

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Safer City Partnership	27 September 2018
Subject: Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Progress	
Report of: Community Safety Team	For Information
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>To advise SCP Members of the progress in developing the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for the City of London.</p> <p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>Members are asked to note this report and offer advice and suggestions on the way forward.</p>	

Update on the Development of an Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for the City of London

1. In the City of London anti-social behaviour (ASB) is addressed by a range of partners, including statutory public bodies such as the City Police and the City Corporation, private sector landlords and third sector organisations.
2. In order to understand the current challenges as well as identify areas that need special support and attention the Community Safety Team (CST) have met with most of the agencies responsible for the different types of ASB that affect our communities in the City.
3. In recent years we have seen many changes that affect how we respond to ASB locally. For example, new ASB legislation in 2014 introduced a new set of tools and powers, increase on expensive private housing, and a growing night time economy that has brought new groups of people into the City. At the same time, we have been experiencing a national housing crisis, a fall in police numbers and cuts in front-line services.

4. It is evident that while the City experiences lower levels of ASB than most London local authorities we are also faced with different challenges than other local authorities would such as big numbers of people who are not residents or with no connection to the City coming to the city for many different reasons on a daily basis however most of these people would have no access to free or public services in the City making it more difficult to address problems in the same way other local authorities do.
5. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues requires good internal co-operation as well as effective partnership working with all agencies. For the purpose of building up the strategy the CST met with the following teams:
 - a. City of London Police
 - b. Guinness Partnership
 - c. City of London Corporation Housing
 - d. Barbican
 - e. Rough sleeping and Homelessness Team
 - f. Street Enforcement and Noise
 - g. Adult Social Care
 - h. WDP
 - i. Open Spaces
6. The challenges we have captured from those teams are described below, some of them wouldn't like to be named but still important for all of us to understand their challenges.
 - I. Four teams/agencies said they had problems information sharing with the police and felt there was no clear channel for referrals to the them. Often it would be a generic email or rely on existing relationships. One team also felt that whilst they shared information with the police the police would never update them on the case.
 - II. On the other hand, although the police would receive information from other agencies they would also experience the same when it comes to updates and they wouldn't normally be invited to meetings organised by social care.
 - III. Six teams expressed a concern when it comes to support from the legal team. A need for more expertise from legal and willingness to act in a shorter period of time.
 - IV. One team stated that it was necessary to have a police presence when dealing with confrontational rough sleepers as they are not trained to deal with it.
 - V. One team felt that many of the City agencies did not have a clear view of what their team does and needed to have a better understanding of rough sleeping, homelessness and begging.

- VI. Many teams stated the usefulness of Parkguard. One team expressed an interest in getting CSAS powers for Parkguard whilst another suggested extending the existing contract to a jointly paid City-wide contract.
 - VII. One team emphasised the need for an ASB post which could also task Parkguard.
 - VIII. A few teams felt that a more consistent message was needed around the City Corporation's response to rough sleeping and the separate issue of begging.
 - IX. A few teams felt unclear about who to contact if the ASB activity taking place was not considered criminal activity as the police won't take those calls i.e. littering and urination.
 - X. Two teams expressed the need for more education around tools and powers and who can use them/enforce them.
7. With the first challenges from point I and II, the CST has acquired a new system 'E-CINS' that will allow all partners to record, manage and share information in a safe and secure way. We hope that this system will allow us to work better as a partnership. The system is also compliant with GDPR.
8. This system will be available for all members of the partnership; however, this is on a voluntary basis and some agencies have already expressed that they have other systems and don't want to join the system at the moment due to a duplication of work. We hope in time most of the agencies from the partnership will see the benefits of ECINS and therefore we will be able to share information with all agencies.
9. From the other feedback given to us and further conversations with all teams we can highlight the following areas that are in need of clear procedures and responsibilities:
- a. ASB in the streets and public spaces (Urination and defecation, begging, street drinking and substance misuse) Appendix A
 - b. Young people and ASB
 - c. ASB in private property
10. When we talk about ASB in public places it is important to understand that if the persons responsible for these problems were rough sleeping in the Square Mile or were City residents we still have the same responsibility to stop the problem. Therefore, even though a big amount of the ASB in the streets can be caused from people perceived as rough sleepers it needs to be clear that we are not targeting rough sleeping but we are trying to put a stop to ASB related activity taking place.
11. Currently we don't have a clear multi-agency procedure or a lead agency responsible to enforce ASB occurring in the street and public places. Although we have more people coming into the City for the night time economy and at the

weekends, the number of police officers in the City is a lot lower than what it used to be, so issues such as begging are not priority for the police as they have other high priority areas.

