

Response to Scrutiny Working Group Report on Tackling Anti Social Behaviour

Recommendation	Response/Comments	Date	Update: Oct 2009
<p>R1 That the Council and all Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in Tower Hamlets provide Cabinet with an annual report detailing how they are meeting the six strands of the Respect agenda.</p>	<p>The 16 RSLs who have signed up to the standards will be able to provide the information. The Council will work with the rest of the RSLs to gather information from them.</p> <p>This work will also provide information for the Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP). The purpose of the strategic assessment is to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety problems in the borough. This assessment will offer information on the Council and RLSs approach to tackling crime and disorder matters, linked to the old Respect agenda.</p> <p>Action;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gather information already available 2. Undertake discussions with other RSLs to obtain information from them 3. Strategic Assessment commences 4. Strategic Assessment to CDRP 5. A report will be compiled with findings 	<p>Completed December 2008</p> <p>October 2008 January 2009</p>	<p>The initial scope identified that the local Authority and Tower Hamlets Homes manage their ASB data on one database, 6 others manage their operations on a different, jointly purchased database, whilst the remaining RSLs operate independently.</p> <p>We have experienced problems pulling the information together.</p> <p>After negotiations with the 6 RSLs that have purchased their own system the Community Safety ASB analyst has been given access to their database, we have developed and</p>

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<p>how the ASB database functions and complaints are investigated. This may well be a one off training session or site demonstration.</p>	<p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing on new database provided through Members Bulletin 2. Deliver training/site visit 	<p>December 2009 January 2010</p>	<p>Visit from Limehouse Community Forum conducted November 2008 to raise awareness amongst community groups of how ASB reports are dealt with.</p>
<p>R4 That the Council should continue to work to find ways to get all 64 RSLs operating in the Borough to develop consistent standards to tackling ASB.</p>	<p>The Police and Justice Act now recognise RSLs as co operating bodies within the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). Information sharing protocols are now in place. The management of investigations will adhere to house mark standards for those that have signed up to the Respect Standards. The Council and Tower Hamlets Homes have procedures in place to ensure consistent standards when tackling ASB.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>This procedure will be taken to the RSL forum, to see if same approach can be implemented across all RSL s.</p>	<p>March 2009</p>	<p>Additional arrangements have had to be made to ensure that the CSS analyst now has access to the database used by 6 RSLs</p> <p>The RSL forum continues to work to respect standards and best practice working.</p> <p>CSS and THH have a performance management framework and a new ASB procedure that conforms to respect standards. This has been shared with RSLs</p>

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<p>R5 That the Council and RSLs undertake a cost-benefit analysis of procuring a new single reporting system, to capture all ASB reports made in Tower Hamlets.</p>	<p>RSLs have a new reporting system different from that of the Council. The Council have also purchased a new reporting system that links to internal systems already in use. However management and reporting are still the same. There are information sharing protocols in place and the Community Safety Service exchanges information with RSLs and all data relating to ASB is presented in map and graph forms with commentaries every six weeks to partner agencies.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>This recommendation was developed after CSS, THH, and RSLs had made their decisions on databases. All have been in discussions and developed information sharing protocols and the CSS analyst now has direct access to other databases that assist the new joint tasking process.</p>
<p>R6 That the Borough Commander provides details of running costs to enable an assessment of an expansion in the number and duration of Good Behaviour Zones (GBZs).</p>	<p>Unfortunately the police have not kept detailed costings that are associated with GBZs. However they will in the future. Throughout the period that a GBZ runs the police endeavour to ensure that the SNTs are fully engaged with it. However, other policing issues, leave, sickness, training, and other abstractions will pull officers away from working on the operation. They do not have data on other teams such as the Territorial Support Group TSG. Although they ask for assistance they cannot detail the length of time that the teams stay in the borough.</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Since this recommendation there has not been a 'Good Behaviour' zone in operation.</p> <p>The new joint tasking process will be able to track police and partnership involvement to ensure that all costings are reported.</p>

