



1st September 2016

Report of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Priority Update: Prevent Crime & Anti-social Behaviour

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Police and Crime Panel with a Priority Update: Prevent Crime and Anti-social Behaviour (ASB).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2015 Merseyside's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) set a Police and Crime Plan priority to prevent crime and ASB. This report provides information on:
- how Merseyside Police are working towards this priority; and
 - an update on the Commissioner's activities to ensure crime and ASB issues are addressed.

4. Merseyside Police Update

- 4.1 Merseyside Police have a comprehensive plan in place to tackle and reduce crime and ASB. The plan is based around the four *Ps* and is readily accessible to Merseyside Police's front line practitioners.

- 4.2 Listed below, is a summary of progress against the 4 *Ps*.

Prevent:

- 4.4 Funding from the Proceeds of Crime Act has been used to further Merseyside Police's Early Action initiatives. For example, a 'Mini-Police' initiative, originally rolled out in the Durham area, will be piloted across several primary schools this autumn. Key features of this initiative include:

- Targeted early engagement with primary school children in Years 5 and 6, with an emphasis on positive initial contact between children

and the police. The intended outcome of this early initial contact is to reduce crime and ASB.

- Targeting children affected by Organised Crime Group (OCG) activity. As part of the initiative the Mini-Police will wear a uniform (baseball cap, polo shirt, waterproof jacket and high-vis vest) and in partnership with the schools, Merseyside Police will run at least 3 events per term.
- Events will be Force led ('Terriers' play / guns and knives / protecting vulnerable people), community led (parking outside school / speeding / litter) and one reward event (i.e. visit to Firearms, Dogs, Mounted, Helicopter).
- The College of Policing and Merseyside Police's Corporate Analysts will be involved from the outset in order to measure the scheme's effectiveness from an evidence based policing perspective.
- Two schools have agreed to take part, St. Monica's in Bootle (firearms incident outside within the last few months) and Hatton Hill in Litherland.
- Merseyside Police have contacted the Home Office to explore opportunities around funding of the Mini-Police programme.

4.8 Additional, activities to proactively prevent crime and ASB include Merseyside Police's contribution to Operation Rogue Trader, designed to combat rogue trading, bogus officials and instances of door-to-door fraud. Such activities aim to prevent fraud by raising awareness. This work has been praised by the media. Further preventative work includes the REST centre in Liverpool. The centre runs from 1st June until the end of September and is designed to provide street drinkers, between the hours of 12.00 and 20.00 each day, with support around alcohol addiction, health issues and homelessness. By providing such support the initiative aims to reduce levels of ASB in the city centre area. The REST centre is a partnership initiative between Liverpool Council, Merseyside Police, outreach services from the Whitechapel Centre, public health and others. Early findings from the project indicate:

- 117 people have attended the centre.
- There have been 49 health assessments carried out of which 38 were referred on to other support.
- 29 people have engaged with Addaction.
- 5 people have accessed detox and rehabilitation programmes.

4.9 **Pursue**

4.10 Police officers and Local Authority colleagues have worked together to make effective use of ASB legislation, introduced in 2014, including Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in crime, disorder and OCG activity hotspot locations.

4.11 An example of Merseyside Police's collaborative work with partners includes Operation Engen. This operation was initiated on a small estate in Moreton, Wirral to target problems regarding drug dealing and associated ASB. The Neighbourhood teams and Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour team worked together leading to a strike day where linked addresses were subject of police raids and

Wirral Courts granted Closure Orders for problem premises. Local Housing have assisted by obtaining injunctions against problematic groups.

4.12 Police research and analysis is ongoing to improve positive outcomes for key crime types. The police have also embraced technology to help pursue criminals by using innovative tracker devices and smart water.

4.13 Protect

4.14 Activities to protect people from crime, especially those considered most vulnerable, include:

- *Mersey Now*, a community messenger system, introduced to improve awareness of crimes and incidents amongst vulnerable groups, key locations and the public. Messages are also used to help generate intelligence and witness reports.

4.15 Prepare

4.16 Over 2015/16, Merseyside Police were inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). During their visit, inspectors found evidence of processes to develop staff. Such initiatives include:

- Equipping police officers and staff with the necessary skills to help reduce crime and ASB via a one day specialist problem solving course. Course content focuses on early action principles and frontline neighbourhood police officers and PCSOs have all taken part in this training.
- Improving IT systems to help efficiently identify individuals, victims and locations that generate high demand and risk, so that the police and partners can respond quickly and work together to tackle and problem solve the risk.
- New handheld devices for front line officers to ensure they remain visible on the streets and reduce bureaucracy.
- Merseyside Police will continue their work with Liverpool John Moores University to equip police officers and staff with the necessary research skills to successfully deliver evidence based policing. Participation in this course results in an academic qualification and the College of Policing and other Forces have been impressed with the process developed on Merseyside.

