and how Councillors might support those activities, particularly in a local leadership capacity.

The particular aims from providing the briefing note are that:

- Councillors are better informed about anti-social behaviour, as well as the services and activity which are in place to address it
- Councillors are better prepared to contribute to local problem solving with other local stakeholders in addressing community concerns about anti-social behaviour
- Council officers and other agencies are better engaged with Councillors, as local leaders, and working collaboratively with them
- Council officers and other agencies are better supported by Councillors in addressing community concerns about anti-social behaviour

ASB enquiries

	SEP 2016	OCT 2016	NOV 2016	DEC 2016
Bartley Green	28	32	21	17
Edgbaston	6	8	3	6
Harborne	7	8	2	4
Quinton	28	28	22	16
District	69	76	48	43

Referrals made to: Mediation Services, Restorative Justice Team, Think Family, Social Services (MASH), Women's Aid, Environmental Health Team, Adult Social Services (ACAP), Local Police Team, BRAVE, Mental Health Services, RSPCA, and Adult Safeguarding Panel.

Current and previous quarter headlines

Overall status and brief summary of anti-social behaviour trends and issues in the local area

- Waterworks Estate experiencing high volume of drug issues and sex workers – officers working with SAFE (street workers outreach project), CGL (Change Grow Live) and local residents to clear up area.
- Off road bikes and mini- motors in Quinton and Bartley Green – BCC (Birmingham City Council) tenants have been spoken to by WMP (West Midlands Police) and BCC officers. The Birmingham South Community Safety Partnership have formed a working group that is made up of WMFS, WMP, local councillors and BCC to put plans into place to prepare for problems caused by bikes when they emerge in the coming months.
- Hoarders – BCC work very closely with West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS), and working with residents as well as Mental Health and Substance Misuse professionals to resolve issues and are seeking to explore legal remedies to protect other vulnerable residents.
- Tenants with mental health issues in high rise flats – BCC working with residents and caretakers to prevent ASB from escalating.
- Abandoned vehicles – BCC speaking to tenants to allocate garages or getting cars removed working in partnership with WMP and WMFS.
- High volumes of ASB for domestic noise and neighbour disputes.

Multi-agency and partnership activity since the last briefing note

16 November 2016 was the first local Community Safety Partnership sub-group meeting concerning off road bikes. This was well attended by Councillors, BCSP, BCC Parks, Landlord Services, WMFS and WMP. Work is being done to increase intelligence gathering in the South to aid the police in obtaining and confiscating stolen/illegal bikes (and legal bikes that are being used to cause ASB). The group hope to put plans into place early, before ASB starts up again in the Spring of 2017.

The launch of the Restorative Justice Team funded by the PCC (Police Crime Commissioner) and run by the Pioneer Group on 22 September 2016 saw a rise in referrals to the service across Birmingham and is seeing successful outcomes by working closely with the team. Claire Denby-Knight is the South Restorative Justice officer and she has met with the housing officers in the area to ensure they fully understand what the service provides and how to maximise its use.

Referrals continue to be made into the Safer Communities Group to focus on the most serious and complex issues of antisocial behaviour within our neighbourhoods.

Councillor Des Flood now represents Edgbaston at the local Community Safety Partnership.

Achievements, good practices and learning to share

Example 1 In September 2016, a male known to BCC because of a previous ASB injunction which we used to evict his parents, befriended the vulnerable lady and began using her address as a bail address. ASB escalated out of control and caused distress and havoc to the low rise block. Working with the support worker and in close partnership with WMP to apprehend the perpetrator we worked to achieve to place the young lady in to supported accommodation and the perpetrator was arrested and taken in to custody. The tenants of the low rise were so thankful and this block is now free of ASB.

Example 2 Possession order granted following ASB in Blandford Road, the perpetrator was the son

of one of our council tenants. An eviction day was arranged to remove the tenant and her grown up family from the property, the tenant did actually hand her keys in the just before the eviction date but we still ensure that the eviction took place with the bailiffs and made sure the property was secured and that the tenant was charged for all damages and for the removal of furniture.

Example 3 A full injunction was awarded at the County Court with a power of arrest on a tenant in Bartley Green who was making threats to his neighbours and to BCC staff.

Example 4 An interim injunction was recently awarded in County Court on a resident in Bartley Green who was continuously contacting BCC staff and making threats, threats were also made to his neighbours. In order to protect staff and residents an interim injunction was gained at county court with the power of arrest. This case will be going back to court where a full injunction will be requested

Example 5 Edgbaston District – 2 successfully moved on in Quinton and 2 in Bartley Green. Site visits were carried out, monitored and we worked jointly with the Senior Enforcement Officer from Environmental Health.

Example 6 Neighbours complained of a family having arguments and fights on the street. Parents signed Good Neighbourhood Agreements and the children signed Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. No further complaints have been received since. The family are working with the Youth Offender Team and attending parenting classes.

Example 7 Youths hanging around the shops in Bartley Green and making inappropriate comments to local residents and causing intimidation by being loud and causing an annoyance were identified as being the children of BCC tenants. Joint visits with the police were arranged to visit the parent in these tenancies to advise that that their tenancies will be at risk if their children continue to cause problems. The Youth Offending Team was also involved in working with these youths and their families.

Example 8 Property being used as supported accommodation within the Edgbaston District, complaints of fights outside the property and noise and rubbish Meeting held the Chief Exec of Prospect housing who have a lease on this property and Claremont Living who are providing support. In the meeting it was accepted that there have been problems at this property but that following the meeting they are sensitively letting the property which means the people are handpicked to stay there and less likely to cause the problems that there were at the start. Residents have said that things have calmed down at the property and they have the team's direct number and email address should problems start up again.

