

# Delivering our Outcomes: Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour to make a safer borough

## Diversions Activities



Numerous diversionary activities have recently been implemented in relation to providing positive activities to younger individuals to distil positive values and deter away from becoming involved in unacceptable behaviour. This includes Marsh Nights on the Marsh in Maybank every Friday night providing football with Youth Detached Workers and the local PCSO's. Also footballing activities in Silverdale and Knutton, boxing in Clayton and basketball in Chesterton. Numerous funding bids have been successful in relation to enabling Newcastle Borough Council to progress these further, most recent funding includes just under £10000 for Greater Chesterton to provide every Friday night a location at the Salvation Army to do either boxing or DJ'ing and events at Chesterton Speedway to educate individuals on the dangers of alcohol and substance misuse. Many other activities are also ongoing and due to be implemented, the most recent being on the Miners Estate in Kidsgrove.

## Restorative Justice

Numerous projects have been ongoing whereby individuals involved in causing anti-social behaviour have been required in agreement with victims, as an alternative punishment to potentially criminalising them for a first offence, to do work within their community to make it a better place. This 'work' is educational, proportional and reasonable and can include painting, weeding and gardening, litter picking etc. The most recent of these projects has been in Silverdale whereby the Pavilion has been restored by younger individuals with the older generation of Silverdale in line with the local heritage of mining. Through receipt of old photos and learning about the past they have created a gallery going back a 100 years in Silverdale and due to the intergenerational work brought the community together. This showed at a recent 'Love Silverdale' fun day event that took place and was well attended. There were older singers, younger dancers, street fest entertainment and a Silverdale Bowling team of both younger and older that has been established. The overall outcome is that the levels of anti-social behaviour have decreased and the pavilion is now being used in the correct manner for the benefit of the community, after years of vandalism. So much so that local residents have contributed financially to the projects.



## Home Security and Personal Safety Packs

Newcastle Borough Council have purchased over 800 home security and personal safety packs to provide to vulnerable residents of Newcastle at risk or experiencing anti-social behaviour. These packs consist of PIR Home security alarms, shed alarms, window and door alarms, personal safety alarms, door jammers, mirrors, door chains etc. They are provided to residents using set flexible criteria and can also be utilised via partners through the weekly HUB referrals and Vulnerable Victims monthly Case Conferences. Victims of Domestic Violence, nearby burglaries, individuals with health and mobility problems and some subjected to intimidation have all benefitted from these packs that are fitted by Newcastle Fire and Rescue whilst a fire risk safety assessment and check is done fitting fire proof letterboxes at the same time.



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## Working with Landlords to Reduce ASB

Working with Partners and other colleagues at Newcastle Borough Council a mapping exercise in relation to private landlords has been undertaken and piloted in the Miners Estate of Kidsgrove, whereby through doing this exercise we now have no absentee landlords in this area. Should complaints be made to NBC where anti-social behaviour is prevalent, we will work with the landlord to ensure the behaviour of their tenants improve and assist using powers that we have at hand to take positive action including eviction proceedings. The Accredited Landlord Licensing is being heavily utilised and service level agreements have been put in place with some larger landlords such as Jump to Independence and Salt Box properties.



## Recent 'Gang' Related ASB

In response to recent incidents which had all ranges of diversities but included two areas of Newcastle under Lyme, Chesterton and Bradwell, it was acknowledged that there was an uprising issue with gangs that involved intimidation and threatening behaviour centred around drug misuse and knives. Through working with partners we have identified all individuals involved, which currently stands at over 40 individuals, all signed up to Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. Support is put in place along with them having to attend the ASB course every week, liaising with landlords in line with tenancy conditions and looking at their financial circumstances and at training and employment. Early intervention and prevention measures have been put in place along with enforcement, and over two weeks ago we were successful in obtaining an Anti-Social Behaviour Order against one individual which carries if breached a term of imprisonment of up to five years. Presentation and discussions have also taken place in school with parents and all partners involved.

## ASB Figures

As highlighted in this month's Reporter Newcastle Borough Council is the only district in Staffordshire to have a reduced level of anti-social behaviour throughout the last twelve months. This was highlighted at the County meeting by the Police Crime Commissioner. The emphasis has been on early intervention and prevention measures and a very proactive 'hands on' approach but also taking enforcement when necessary. We have within the last twelve months sought 23 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts with 80% of them having positive effects and no breaches being made and 3 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders sought to prohibit individual's behaviours as this has been the last resort.