

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chair of the Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership	Overview and Scrutiny	28 March 2011

CHORLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide Members with information on the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in response to anti social behaviour issues.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the report be noted

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. Members will recall a report (14/2/2011) from the Director of Transformation recommending the Overview and Scrutiny Committee address one particular aspect of community safety. Anti social behaviour (ASB) was been identified as an area worthy of scrutiny particularly in the light of its effects on residents and the potential for links to neighbourhood working. This report covers the following areas:

- Definition of ASB and identifiable categories.
- Threats relating to ASB and signal crime in Chorley
- Past performance relating to ASB including Confidence and Perception.
- Structures and arrangements in place to prevent and tackle ASB
- Support in place for residents experiencing ASB including minimum standards
- Links to ASB and neighbourhood working
- How Members can engage in the this work including the reporting of ASB and the receipt of information relating to ASB in their neighbourhood area.

Definition and Categorisation of ASB

4. There are a number of definitions of anti social behaviour but for the purposes of this report and the work of community safety officers and partners the Home Office definition provides the most appropriate description:

'Any aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity that damages or destroys another person's quality of life'

5. Anti social behaviour can be categorised and there is a national category list that the Community Safety Partnership uses in determining priorities and response to ASB:

- Street Drinking
- Animal Related Problems

- Begging / Vagrancy
- Prostitution Related Activity
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Vehicle Nuisance & Inappropriate Vehicle Use
- Noise
- Environmental Damage or Littering
- Inappropriate Use / Sale / Possession of Fireworks
- Neighbour Nuisance
- Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour
- Hoax Calls to the Emergency Services
- Malicious Communication
- Trespass

6. Each of these categories has its own specific description which officers reference to ensure that complaints of ASB are appropriately recorded. However, Members should note that a national review into the categories of ASB is being conducted and a reduction to three basic categories is currently under consultation. The proposed categories are:

- 1. ASB relating to personal threat**
- 2. ASB relating public nuisance**
- 3. ASB relating to environmental issue.**

Threats Relating to ASB and Signal Crime in Chorley

7. ASB remains a key priority in Chorley. 38.9% of Chorley residents consider ASB a 'very' or a 'fairly' big problem and 31.3% of Chorley residents consider criminal damage 'a very' or 'a fairly' big problem.
8. ASB and visible incidents such as criminal damage, environmental crime and deliberate fire setting are the most problematic issues our communities are telling us are the most important for the CSP to tackle. These issues are also of high concern to our communities as they have an impact on both the appearance and perception of an area and impact upon residents' quality of life. 39.7% of Chorley residents consider graffiti, littering and fly tipping as 'a very' or 'a fairly' big problem.
9. Reports of ASB in particular, youth nuisance, and signal crimes are often the cause of complaint in Chorley and amount to a significant caseload for officers both in terms of response and investigation. Whilst incidents are most concentrated in the more densely populated areas, different issues do affect different areas and therefore ASB and signal crimes are considered to be a Borough wide problem.
10. The CSP recognise a significant proportion of ASB and criminal damage is attributable to the youths within a community. It is widely accepted that young people who engage in ASB without appropriate intervention can go on to commit more serious offences. Additionally, whilst the majority of deliberate fires are secondary and of a less serious nature, deliberate secondary fire setting is often a precursor to something more serious. Alcohol is a strong contributory factor to incidents of anti social behaviour, criminal damage and deliberate fire setting.
11. In general, the levels of ASB fluctuate at different points of the year e.g. summer months, school holidays, Halloween and Bonfire Night. These times continue to be focus points for CSP resources.

Past Performance Relating to ASB Including Confidence and Perception.