5. Area Updates

5.1 The PCC has representation in each Basic Command Unit (BCU) area from her Community Engagement Team officers. These officers are embedded within the local partnerships and communities and have highlighted the following

examples from each area regarding the priority to prevent crime and ASB.

5.2 **St Helens:**

5.3 In St Helens, the Community Engagement Officer has worked in partnership to identify the following examples of crime and ASB prevention:

5.4 Over the past year, one of its biggest 'threat and risk' priorities is to tackle violence, drug dealing, intimidation and ASB, particularly in and around the town centre. Police and partners have identified premises linked to these concerns and have worked together to collate intelligence, including over 45 statements from residents.

5.5 In September 2015 'Operation Highgate' was launched with police using ASB legislation to close 13 properties linked to these offences and 9 arrests were made. The BCU and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) have been at the forefront of using this relatively new ASB legislation and a total of 29 properties linked to crime, disorder, drug-dealing have had closure orders served on them across the borough.

5.6 **Knowsley:**

5.7 In Knowsley an example of a significant 'threat and risk' area identified is young people being criminally exploited by organised criminal groups as well as young girls aged 14-16 being subject to child sexual exploitation (CSE).

5.8 These areas of threat and risk can be exacerbated by issues relating to children from outside of the region, who demonstrate complex needs or have suffered from CSE or child criminal exploitation (CCE), being placed in care in Knowsley.

5.9 Police in the area have established a dedicated CCE/CSE 'Shield Team' with a number of detectives co-located at the Multi-Agency Strategic Hub (MASH). These detectives will work alongside social workers, education, health workers and service providers Catch 22 and Barnardos to identify, support and prevent young people from being exploited particularly within the care home environment. This work helps divert young people away from crime and enables the agencies to collect evidence to prosecute perpetrators.

5.10 **Liverpool:**

5.11 In Liverpool, the Community Engagement Officer highlights ASB, particularly associated with young people, continuing to be an issue for residents and agencies. Joint agency responses and hotspot analysis enable the police and partners to target their resources using an evidence driven approach. The Community Safety Partnership holds a monthly Strategic ASB meeting, which has seen the development of multi-agency work in Everton. This work includes; the Anthony Walker Foundation delivered hate crime awareness sessions in schools and youth provision whilst the Voluntary Organisations Support Services (VOSS) directed youth outreach services to divert young people away from criminal behaviour. Liverpool City Council's localities team has delivered letters containing a 'free post' envelope to try and obtain intelligence on crime

in the area including ASB, gun and gang related crimes, scrambler bikes and motor cycles. This had been well received by the community as a confidential way of reporting issues that matter to them.

- 5.12 In the Liverpool 8 area there has been a significant reduction in calls to the police reporting the illegal and anti-social use of scrambler motor cycles with 11 machines seized recently.
- 5.13 In partnership with Merseyside Police, Liverpool Mutual Homes are running an initiative titled 'Use It, Lose It' in relation to cannabis use in properties owned by registered providers. The initiative is aimed at highlighting how personal cannabis use, even in your own home, is against the law and could lead to eviction.
- 5.14 From a policing perspective the local policing team for Liverpool hold monthly meetings to identify the ASB hotspots in each neighbourhood and monitor the effectiveness of the responses in relation to the issues highlighted.
- 5.15 Several wards have been granted priority status through the Citysafe led DISARM group. Each area has a multi-agency problem solving group to identify and tackle issues. Kirkdale, Anfield and Everton, Kensington, Tuebrook and Speke are engaging in this project. Projects will focus on tackling gun, gang and knife crime with an emphasis on prevention.
- 5.16 **Sefton:**
- 5.17 ASB continues to be an issue in Sefton. Key ASB prevention activities include Merseyside Police's scrambler bike campaign, which has had a positive impact across Sefton through enforcement opportunities and improving community reassurance. Local police neighbourhood teams have worked in partnership with key partners to deliver workshops in schools and launched a scrambler bike poster campaign.
- 5.18 Sefton currently has a PSPO in the Linacre ward which has had a positive impact on the community as indicated by community feedback which has indicated an increased sense of safety since the order was put in place.
- 5.19 Sefton CSP are also updating CCTV capabilities across the borough with key focus on Linacre and Derby wards. These wards have been identified as in need of support to counter OCG activities.
- 5.20 Sefton CSP recognise the need to focus on crime prevention, especially in communities where fear of crime is disproportionate to actual crime activity. To help improve preventative measures, Sefton CSP has established a working group consisting of Police, Fire and Rescue Services and housing representatives to develop, in the first instance, an oversight of what services are currently delivered and how best to use this information to identify vulnerability within the community. For example the Fire Service provide home safety checks and have access to a large number of individuals in their home environment. This has provided an opportunity for vulnerabilities relating to crime to be assessed. The plan is to develop a referral process so that bespoke

