

Central Bedfordshire Council

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Friday 1 July 2016

Anti-Social Behaviour - Overview & Scrutiny Presentation

Report of (Executive Member for Community Services, Executive Member for brian.spurr@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Advising Officers: Director of Community Services, marcel.coiffait@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and Community Safety Operations Manager, steve.barrett@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk, 0300 300 5639

Purpose of this report

1. The Committee will receive a presentation setting out how the Council tackles anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Central Bedfordshire, including the use of new powers provided by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. To consider and discuss the information provided in the presentation.

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

Issues

None

Options for consideration

N/A

Reason/s for decision

N/A

Council Priorities

Indicate how the proposed action supports at least one of the Council's priorities, listed below:

- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire
- Great resident services
- Improving education and skills

- Protecting the vulnerable; improving wellbeing
- Creating stronger communities
- A more efficient and responsive Council.

Anti-social behaviour is a significant concern for the residents of Central Bedfordshire and victims are often the most vulnerable of our communities. Tackling ASB supports Council priorities of protecting the vulnerable, creating stronger communities and enhancing Central Bedfordshire.

Community Safety

2. The Council is a responsible authority on Central Bedfordshire’s Community Safety Partnership. The work around ASB ensures we meet our statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder (including environmental crime) and supports the Community Safety Partnership Strategy and priorities for 2016 - 2019.

Legal Implications

The Council has a statutory duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider, formulate and implement strategies for reducing crime and improving community safety in all its functions. This report and presentation supports the work the Council does under this duty as well as informing Members on the same, and thereby complying with general local government principles of transparency and scrutiny.

Financial and Risk Implications

3. Failure to take action where the Council has appropriate powers could risk the Council’s reputation as an efficient and effective organisation promoting community safety and make it vulnerable to a legal challenge for the payment of damages or other sanction.

The work of the Council’s ASB & Statutory Nuisance Team also helps to mitigate the risks of: failing to deliver Council priorities, in particular protecting the vulnerable and creating stronger communities; failing to support the CSP priority of protecting our communities; and failing to discharge statutory responsibilities.

The issue of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) in lieu of a prosecution for contravention of ASB legislation generates income. Most of the FPNs issued are for littering or Dog Control Order offences. In the last three calendar years the following income has been generated from paid FPNs:

2014	£1040	
2015	£2150	
2016	£1130	(Figures to 31 May 2016)

Equalities Implications

4. The Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

ASB can sometimes be motivated by hostility, prejudice or hatred of an individual on the basis of a protected characteristic and consideration is given to whether such behaviours should be reported to the Police as potential hate crimes or incidents.

Implications for Work Programming

N/A

Conclusion and next Steps

N/A

Appendices

Appendix A – Powerpoint Presentation

Background Papers

N/A