

# Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 14 November 2017

## Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2016-2019 – Update Report

<b>Item number</b>	9.1
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Executive/routine</b>	Executive
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Council Commitments</b>	

### Executive Summary

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Following the approval of the Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Strategy 2016-2019 on 15 November 2016, several key initiatives and working practices have been developed to deliver the strategy's main aim of preventing antisocial behaviour before it happens, and resolving ASB effectively at an early stage when it does occur.

This report provides an update in relation to the current strategy.

## Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2016-2019 – Update Report

### Recommendations

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It is recommended that the Culture and Communities Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the content of the report;
- 1.2 Requests a further update on the progress of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy in 12 months' time.

### Background

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- 2.1 Under the Antisocial Behaviour etc.(Scotland) Act 2004, each Local Authority and relevant Chief Constable are required to act jointly, to prepare and publish a strategy to deal with ASB in the authority's area.
- 2.2 Following extensive consultation, the ASB Strategy 2016-19 was agreed at the Health, Social Care, and Housing Committee on 15 November 2016.
- 2.1 This report provides an update on initiatives and developments that have been taken forward in partnership with Police Scotland and other key agencies, to take forward the aims of the strategy.

### Main report

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#### **Antisocial Behaviour Strategy**

- 3.1 The desired outcome of the strategy is to reduce antisocial behaviour in Edinburgh, including its impact on individuals, their families, and the whole community.
- 3.2 The strategy has four core elements to address antisocial behaviour in a multi-agency way, based on the Scottish Government's national guidance.
  - Prevention – through an intelligence led approach, partners use preventative measures to tackle the root cause of antisocial behaviour
  - Intervention – working in partnership to address issues as they arise and achieve shared outcomes

- Enforcement – protecting the wider community by using appropriate and effective action against the minority of people who are persistently involved in antisocial behaviour
  - Communication and community engagement – actively engaging and communicating with communities and partners to ensure positive, co-ordinated and evidence based messages are shared with the public
- 3.3 The core elements represent a holistic approach to antisocial behaviour, with a shared objective from partners to emphasise engagement and prevention, with the express intention of reducing the need for enforcement action.

### **Family and Household Support Service**

- 3.4 The Council's Transformation Programme presented an opportunity to organise services in ways that have shown to be effective in improving outcomes for individuals and communities.
- 3.5 The establishment of the Family and Household Support Service in 2016 brought together community safety, housing support, and family support staff under the management of a single team leader/manager. This met the Council's ambition for a more integrated, preventative service. By integrating a wide range of services, there is opportunity to reinforce shared aims, with a focus on well-being, safety and building long-term community resilience.
- 3.6 The Family and Household Support Service aims to formalise the positive working practices that have grown up in response to local needs and provide effective targeting of resources. This model reinforces consistency and represents a baseline from which further integration across partner agency boundaries can flourish.

### **Partnership Working**

- 3.7 Partnership working is a core component of working practices to achieve the shared goal of reducing antisocial behaviour. The Council and Police Scotland have developed an integrated working model under the Partnership Agreement, bringing a more cohesive approach to service delivery.
- 3.8 Collaborative working supports responsiveness and provides flexibility to work closely with individuals and communities. The Partnership provides greater opportunity for early intervention, with a multi-agency understanding of individuals' needs, allowing for an intelligence based balance of support and enforcement.
- 3.9 Where enforcement is necessary, it is based on the principles of engagement, support, restoration, and change, and not on isolation and exclusion.
- 3.10 Each locality tailors its service to local demands. This includes partnerships with housing associations and voluntary organisations which, together, can best address the needs of people with complex and challenging difficulties.

## **Locality Model**

- 3.11 Following the Council's transformation programme, a locality model has been implemented which is based on four localities, covering the twelve neighbourhood partnerships. Each locality has responsibility for managing and delivering services within the locality, aligned with partners. This co-ordinated approach supports the strategy to address antisocial behaviour.

## **Community Improvement Partnerships (CIPs)**

- 3.12 The CIPs are held monthly in each locality, where partners work together to reduce duplication of services and provide a unified response to antisocial behaviour. The CIPs discuss emerging trends and hotspots, aided by data provided from analysts, which allows allocation of resources and development of bespoke initiatives.
- 3.13 The work within the CIPs is reported to the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership, to monitor city-wide antisocial behaviour and address any wider emerging trends or issues.

## **Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (ECSP)**

- 3.14 The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) is the strategic group responsible for coordinating a multi-agency response to promote community safety, to reduce reoffending and to tackle antisocial behaviour in the context of the Antisocial Behaviour etc.(Scotland) Act 2004 and the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016
- 3.15 Improving community safety and effective reduction in reoffending depends on a complex, multi-agency, and multi-sector approach to the delivery of a wide range of both universal and specialist services.
- 3.16 The priorities of the ECSP are:
- Reducing violence – includes prevention, early intervention, alcohol over-consumption
  - Reducing reoffending – includes women in the criminal justice system, youth justice, prolific offenders, and families with complex needs
  - Reducing harm – includes road and fire safety, and recovery
  - Reducing antisocial behaviour – includes complex case management and hate crime

## **3.17 Social Justice Fund**

In supporting the ECSP priorities, members applied and received funding from the Social Justice Fund to deliver projects set up by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE).

