

A1: Making our streets, villages, towns and city safer

Tackling ASB

Tackling Anti-social behaviour remains a key area of focus for Nottinghamshire Police and its partner agencies. Anti-social behaviour has a significant impact on our communities and vulnerable victims who are often repeatedly targeted by perpetrators.

Response

All reports of anti-social behaviour are appropriately assessed by the Force Control Room to identify any vulnerability and the most appropriate response.

Nottinghamshire Police utilises both telephone and digital solutions for contact with the force. Every contact with the force is recorded through Saab SAFE records, which offers innovative technology to immediately identify repeat callers and locations, as well as vulnerable victim identification through THRIVE & intelligence assessments. All calls for service will result in a Contact Record and/or Incident being recorded on the Safe Command and Control platform. All incidents created must have a THRIVE assessment attached and any change in grading will require a further assessment. There are proformas available to assist in the completion of certain incident records including Anti-Social Behaviour. This enables the force to identify any risk and to ensure the most appropriate policing response.

The introduction of 'Single Online Home' has made further improvements to the reporting mechanisms available. The product includes an 'online chat' facility and an online reporting tool for victims of Crime and ASB. The tool has a built-in risk assessment process but also allows for sign posting where appropriate. This will ensure that victims reach the most appropriate agency, for example when reporting issues such as Noise. Single online home also provides the opportunity to request a 'Community Trigger' which is a key support mechanism for victims of anti-social behaviour. Work has been undertaken to ensure that the Community Trigger process is clear and consistent across the Nottinghamshire Police force area.

Where appropriate reports of ASB are tasked directly to the Neighbourhood Policing team. This ensures that victims have a consistent point of contact, any vulnerability and safeguarding is identified, and a partnership driven problem-solving approach can be taken where appropriate.

Partnerships

Neighbourhood Policing teams work in partnership across the organisation to safeguard vulnerable victims and to problem solve ongoing cases of anti-social behaviour. A monthly 'ASB Tasking' meeting is embedded in the City Division to ensure a partnership approach to ongoing cases. This enables a robust plan to be implemented to support repeat callers/victims of anti-social behaviour. The meeting is informed by a strategic assessment of anti-social behaviour identifying hotspots, future threat/risk and any community issues arising from ASB. Similar approaches are taken across the County with local policing teams working in Community Safety Partnerships. This enables a joint approach to resolving key such as noise or environmental matters where the most appropriate lead agency may be the local authority.

Neighbourhood Policing teams work closely with ASB officers embedded in local authorities and this enables the joint use of Civil ASB legislation to problem solve ongoing issues. In the City this has resulted in the increased use of Community Protections Warning notices, Injunctions and closure

orders. Three-month closure orders have been given by the Magistrates Court where premises have been linked to ASB or criminality in the community. In the City Division this has also enabled a joint focus on preventing properties being used for the purposes of drug use and supply.

In some cases, Neighbourhood Policing teams have worked closely with landlords in order to deal with tenants who are source of ASB in the Community. Public Space Protection Orders are being considered to Combat ASB in open spaces such as Parks and Shopping Precincts.

Local Authority Housing regularly engage with the Neighbourhood Policing teams across the organisation. This has meant that tenancy warnings or even possession orders can be obtained for those who are significant contributing to ASB in our Communities.

This year Neighbourhood Policing teams in the City have worked together with Nottingham City Council to produce a plan to reduce anti-social behaviour in open spaces such as local parks. Traditionally there is an increase linked to the Student Population at both local universities and warmer weather. Alongside this there is a standing partnership meeting with local universities which further builds on the partnership response to anti-social behaviour in the Community. Universities have provided funding to increase the policing presence during peak times of the year. This is fully supported by Nottingham City Council and the Universities will now be increasing their collaboration with local services in order to continue reducing ASB across the City.

More recently there has been the introduction of the Graffiti Working Group to tackle an ever-increasing issue of Graffiti in City Communities. This partnership approach has already achieved success with a student being fined £3000 at the Magistrates Court for his involvement in over 16 Graffiti Tags located across the City. A second investigation has resulted in a young person being referred to the Youth Justice Service for intervention and diversion having been identified as involved as involved in Graffiti offences.

Alongside this regular ASB operations are taking place to reduce offences on Public Transport across the City. This is underpinned by a Transport meeting attended by partners and a Chief Inspector.

There is a continued focus on Begging and Street Drinking in Nottingham City Centre which underpins concerns raised by local businesses and the Community. 'Operation Compass' seeks to work in partnership to reduce anti-social behaviour by signposting individuals to relevant support networks. Enforcement action is taken as a last resort. Over in the County a similar approach has been taken.

The latest round of Safer Streets will enable a significant focus on Anti-Social behaviour across the Force area. Additional CCTV, ANPR and other environmental improvements such as lighting will design out ASB in key hotspot areas. Environmental assessments have taken place utilising the Neighbourhood Policing Hub to ensure that interventions will have the most impact for the longer term.

The funding will increase Youth Provision across the organisation with over £100k of funding identified to reduce ASB in the Bestwood and Top Valley areas. In October 2022 Communities Unite were commissioned to provide Youth Outreach Work in the Bestwood area and it is hoped that this will significantly reduce ASB in the area of Lytham Gardens which has been a hotspot for offending. We know that Youth related ASB is also linked to deliberate Fires and other forms of ASB such as Off-Road bikes and Car Cruise activity. The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) are fully engaged and supporting the delivery to ensure the most impactful Youth Services.

Governance

Repeat ASB Victims, Offenders and Locations are identified in the LOM (Local Operations Meeting) chaired fortnightly by the area Chief Inspector.

This is underpinned by repeat victim data available to Neighbourhood Policing Inspectors. This ensures that repeat victims are fully supported by the Neighbourhood Policing teams, working in partnership with the local authority or wider partners if required. Complex/Vulnerable person panels take place across the organisation enabling bespoke levels of support to be put in place for the most vulnerable victims.

The Force OPR and Tasking process enables Inspectors to request additional support in response to a sustained increase in Crime or Anti-social behaviour. This process was recently used to ensure additional resources were secured to police Bestwood over Halloween and Bonfire Night.

The Neighbourhood Policing Hub are now developing additional training for NPT officers around the use of Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) and other problem-solving methods such as Community Protection Notices (CPN). It is recognised that many of our officers are relatively new in service therefore it is hoped that a renewed training package will support and empower officers to apply for orders that are known to be successful in tackling ASB.

The introduction of Power BI as an analytical product for Nottinghamshire Police will allow officers to quickly identify reports of Anti-Social behaviour in local communities. This will enable Neighbourhood Policing teams to quickly identify patterns, trends and hotspots that may require an additional policing response. For example, reports of off-road motorcycles can be easily identified, enabling key days of the week and times to be identified. This will enable the force to ensure that resources are in the right place at the right time. This is further underpinned by the sharing of analytical data produced by partnerships across the force. For example, Nottingham City Council produce a monthly ASB report which clearly compares performance across multiple time frames. This data underpins the problem-solving approach to anti-social behaviour.