12. Chorley CSP has an excellent record of performance with regards to the tackling of ASB. In the current financial year ASB has already reduced by 12% when compared to the same period in 2009/10. This equates to a reduction of 847 reported incidents of ASB across Chorley which in turn means a reduction in victims of ASB. Whilst we continue to reduce ASB across Chorley it is important that our residents and communities feel safe and believe as a Council and partnership that we are tackling crime and ASB effectively.
13. In the 2010 Chorley Smile survey, residents were asked what they thought generally made somewhere a good place to live and were presented with a list of twenty issues from which to select up to five. The most popular response, selected by almost two-thirds of respondents (63.2%), was 'low levels of crime'. When questioned about feelings of safety 71% of residents felt either 'very' or 'fairly' safe after dark with 92.2% feeling safe during the day.
14. Members will appreciate that particular areas have higher incidence of ASB and this is reflected in the survey responses which revealed that residents living in Chorley Town East Neighbourhood area are most likely to feel unsafe, particularly after dark with 26.3% of respondents feeling unsafe after dark when compared with just 8.6% in the North Western Neighbourhood area.
15. In general younger people are also more likely to feel unsafe, (22.7%), and least likely to feel safe after dark, (59% safe). Overall 14.2% of respondents perceived a 'high level' of ASB in their local area.
16. When asked about types of ASB over one third of all respondents did not consider 'noisy neighbours and loud parties', (38.8%); 'people using or dealing drugs', (33.6%), or 'abandoned or burnt out cars', (75.4%), to be a problem in their local area. The most mentioned problem was that of 'teenagers hanging around the streets', with 39.3% of respondents considering this to be either 'a very big' or 'a fairly big' problem.
17. Five types of crime were considered to be either a 'very' or a 'fairly big' problem by more than 30% of respondents. These were:
 - Alcohol related crime (31.3%)
 - Anti social behaviour (38.9%)
 - Drugs and related crime (33.3%)
 - Criminal damage (31.3%)
 - Graffiti, littering and fly tipping (37.9%)
18. Differences by area are illustrated by showing these five types of crime against each of the neighbourhood areas. As can be seen from the table below ASB was the most mentioned problem in Eastern and Southern Parishes and in Chorley Town East whereas in the other four areas graffiti, littering and fly tipping were the most mentioned.

Five most mentioned crimes by Area (%)

	NE Parishes	E. Parishes	S. Parishes	W. Parishes	NW. Parishes	Chorley Town W	Chorley Town E
Alcohol related crime	25.8	27.7	38.9	12.1	22.7	41.9	50.1
Anti social behaviour	36.7	34.5	54.8	23.6	26.7	46.7	51.7
Drugs and related crime	35.5	25.6	29.1	16.4	26.6	48.6	48.9
Criminal damage	31.5	21.1	38.3	20.9	17.3	39.3	51.5
Graffiti, littering, fly tipping	43	32.7	40.5	24.7	39.3	49.2	36.1

19. Reviewing the five most mentioned issues, it is also clear that the Western Parishes experience far fewer problems than other areas, especially Chorley Town East and West in respect of all of these problems.

Five most mentioned crimes by Area showing highest and lowest prevalence (%)

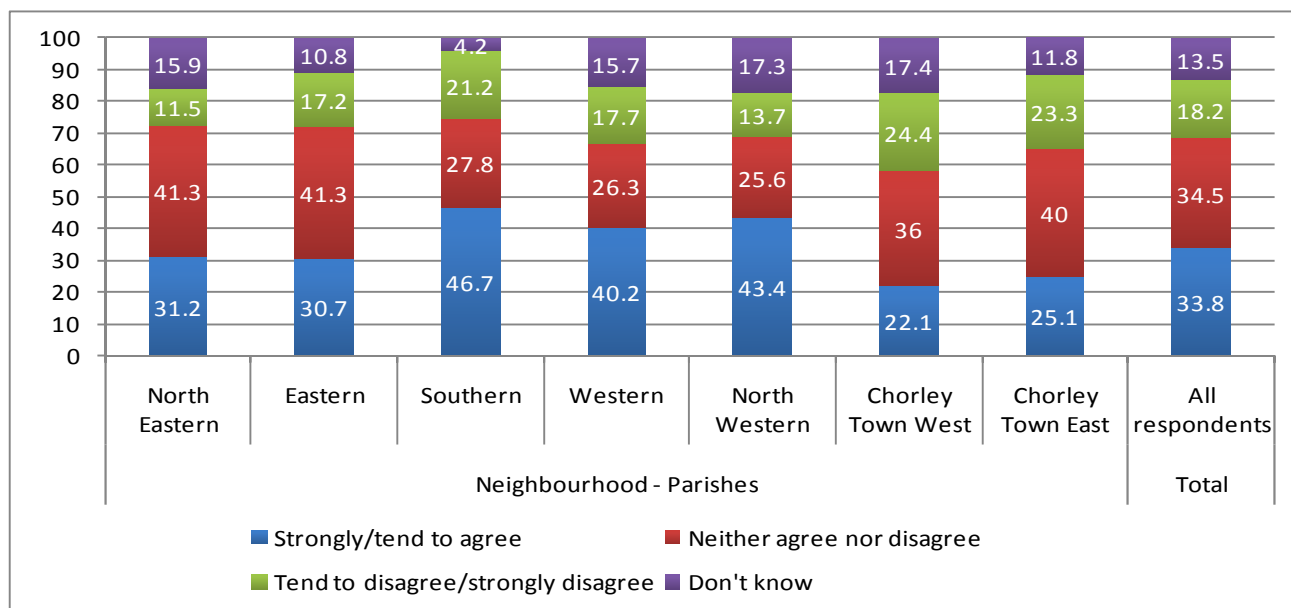
	NE Parishes	E. Parishes	S. Parishes	W. Parishes	NW. Parishes	Chorley Town W	Chorley Town E
Alcohol related crime	25.8	27.7	38.9	12.1	22.7	41.9	50.1
Anti social behaviour	36.7	34.5	54.8	23.6	26.7	46.7	51.7
Drugs and related crime	35.5	25.6	29.1	16.4	26.6	48.6	48.9
Criminal damage	31.5	21.1	38.3	20.9	17.3	39.3	51.5
Graffiti, littering, fly tipping	43	32.7	40.5	24.7	39.3	49.2	37.1