The Social Justice Fund was established in 2001/02 as a central Council fund following the Lord Provost's One City Commission on poverty and social exclusion.

Both initiatives provide regular updates and report on their outcomes to the ECSP:

3.18 Phoenix/Cool Down Project Crew Toll – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)

This is a 10-week rolling programme in partnership with SFRS supporting young people to gain core life skills and allowing engagement with local youths from across the four localities. The project was awarded £10,000 as part of a match funding commitment from SFRS.

3.19 Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE)

One of the original aims of this multi-agency project was to ensure that high risk offenders are given appropriate housing options advice and support, in the period prior to their release. A pilot project was very successful, and the model is being extended to other prisoners as part of the Multi-Agency Throughcare Support which is being trialled in HMP Edinburgh. The £12,480 allocated funding allows for a Housing Officer to work with partner agencies in the Prison Link Centre.

**Antisocial Behaviour Strategic Initiatives**

3.20 The ASB Strategy adopted four approaches to tackle ASB; Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement, and Community Engagement. Below is an update on a range of services and initiatives that are in place according to these core elements.

**Prevention**

3.21 Community Policing

The Council has a long-established partnership working arrangement with Police Scotland. £2.6 million was allocated to Police Scotland to deliver community policing services in 2017/18.

Community Police Officers perform several key roles in keeping people safe and improving outcomes for communities, by working to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. Examples of community policing activities are:

- Build local knowledge of communities and carry out local neighbourhood patrols to prevent and detect crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Provide visible reassurance within local communities through street patrols and actively engage with residents.
- Provide support and information to Council staff seeking to enforce antisocial behaviour legislation where this is required.
- Support the work of the Community Improvement Partnerships (CIPs) to identify local neighbourhood priorities.
- Focus on hotspots and areas of concern as identified by the CIPs, and increase community engagement in those areas to help prevent escalation of crime and antisocial behaviour.

3.22 In addition to the funded officers, Edinburgh Division has additional Community Policing Officers and School Link Officers working in each locality, focusing on prevention, early intervention, and restorative justice.

### 3.23 CCTV

The Council operates a close circuit television (CCTV) camera estate across public spaces; housing blocks; schools; bus lanes and Council buildings. CCTV assists the prevention and detection of crime and ASB, as well as supporting Police to identify and prosecute offenders.

- 3.24 In April 2017, a new process was developed for requests for mobile CCTV deployment to assist initiatives and Police Scotland operations. Mobile CCTV cameras can be fitted in hotspot areas subject to a request from a Family and Household Support Officer, approved by the local CIP.

### Transport Marshals

- 3.25 Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership has operated a Transport Marshal scheme in Edinburgh city centre in partnership with Licensing and Essential Edinburgh since December 2006. The project provides two transport marshals at four of the busiest city centre taxi stances on Friday and Saturday evenings from 22.30pm to 04.00am, and provides:

- 3.26 In addition to supervising taxi ranks, the marshals provide advice and assistance on alternative forms of public transport, including directions to the nearest night bus stops and train station. Radio links are established with the Council CCTV Central Monitoring Facility, providing direct access to the police control centre.

### Street Begging Community Improvement Partnership (Research Project)

- 3.27 The Street Begging CIP was set up to coordinate an effective multi-agency approach to street begging. The CIP is led by the Council and includes membership from Police Scotland, Essential Edinburgh and third sector partners such as Streetwork.
- 3.28 The CIP has a commitment to a holistic approach that deals not only with begging but with the range of difficulties faced by people who beg.
- 3.29 The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership has provided a grant to fund a research project that will be overseen by the CIP to specifically focus on street begging from November 2017 to October 2018. Using the data and information collected the research will provide an up to date position on street begging, including underlying reasons, whether the right services are in place, and how to more effectively address the problem.

### **Intervention**

#### Youth Tracking System

- 3.30 Youth Tracking System (YTS) was developed in 2015 to address the lack of information to analyse youth offending in neighbourhoods. It is a system that links an individual incident with the “who and the where” in order to build up profiles of youth behaviour.

- 3.31 By adopting the system, the Family and Household Support Service works closely with other services such as Children and Families, as well as colleagues from Police Scotland, sharing information on a day to day basis, assessing the impact of youth behaviour on the community, making decisions on interventions, and measuring any improvement of an intervention for the individual and the community.

#### Youth Tasking and Coordination Groups (TACs)

- 3.32 In the North-West locality, fortnightly multi-agency meetings have been developed from the original Youth TAC concept, with all agencies tasked with providing support to children and their families to address the range of issues that might underpin antisocial behaviour or offending behaviour. The meeting identifies which agency is best placed to work with the child and family, and has a key role in coordinating resources.

#### Antisocial Behaviour Review Group

- 3.35 The ASB Review Group lead by the Council in partnership with Police Scotland was established in June 2013, to target persistent antisocial behaviour offenders. The multi-agency group meets each month to discuss complex and lengthy antisocial behaviour investigations with a view to achieving sustainable solutions, and positive outcomes for individuals and communities.
- 3.33 To ensure that the ASB Review Group mirrors the new structures created by the Council's Transformation Programme and implementation of the new Family and Household Support Service, a review of current meeting processes and membership is underway.

