

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny – Sub Committee

19th September 2019

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer

Mrs. Karen Jones

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Anti-Social Behaviour

Purpose of Report

To update Members on the work and responsibilities of the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) team.

Executive Summary

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced responsibilities on local authorities and other responsible bodies in respect of anti-social behaviour. This report provides details on the categories of ASB recorded from January to July 2019, and the work of the ASB team. It highlights that the work of the team is intelligence led. The ASB team adopt a problem solving approach; developing strategies in partnership with other agencies to put action plans in place to address local issues of concern. The work of the Street Vulnerability Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (SV MARAC) is noted alongside other examples of the intelligence led approach. Performance Indicator CP/037 (Number of repeat ASB victims) is detailed in the Partnership & Community Cohesion Quarterly Performance Indicator report.

Background

Powers to tackle anti-social behaviour were introduced through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Home Office published statutory guidance in July 2014 to support the effective use of these new powers and

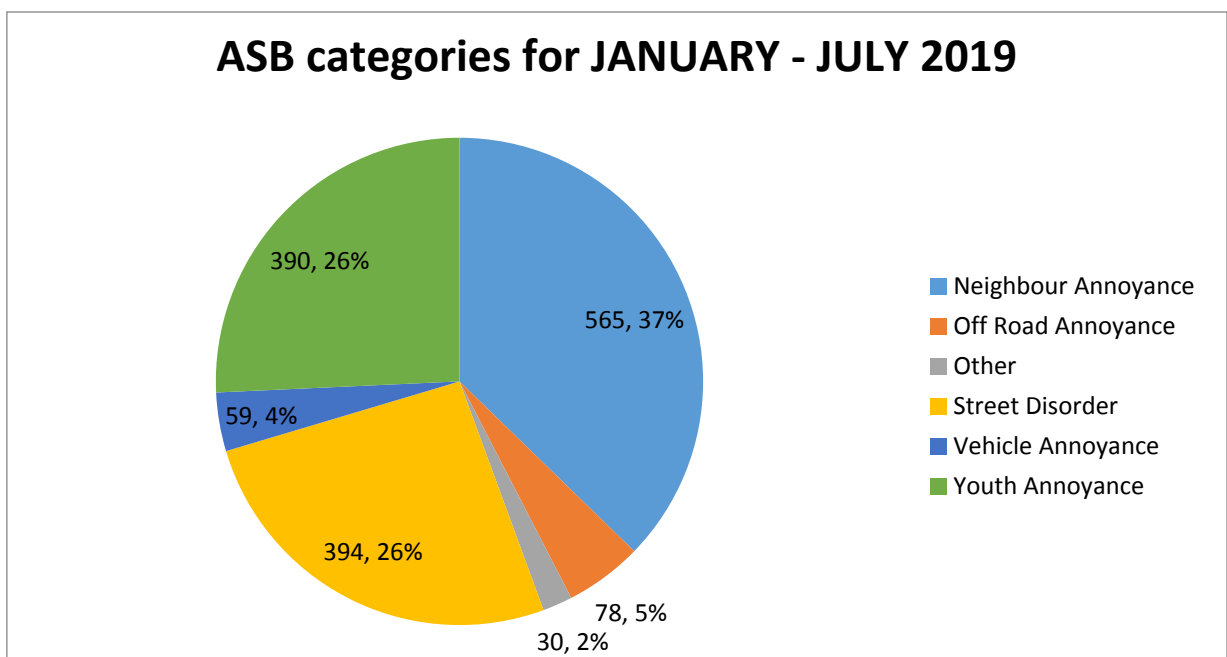
ensure that there is a greater focus on the impact of anti-social behaviour on victims and on their needs.

It is incumbent on the LA and its partners to ensure that the relevant legal tests are met before the powers are used, underlining the importance of ensuring that the use of the powers are focused on specific behaviour that is antisocial or causing nuisance. In addition the importance of local consultation, accountability and transparency are emphasised and underpin the work of the team.

ASB Categories and work of the team

During the last year the Neath Port Talbot Anti-social Behaviour team have been involved in a number of projects aimed at tackling and reducing unacceptable behaviour in local communities. The team use an intelligence led approach and problem solving strategies in partnership with local statutory and third sector agencies to put action plans in place to address local issues of concern. Attached at Appendix one is a brief summary of incidents of interest.

The pie chart below shows the ASB categories recorded for the period January – July 2019. Neighbour annoyance, youth annoyance and street disorder are the main issues recorded for this period. Please see Appendix two for breakdown by ward.



The team provide regular updates at the Community Safety Partnership and use this forum to escalate any issues that cannot be resolved by partners at an operational level.

SV MARAC

The SV MARAC is a multi- agency forum set up with local partners to support people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless; meetings are held bi-monthly. Support is available to anyone who is street vulnerable in Neath Port Talbot. During the past 2 years that the group have been meeting, 42 referrals have been received and 14 people are currently being monitored, 1 person refused to engage and 17 no longer require support. The group have recently been made aware of the issue of severe infections in people who inject drugs. This matter has been escalated to the CSP Board group and further work will be done to support people who are at risk.

Responsible Giving scheme

The 'Have a Heart, Give Smart', was launched in September 2018 and the donation boxes were collected during May 2019. The amount raised was £227.75, and it is important to note that all of this money will be used to support people in Neath and Port Talbot. The Community Safety Team and South Wales Police Officers held an information session in Neath town centre during April 2019, to talk to members of the public about their thoughts on the Diverted Giving Scheme. The feedback was very positive with people saying they are now providing food and drink rather than giving money and if they were to give money they would do so through a donation point.