crime prevention advice and guidance can be delivered to specific individuals.

5.21 **Wirral:**

5.22 The Wirral Community Safety Partnership has funded a Peer Mentoring Project for those who have experienced domestic abuse. The project is a joint initiative between Tomorrow's Women, a local support centre for vulnerable women, and Wirral Connect. The project enables survivors of domestic abuse to gain an accredited qualification in peer mentoring and eventually support other women who are going through a similar experience. The scheme aims to increase confidence in reporting, prevent repeat incidents and the escalation of abuse. Initial feedback is extremely positive and the scheme is over-subscribed.

5.23 To mark National Neighbourhood Watch Week, the PCC joined Wirral's Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Cllr George Davies, to open an event at Woodchurch High School in June. The session was attended by current scheme members as well as residents interested in getting involved. This work is part of an ongoing initiative to encourage members of the community to support the police, council and other agencies in keeping their neighbourhoods safe.

5.24 In response to the growing problem of young people being sexually and criminally exploited, Merseyside Police and Wirral Council have commissioned a performance piece entitled, '*On One Condition*'. This dramatic performance tackles the issues around exploitation by using a number of scenarios and workshops. The drama has been provided to groups identified by organisations such as Catch 22. The PCC and her Deputy have recently awarded funding to the project to ensure more young people have the opportunity to benefit from this drama and take part in the workshops.

5.25 Under the umbrella of Operation Brookdale, Wirral's Community Safety partners have carried out a number of warrants to seize off-road bikes, drugs and money, as well as obtaining Closure Orders on properties that have consistently caused anti-social problems for those that live around them. The PCC recently led a partnership 'walkabout' on the Woodchurch estate attended by representatives from the police, council, fire service and the local housing provider, to encourage the community to report any problems anonymously via CrimeStoppers.

5.26 **Merseyside Wide:**

5.27 Across Merseyside the Police continue to tackle the more established and visible crime types. However, there are several new emerging issues for the Force to tackle with partners. These emerging issues are identified through the Community First Model as being a threat, risk and harm to the Force and those people who it serves. Recently the Force has seen incidents of human trafficking and modern slavery increase. Human trafficking and modern day slavery awareness week, at the end of May 2016, saw the Force host a week of action and awareness raising. Actions included execution of warrants on properties and businesses thought to be housing trafficked people and joint agency working to provide an information point in the Liverpool Slavery

Museum to raise awareness. The OPCC has been instrumental in the development of a strategic group to look at the multi-agency response to preventing and tackling modern day slavery. The group has had their first meeting and are to agree their terms of reference.

5.28 In addition, Harmful Practices, including Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence and FGM is also seen as an emerging crime type. The OPCC has drawn together a multi-agency strategic group to ensure relevant agencies are involved in the prevention and raising awareness of these crimes.

6. Community Remedy:

6.1 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, created a statutory duty for PCCs to prepare a Community Remedy document for their local policing area. In essence, the Remedy provides victims with a say in the out-of-court punishment of perpetrators for low-level crime and ASB by giving them the opportunity to choose an action from the Community Remedy document that they think the perpetrator should carry out.

6.2 The Community Remedy document itself is a list of actions any of which might, in the opinion of the local policing body, be appropriate in a particular case to be carried out by a person who—

- (a) has engaged in ASB or has committed an offence; and
- (b) is to be dealt with for that behaviour or offence without court proceedings.

6.3 Remedies featured within the document must provide one or more of the following objects –

- (a) assisting in the person's rehabilitation;
- (b) ensuring that the person makes reparation for the behaviour or offence in question;
- (c) punishing the person.

