



North Tyneside Council

Briefing note

To: Secure Sub Committee

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Title of Briefing: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in North Tyneside

1. Purpose of report

The Committee are invited to consider the information provided by the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing in relation to ongoing work in relation to tackling anti-social behaviour in the borough and any future plans.

2. Safer North Tyneside Partnership

Local community safety partnerships (CSPs) were introduced by Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and bring together local partners to formulate and deliver strategies within their communities to tackle crime and disorder. The Safer North Tyneside Board is responsible for ensuring there are local strategies in place to:

- Reduce crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment),
- Combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances,
- Reduce re-offending, and
- Prevent people from becoming involved in serious violence and reducing instances of serious violence.

The Safer North Tyneside Partnership monitors actions delivered through its various subgroups, one of which being the ASB Strategy Group. The ASB Strategy Group is made up of representatives from North Tyneside Council

and partner agencies including Tyne and Wear Fire Service, Northumbria Police and Nexus.

The Group's aim is to take a public health approach to tackling ASB across the Borough through partnership working and has developed an action plan which incorporates the priorities of the Safer North Tyneside Partnership Plan. These are to:

- Review data sets to improve analytical capability and share information across partners
- Work in partnership with Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue and Nexus to reduce ASB in identified hotspot areas of the borough
- Continue to support victims of anti-social behaviour with multi-agency ASB Case Reviews

3. Delivery of our management of ASB – what are we doing

The Council's Community Protection Team work very closely with Northumbria Police to patrol the open public spaces and our resident estates in the borough, sharing resources and planning individual operations depending upon need and intelligence.

An annual Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment is produced to inform our work, strategies and policies. (A copy of this is provided at appendix 1).

Through this partnership working between our Community Protection Team and Northumbria Police on various projects:

Project Shield

The Community Protection team have carried out 151 hours of high visibility patrols and engaged with a total of 931 residents, member of the public and businesses over the two hotspot areas of Meadow Well and Wallsend Town Centre since May.

The patrols have been focussed during the day on the Meadow Well Estate we have a dedicated officer working with North Shields Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT) around the main issues of youth disorder and Urban Street Gangs activity.

Through this joint working with the Police, we have seen a reported 35% drop in Anti-Social Behaviour when compared to the same time period last year

In Wallsend Town Centre the team have focussed on violent retail crime and are working closely with Wallsend NPT to carry out joint patrols and disrupt groups where possible who are actively shop lifting in the area.

We are also supporting the local businesses and are supporting setting up a forum for these businesses to share concerns, updates, information and as part of Shield to see how we can support all businesses access Shop Watch.

So far whilst out on patrol in Wallsend officers have witnessed three shoplifting offences and reported these to police, issued six fixed penalty notices to people drinking on the street, visited six addresses and applied for one closure order.

Northumbria Police have produced resources to support the retail sector in securing their premises to prevent shoplifting ([Securing your shop from shoplifters | Crime Prevention | Northumbria Police](#)). In the last 12 months Northumbria police have been actively encouraging reporting of shoplifting offences and have seen an increase in successful prosecutions.

Police will prioritise attending thefts where the offender has been detained by store staff, where violence has been used, or where evidence like CCTV is available. There is also an increased focus on giving businesses a voice in the criminal justice process through impact statements, and explaining to prosecutors and courts how retail theft is affecting them and their customers.

Coast Watch

The teams have been patrolling the coastal areas over the summer period and overall, we have seen very few incidents. Families have told us that they have largely been able to enjoy the coast without any issues.

Lessons learnt from previous years we were prepared this year for the GCSE/A levels result days with extra patrols around the hotspot areas and the end of the school year in July 2024. Police used dispersal orders over these key dates to quickly disperse large crowds.

MAST & WISPP

All of the team Community Protection have completed active by-stander training through the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and are using these skills when engaging and intervening when out on patrols.

Between April- November 2024 there have been 82 patrols totalling 268 hours over both projects. MAST (Multi Agency Safer Transport project) focusses on our transport hubs in North Shields, Four Lane Ends and Wallsend.