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	<p>It is important however to note that GBZs require considerable resources for enforcement if they are to be effective, the more there are and the longer in duration the fewer resources will be available for additional zones. It is therefore important to consider the implementation of a GBZ in the context of existing work to tackle anti-social behaviour.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>Analysis of effectiveness of GBZs will be used to consider future expansions of GBZs</p>		
<p>R7 That the Council look at progress of the National pilot scheme to withdraw housing benefit from those found guilty of persistent ASB and report back to Cabinet on the merit of Tower Hamlets participating in any future pilots.</p>	<p>The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is piloting a scheme to impose housing benefit sanctions on those who are involved in persistent anti-social behaviour. The scheme is based on the measure introduced by Section 31 the Welfare Reform Act 2007. It is being tested in 8 Local Authorities, all outside London, between 1st November 2007 and 31st October 2009. The scheme will not be evaluated until after its completion towards the end of 2009. No other pilots are planned so Tower Hamlets will not be able to participate at this time. As soon as any information is released full details will be</p>	<p>October 2009</p>	<p>To date there has not been any progress report on the pilot.</p> <p>As soon as anything is released we will consider the findings and report on potential opportunities for the partnership.</p>

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	<p>circulated and recommendations considered for action.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>A report will be submitted to Cabinet to consider the options, once a report from the pilot scheme is available.</p>		
<p>R8 That Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) provide Members with data on response times to ASB calls made by residents, to help evaluate the effectiveness of SNTs in their current capacity.</p>	<p>The SNTs do not keep data on response times to ASB, much of which is of course notified through the ASB line at the Local Authority.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>However Community Safety Service will provide data from the new database that shows responses to calls made to ASB hotline.</p>	<p>1st April 2009</p>	<p>All calls to the ASB hotline that require SNT action are forwarded to them on email. The CSS can provide accurate data from the database on all referrals to SNTs. This is done within one working day. However the SNTs do not always acknowledge response. This is being progressed by the Borough Commander as part of the new policing pledge.</p>
<p>R9 That the Partnership set aside funding to pilot an expanded SNT of six Police Constables (PCs) and six Police Constable Support</p>	<p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>Cabinet has agreed to set aside £600k for 2009/2010 to fund 17 Police Officers.</p>	<p>From April 2009 and ongoing</p>	<p>The police team has been in operation since the 14th April 2009. The LA purchased 15 officers and the Borough</p>

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Officers (PCSOs) in at least two wards for a period of up to two years	The Partnership supports the proposal for the additional Police officers and will be working closely with Community Safety and the Police ensure these are implemented and linked into LAP Priorities.	From April 2009 and ongoing	Commander added a further 5 officers to the team. The team are managed by the police and tasked through a joint tasking meeting that sits monthly. This will probably move to a fortnightly meeting when CLC localisation is introduced.
R10 That the Community Safety Service with the help of the Tower Hamlets Partnership and East End Life (EEL) look to better promote the Council's ASB strategy to residents in the Borough.	A number of approaches are being taken forward to publicise the Council's ASB Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Production and distribution of Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) publicity, in accordance with ASBO publicity protocol ▪ Using community events as an opportunity to raise awareness about the Council's ASB reporting line and the work being done to tackle ASB ▪ Delivery of a PR/community engagement campaign to impact on perceptions of ASB, including poster advertising, engagement events, leaflet drops and high profile PR 'stunts' ▪ Targeted publications on ASB ▪ Press releases and features on ASB for 	March 2009	The ASB publicity protocol has been agreed and is now operating. A number of ASBOS have been publicised locally. Community events are regularly used to advertise work and the ASB line. A document attached highlights some of our campaigns and we have agreed with the police that we can report in their SNT leaflets. Targeted media through Neighbourhood

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	<p>local media including EEL.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Using Tower Hamlets first Community Safety Awards to commend people who help the council; police and other partners make the borough a safer place. 		<p>crime and justice pages in EEL. Community Safety Awards took place in January and will be repeated this next Jan.</p>
<p>R11 That Children’s Service with the help of Education Psychologist support schools to help develop further young people’s appreciation of acceptable behaviour by reviewing behaviour codes and practises that are in line with tackling ASB.</p>	<p>The secondary school partnership for Behaviour and Attendance has agreed with the 14-19 HUB partners a shared borough-wide Statement of Expectation about Behaviour which will inform codes of conduct in schools, the college and alternative education / training providers. Advice to support behaviour policy development is available from the Behaviour Support Team</p> <p>A review of Bullying policies in schools currently underway to ensure all schools, residential units and youth work settings have policies which match the LA standards set out in the Anti-bullying and Anti Harassment guidance.</p> <p>The borough is piloting an anti-bullying help line to ensure prompt intervention to prevent and reduce bullying in the borough.</p>	<p>On going work</p> <p>March 2009</p> <p>July 2009</p>	<p>Most schools in the borough have now achieved a “good” or “excellent” grade for behaviour. All schools with an Ofsted grade of ‘Satisfactory’ for behaviour receive a package of support from the BST to further improve whole school policy and practice. This is in-line with the DCSF ‘Securing Good’ initiative.</p> <p>A member of the BST has a SLA with the 14-19 HUB to train and support vocational training providers in developing good</p>