Most mentioned Anti Social Behaviour Types by Area Showing Highest and Lowest Prevalence (%)

	NE Parishes	E. Parishes	S. Parishes	W. Parishes	NW. Parishes	Chorley Town W	Chorley Town E
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	16	16.1	3.5	19	5.3	15	17.1
Teenagers hanging around the streets	33.9	28.3	58	33.3	29.1	52.5	46.9
Rubbish or litter lying around	35.6	36	28.6	25.4	35.1	45.9	42.6
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles	28.1	16.5	29.9	15.2	16.1	31.4	24.2
People using or dealing drugs	26.2	17.1	25.7	25.5	16.1	44.4	46.9
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	17.2	26.8	24.6	7.7	16.9	40.2	46.8
Abandoned or burnt out cars	1.5	2.3	2	0	0	1.3	4.4

20. When questioned residents were informed that it is the responsibility of the Police and other local public services to work in partnership to deal with ASB and crime in their local area. 33.8% agreed that partners were successfully dealing with crime and anti social behaviour.

How much would you agree or disagree that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with these issues in your local area? (%)



Structures and Arrangements in Place to Prevent and Tackle ASB

21. There are a number of CSP agencies represented at both the strategic and operational levels who work to tackle ASB. The structure of the partnership also ensures there is a key focus on the tackling of Anti social Behaviour, signal crime and the protection of vulnerable people. Performance relating to the ASB and the CSP is ultimately monitored by the strategic group of the CSP and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). There are a number of groups within the CSP who tackle and influence the ASB agenda including:

- Mini Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating (mini MATACs)
- Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating (MATACs)
- Multi Agency Licensing and Tasking (MALT)
- Prevent and Deter Group
- Alcohol Strategy Group
- Joint Commissioning Group (JCG)
- Revolution/ Integrated Offender Management (IOM).
- Prolific Priority Offenders
- Families First Group
- Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings
- County ASB group

22. These groups are supported by a variety of officers from partner agencies including Community Safety and ASB officers, CCTV operators, PCSOs, Neighbourhood Officers and Housing Officers who are all tasked with preventing and reducing ASB as part of their role. To ensure an intelligence led approach to service delivery the CSP analyst produces documents including the Strategic Assessment, CSP plan, MATAC update and problem profiles which allows partners to shape intelligence led approach in tackling ASB. Several resources/initiatives and ways of working have helped to reduce ASB across Chorley include:

- CCTV
- PCSOs
- Neighbourhood Officers
- Operation Stay Safe
- Operation Cherub
- Street Pastors
- Smart Response
- Weeks of Action
- Bright Sparks
- Summer Nights
- Partnership Orientating Policing (POP) and usage of the SARA (Scanning Analysis, Response and Assessment) model

23. In addition to the outlined initiatives legal remedies including Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), ASB Orders (ASBO's), ASB Injunctions (ASBI's), Drink Banning orders, (Designated Public Places Orders) DPPO are also used. This culmination of activity ensures that across Chorley a proactive holistic multi agency approach to the prevention and enforcement of ASB is taken.

Support in Place for Residents Experiencing ASB Including Minimum Standards

24. The Community Safety Partnership benefits from having a number of dedicated officers across different agencies that specialise in the prevention, detection and enforcement of ASB. This ensures a victim centric service provision is delivered.