6.4 In preparing or revising the Community Remedy document for its area a PCC must—

- (a) have regard to the need to promote public confidence in the out-of-court disposal process;
- (b) have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State about how local policing bodies are to discharge their functions under this section;
- (c) carry out the necessary consultation and take account of all views expressed by those consulted.

- 6.5 The process describing how Merseyside's PCC satisfied the above statutory requirements has previously been reported to the Police and Crime Panel on 16th October 2014.
- 6.6 During 2015/16, Merseyside Police and the Commissioner's office were approached by Victim Support with regards to enhancing options for victims and offenders within Merseyside's Community Remedy.
- 6.7 Currently, Victim Support administer a Victim Awareness course in a number of local policing areas and have proposed their course is included within the Community Remedy, coming under the 'structured activities' section of the existing document.
- 6.8 The course is intended for offenders who have committed low level crimes and is designed to educate them as to the impact of their actions. Through this educational process it is intended offenders will be equipped with awareness and empathy for the impact of their actions on victims, which in turn will deter them from committing further crimes in the future. This aspect of the course would satisfy the Community Remedy's legislative requirement of assisting in the person's rehabilitation through making offenders aware of the impact of their crime on the victim. Attendees must pay £55 to participate, with the option of paying in instalments provided to participants. This money is used to fund venues, subsistence, volunteer costs and course materials.
- 6.9 Victim Support have gathered initial data and feedback from course participants in Hampshire. This feedback indicates that the course was well received by participants and had an impact upon their thinking in relation to the impact of their crime on the victim. For example:
- 89% of course attendees stated that the course had helped them to think about the behaviour which led to them having to attend the course.
 - 70% of course attendees stated they would definitely behave differently in future as a result of attending the course.
 - 86% of attendees stated the course had helped them to think about how the victim might feel.
- 6.10 The PCC's office is discussing arrangements for establishing the course as an option across Merseyside with Victim Support and Merseyside Police. A decision paper will be published once arrangements have been agreed.

7. Community Trigger:

- 7.1 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act introduced the Community Trigger, or ASB case review, in October 2014. The Trigger places a statutory duty on local authorities to come together with representatives from the police, housing and health to establish a case review process for victims of ASB. In order to successfully activate the Trigger, victims of ASB must satisfy a locally set threshold. The Commissioner's office has worked with local authorities to ensure consistency across the area and agree a pan-Merseyside threshold for victims of ASB.

- 7.2 In terms of the Community Trigger process, once the threshold has been satisfied case reviews will look at:
- (a) the persistence of the ASB about which the original complaint was made;
 - (b) the harm caused, or the potential for harm to be caused, by that behaviour;
 - (c) the adequacy of the response to that behaviour.
- 7.3 The intention of the review is to encourage a problem-solving approach aimed at dealing with some of the most persistent, complex cases of ASB.
- 7.4 Where an individual is dissatisfied with the outcome of a Community Trigger review they may refer their concerns. When this legislation was first launched, the PCC agreed to take on this role to provide a source of independent review.
- 7.5 The PCC's role is to consider due process and ensure that the Local Authority has properly and effectively undertaken a review.
- 7.6 For 2015/16, Merseyside's PCC has received 1 Community Trigger referral from Sefton Metropolitan Council.
- 7.7 In terms of Community Trigger applications for 2015/16, local authorities have provided the following data:

| CSP AREA | Community Trigger applications received | Times the threshold for review was not met | Case reviews carried out | Case reviews that resulted in recommendations being made | Referral to PCC's office |
|------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| KNOWSLEY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LIVERPOOL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SEFTON | 15 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| ST HELENS | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WIRRAL | *Data Not Yet Available From Wirral CSP* | | | | |
| TOTAL | 17 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

- 7.8 To provide an assessment of the Community Trigger and other new powers launched under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, the PCC dedicated the September 2015 meeting of the Merseyside Community Safety Partnership to reviewing the effectiveness of these new powers.

7.9 The meeting provided partners with an opportunity to share their experiences of implementing the powers and highlight best practice as well as generating confidence for partners to employ the new legislation.

8. Equality & Diversity Impact Assessment

8.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations linked to this report.

9. Conclusion

9.1 This report provides members of Merseyside's Police and Crime Panel with information on the PCC's and Merseyside Police's actions to meet and deliver the Police and Crime Plan priority to prevent crime and ASB. Details of progress of the Community Remedy and Community Trigger have also been included to provide the Panel with reassurance of how these important processes, that provide victims with a greater say in low-level crime and ASB, are being delivered across Merseyside.

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