

8.1 Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

<p>Improvement Project Title:</p> <p>Antisocial Behaviour Reduction and reducing demand on criminal justice services through community based activities</p>
<p>Executive Sponsors:</p> <p>Rob Polkinghorne - Chief Operating Officer, Aberdeen City Council Derek McGowan - Chief Officer, Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, Aberdeen City Council</p>
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<p>Aim Statement 1 - Increase by 20% the number of young people identified as being at risk of becoming involved in offending behaviour who are engaged in targeted community-based activities by 2021</p> <p>Aim Statement 2 - Reduce instances of anti-social behaviour as a result of appropriate and effective interventions in targeted areas by 10% by 2021</p>
<p>Link to Local Outcome Improvement Plan:</p> <p>Link to Aim Statement 1 Stretch Outcome 8: 25% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026 (Community Justice Group/ ICS)</p> <p>Key Driver 8.1: Young people receive the right help at the right time through provision of a strong universal offer alongside availability of multi-disciplinary targeted interventions (using a trauma-informed approach) to improve outcomes for young people at risk of becoming involved in the Justice system</p> <p>Key improvement measure: Number of young people involved in three or more Police Crime Files (Baseline data: 16/17 – 100; 17/18 – 71)</p> <p>Link to Aim Statement 2 Stretch Outcome 9. 25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction each year by 2026</p> <p>Key Driver 9.2: Tackling antisocial behaviour in problem areas with appropriate and effective interventions</p> <p>Key improvement measure: Number of first court convictions (Baseline data: 40 young people aged under 18 in 2016-17; 796 people aged 18+ in 2016-17)</p>
<p>Why is this important?</p> <p>Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person' and is a wide-ranging issue which encompasses many aspects of criminal and non-criminal behaviour. The types of behaviour frequently listed range from vandalism and littering to noisy neighbours and youth disorder. These are the type of behaviours that cause distress in communities and</p>

make them feel unsafe. Strategies to tackle antisocial behaviour are underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention to provide solutions, reduce the likelihood and opportunity for offending and optimise outcomes for individuals who may otherwise involve themselves in this type of activity

This is particularly important for young people, as the longitudinal survey undertaken by University of Edinburgh in 2011 identified clear evidence that the younger people enter the criminal justice system, the more likely they are to remain there and the lower their overall life outcomes will be. This is a complex narrative involving a host of different markers that lead to the point of entry – educational attainment; adverse childhood experiences, experience of poverty for example. However it is clear that entering the criminal justice system poses a significant milestone in the life of a young person, and that keeping them out of the system would be a benefit for both those individuals and public services due to the combined cost of working with them.

Someone entering the criminal justice system at a young age can expect contact with social work services, Police Scotland, NHS services, and potentially Scottish Prison Service, children's reporter – often this is the point where a lifelong relationship with these services is set up. The cost to the public sector of this relationship can be enormous.

There is a need to predict the likelihood of an individual entering the criminal justice system, and identify the earliest point to intervene and change the trajectory, therefore improving outcomes and reducing demand on public sector agencies.

The British Crime Survey found that the type of area where people lived to be the strongest underlying predictor of perceptions of high levels of antisocial behaviour. Those living in hard-pressed areas had odds of perceiving high levels that were four times higher than those in wealthier achiever areas. The findings in this survey suggest that efforts to tackle antisocial behaviour should be targeted at a particular type of area in the first instance. Data collected over the last 3 months show that Torry is an appropriate area for this work to be targeted on, with an increase in ASB calls from 54 in April to 102 in June. This corresponds with a decrease in residents feeling safe in their area from 46% in 17/18 to 38% in 18/19.

Any reduction in antisocial behaviour within a defined area will improve the quality of life for people within that area, increase public confidence and enhance a positive sense of community for residents. This will also increase the collective will and ability of a community to tackle problems itself by increasing community resilience.

Evidence of previous success:

In 2017/18, through a successful partnership approach, a multi disciplinary approach to address wilful fire raising and youth disorder in the Oldtown/Marchburn area used targeted campaigns to reassure residents and gathering intel for consideration of necessary intervention. In the Oldtown/Marchburn area, this had a positive impact on ASB, with a 75% reduction in incidents and Crime Reports from the peak of the issues to 12 months later. This included the rapid removal of litter, graffiti and rubbish to maintain the aesthetic appearance of the neighbourhood and demonstrates the improvements that can be achieved.

Building on this approach, in February 2019, a project was instigated in the Northfield area of Aberdeen with the aim of reducing antisocial behaviour following an identified increase in this type of conduct in this area. The following is a description from that project of the impact of antisocial behaviour on businesses and how they can contribute to tackling the issue:

Retailers, particularly small stores, are often victims of ASB. When businesses suffer from ASB, the community often pays the price in increased costs of goods, higher insurance premiums and potential loss of investment by businesses in the local area. Their views and information can be critical in shaping a campaign against ASB. They will know the issues that affect them most. Businesses can also help by taking a stand in their community, taking action against those who behave anti-socially on or outside their premises and not selling alcohol to underage young people. (HSE – Managing work-related violence in licensed and retail premises).

Additional and more visible policing is a priority for local retailers and residents. We have increased flexibility and mobility in targeting officers to where they are most required. For this project, a dedicated Locality Team will address the identified 'hot spots' within the locality and work with partners to address the various issues. We know that by working together and making improvements in the community, helps the community feel more positive and ASB reduces as a result of improved community pride.

