

**ANTO SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – POSSIBLE INQUIRY:  
PAVING REPORT FOR COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE - 16 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**1. SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED:**

**South Wales Police** – suggestion received:

*Anti- Social Behaviour – ‘Anti- Social Behaviour continues to affect 20,000 victims a year in the capital. This leaves a number of individuals across the area vulnerable to isolation. It is feared through the imposition of funding reductions there may be service gaps across the area. I am aware that the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner has a mandate to carry out a thematic review of our response to ASB, and believe that Council scrutiny could dovetail the assessment of the partnership arrangements to responding to ASB.’*

**South Wales Fire and Rescue Services** – suggestion received:

*Deliberately Set Fires – 868 loose rubbish fires in the past 3 years in Cardiff; since 2012/13 12% annual increase in incidents. Fires deliberately being set in loose refuse and discarded waste, which includes fly-tipped waste and waste that remains uncollected for whatever reason. The Fire Service states ‘While these fires may, on the face of it, be considered to be a low-level nuisance, such incidents have the potential to develop and cause harm; to blight the local environment and street scene; and also to tie up our fire crews, preventing them from attending other, more serious incidents.’*

**Cllr Ralph Cook** – suggested ‘take a fresh look at the priorities and initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour in an environment of greater co-operation between various public services, community groups and constricting public finances’.

**2. CONTEXT**

This Committee undertook an Inquiry into ‘*The Structure and Approach of Cardiff Council in tackling Anti-Social Behaviour*’ (February 2013) and received an update report on progress in implementing agreed recommendations at Committee in April 2015.

The WAO is undertaking a review of Community Safety Partnerships across Wales in 2015/16 and Cardiff has been selected for in-depth review.

The Police and Crime Commissioner is undertaking a thematic review of how South Wales Police tackles ASB, including looking at partnership work with Local Authorities.

**3. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER – POLICE & CRIME REDUCTION PLAN 2014-17**

This includes the following priority areas that are relevant to the proposed area:

1. Crime reduction and prevention
2. Making it easier for the public to communicate with the Police
3. Making the public feel safer
4. Strong, swift response to anti-social behaviour
5. Putting victims at the heart of our work
6. Tackling violence against women and girls

7. Working with partners on violence and the causes of crime
8. Road safety
9. Fairness, equality, diversity and poverty
10. A more effective criminal justice system
11. Youth Justice opportunities (falls within CYP's remit)
12. Understanding and addressing the needs of older people

#### **4. ANTI- SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

For several years, the Council, Police and Health Board have worked together to collect and collate data regarding anti-social behaviour, criminal offences and A&E attendances. The data is shown by Neighbourhood Management area and for the city centre area. All other areas of South Wales Police use a system called ASBIT to record and case manage ASB but, following a trial period in Cardiff, it was decided not to use ASBIT.

Graphs showing ASB by area have been included in the six monthly performance reports brought to Committee. At Committee in October 2014, Members clarified that this information referred only to cases of Anti -Social Behaviour where council properties were involved and asked for reports to be amended to present all cases of Anti-Social Behaviour. Members also asked that reports be amended to show the actions being taken by crime and disorder partners to address issues identified by performance monitoring. At Committee in March 2015, Members further debated the issue of reporting Anti-Social Behaviour and heard about the difficulties in undertaking analysis due to the inter-relationship between captured performance information, trends and issues and partnership activity. The example cited was of pro-active work in South East Cardiff resulting in a spike in reported ASB in this area.

Members have asked that, from Quarter One performance report onwards, the partnership team undertake analysis of the ASB trends and include the key findings in the performance report that is taken to Safer and Cohesive Communities Programme Board and to this Committee.

#### **5. ISSUES RAISED**

The main issues raised during discussions with the Police, Police and Crime Commissioner officers, housing management officers and partnership officers centre on: resources allocated to tackle ASB and the potential impact of resource reduction; recording of ASB incidents; and the culture to tackle ASB. The meeting with the Fire Service is taking place after this report is finalised and any issues raised will be reported at the Committee meeting.

A summary is presented below, including information provided previously to Committee:

##### **a) Resource Allocations**

###### South Wales Police

- Highlighted gap in resource allocation to deal with ASB cases where solely involve private rented tenants or owner occupiers. There is good working where council properties or housing association properties involved. However, there is a lack of funding identified to cover cases not involving social housing properties, for court costs and/or boarding/sitex costs.

PCC officers

- Have undertaken comparison of resources allocated across local authorities in South Wales Police area and would welcome this Committee undertaking more detailed analysis of resource allocation in Cardiff.

Housing Management officers

- Confirmed that their resource is focused on dealing with cases of ASB where council tenants are either the victim or the perpetrator. Highlighted good working relationships with key partners including Police and housing associations and improvements made by implementing the recommendations from this Committee's Inquiry re council tenants and leaseholders.

**b) Potential Impact of Resource Reduction**South Wales Police

- In their suggestion to hold an Inquiry, Police stated '*It is feared through the imposition of funding reductions there may be service gaps across the area*'.

PCC officers

- Would welcome this Committee undertaking more detailed scrutiny of resource allocation in Cardiff.

Noise Nuisance

- As part of the budget proposals accepted within 2014-15 the reactive out of hours noise service has been restricted to Friday and Saturday evenings only. The Council retain capability to respond to car and property alarms and large parties causing public nuisance on a seven days a week basis. South Wales Police, through 101, signpost callers to the council should they receive calls regarding these types of complaints.

**c) Recording of ASB incidents**South Wales Police

- Cardiff using multiple systems to capture ASB incidents, such as FLARE and COMINO, rather than using ASBIT database. This makes it difficult to scope comprehensively the level of ASB across Cardiff.
- Changes nationally regarding how to record ASB – want to be assured that Cardiff is ready for this.

**d) Culture to tackle ASB.**PCC officers

- Would welcome this Committee undertaking scrutiny of the culture to tackle ASB in Cardiff and the need to have a preventative, victim-centred culture.

## 6. SUGGESTIONS TO COMMITTEE

Consider and agree whether or not to:

- a. Hold an Inquiry focusing on the resources available to tackle ASB in Cardiff and the mechanisms underpinning these.
- b. To invite the following stakeholders to give evidence to the Inquiry:
  - i. relevant Cardiff Council Cabinet Members and officers, including those with responsibility for Partnership Working and Community Safety;
  - ii. relevant South Wales Police officers, including those with responsibility for partnership working and ASB.
  - iii. relevant Fire and Rescue Services officers;
  - iv. relevant Police and Crime Commissioner officers, including those working on the thematic review of ASB;
  - v. relevant Health Board officers;
  - vi. representatives from third sector organisations working to tackle ASB such as Victim Support;
  - vii. representatives from the Private Rented Sector Landlords; and
  - viii. other relevant witnesses, such as Welsh Government lead advisor on ASB and witnesses from other Welsh local authorities.
- c. To task Scrutiny Officers to fully scope the above and bring back to Committee on 7 October 2015 for final discussion, amendment and agreement.