

## **Brighton & Hove City Council**

**Report to:**

**Community Safety Forum**

**Date of meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2003.**

**Subject:**

**Impact of Designated Public Places Order – on services and on hot- spot areas.**

**The report contains information about levels of funding which have been allocated by the Home Office to assist services in Brighton & Hove to tackle street and alcohol related anti-social behaviour.**

### **1.0 Purpose of the Report.**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Community Safety Forum on some of the effects and events following the implementation of the DPPPO on 12th August. A fuller report providing the results of monitoring against key indicators will be provided at the end of October. This will include information about levels of engagement with services and the outcomes of that, as well as outcomes of enforcement action.

### **2.0 Recommendations/Summary.**

2.1 The Joint Police and Street Outreach Team patrols have implemented over 363 'stops' which have resulted on over 30 arrests

2.2 With the exception of the Equinox Wet Centre, the DPPPO has not yet resulted in a higher number of people accessing services, who were not already clients of those services. Higher levels of engagement and support are however being given to clients by their support services and there is early evidence that clients are engaging where otherwise that would not have happened.

2.3 A further allocation from the Home Office is enabling the appointment of four additional staff to assist the implementation of the DPPPO. Two of those staff will work with the Street Outreach Team and joint patrols and two staff will work within Equinox, enabling the Foundation Service to be extended to drinkers and additional management of the external space around the Centre.

### **3.0 Information: Impact of DPPPO:**

3.1 Since the implementation of the DPPPO on 12<sup>th</sup> August, the joint police and street outreach team have carried out daily patrols, from early morning and throughout the day and concentrating on the 18 hot-spot areas.

- 3.2 The principles of the enforcement strategy implement a phased approach which provides those individuals initially identified with three/four weeks to change their behaviour and to seek the advice and support of agencies prior to enforcement action being taken. The drinkers were clearly aware that from 8<sup>th</sup> September, the police would 'step up' enforcement action. It is significant therefore, that over 209 individuals were identified to be targeted at the start of the process and that the joint patrols are of the view that number has dropped significantly (possibly 50 – 60 people).
- 3.3 A future report will provide more detailed information about the findings of the joint patrols and enforcement and service outcomes (data is being collected; resources not yet fully in place to co-ordinate that information) however as an example, the following information is provided for some of the enforcement activities (from police data only) since 4<sup>th</sup> August – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2003:
- Total of 151 police officer days of which 82 were allocated to joint patrols and 'partnership' working days
  - Number of 'Stops' – 363 people (some of whom will be the same clients)
  - 30 arrests for a range of offences ranging from begging, supplying & possession of controlled drugs, urinating in public/drunken, drunk and incapable/disorderly, theft, burglary and others.

#### **4.0 Impact upon services**

There has been no significant increased pressures upon the 'gateway' service (Addaction) which provides access to treatment and advice services. However, other services, including New Steine Mews and the Regency House Project are engaging with client drinkers who they know are at risk, and discussing and supporting those clients. St. Patrick's Hostel is however experiencing some increased service pressure on staff to engage drinking clients in their immediate outside area and on 'their doorstep'. There are also reports of an increased number of clients attempting to enter their premises with alcohol. There has however, been a negligible increase in demands upon the Big Issue service.

As anticipated, the DPPO has had the greatest impact on Equinox and there has been an increased demand for the Centres services. However, this increased demand has coincided with additional weekend opening (funding for that had been achieved some time ago) therefore while placing the staff under pressure, the Centre has been able to absorb that increased demand. Clients have not been turned away (although they have been 'waiting' to get into the building; we are aware of the urgent need for increased management of external space/Pavilion Gardens). There has been a noticeable increase in the need for urgent medical attention for the clients during this period.

The manager of Equinox is positive about the joint working relationship with the police/street outreach patrols – they are visiting four/five days out of seven, and are working both inside and outside of the building. It is essential that level

of joint working is maintained. Extra police attention is being requested for Friday (Centre closes at 1/00pm) and for more regular, council cleaning/graffiti removal.

Addressing the issues of Equinox is co-ordinated with dealing with those issues in the Pavilion Gardens and immediate vicinity. There is still a high level of concern by Pavilion Staff and that has been exacerbated by a small number of serious incidents in the Gardens (some not related to Equinox clients). Assertive management of the external space around the Centre is essential and in making bids for new money, providing Equinox with a staff member who can provide that has been prioritised. Recruitment of an additional staff member is taking place next week and operational arrangements are to be agreed with Pavilion staff.

## **5.0 Other 'hot-spot' areas.**

Feedback from residents is mixed. For example in the following hot-spot areas:-

**Norfolk Square:** Well attended public meetings are being held in Norfolk Square and there is a clear view that while the problem is not 'sorted', the joint patrols have made a difference, numbers have reduced and there is a reduction in anti-social incidents. Significantly, the DPPPO and the targeted action has been the catalyst for residents feeling motivated to work together and with council officers to 'reclaim the square!' A number of actions have been identified and have begun to be implemented which are aimed to improve the physical appearance of the Square and to bring about a change in its use – and with a commitment to sustain that process of change. The Urban Design Team is involved in that process.

**St. James's Street:** Unsurprisingly, given the long time scale and extent of the problem in St. James's Street, expectations about a hoped for positive impact of the DPPPO were high. Equally high, was the concern that a citywide DPPPO would displace the street drinking problem away from other areas and back into St. James's Street and dilute police attention away from the Street. A continuing problem in St. James Street and a number of serious incidents has had the effect of confirming residents/traders worst fears and those views have and will continue to be expressed very strongly to the council and police. Tackling the problems in St. James Street will remain a high priority until we have brought about the essential change.

## **6.0 Additional Resources and an invitation to be a 'Flagship Authority'**

As the Community Safety Forum are aware, extra resources have already been obtained this year which, together with 'top-up' allocations from our Partnership Allocation and Basic Command Unit funding, have enabled the appointment of an Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, a caseworker, a dedicated solicitor and two Youth Inclusion Support Workers. The Co-ordinators time has so far been largely dedicated towards addressing adult

anti-social behaviour, developing the Enforcement Strategy for the DPP0, contributing to partnership working, particularly with Street Outreach Services and establishing joint City wide protocols including case conferencing arrangements. Some training has been delivered to magistrates and others – working with Camden and Westminster. Work 'in progress' includes revising (with eb4U) operational guidance which mainstreams good practice and expertise to a wider range of council and other staff in the City (including businesses, housing associations).

The Community Safety Team has had the support of the Home Office in this work – and particularly from the specialist Anti-Social Behaviour Unit in the Home Office who attend the Project Board for the DPP0. The Enforcement Strategy developed for the implementation of the DPP0 has gained the approval of the Unit. Additional resources have been allocated therefore which will fund two specialist street outreach staff, to be jointly managed by the Community Safety Team and Street Outreach Team of Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI). These staff are specifically to address street anti-social behaviour. In addition, the allocation will fund the additional worker for Equinox and an additional worker for the Foundation Programme, jointly delivered between Equinox and CRI.

The allocation is in the region of £70,000 in the current year, £150,000 in 2004/05 and – if performance is good – a further allocation will be made for 2005/06. Recruitment interviews are next week and meetings with the Home Office representative to agree monitoring and other arrangements.

Following this, Brighton & Hove has been invited to be a 'flagship authority' in terms of addressing street anti-social behaviour. The Chief Executive is to attend a meeting with the Home Office, also next week to discuss those arrangements.

Recruitment of ten additional Police Community Support Officers is underway, bringing the total to 20.

Linda Beanlands  
Community Safety Manager.

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