

**Brighton & Hove City Council**

**For general release**

**Meetings:** **Responsible Authorities Partnership/Drug and Alcohol Action Team**

**Environment Committee**

**Community Safety Forum**

**Dates:** **25<sup>th</sup> June 2004**  
**1<sup>st</sup> July 2004**  
**5<sup>th</sup> July 2004 \**

**Report of:** **Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator**

**Subject:** **Anti Social Behaviour: Progress report in tackling anti-social behaviour in neighbourhoods and the City centre**

**Wards affected:** **All**

## **1.0 Purpose of the report and policy context**

1.1 This report has two purposes; it is to -

- provide an update on progress in tackling anti-social behaviour in neighbourhoods and in the city centre and to highlight some key and emerging issues
- seek approval for a strategy to tackle begging and street drinking between 2004-06

## **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 That the Responsible Authorities Partnership, Environment Committee and Community Safety Forum note the significant progress in tackling anti-social behaviour in neighbourhoods and in the city centre.

2.2 That the Responsible Authorities Partnership, Environment Committee and Community Safety Forum approve the Tackling Street Drinking and Begging Strategy 2004-2006

2.3 That the Responsible Authorities Partnership, Environment Committee and Community Safety Forum note that much of this work is currently funded from initiative funding; that funding begins to reduce for some

posts and activities from March 2005 and under current arrangements ends completely in March 2006.

### **3.0 Information/Background**

3.1 Dealing with anti-social behaviour is clearly identified as a priority in the Community Safety & Crime Reduction Strategy 2002-05. The Strategy sets out in its action plan, a range of measures, which were, identified as first steps towards developing a co-ordinated and consistent approach for the city as a whole.

3.2 Since recruitment of an Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator in April 2003, a more detailed delivery plan has been put in place to deliver those outcomes first set out in the Strategy. This delivery plan is based on principles, which balance a range of measures, from early intervention, support and diversion, particularly for young people, through to assertive enforcement combined with help in accessing treatment, most frequently for adults. The aim is to prevent and reduce anti-social behaviour in the immediate term – and to sustain those changes for the future.

3.3 The roles, skills and work programmes of staff in the Anti Social Behaviour Team are allocated to deliver those aims and principles and the specific actions set out in delivery plans. Joint management and partnership arrangements are in place, which establish a multi-disciplinary approach and a full range of skills. A full Team structure chart is appended; the Team includes

- Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
- Youth Inclusion & Support Project Team – for Hangleton & Knoll
- Solicitor. A Legal Support Assistant is in the process of recruitment
- Caseworkers - dedicated to work with young people and with communities delivering Neighbourhood Action Plans within the Neighbourhood Renewal process
- Street Outreach Team of Crime Reduction Initiatives to work with the street population and help deliver the DPPO and Trailblazer begging target. (There are also two workers based in Equinox).

### **4.0 Funding and partnership arrangements**

4.1 Funding and support for the team has been secured from the following key partners

- Home Office - Anti Social Behaviour Unit
- Government Office for the South East
- Recovered Assets Fund
- Children's Fund

- Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
- Sussex Police Basic Command Unit Funding

4.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team Project budget from April 2003 to March 2006 is £724,867. In addition to funding the dedicated staff above and some legal costs, this allocation also funds a staff member based within Equinox – the ‘wet’ drink crisis day centre. The staff member is solely focused on ‘doorstep’ and environment management and has specific responsibilities to deal with anti-social behaviour. A second member of staff is also funded to work within the Foundation Programme based at Day Service Provider (Crime Reduction Initiatives) and working with clients engaged in anti-social behaviour, drug misuse and alcohol dependency.

4.3 The team has established wider partnership and joint working arrangements, which further add to the overall resources dedicated to tackling anti-social behaviour in the City. Brighton & Hove Police Division have allocated a Police Officer post whose role is work across the City, assisting in evidence gathering on individual cases and building expertise within the police service. In addition, a Police Sergeant leads operations, which include joint police, and street outreach patrols as well as other targeted operations to deal with street drinkers and beggars, drawing upon Police Community Support Officers and police officer support when necessary. Most recently, the Crown Prosecution Service appointed a dedicated Prosecutor for Sussex with whom we have begun to work very closely.

