

Report of Assistant Director – Housing & Community Safety

## **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Hub – Update**

(Information report only)

### **Summary**

1. This report sets out the City of York Council's (CYC) journey to date in transforming its approach to partnership working with North Yorkshire Police (NYP) and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to tackle Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) and Nuisance through the creation of a multi-agency Anti-social Behaviour Hub.

### **Background**

2. In November 2013 Cabinet agreed to the establishment of a multi-agency ASB Hub and the development of a Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer role which would include accredited powers from the Chief Constable under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) being awarded to the post holders.
3. Following Cabinet approval a significant amount of development work has been undertaken across both CYC & NYP to develop an integrated approach to dealing with ASB & Nuisance behaviour within the city.
4. Critical to the success of the new ways of working was ensuring that a new partnership team was put in place bringing together existing staffing resources and where appropriate look to augment existing resources. This new team comprises the Council's Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers (previously called Street Environment Officers), the Housing Tenancy Enforcement Function and NYP Police Officers. In March 2015 the Council's domestic noise nuisance function will transfer into the team with their role being integrated into the Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer role.
5. A key part of the development of the new ways of working was the integration of council and police resources into a single co-located

team. In May 2014 NYP reorganised its operational policing model for York which resulted in 6 Police Officers being dedicated to working on ASB / Nuisance and they relocated to West Offices to work as part of the hub under the day to day direction of the Council's Neighbourhood Safety Manager.

6. Working in partnership with NYP and the Police and Crime Commissioner we have been successful in two bids for funding from the Police Innovation Fund (PIF) totalling £440k. In addition to this a successful bid into the council's Delivery & Innovation Fund (DIF) for £115k over two years has also been successful, giving a grand total of additional funding to support this work of £555k. This funding is being used to deliver:
  - Additional 4.5 fixed term Neighbourhood Enforcement officers (fixed term to 31<sup>st</sup> March 16)
  - Training
  - Mental Health Co-ordinator (fixed term to 31<sup>st</sup> March 16)
  - Integrated IT system
  - Transport costs
  - Legal costs
  - Community Inclusion Projects
  - Interim & Final Evaluation

## **Current Approach**

7. The main focus of the new way of working is that all reports of ASB / Nuisance behaviour are reviewed daily and then on a risk basis tasked to the appropriate officer. Medium to high risk cases are allocated to the appropriate officer from the hub to take the lead and ensure a coordinated response to the complainant. Medium to low risk cases are tasked to the Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers, Estate Manager or Police & Community Support Officer (PCSO) dependant on who is the most appropriate officer.
8. On a weekly basis a wider partner meeting takes place including Trouble Families, Youth Offending Team, Housing Services and Legal Services to ensure that a holistic approach is taken to any emerging themes.
9. As a result of the additional funding to support the Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer capacity we have been able to develop an operational shift pattern for this role to ensure that officers are able to address the instances of ASB / Nuisance behaviour at the time they

happen. The current proposed shift pattern (expected to start in April) has officers working a range of shifts from standard 9am – 5pm Monday – Friday, 12 Noon to 8pm on a Thursday and Friday and 6pm to 3am on a Friday and Saturday.

10. Once all the Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers are in place and trained (April 2015) the officers will be able to utilise both Local Authority and authorised CSAS Powers to deal with the following types of ASB incidents.
  - Parking offences
  - Abandoned vehicles \*
  - Cycling on the footpath \*
  - Power to deal with begging \*
  - Causing harassment alarm & distress \*
  - Knowingly giving false alarm of fire
  - Drinking in a designated public area \*
  - Fly Tipping
  - Fly Posting
  - Graffiti\*
  - Littering \*
  - Dog Fouling
  - Powers to seize tobacco & alcohol from young people \*
  - Traffic management, including stopping vehicles for testing and traffic control.
  - Noise Complaints
  - ASB in parks and open spaces \*
  - Fireworks offences \*
11. Those areas marked with an asterisk denote an overlap with current PCSO powers.
12. From a customer perspective, the expected outcome from the new ways of working would be a joined up approach to ASB resolution resulting in the right officer with the right powers being tasked to deal with the complaint.