Overall, embedding a successful, multi-agency approach to dealing with ASB into our locality will lead to improved outcomes for retailers, community members and partners.

This operation in Northfield has created foundations for an effective strategy to tackle antisocial behaviour. The learning and outcomes from that project will be used to inform this project to build on what has already been achieved and work towards a longer term outcome.

Measures: (How will we know if a change is an improvement?)

Outcome measures

- No. of offences committed by 8-15 year olds:
- Group 3 offences - e.g. shoplifting, housebreaking, theft of motor vehicles. (Baseline data:16/17 – 367; 17/18 – 260)
- Group 6 offences - e.g. common assaults and breach of peace (Baseline data:16/17 – 465; 17/18 – 254)
- No. of offences committed by 16 & 17 year olds:
- Group 3 offences - e.g. shoplifting, housebreaking, theft of motor vehicles. (Baseline data: 16/17 – 293; 17/18 – 167)
- Group 6 offences - e.g. common assaults and breach of peace. (Baseline data: 16/17 – 234; 17/18 – 192)
- No. of young people involved in three or more Police Crime Files
- (Baseline data: 16/17 – 100; 17/18 – 71)
- No. of antisocial behaviour / youth annoyance cases reported to the Council:
- Baseline data – 16/17: 3881; 17/18: 4,670
- No. of antisocial behaviour / youth annoyance cases reported to the Police:
- Baseline data – 16/17: 1,869; 17/18: 1,827
- No. of active cases
- No. of repeat complaints:
- Baseline data – 16/17: 55; 17/18: 34
- Recidivist rates
- Overall cost of demand

Process measures

- Number of youths identified as on a pathway to entering the criminal justice system
- Number of interactions between youth work teams and these individuals (may include starting from scratch to establish a baseline)

- Number of referrals to Early Intervention Worker
- Number of individuals engaging with Early Intervention Worker
- Length of sustained engagement with Early Intervention Worker
- Number of referrals to and interventions by Third Sector organisations
- Intelligence logs, Drug Search Warrant applications, drugs cases raised
- Number of Drug & Alcohol referrals
- Number of individuals engaging with Drug and Alcohol services
- Number of completed actions from multiagency response plans

Balancing measures

- School attainment rates
- School attendance for those identified
- Number of maintenance jobs carried out, re-housing applications processed (due to demand created by increased enforcement work)
- If ASB is under reported, this could result in figures rising initially instead of the predicted downward trend.

Change ideas (What can we do that will result in improvement?)

Aim Statement 1 - Increase by 20% the number of young people identified as being at risk of becoming involved in offending behaviour who are engaged in targeted community-based activities by 2021

Aim Statement 2 - Reduce instances of anti-social behaviour as a result of appropriate and effective interventions in targeted areas by 10% by 2021

- Multi-disciplinary approach to parental support for young people at risk of becoming involved in the justice system
- System for using data to identify those in need of enhanced support earlier
- Introduce early intervention training for teachers
- Improve community spaces for generational and intergenerational activities
- Volunteer recruitment to support broader range of community youth based activities
- Integrated CPA teams tackling demand in localities
- Introduce campaign to raise awareness / training of ACES in communities and across CPA
- Introduce Restorative justice training
- Create youth flats in communities to support independent living
- Develop workforce to ensure gender balance and positive male role models
- Introduce tolerance campaign to remind adults they were young once to reduce unnecessary complaints. Including sessions with local employers.
- Rework job profiles to improve relationships between staff and communities
- A flagging system of ASB hotspots and individuals identified as likely to be involved, and the development of a mechanism for real time, ongoing information sharing
- Developing existing Community Engagement events to include broader range of organisations
- A restorative justice approach where individuals appreciate the consequences of their actions – specifics to be developed
- Community-based environment improvement solutions, e.g. litter picks, maintenance works

Potential Barriers

- Different legislative positions and organisational policies / priorities
- Establishing team work most effectively
- Information sharing not working to benefit individuals

- Lack of resources to successfully implement project
- Sustaining short term benefits in the longer term
- Media reporting portraying target area in a negative way

Project Team pool:

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- COPFS / SCRA - tbc
- Scottish Fire and Rescue - tbc
- Streetsports - tbc
- AFC Community Trust tbc
- ACVO – tbc
- Representative for relevant Community Council – tbc
- NHS – tbc

Outline Project Plan

Project Stage	Actions	Timescale
Getting Started (Project Score 1-3)	Discussion, agreement and workshop.	Complete July 2019
Designing and Testing Changes (Project Score 4-7)	Further workshop to agree driver diagram and identify key changes anticipated to have greatest impact. Thereafter identify project plan and flow for each change idea and establish team to implement test idea.	September 2019.

<p>Implementing and sustaining changes that demonstrate improvement (Project Score 7-10)</p>	<p>Analyse the tests of change, identify success / failure and use to inform redesign of services.</p>	<p>12 weeks from agreement of design and test phase (mid-end December 2019)</p>
<p>Spreading Changes (Project Score 9-10)</p>	<p>Based on outcomes actions will need to be scaled up through agreement and collaboration with relevant partners. This may affect service design and so a level of engagement will be required with communities and potentially elected members.</p>	<p>March 2020</p>