



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL  
NEATH PORT TALBOT SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY BOARD**

**26<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Report of the Interim Head of Housing & Communities – Chele  
Howard**

**Matter for Information**

**Wards Affected** All Wards

**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND HOMELESSNESS**

**Purpose of the Report**

To introduce and accompany a presentation by officers on Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and Homelessness

**Executive Summary**

Officers of Neath Port Talbot Council (NPTC) and South Wales Police (SWP) will give a presentation, which provides an over-view of the legislation and duties in respect of antisocial behaviour and homelessness.

**Background:**

The presentation will provide an over-view of the legislation and duties on the Council and SWP in respect of antisocial behaviour and homelessness.

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998), as amended by the Police Reform Act (2002), places a statutory obligation on local authorities and the

Police to form multi-agency partnerships in order to reduce crime and disorder across the local authority area. The Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership operates a multi-agency partnership approach to community safety and crime and disorder issues.

The Community Safety partnership is committed to working together to achieve sustainable reductions in crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour as well as providing practical crime prevention and community safety advice and reassurance.

Safer Neath Port Talbot is made up of the following statutory partners:

- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- South Wales Police
- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) is one of the priority areas of the Safer NPT Partnership Board. It is important to note that South Wales Police have the statutory responsibility for ASB, however NPTCBC Community Safety Team work closely with SWP to tackle any local issues in partnership, however the team has no enforcement powers. The Community Safety Partnership takes a solution focused approach, with all partners active in finding and agreeing appropriate solutions.

There are many links between ASB related issues and homelessness, and one of the key areas for joint working is through the Street Vulnerability Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). The ASB Coordinator in the Community Safety Team has the responsibility for organising and overseeing the Street Vulnerability MARAC. At these meetings, partners meet to discuss individuals in our community who are affected by homelessness and may need additional support, as well as added interventions to deter them from crime and / or anti-social behaviour. A key role of this meeting is to share vital information on the individuals known to their service, and actions are agreed by partners in respect of support.

There are other examples, including addressing concerns of ASB in our town centres, where the respective services have worked closely and effectively.

From a homelessness perspective the presentation will highlight the statutory homelessness duties on the Council in respect of households applying to local authorities for housing assistance and local housing authorities' activities under the Housing Wales Act 2014. This includes the prevention and relief of homelessness as well as the number of homeless households in temporary accommodation. This will lead into a summary of current pressures on the service. One of the key issues is the complexity of cases, for example mental health or substance use issues, and this feeds into our important role within the aforementioned Street Vulnerability MARAC.

From a South Wales Police Perspective, the presentation will highlight that ASB is part of both the Chief Constable's Delivery Plan and the drive to maintain Safer Communities, and confirms that SWP provides a robust response to Anti-Social behaviour in its many forms. The presentation reiterates that the response to ASB is in partnership. The presentation highlights the response, duties and how this is managed.

It is clear that ASB and homelessness, cannot be addressed in isolation and the presentation demonstrates the strength of the partnership working in this area.

A more detailed presentation can be provided in the future.

### **Financial Impacts**

No implications.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

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

### **Valleys Communities Impacts**

No implications.

### **Workforce Impacts**

No implications.

### **Legal Impacts**

The report outlines the respective legal duties and impacts.

### **Risk Management Impacts**

No implications.

### **Crime and Disorder Impacts**

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions to have “due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- 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”

The joint-working has a positive impact in respect of this duty.

### **Consultation**

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

### **Appendices**

None.

### **List of Background Papers**

Presentation.

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