12. The Street Enforcement team (City Corporation's Public Protection) mainly deals with businesses and noise when it is part of the residential property. So ASB in the streets is something they wouldn't normally deal with themselves as they do lone shifts and there is a certain expectation that the police could deal with this issue. However, when it comes to low level ASB such as littering, urination and defecation the police have said they don't have the numbers to respond to that type of issues and would like the City Corporation to play a more active role.
13. The tools and powers given to police and local authorities in the ASB, Crime and Policing Act allow different agencies to be able to use them. However, the Act doesn't specify who is the main responsible agency for using these tools and powers or in what situations a particular agency should use them, therefore it's up to us to define how we are going to use them, by what teams and in what situations.
14. ASB enforcement in the street and public places have historically been led by the police, however as the human resources of the force have changed and the number of officers in response and communities' teams have declined there is a need for a decision to be made on how to proceed in this area in a way that we can all help each other through these changing times.
15. When we talk about young people and ASB, we are talking about people under 18 that can be perpetrators of ASB. Although we wouldn't say we have a big number of them we have experienced problems in this area and when they are not residents from a housing estate there is no clear role/responsible team assigned to problem solve or follow up cases.
16. Lastly, we now have more residents in private property than ever before, therefore we have seen with the community trigger and cases raised in the Community MARAC that although there are agencies to look at different ASB issues, there isn't one that looks at the impact on the victim from a wholesome perspective.
17. All agencies named above are aware of the issues from an operational response level, but we need more collaboration from decision makers in order to steer the strategy in the right way.
18. All Members of the SCP have a role in the development of this strategy and your thoughts and contributions are welcomed.

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Appendix 1

Anti-social behaviour in street and public places

Street drinking and drug using

Most visible group to the public causing nuisance or anxiety to members of the local community including businesses or public services. Mainly label as rough sleepers because of their appearance. In the City regularly associated with a particular public area (e.g. a park, street or building), if not necessarily always with precisely the same place. Often street drinkers or users are likely to be people who: live alone, are marginally housed or homeless, probably in part, because of their lifestyle; might be unemployed and living on benefits; are addicted to substances and seek company with others with the same issues; resist changing their addictions or habits; are spending a large proportion of any income on alcohol and/or drugs. Most of them will come to the City to get money to support their addiction through begging.

Begging

Begging is a crime. Begging and rough sleeping are not the same thing and people who beg are not necessarily homeless. The majority of this group is mostly in the City during peak hours (or later in summer) to get money from City workers and people out enjoying the night time economy and use begging as a source of income. Some of them might be trafficked or part of organized crime but in their majority, they are there because it's a lucrative activity.

Appendix 2

Options to improve our current response

Legal Support

Legal team will improve the support they give to us in regard to tools and power. A protocol on how to use them will be signed by them.

DCCS or Public Protection/SEO

Taking the roles of existing gaps.

Taking injunctions, CPN's and other tools

ASB Operational Specialised Role

Where would this sit?

Officer able to coordinate tools and powers; and take ASB injunctions to court.



Parkguard CSAS Powers

This can only work if the ASB officer is able to task Parkguard to collect evidence.

Appendix 3

Use of tools and powers

Civil Injunctions

Tackle people repetitively engaging in street and public places anti-social behaviour

Criminal Behaviour Order

Issued by any criminal court when a person is convicted of a criminal offence. Like a CI, a CBO can impose requirements as well as prohibitions.

Community Protection Notice

Can direct a person or organisation to stop a behaviour, or make requirements of them to take specified actions to prevent a problem reoccurring

Public Spaces Protection Order

Place restrictions or impose conditions on activities that people may carry out in designated areas.