WisPP (Woman in Safer Public Places) has hi-visibility foot patrols around the North Shields, including the town centre, Royal (Newcastle) Quays/Marina and North Shields Fish Quay. The teams have engaged with members of the public to offer reassurance and on occasions have intervened when they have witnessed incidents. Some of these incidents have involved intervention when women/girls have been harassed by a group of males, females fighting in the street, people intoxicated. We have worked closely with partners to report incidents and supply information.

Operation Respect

Operation Respect was carried out on 25th October with a focus on taking robust action on youths named by police as being involved in disorder and crime on and around North Shields and Meadow well. The operation began with early morning door knocks starting at 7.30am and legal action warnings being issued to parents in private rented/owner occupiers. A total of ten properties were visited leading to tenancy enforcement action on those that were council tenancies.

Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week (18 November – 22 November)

As part of ASB Awareness Week the team worked alongside Northumbria Neighbourhood Team at Wallsend on a joint initiative to tackle Motorbike disorder in the area.

Nationally motorbike and electric scooters are an issue for Police and Local Authorities and during a four-hour shift, seven addresses visited and searched, one off road motorbike was seized, one mini motorcross offroad bike was seized and an electric scooter (which was being rode on the public highway by a 12-year-old child) was seized. Each person was issued with a Section 165 by Police

and the vehicles were uplifted and shall now be destroyed. Patrols were also carried out in hotspot locations during the operation.

Tenure neutral approach

Our approach to managing Anti-Social Behaviour is tenure blind. The Community Protection team can utilise various enforcement powers regardless of tenure type. The team places emphasis on the actions and behaviours of individuals rather than their tenure.

For council tenancies officers the team will look to initially enforce any breaches under the tenancy agreement and can progress to Notice of Seeking Possession and/or Notice of Seeking Demotion or Introductory Notice to Terminate for tenants who have been in their tenancy for less than 12 months.

The team can serve residents and businesses with Community Protection Warnings and Notices against tenant or landlord if they fail to address the Anti-social behaviour of their tenants. The maximum fine for a breach of the CPN for an individual is £2500 and £20,000 for a business. Other powers the team can explore are Legal Action Warning, Injunctions and partial or full Closure Orders on all tenure types.

Community Protection team were granted additional funding from Public Health in 2023/2024 which allowed the team to focus on investigating private-on-private Anti-Social Behaviour, this resulted in 345 cases being investigated. 13 Community Protection Warnings and 4 Community Protection Notices being served. Due to the success of this action, it was also built into the pilot of the NEAT streets initiative to continue managing Anti-Social Behaviour of those in private accommodation during 2024/25. It is proposed that for the future budget 2025/26 it is built into the base budget.

Headlines from Partners – Success

Helen Telford from Move it Dance Studio based at the Memorial Hall in Wallsend, was considering leaving the area due to concerns about anti-social behaviour. However, following the implementation of Project Shield to reduce ASB, the studio has noticed a significant improvement. Here's part of the feedback they provided:

"Massive improvement in ASB, and the visibility of police and the CCTV van is so reassuring. For example, I just saw the police drive by, which coincided with the food bank queue—where we've previously had issues with ASB. The timing of this support has been brilliant and has helped us so much."

It's clear that their efforts are making a real difference in the area!

Working together with Neighbourhood Policing Team in Wallsend, Community Protection Team were able to secure a 3-month Partial Closure Order on a troublesome address in Wallsend. This address was not only a source of ASB, causing distress to neighbours but was also a magnet for more serious crime. Securing this order was down to officers working collaboratively and sharing information in a timely manner and is testament to the partnership working.

Police intelligence

Recent Safer Communities Survey carried out by Northumbria Police shows there is no change in the percentage of residents who think the council do a good or excellent job in their neighbourhood, this remains steady at 50%. This figure is higher than the other local authority area.

4. Future work

Preparedness for Christmas festivities

Community Protection Team will again this year offer support with patrols in the CCTV around the setup of the market and the weekend of 7-8th December when the North Shields Christmas Markets are scheduled.

Historically Anti-Social Behaviour during the darker nights will migrate to undercover, well-lit areas. Hi Visibility Patrols, will continue until week commencing 23rd December at transport hubs across the borough to offer reassurance to the public and disrupt and intervene in any ASB.

Public space assessments are regularly monitored in the run up to the darker nights and updated to ensure overgrown shrubbery is reported to be cut back, lighting is working etc. CCTV vans utilised on all patrols to offer a hi visibility support to partners at Northumbria Police and Tyne and Wear Fire Brigade.