Example 9 - West Midlands Police have identified roads where recent burglaries have taken place, in order to try and reduce further burglaries, the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership have provided some burglary prevention packs which include window and door alarms. Joint visits are taking place within the four wards on Edgbaston to speak directly with residents and offer safety advice and distribute these packs.

Update on Domestic Abuse Office role in position since June 2016

Cheryl Moorhouse is the South Quadrant Domestic Abuse Officer. She started her role on 6 June 2016. An outline of her work follows:

- Attends MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) Meetings fortnightly where Domestic Abuse cases are discussed. West Midlands Police PPU (Public Protection Unit), Mental Health, Social Services, Women's Aid, Primary Care Trust, Education, Probation attends these where necessary. Comply with any actions arising from the MARAC meeting.
- Contacts all victims who are BCC tenants or have made a Homeless Application. Arrange to visit where appropriate. Establish what their current situation is, if they are being supported or if they want support from third sector agency, offer advice. Take the most appropriate and necessary action to protect the victim and enforce conditions of tenancy against the perpetrator.
- Completes relevant referrals to Think Families/Safeguarding/Alcohol & Drug support/DA agencies/Sanctuary.
- Attends monthly DVT (Domestic Violence Tasking) meetings.

The next quarter headlines

Brief description of any anticipated or seasonal anti-social behaviour issues and types which Councillors may need to be aware of

- Snowfall – There have been predictions of snowfall. With this we expect that there may be reports of nuisance from children. Playing in the street is not ASB and any criminal damage should be reported to WMP.
- Party Season – With Christmas and New Year over, seasonal parties should not be an issue; however, if an address is having regular parties which are continuing to an unreasonable time and disturbing residents, then it should be reported by the customer to BCC directly so we can establish exactly what the issues are. Customers should be reminded that noise emanating from stereos and other electronic means should be reported to the Environmental Health Team on 0121 303 5440 Option 3.

Planned or pending multi-agency and partnership activity to address anti-social behaviour issues and trends

BCC are concerned with all ASB that takes place in our neighbourhoods and will use a multi-agency approach to investigate ASB in our communities. Contact can be made with your ASB Partnership Manager Kirsty Steward who will coordinate any multi-agency led investigations and complex cases may be discussed at the Safer Communities Group once a month where there is representation from BCC, WMP, WMFS and Registered Providers.

The ASB Partnership Manager for each quadrant is the contact for Members and partners to go to for advice and guidance on ASB issues whether they involve BCC tenants or other residents. The Place Managers for each area have in-depth knowledge about the communities that they manage and can also be contacted for advice on local issues.

Other multi-agency meetings that meet monthly to discuss more complex cases are:

- Street Community Tasking – BCC, WMP, Big Issue, Safer Travel, CGL, Sifa Fireside, Rough Sleepers Outreach Team, Salvation Army, West Midlands fire service

- Safer Communities Group – BCC, WMP, WMFS, Housing Associations, Restorative Justice team, CSE Officer
- MARAC – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference – BCC, WMP, Probation Service, Mental Health, Women's Aid, Housing Associations, Health Visitors, Education
- Vulnerable Adults Panel – BCC, WMP, WMFS, Housing Associations, GPs, Mental Health

Points of contact and websites for advice and guidance

ASB should be reported where possible by the victim to BCC by way of the website – www.birmingham.gov.uk.

The website has helpful information for the customer about what types of nuisance behaviour can be investigated by the ASB team, and which nuisance behaviours are handled by another team at the Council or another partner/agency (such as Environmental Services, Highways Dept., Environmental Health etc).

Residents who have experienced or witnessed ASB, should report it themselves to the council so that BCC can get the facts and first-hand information from the victim or witness. This will help in the investigation and ensure that the information received is correct.

Currently, BCC take reports of ASB from all residents regardless of tenure. However, if the complainant is a private owner or private tenant, BCC have only limited powers to resolve ASB (referrals to mediation, restorative justice, advice).

BCC housing officers are equipped with a vulnerability risk assessment that is completed after the initial contact with the citizen. These assessments allow the officer to understand the vulnerabilities involved with each individual case which can indicate the level of support required and how the case will be approached.

Prolonged noise from amplified music, dogs, mechanical sounds, alarms, DIY etc. all of these should be reported to the Environmental Health Team – 0121 303 5440/ 6007.

The Environmental Health Team is equipped to collect evidence where there is 'Statutory Noise Nuisance'. They can distribute noise diaries and in extreme cases, deploy sound equipment to capture evidence. (Please note that this equipment is only used in cases where EH team find it necessary as there are only a small amount of devices available throughout the City). Only the EH team have the powers to serve Noise Abatement Notices and can in some cases, seize electrical equipment that is proven to be the source of the nuisance.

BCC can take reports of criminal activity from residents (drug use, violent crime etc.) if it involves a BCC tenant. We will then encourage the complainant to report crime to WMP who will investigate any criminal allegations. Tenancy action can take place depending on the outcome of any Police action/convictions. Crimes should be reported to 101 (for non- emergency) and 999 (only for emergencies).

BCC Contacts for the Edgbaston District are as follows:

Senior Service Manager:

Jonathan Antill (All South Quadrant) Jonathan.antill@birmingham.gov.uk

ASB Partnership Manager:

Kirsty Steward (All South Quadrant) Kirsty.steward@birmingham.gov.uk

Edgbaston District Place Managers:

Donna McMullan (Quinton and Edgbaston Wards) donna.mcmullan@birmingham.gov.uk

Karen Bailey (Bartley Green & Harborne Wards) karen.j.bailey@birmingham.gov.uk