

	OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE Tuesday 12th July.		Agenda Item No. 8
Title:	Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)		
For further information about this report please contact	Pete Cutts X 6021 pete.cutts@warwickdc.gov.uk		
Wards of the District directly affected	All		
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No		
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Executive 22/10/07		
Background Papers	Att 1 Analysis of ASB incidents Att 2 South Warwks ASB Protocol Att 3 Sample warning letter Att 4 Risk matrix Att 5 South Warwks ASB Action Plan Att 6 South Warwks Approach Att 7 Changes to ASB incident recording		
Contrary to the policy framework:		No	
Contrary to the budgetary framework:		No	
Key Decision?		No	
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)		No	
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken		Yes	
Officer/Councillor Approval			
Officer Approval	Date	Name	
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive			
Head of Service	30/06/11	Roger Jewsbury	
CMT			
Section 151 Officer			
Monitoring Officer			
Finance	30/06/11	Jenny Clayton	
Portfolio Holder(s)	30/06/11	Cllr Michael Coker	
Consultation & Community Engagement			
Insert details of any consultation undertaken or proposed to be undertaken with regard to this report. ASB is a priority for this authority, the South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership (SWCSP) and Warwickshire Safer & Stronger Communities Board based on what local people tell us and as part of the annual Strategic Assessment for SWCSP that informs the priorities for community safety.			
Final Decision?		No	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)			
Review of partnership ASB protocol in relation to new legislation, new recording criteria and changes to working practices of key partners.			

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Provides an analysis of anti-social behaviour incidents (ASB) in the district.
- 1.2 Explains how ASB is being tackled.
- 1.3 Outlines changes to recording of ASB and new legislation in 2013

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note the analysis report on ASB incidents
- 2.2 To note current procedures and initiatives to tackle ASB
- 2.3 To note the new recording criteria and legislation for ASB

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To understand the patterns, trends and hot-spots for ASB
- 3.2 To ensure that the authority is meeting its responsibilities to reduce ASB in the design and delivery of its services and also in partnership with key agencies.
- 3.3 To consider the response of the authority to the recent changes in recording criteria and proposed changes to ASB.

4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 **Policy Framework** -Our work in tackling ASB is a significant part of the council's vision for Safer Communities:

Protecting our communities from harm with an emphasis on the prevention of incidents, whilst focusing on the most vulnerable to make them feel safer

- 4.2 **Fit for the Future** – Tackling ASB impacts significantly on the quality of life of residents, businesses and visitors. The level of crime and disorder is cited as the top consideration when deciding on where to live.
- 4.3 The ASB approach aligns with government thinking on early intervention but understanding our customer needs it is victim centred hoping to identify and support the vulnerable but also managing expectations about how we can help and promoting self-help where appropriate. Our aim is to prevent further ASB, coordinating the response of this authority, partner agencies and giving feedback to complainants.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 No budgetary implications in this report.

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 The partnership protocols developed in South Warwickshire have been adopted countywide, and the approach, when challenged, has been endorsed by The Ombudsman.

6.2 Customers do not always get the right service first time and can be passed between agencies and also between departments. This is a matter which needs resolution internally within the service areas concerned. Externally, we have agreement to look at training of Police call handlers particularly re noise nuisance in order to try and eliminate any double-handling.

6.3 All nuisance calls could come to a single number and generic email where the key issues could be identified and the most appropriate lead agency/officer confirmed.

7. **BACKGROUND**

7.1 Statutory duties on this Authority

Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act (1998)

'Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with 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, crime and disorder and reducing reoffending in its area'.

7.2 Statutory duty to work in partnership

There is a joint and equal responsibility on this authority to work in partnership to reduce crime, disorder, substance misuse and re-offending. The responsible body for the above is the merged South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership known as Safer South Warwickshire.

7.3 Warwick District Council together with Stratford-on-Avon District Council are the lead agencies in tackling ASB, one of four priorities in South Warwickshire in 2011/12.

- Tackling Alcohol abuse as a cause of crime and disorder -
- Tackling violent crime on the street and in the home
- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour, particularly `rowdy nuisance`
- Tackling those causing most harm

7.4 The definition of ASB in Section 1 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 is:

'behaviour which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more people who are not in the same household as the perpetrator'.

7.5 The SWCSP interpretation encompasses a broader range, is not dependent on the tolerance and perception of the person affected, and includes behaviour which adversely affects the quality of life of communities. SWCSP also monitors criminal damage as it impacts on communities and the environment and strategies to reduce ASB and Serious Violence are likely to impact positively on reducing criminal damage.

7.6 Success at modifying behaviour at first intervention was the national measure for the effectiveness of interventions to tackle anti-social behaviour. The national average is 64% but in Warwick District the performance has been particularly strong with highs of 92.0% in 2008 and 2009, and lows of 84% in 2007 and 2010.

7.7 The table below shows recent performance by the number of incidents.

	2011/12 Target	2010/11 Figures	2009/10 Figures	12 month Performance	Worst Figures	Best Figures
ASB Incidents	To prevent an increase in ASB from 2010/11	6,334	6,078	+256 (4.2%) WORSE	7,218 2007/8	6,078 2009/10
Criminal Damage	1,551	1,551	1,530	+21(1.4%) WORSE	2,670 2006/7	1,530 2009/10
Arson	131	131	99	+ 32(32.3%) WORSE	202 2007/8	86 2008/9

7.8 There are a number of significant changes impacting on community safety and ASB:

Spending Cuts – There is a significant reduction in funding. In the community safety arena this is immediately apparent in the number of staff lost, not just Police but Probation, Fire & Rescue, CPS, Youth Service and voluntary sector. Unemployment is rising and many are predicting a summer of unrest with strikes and nationalistic groups making the most of the opportunity this may afford them.

New Coalition Government – Community Safety is still a priority. Tackling anti-social behaviour is core business as is alcohol fuelled crime and disorder. Key messages include that the focus should be on actions and outcomes that matter to local people with a policy of early intervention, educate and prevent and a commitment to break the cycle of re-offending. The regime is less prescriptive with greater freedoms.

150 Forward + - A new Policing Model for Warwickshire –this is a task based model delivering £13 Million front-loaded savings. New partnership ways of working are developing. A further £9 Million of savings has to be found so we should expect more changes with Warwickshire Police aligning more closely with West Mercia Police.

Police Reform & Social Responsibility Bill –. At The Lords on Tuesday 10th May aspects of The Bill were rejected but there is little doubt this will become legislation. There are two main elements.

The first element relates to the Police and the central theme is that Police should be more accountable to local people. Police Authorities will be replaced with one democratically elected Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Warwickshire and that person will hold and allocate any central government community safety funding for the area.

The second element relates to licensing with a clear attempt to recover some control of licensing. In the new proposals anyone can object to a licensing application perhaps even in a neighbouring district. There would be new powers to limit opening hours post-midnight and to make a late-night-levy on any premises serving alcohol after midnight to pay for policing.

Changes to Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation – no original thinking here rather the re-badging of powers. There is a view that this could facilitate greater

understanding for perpetrators, victims and the community by simplifying the powers and reducing the time taken to secure the orders but there is also a concern that they may be less of a deterrent. The legislation won't come into force until 2013.

Changes to the way Anti-Social Behaviour is recorded –changes were introduced in April 2011. All incidents are categorised either personal, nuisance or environmental. This will be a base-line year and in April 2012 we will have to decide if we will set targets against any or all of these.