

**Tower
Hamlets
Homes**

ASB Update

19/03/2018

Background

- Police data shows LBTH has the highest number of reported ASB incidents across London
- Research carried out by Housemark in 2015/16 showed that THH has by far the highest number of ASB cases- with the average housing provider reporting 5 times less cases
- ASB is the amongst the foremost concern of residents-a survey of 160 residents in April 2017 showed
- 83% saw drug dealing as a minor or major problem in their Neighbourhood
- 57% had reported ASB in the last 12 months
- Loitering by large groups seen as a problem by 48% of respondents.

What our LBTH residents wanted

- Calls for THH to be “more strict” in the management of ASB
- Improve upon the feedback given to those who have complained
- The need to work in Partnership more effectively with Community Police Officers
- A view that ASB team members should be available at nights and assigned to certain estates or areas.
- A 24 hour service to report ASB rather than ASB being reported in “specific windows”.
- More officer power to tackle ASB
- Quicker response times.
- Reach out to the community to identify suspects

What we have done

1) Re-structuring of ASB team

- Re-organisation of new team into an Estate Based Team and Tenancy specialism
- A new specialist liaison role that enables all first reports/calls from residents to be dealt with by an ASB specialist from 1st April
- Additional Management capacity to cope with the number of reports and a new set of procedures
- Staggered hours with ASB availability in the evenings
- Able to procure additional legal support to manage increased casework-from March

2) New Police team

- Gained agreement from the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) to fund additional Police a cost of 1.4 million over 3 years
- Staffing numbers consist of 2 Sergeants and 12 Police Officers
- Earlier roll-out with a smaller team from October 17 with full establishment beginning in January 18
- Initially providing patrols in high profile areas
- Evidence gathering that supports increased legal action bolstered by funding for a new Solicitor
- Acting on intelligence provided by Parkguard services
- Highly encouraging start for new team –see later

3) Use of Parkguard Security

Developing Community re-assurance based on a model used in Ealing

- Appoint Police accredited Security service with capability of being delegating Police powers
- Schedule high-visibility patrols in high ASB areas with an emphasis on gathering information and intelligence .
- Handing over results of the exercise that will inform future action to the THH ASB team and the Police team in taking enforcement action
- This will include intelligence on perpetrators of anti social activity/gangs/drug dealing
- Targeted joint action with Police teams

Early successes- since September 2017

- 75 arrests, 600 ASB warnings and 385 stop and searches- as well as 9 vehicles seized
- Shutting down of a crime den masquerading as a barber shop as well as Cannabis farm closure in an LBTH flat
- Caretaking team reporting significant reduction in drug use, prostitution and rough sleeping in the Chicksand area
- Focus of operations in Shadwell and Sidney areas- Operation Continuum- 3 warrants executed on 11th December- 2 arrests- a further 14 injunctions either served or being prepared
- A 2nd operation targeting drugs and ASB focused in Stepney used information from Police, Partners and other sources- 8 arrests for money laundering, robbery, firearms and possession of a class A drug

Innovation and Diversionary work

- Use of Closure Notices and Partial Premises Closure Orders at Bentworth Court and Solander Gardens
- Targeted early morning estate visits with LBTH Drug support/counselling team to talk to rough sleepers engaged in substance abuse.
- Working with Streets of Growth -60 young people from Shadwell, Sidney and Chicksand at high risk of offending are to receive targeted intervention aimed at changing life trajectories
- All of these developments have taken place in the 5 months since the start of the new arrangements