#### Mediation

- 3.34 The Council's in-house Community Mediation Service is delivered by senior officers based in the Family and Household Support teams across all four localities.
- 3.35 The service is available to all residents in Edinburgh who find themselves in dispute with their neighbours regarding issues around antisocial behaviour such as noise or general differences in lifestyles.

#### Safe Place

- 3.36 The Street Assist 'Safe Place' initiative, funded by the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership, delivers a welfare and first aid early intervention project between the hours of 22.00 and 04.00 every Friday and Saturday. The initiative provides a safe non-judgmental space where people who have become vulnerable through circumstance can attend
- 3.37 Safe Place supports the night time economy within the city centre of Edinburgh, liaising with other agencies who identify individuals as vulnerable. The aim is to divert individuals from emergency services where possible, by the provision of minor first aid, alcohol interventions and communication with pub/club door stewards who can contact the service if they become aware of an individual

becoming vulnerable. The ECSP has agreed to fund the service for one year in partnership with Police Scotland.

### **Enforcement**

- 3.38 The Council has a range of powers to tackle ASB, including interim and full Antisocial Behaviour Orders and Antisocial Behaviour Evictions. These actions are a last resort and early intervention and preventative work aims to avoid such action. The number of ASB evictions has fallen for each of the last three years.

	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
<b>Interim ASBOs</b>	10	4	8
<b>Full ASBOs</b>	9	5	7
<b>ASB Evictions</b>	8	7	3

### Short Scottish Secure Tenancy (SSST)

- 3.39 The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (as amended) provides that in certain circumstances a landlord is enabled to provide a tenant with a Short Scottish Secure Tenancy (SSST) rather than Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST) if
- The prospective tenant was evicted for antisocial behaviour in the last three years;
  - The prospective tenant, (or any one of joint tenants) or a member of their household or a subtenant of the tenant is subject to an ASBO.
- 3.40 When an ASBO is granted in the case of a current tenant (or any one of joint tenants) or a member of a tenant's household, the Council will, following the making of that order, always consider whether to convert the tenancy to a SSST. The decision to offer a SSST will normally follow discussion at a case management meeting.
- 3.41 The Council makes use of all available and relevant remedies to assist a tenant in a SSST and only terminates a tenancy as a last resort.

### Community Safety Night Team

- 3.42 The Community Safety Night Team operates Thursday through to Sunday from 17.30 to 02.30. The team investigates antisocial behaviour complaints and provides coordinated out of hours support to the day time Family and Household Support Service.
- 3.43 The Night Team responds to ASB noise complaints made to Police Scotland using the 101 service. The officers then investigate the noise complaint and take the appropriate actions to immediately reduce the level of noise whilst offering the public advice.



- 3.44 The Night Team also contributes to initiatives in localities where extra support is required, assisting Police Scotland in high visibility foot/vehicle patrols. Often this provides public reassurance, interaction, and intervention with opportunities to be eye-witnesses to antisocial behaviour and to contact Police Scotland where necessary to reduce crime.

## **Communication and Community Engagement**

### South West

- 3.45 The South West locality identified an increase in youth related antisocial behaviour at the beginning of this year within the Saughton area. This antisocial behaviour has since reduced because of a partnership approach being taken between the City of Edinburgh Council (Family and Household Support and Life Long Learning), the Voluntary Sector (About Youth and the Broomhouse Centre) and Police Scotland.
- 3.46 Family and Household Support and Community Police held daily meetings to quickly identify young people who were getting involved in antisocial behaviour. They developed a range of approaches to the young people and their families.
- 3.47 As part of this approach South West organised a football game at Saughton Park enclosure in August between workers and local young people. Councillor Wilson presented a trophy to the winning side.
- 3.48 This approach to engagement is continuing and there has been a reduction in the number of young people from this group being involved in antisocial behaviour.

## **Measures of success**

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- 4.1 The Partnership Agreement between the Council and Police Scotland has a Performance Framework to measure the progress made when tackling ASB, including:
- An increase in positive outcomes following completion of prevention activities/community initiatives agreed at the CIPs;
  - A reduction in repeat antisocial behaviour complaints;
  - A reduction in evictions/ASBOs, due to the focus on prevention and intervention;
  - An increase in the number of people who feel safe after dark and an increased satisfaction regarding the management of antisocial behaviour.

## **Financial impact**

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- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. All activities are undertaken and managed through current budgets.

## Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 6.1 This update report does not impact on risk, compliance or governance for the Council.

## Equalities impact

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- 7.1 No direct equalities impacts arise from this report as the information provided is for update purposes.

## Sustainability impact

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- 8.1 There are no sustainability impacts arising from this report.

## Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Consultation with key stakeholders was not necessary for this update report; however consultation was carried out as part of the development of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2016-19.

## Background reading/external references

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## Appendices

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- 11.1 [Appendix 1 – Antisocial Behaviour Strategy for Edinburgh 2016-19](#)