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			<p>practice around behaviour management</p> <p>The BST works in a multi-agency way with a range of services to identify and support children and young people who are at risk of developing anti-social behaviour or suffering from its effects.</p> <p>The LA Anti-bullying officer is supporting schools to ensure their policies comply with best practice and are in line with the new OFSTED Framework's enhanced emphasis on safeguarding. He also supports schools to run on-line questionnaires to ensure pupils have an opportunity to comment anonymously on practice in schools. The</p>

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			<p>National Audit office report that head teachers rate the TH anti-bullying service as one of the best in the country.</p> <p>The pilot on the anti-bullying helpline has been extended to Dec. 09.</p>
<p>R12 That the Youth Offending Team (YOT) work with other agencies to identify and support vulnerable children and young people, most at risk of causing ASB and ensure that wherever possible all pupils are able to access appropriate educational provision.</p>	<p>This is work undertaken through the School Inclusion Programme (SIP), the Youth Inclusion Support Panels (YISP) and Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP), all of which are currently operating at full scale. A Proposal has been submitted to expand the YIP in LAPs 7&8.</p> <p>There is a designated officer for Children without a school place who liaises with the SIP to secure a place, or interim provision in the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) within 4 weeks of identification.</p> <p>The Protocol on the Education of Young Offenders is being revised and re-launched in October 2008 to ensure schools are aware of</p>	<p>October 2008</p> <p>On-going work</p> <p>October 2008</p>	<p>Youth Inclusion programme is operating in all LAP areas (1-8). YIP is closely working with Schools, Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Connexions, Youth Offending Team, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Local Youth Services Providers, RSLs and other services.</p> <p>Challenge & Support Programme (CaSP) was rolled out during October 2008; CaSP ensures a “triple track”</p>

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	<p>their responsibilities to young offenders and to ensure there is continuity of education for them.</p>		<p>approach in responding to youth related anti-social behaviour working closely with ASB enforcement agencies and early intervention and prevention programme. To support the local implementation of CaSP a number of existing initiatives and provisions have been brought together and engaged within Tower Hamlets, which includes YISP, YIP and New Start (New Start have a particular remit around supporting children who are NEET). Since, April 2008, 103 children and young people within our targeted cohort were identified being involved in anti-social behaviour and issued ABCs. 79 young people accepted</p>

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			<p>preventative support. The 24 who declined intervention were prior to CaSP being rolled out.</p> <p>Where appropriate, referrals are made by the designated officer for Children Missing from Education to the SIP for a place in the PRU. These are now taken under "Chair's action" to ensure swift allocation of support.</p>
<p>R13 That the Council enhance youth services, including both the quality of facilities within centres and the operating days/hours. Additional funding should be set aside to expand significantly youth services on offer within at least two wards for a period of two years. The Youth Service should undertake a thorough consultation, with young people, parents and schools to understand what would</p>	<p>£1m revenue funding has now been identified to look at operating Youth Clubs during un-social hours including week-end provision.</p> <p>Consultation on how the £1m should be spent has already started. On 23rd September 2008 the Youth Service had a joint provider's away day which included contractual providers, who offer youth service work in Tower Hamlets and are responsible for spending the £1m.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>This recommendation has been implemented and youth service is being provided through various centres.</p>

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be most attractive in helping young people stay off the streets	<p>The away day gave us the opportunity to consult with the contractual providers on how the £1m revenue funding should be spent.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> A briefing document, that sets out Tower Hamlets vision of where the funding should be spent, will be dispatched to all contractual providers</p>		