Priorities for the next 6 months

The priorities for the team over the next six months include

- Continue to monitor ASB in Neath town centre.
- Support the Street Vulnerable MARAC.
- Promote the Have a Heart Scheme
- Work with partner agencies regarding the increased drug activity in Neath and Port Talbot town centres.

- Maintain the empty properties register with M&WW Fire Service

Financial Impact

No implications.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring / information purposes.

Workforce Impact

No implications.

Legal Impact

See section below.

Crime and Disorder Impact

The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with “due regard to the need to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area”.

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area

Risk Management

There are reputational and legal risks to the Local Authority if it fails to address ASB

Consultation

There is no requirement under the Constitution for consultation on this item.

Appendices

Appendix one Incidents
Appendix two ASB stats report Jan-July 2019

List of Background Papers:

None

Officer Contact

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Appendix One

Port Talbot Bus Station

During the past year there have been issues of youth annoyance towards taxi drivers, who have reported being racially abused. Bottles and other items of rubbish have also been thrown at their cars. The situation is currently being monitored by the Hate Crime Officer for SWP, together with wider partnership work to allay concerns.

More recently there has been drug paraphernalia found in the toilets and photos posted on social media. The matter has been referred to the Neath Port Talbot Problem Solving Group to provide a multi-agency approach to deal with the issues.

Vivian Park

There has been an increase in ASB being reported from neighbours of the park about young people's behaviour during evenings and weekends. SWP are currently carrying out Operation Oakfern in the Port Talbot area over the summer months. Patrols will be increased around Vivian Park and a PCSO will accompany the caretaker at locking-up time to support them when asking the young people to leave respectfully. A Paws on Patrol event in August will allow services to engage with residents to find out if the situation has improved.

Wern Works

The APB Team were notified of concerns around escalated fly-tipping and arson at the Wern Works site. The APB Team convened a multi-agency meeting and developed an action plan to endeavour to reduce the risk and threat associated with the building. Clearly for a site of this size it is important that partners work together to mitigate the risks. Although it is important to note that the owners of the site are responsible for it.

The APB Team advised colleagues on the legislation available and actions taken in other LA areas. Since the meeting more fly-tipping has taken place, along with numerous fires at the site. Work continues to be carried out by partners including gathering evidence on vehicles that are caught on CCTV dumping at the site.



Above - July 2019



Left - August 2019.

Far-right Graffiti

There has been reports of a swastika being displayed on a Neath address and other far right wing graffiti, which have necessitated a response.

Drug Use in Victoria Gardens

The APB Team have worked with staff in the gardens to ensure any drug use/dealing is reported to SWP as soon as possible and that photographic evidence is passed on. SWP felt that the increase in activity was due to a property providing temporary accommodation for vulnerable people in Neath town centre; the accommodation was closed which led to a drop in drug issues in the gardens. Unfortunately there have been further issues of drug debris being found in Neath and Port Talbot town centres so the matter has been referred to the NPT Problem Solving Group for a joint approach to tackling the problem.

Appendix Two

Statistical Report Anti-social Behaviour January – July 2019

Ward Description	Incident Category						Total
	Neighbour Annoyance	Off road Annoyance	Other	Street Disorder	Vehicle Annoyance	Youth Annoyance	
Aberavon ED	36	1	3	22	5	41	108
Aberdulais ED	4		2	2		1	9
Allt-Wen ED	3				2	1	6
Baglan ED	12	1	1	9	2	8	33
Blaengwrach ED	1	1	1	3		1	7
Briton Ferry East ED	25	1	1	8		8	43
Briton Ferry West ED	30	1	1	1	1	2	36
Bryn and Cwmavon ED	34	16	1	11	2	18	82
Bryn-Coch North ED				3		1	4
Bryn-Coch South ED	15	1		12	3	12	43
Cadoxton ED	2			3	1	4	10
Cimla ED	7		2	2	1	4	16
Clydach ED		1				1	2
Coedffranc Central ED	17			8		5	30
Coedffranc North ED	6		1	2		2	11
Coedffranc West ED	13	2		3	1	7	26
Crynant ED	2	4		1			7

Cwmllynfell ED				1		1	2
Cymmer ED	7	2		6		8	23
Dyffryn ED	14	1	2	7	10	6	40
Glyncorrwg ED	1	1		1		1	4
Glynneath ED	15			3	2	4	24
Godre'r Graig ED	8		1	2		2	13
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen ED	10	2		3		3	18
Gwynfi ED	2			1		1	4
Lower Brynamman ED	14			1	1		16
Margam ED	11	3		7	6	9	36
Neath East ED	51	4	1	39		42	137
Neath North ED	21		2	144	1	23	191
Neath South ED	40	4	3	9	1	8	65
Onllwyn ED	3	1	1	2	1	3	11
Pelenna ED	5	4				4	13
Pontardawe ED	19	4		8	6	13	50
Port Talbot ED	14		3	18	4	29	68
Resolven ED	12	2		5	1	3	23
Rhos ED	4			2			6
Sandfields East ED	37	1	2	13	4	56	113
Sandfields West ED	19	2	2	7	1	26	57
Seven Sisters ED	5	2		7	1	9	24

St. Thomas ED				1			1
Tai-bach ED	25	5		11	1	16	58
Tonna ED	4			2		1	7
Trebanos ED	1						1
Ystalyfera ED	16	11		3	1	6	37
Total	565	78	30	394	59	390	1,515

ASB categories for JANUARY - JULY 2019