## **5.0 Priority areas of work**

5.1 The priority is to establish good practice and expertise in tackling all types of anti-social behaviour perpetrated by young people and adults and to mainstream the skills and expertise throughout our services across the city. Broadly, that work falls into two areas:

- Anti-social behaviour, which occurs largely in neighbourhoods and is perpetrated by individuals and households. This includes that perpetrated young people (sometimes in groups) as well as the use of the new powers to close premises within which dealing of Class A drugs is being organised
- Anti-social behaviour which occurs in the city centre and is perpetrated by street drinkers, beggars and others who, although a high proportion of them are housed, participate in the ‘street culture’, drinking ‘schools’, drug misuse and associated intimidation and incivilities which arise

## **6.0 Anti-social behaviour which occurs in neighbourhoods**

6.1 Dealing with neighbourhood based anti-social behaviour is a clear priority in tackling anti-social behaviour and is clearly stated in the Anti Social behaviour Policy Statement 2004/05 that accompanies a Policy, Procedure and Guidance package approved by the Policy & Resources Committee in January 2004.

Effective working and partnership links are established and developed with partner agencies throughout the neighbourhoods across the city including -

- New Deal for Communities (eb4u); Community Safety Team in East Brighton
- Council housing management services have appointed specialist anti-social behaviour housing officers who work to the agreed city wide, procedures
- Work is in progress to establish the expertise and delivery of remedies against the city wide procedures with Registered Social Landlords (Housing Associations)
- Monthly multi-agency planning meetings on individual cases which oversee consistent delivery of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and other legal/civil remedies
- Local Neighbourhood Police Teams
- Neighbourhood Renewal Fund communities across the city
- Local Action Teams throughout the city
- Residents, traders and local community groups such as in Norfolk Square and St. James Street

## **7.0 Anti-social behaviour, which occurs in the City centre**

7.1 Following on from the city wide Designated Public Places Order to deal with anti-social behaviour associated with public drinking, an Enforcement Strategy was developed and approved which put in place principles and working practices which deliver police and street outreach joint working arrangements. We were in a good position therefore to respond to the approach from the Home Office to be one of five CDRP's (the others are Leeds, Bristol, Camden and Westminster) to be a 'Trailblazer' in reducing begging. The partnership working arrangements for the DPPPO have therefore, been extended to deliver a begging reduction target of 60% by March 2005. Monthly counts of beggars (and street drinkers) are being carried out (as well as 24 hour counts in March and September each year). The counts have established a baseline figure of 33 beggars and our target by March 2005 is 13. The count completed on 4/5<sup>th</sup> June found 11 beggars.

7.2 The Trailblazer responsibilities have helped in attracting further funding from the Home Office, Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and enabled us to carry on with partnership services which balance engaging the client group, delivering interventions and treatment options with enforcement. The

work is raising issues of wide significance. For example, issues in relation to access to drug and alcohol treatment services for the most chaotic and entrenched clients engaged in street based anti-social behaviour. This is the subject of a separate report that will be considered at a forthcoming meeting of the Responsible Authorities Partnership and Drug and Alcohol Action Team.

- 7.3 A comprehensive strategy has been prepared which sets out the full range of actions which will be delivered over the next two years in order to effectively tackle street drinking, begging and street culture issues. This is appended for your consideration and approval.
- 7.4 The involvement of the Home Office has extended to include other activities of the Public Safety Division. For example, it has helped to raise the profile of targetted operations to deal with abandoned vehicles (including a Sussex wide Initiative). A mobile vehicle crusher was brought to the City by the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, raising the profile of the Operation. Other targetted operations have also highlighted and raised the profile of the work of the Inspection & Enforcement Team and the 'Hotspot Audit' work programme.

## **8.0 Summary of key achievements since April 2003**

- Completion of staff recruitment processes and internal joint management and partnership arrangements and procedures in place.
- A total of 47 interim & full Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) currently in place across the city.
- The application of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders on Conviction by Brighton & Hove Magistrates, resulting in 8 ASBO's being imposed on street drinkers and beggars.
- The introduction of a complete and effective package of Policy, Procedure and Guidance documents designed for use across the city and ensuring consistent and best practice.
- Development work on an agreed Protocol with the police in relation to closure of 'Class A' premises.
- Agreed process on 'Dispersal of Groups' outputs through the monthly Multi-Agency Planning Meeting.
- Clear work plans in place for ASB Team into 2005

## **9.0 Consultation**

- 9.1 The consultation process commenced in May 2004 and final comments, feedback and amendments have been received from the following key partner agencies;

- The Designated Public Places Order Review Group membership
- Crime Reduction Initiatives (Street Outreach Services Team)

- Addaction
- Equinox
- Rough Sleepers, Single Homeless & Support Services Strategy Manager
- Home Office Anti Social Behaviour Unit
- Single Homeless Strategy-Supported Housing Sub Group Membership

Contact Officer:

Aaron Devereaux, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator

Tel: 292 607