

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No.6 /18

Date: 4 June 2018
Briefing paper to: All Members

Purpose: To give all Members an understanding of the role of the Medway Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team

Summary.

ASB is defined as; “behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the person.”

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a duty upon local authorities to seek to prevent crime and disorder in its area by working with partnership agencies. This resulted in the formation of the Medway Community Safety Partnership, comprising of five ‘responsible’ authorities; Medway Council, Kent Police, Kent Probation Services, Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

More recently the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 has provided local authorities with new powers for tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

These include the ability to create, serve and enforce

- ASB related injunctions (Formally anti-social behaviour orders).
- Public Space Protection Orders (Formally Designated Public Place Orders)
- Community Protection Notices.
- Criminal Behaviour Orders. (Post Conviction)

Historically Kent Police have been responsible for managing ‘person-based’ anti-social behaviour at an operational level. However due to re-structuring within Kent Police, a need was identified to develop a Medway Council operational resource to deliver a partnership based response to community expectations around ASB.

Medway Council officers already deal with environmental ASB, such as noise nuisance, graffiti, littering and fly tipping. It is not proposed to make changes to how this area is managed, as the arrangements work well.

The Medway Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team

To allow a focussed and resilient approach to ASB, it was proposed that case management is undertaken by a newly created, dedicated team that works in partnership with Kent Police and other partnership agencies. This will give an improved customer experience by ensuring a consistent approach across all tenures for management of ASB. It will also build resilience in terms of officers dealing with cases and ensure policing resources can be best targeted and utilised for management of high level cases. However the aim of this new team is to compliment and work in partnership with dedicated Police officers and Police Community Support Officers within the Community Safety Unit.

The team does not form part of a 'blue light' response, but will be working in a measured way to develop and deliver appropriate courses of action and solutions by using the full range of new powers available to local authorities. The team will focus on long-term, complex issues, using risk assessment prioritisation, problem solving and partnership working.

This new team is made up of 2 officers. The Senior ASB Officer is Tim Harris and ASB Officer is Lorraine Silvester. It will be fully trained in ASB legislation, powers, procedures and diversity. Training and professional development will be on-going and to a high standard.

The team will be accredited under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). This is a voluntary scheme under which the Kent Police Chief Constable authorises those working in roles that contribute to maintaining and improving community safety with limited but targeted powers.

Reporting ASB

In order to accurately record, track and audit cases of ASB it is imperative that a single reporting system is utilised. The team will receive all reports via the police '101' system currently in place, by phone or on-line reporting. This will allow a focussed, resilient and accountable approach to ASB. Officers will manage cases using a single police operated recording database which will enable a joined-up approach and a victim focused response to ASB.

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