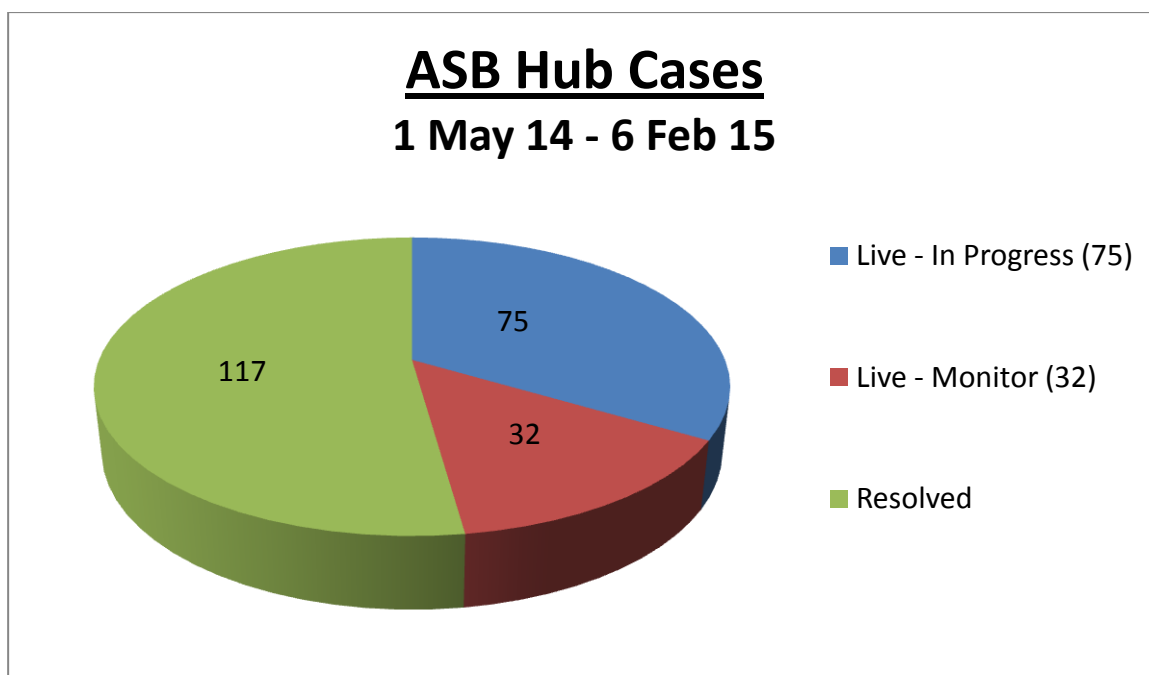
## **Options**

13. This report is for information only.

## **Analysis of the ASB Hub**

14. Since the ASB Hub started working in May 2014, 224 cases have been dealt with by the York ASB Hub. Cases are stored in 3

categories, live in progress, live monitor and resolved, the breakdown as at 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015 is:



15. When considering the interventions that the ASB Hub has taken or is ongoing, enforcement action has been taken in relation to 61 cases. Initiatives to deal with issues such as Beggars and Street Drinkers are also underway. Injunctions have also been utilised to tackle both anti social behaviour across all housing tenures.
16. Non legal interventions have also been utilised, such as serving a Notice of Seeking Possession, service of Warning Notices or Harassment Information Notices, which in a number of cases have been sufficient to stop further incidents of Anti Social Behaviour. The ASB Hub carry out joint visits and let perpetrators know that incidents reported to either agency will be shared where relevant and that a joined up approach will be used to tackle further problems. The co-location of the Police and Local Authority has enabled visits and warnings to be given to perpetrators quicker than previously, which allows for a swifter response and prevents further problems in the future all resulting in a better outcome for those individuals suffering ASB.
17. Possession proceedings have also been progressed for a number of council tenants which has led to a number of evictions, some tenants have also terminated their tenancies before the eviction has taken place.

18. The New Anti Social Behaviour legislation is currently being applied in the City, Criminal Behaviour Order applications are being made by the ASB Hub and also Public Spaces Protection Orders are being considered and progressed through the Council. Community Protection Notices should be in use for both Council and Police Officers imminently.

### **Next Steps**

19. It is essential that the success of the approach taken is properly evaluated to ensure that it is an effective use of scarce resource and delivers effective outcomes for communities. As part of the PIF bid an external evaluation was included at both an interim and final stage.
20. The interim evaluation was undertaken by independently by York University between September and December 2014 when the Hub had been up and running for 4–6 months. As was expected, a number of teething problems were identified linked to the development of new ways of working and integration of resources from different organisation. A number of recommendations were proposed as part of the evaluation, the majority of which have already been implemented. The key findings of the interim evaluation are attached at Annex 1.

### **Council Plan**

21. The ASB Hub approach strongly supports a number of priorities with in the Council Plan.
  - Building Strong Communities – Addressing the impacts of ASB in our communities will have a positive impact supporting this priority. A key action within the Building Stronger Communities section of the Council Plan was the link between the out of hour's noise nuisance function and NYP. With the noise nuisance function integrated into the new Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer role, this will deliver on this priority as the services would be integrated with the local Safer Neighbourhood Area's.
  - Protecting vulnerable people – It is often the most vulnerable in society who become victims of ASB. Developing improved approaches to addressing ASB helps ensure the most vulnerable are supported.
  - Protect the environment – ASB takes many forms which impact on the environment, the establishment of the Neighbourhood

Enforcement Officer will enable the council to directly impact on those types of ASB in particular fly-tipping and graffiti.

### Implications

22. This report is for information only and therefore has no implications.

### Risk Management

23. This report is for information only and therefore has no associated risks.

### Recommendations

24. Members are asked to:

- a. Note the progress to delivering on the objectives set out within the November 2013 report.

**Reason:** to ensure that the council actively addresses the issue of ASB on our communities.

### Contact Details

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date**

13<sup>th</sup> February  
2015

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### Annexes

**Annex 1** – Key findings from the Interim Evaluation of the ASB Hub by York University