To further strengthen our partnership relationship with Northumbria Police, moving into 2025 we are looking at co working hubs across the borough. These will be based in Council Buildings and will include staff from Community Protection Team, Neighbourhood Police Officers, Neighbourhood Housing Teams and Probation working in the same space to strengthen the team interaction, enhance community safety and streamline resident support.

Research has shown that co-location allows for real time communication and immediate action on issues, reducing delays and improving responses to anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and safeguarding. This model will offer a holistic support to residents who will be able to access multiple services under one roof. The multidisciplinary model at Riverside has demonstrated the success of this approach showing increased communication and collaboration.

North Tyneside Council Environmental Crime and ASB Policy review is underway and is hoped for sharing early 2025

Additionally, the Community Protection are looking at refreshing the offer they currently have to residents who are victims of, or witness to anti-social behaviour. The current model has been successful for many years now but as this is a volunteer led service, we have found over the last 12 months the retention and recruitment of new volunteers has been limited.

5. Data

Overall Crime

Overall, the trend of crimes reported in North Tyneside have decreased by 9.5% at the end of 2023/24 over the last 5 years. The crime rate per 1,000 population in North Tyneside at 84.29 in 2023/24 is significantly lower than the Northumbria Police rate of 97.72 per 1,000 population, but in line with the England rate of 87.67.

As of quarter 2, there were 9,030 crimes reported in North Tyneside during 2024/25 at a rate of 42.64 per 1,000 population, which is consistent with the same 6-month period during 2023/24. The crime rate in North Tyneside is significantly lower than the Northumbria Police Force Rate of 48.31 per 1,000 population.

In 2024/25 up to the end of quarter two, three out of ten crimes committed in North Tyneside were theft offences (shoplifting offences have increased year on year since 2021/22 but remain 10% lower than during 2019/20). One out of five offences violence without injury, 12% criminal damage and arson, 12% violence with injury and 10% public order offences.

By ward, Wallsend Central (75.44/1,000 pop), Chirton & Percy Main (68.18/1,000 pop) and North Shields (62.18/1,000 pop) all have significantly higher crime rates per 1,000 population than the borough rate (42.64).

Anti-Social Behaviour

Overall, over the last 5 years anti-social behaviour reported to Northumbria Police has decreased by 19%. There were 5,533 ASB incidents reported to Northumbria Police during 2023/24, at a rate of 26.13 per 1,000 population, significantly lower than the Northumbria Police Force rate of 18.95 per 1,000 population.

As of quarter two, there were 3,191 anti-social behaviour incidents, at a rate of 15.2 per 1,000 population. This is a marginal increase of 1.8% compared to the same period during the previous year and 3.7% compared to the year before.

The most reported ASB incident type at the end of quarter two was "Other ASB" (40%). 18% of ASB incidents were neighbourly disputes which have decreased by 12% compared to the same period last year. Motorcycle disorder accounted for 13%, while inappropriate use of public space accounted for 14.6% of ASB in quarter two.

By ward, Wallsend Central (31.68/1,000 pop) and North Shields (30.53/1,000 pop) wards experience significantly higher rates of ASB per 1,000 population than the borough rate (15.2).

Perception of Community Safety

Results from the latest resident survey 2024 will not be available until mid-2025. The 2022 Residents Survey results showed that:-

- Proportion of residents stating they feel safe after dark has stabilised and remains in line with the survey conducted in 2021 (46% in 2022 compared to 45% in 2021). The proportion of residents who feel safe after dark in North Tyneside at 46% remains significantly lower than the Local Government Association (LGA) average of 74%.
- Perception of community safety is one of the main key drivers of resident satisfaction in the local area as a place to live. Residents consider low levels of crime and ASB to be two of the most important issues and most in need of improvement.

Women are more likely to state that anti-social behaviour needs improving than men (52% vs. 43% of men). Unemployed residents are also more likely to state that anti-social behaviour needs improving (63% vs. 47% overall). Residents in the Southern area of the borough are more likely to state their priorities are tackling anti-social behaviour and crime

6. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider the report and associated presentation, and if necessary, make recommendations and observations to relevant Cabinet Members.

7. Appendices (if any)

Appendix 1 – Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2023-45