

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Safer City Partnership	29 November 2018
Subject:	
Community Safety Team Update	
Report of:	For Information
Community Safety Officer	
Summary	
<p>To update SCP members on activity by the Community Safety Team on the Progress of work in terms of responses to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) problems and the development of a City Strategy.</p>	
<p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>Members are asked to note the report.</p>	

Summary

This report updates SCP Members on the work of the Community Safety team in developing an effective ASB strategy for the City of London.

As part of this process several challenges have been identified.

This paper looks at both current and emerging responses to ASB effecting our streets and public places.

Current response

1. Within the City of London Corporation, we have many teams that deal with various aspects of ASB. These include the Housing team, Environmental team and Street Enforcement Officers. The City of London Police also play a significant role and have often provided a level of service not seen in other local authority areas. Different teams and agencies have different powers and tools. There are significant variations in terms of experience and understanding.
2. When talking about ASB on City streets we are not only thinking about the legal definition from the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, that is (a) conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to

any person, (b) conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises, or (c) conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person, but also the broader impact it may have. This could include the detrimental effects on the local community and local businesses. In many cases it also directly impacts on staff or contractors who work to keep the City a clean, pleasant and attractive location.

3. One of the City's specific and ongoing challenges has been dealing with individuals who spend a significant part of their lives on our streets. Some of these are homeless, many are not.
4. Being homeless or rough sleeping are not crimes. The City deploys considerable resources to help people off the streets and into accommodation. However, rough sleeping, public perception and begging opportunities contribute to an environment where the City is seen by some as a desirable location to engage in behaviours that do fall within the scope of ASB.
5. A specific challenge is that many of these individuals are not City residents nor do they qualify as having a connection to the City. This significantly reduces access to a range of services (e.g. substance misuse, there are also challenges around access to mental health services).
6. Another challenge exists around agreed definitions and understanding. ASB in the streets includes issues such as drug taking, urination, defecation, littering, obstruction of the public path and begging. Often these problems are bundled together and seen as being associated by agencies and much of the public with rough sleeping. Some of our perpetrators have had housing (or offers of accommodation) in other areas and have been travelling into the City for opportunistic reasons, with many only being present during the day. Many rough sleepers do not engage in any form of ASB or nuisance. Nor should we lose sight of the fact that other groups also generate ASB concerns.
7. There are a range of tools and powers which allow local authorities to respond to ASB issues. However, their use, and application requires careful consideration. In many cases there is a need or benefit in demonstrating that suitable services and provision has been offered before a legal process can be commenced. As an example, the use of Fixed Penalty Notices for urination or defecation are clearly more reasonable in areas where there are publicly available toilets.
8. To illustrate two different scenarios of the challenge we currently face in the City we shall be tabling two case studies. These are provided to inform members of current issues and to prompt debate about improving our responses.

Recent Activity

9. Over the course of this year there has been significant activity in this area. The CST has provided a series of training events for Corporation and CoLP colleagues to improve awareness of the issues around ASB and potential responses. Considerable work has gone into improving recording of incidents. There have also been a series of meetings with staff (at operational and management level) to look at current practice and explore potential ways forward.
10. To improve the management of specific cases we have also purchased the E-cins, information system. This is used in many areas around the country and supports the sharing of relevant information between key agencies. It is currently being rolled out within the teams most engaged in responses to ASB.
11. Additionally, we have secured funding to support a dedicated, specialist co-ordination post. This will help us advance the development of a City wide ASB strategy while boosting our capabilities. This post should be live from early 2019. resource.

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