25. To help ensure partnership officers and resources are used effectively, in April 2010 the CSP introduced a set of published minimum standards which detail how partner agencies will work together and how each agency will respond to reports of ASB and actions that need to be taken.
26. The minimum standards seek to address:
- Reducing perceptions of ASB year on year
 - Taking reported cases of ASB seriously
 - Providing regular information to residents on action taken
 - Offering practical support and help to victims
 - Ensuring an effective link between neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood working
 - Providing residents with a right to complain to CDRP/CSP chairs where effective action has not been taken
27. The standards are being implemented locally and the Safer Lancashire Board ASB Group also ensures that there is a consistent approach to service delivery across the pan Lancashire footprint.
28. In addition to the introduction of minimum standards, Multi Agency Anti Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences (ASBRACs) were implemented in 2010 to support repeat victims and vulnerable individuals experiencing ASB. This model is similar to the established Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process for domestic violence cases.
29. ASBRAC brings together local agencies to address the harm caused to ASB victims, and prioritise interventions. The process identifies low, medium and high risk victims of ASB and identifies support from the point of referral. It provides multi-agency meetings to consider and address the most complex and high risk cases and identify interventions.
30. ASBRAC facilitates better information sharing and provides a transparent record of action taken to support the vulnerable in our communities. This coordinated response recognises that joint working can help partners to make the best use of their resources.
31. ASBRAC offers a focal point for multi-agency activity to assist in the reduction of ASB, thereby reducing the number of victims, the harm caused to them and the damage such activity does to our communities.
32. The impact of ASB and the harm caused can be dependent on factors such as the resilience of an individual/family, the support already in place and the level of repeat victimisation. This needs to be considered when risk assessing a victim to ensure that harm identified and reduced. This is a clear message from the Home Office who have recognised the ASBRAC process as good practice alongside effective case management.
33. Whilst reports of ASB are made to a range of organisations such as environmental health officers, housing teams, registered social landlords, neighbourhood teams and ASB officers, referrals to ASBRAC are predominately made by neighbourhood policing teams and the community safety team. The purpose of ASBRAC is to join up ASB reports and consider support for victims across a range of agencies. In addition to understanding the process it is important to equip wider participants in ASBRAC with the skills to identify risk and harm to the most vulnerable and ensure that referrals are made as necessary.
34. Enhanced reporting and the sharing of data with Police and partners ensures that appropriate tailored support and interventions can be implemented to reduce the number of incidents and harm caused by ASB.

Links to ASB and neighbourhood working

35. The tackling and prevention of ASB is embedded in the neighbourhood working agenda. Initiatives such as the Weeks/Days of Action program are delivered in partnership with a number of internal and external partners who tailor ASB initiatives/interventions to tackle the specific needs of our neighbourhood areas including environmental crime, youth nuisance and alcohol related issues.
36. Neighbourhood Officers also have strong relationships with local policing teams and along with street scene operative's help gather information which leads to the development of intelligence relating to ASB. Having dedicated neighbourhood officers and partners for specific neighbourhood areas also helps to ensure that a consistent approach to tackling ASB is provided.

Elected Members and the ASB Agenda

37. It is evident that crime and ASB is a key priority for our residents and communities. The CSP recognises the role of elected members and there are a number of ways elected members can be involved in and are informed about the ASB agenda.
38. Should elected members wish to report ASB they can either call Lancashire Constabulary, their local Neighbourhood Policing teams or Chorley Councils One Stop Shop. Elected members are also encouraged to attend their local area PACT meetings.
39. Members will be aware of the Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings held between Police and the local communities to discuss issues affecting people's quality of lives that the constabulary and the community can try and resolve together. The PACT meetings provide an ideal way for elected members to raise resident concerns and be informed about the current crime and ASB trends for their area.
40. Information relating to ASB including events and initiatives delivered by the CSP are provided to elected members via mediums such as 'In the Know', Members Learning sessions, and where applicable neighbourhood emails and directly from the Community Safety Team or partner officers including the neighbourhood policing teams.
41. Key partnership information including minutes, agendas and performance reports produced for the Community Safety strategy group and the Community Safety action plan up are published on Chorley Council website. Information relating to community safety is also made available via the overview and scrutiny process.
42. Information relating to crime and ASB levels for a specific ward is also readily available. Should Members wish to examine crime and ASB levels within their wards they can do so quickly and easily by accessing Lancashire County Councils Multi Agency Data Exchange (MADE) website at <http://www.saferlancashire.co.uk/statistics>. This site provides a comprehensive breakdown of the presented crime and ASB for each area. Currently the partnership and police do not readily provide crime data to street level. However as part of the government transparency agenda the website www.police.uk has been launched which aims to inform people of the levels of crime and ASB in and around specific streets and roads. It should be noted that the information provided on this site is for guidance only and is not a replacement for official data.
43. Furthermore information relating to specific ASB incidents or individuals will not be automatically shared with elected members or partners for operational reasons and confidentially. Requests for information are treated on a case by case basis.
44. To further ensure Member engagement in ASB issues both Lancashire County Council and Chorley Council elected members are represented on the strategic group of the CSP and at the county wide Safer Lancashire Board. Furthermore the portfolio holder for Places

attends MATAC. In their capacity as portfolio holder the elected member and Chair of the CSP also updates the Chorley LSP on Community Safety matters.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
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