

Report to Scrutiny Commission

Neighbourhood Scrutiny Commission
Date of Commission meeting: 2nd March 2023

Community Safety Programme Updates

Report of the Director of Social Care, Prevention and
Safer Communities



Useful information

■ Ward(s) affected: All

■ Report authors:

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1. Purpose of report

1.1 To provide the Commission with an overview of the work of Community Safety to include the Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Team, the Changing Futures programme and the progress towards the centralised Housing Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

2. Summary

2.1 Community Safety is sits within Prevention and Safer Communities under the Directorship of Early Help and Social Care. Community Safety consists of a Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Team (CrASBU), Changing Futures and a new team launching in April 2023 to manage the anti-social behaviour function of Leicester City Council's housing management.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that members of the Commission note and comment on this work, identifying any additional steps that can be taken to strengthen the work of the teams.

4. Report

CrASBU Updates

4.1 CrASBU officers based at the Community Safety Hub at Mansfield House Police Station regularly work with local police officers and attend and jointly Chair the central Joint Action Group meetings.

4.2 An officer is on duty at the station every weekday to help and support police street lifestyle issues and they can deploy out when a street lifestyle issue is reported and needs attention.

4.3 CrASBU staff have been taking part in dedicated patrols to support the public spaces protection order (PSPO) aimed at enforcing the current order to prevent anti-social consumption of alcohol and new psychoactive substances as well as

identifying opportunities to provide evidence to vary the existing order to encompass further street lifestyle issues

- 4.1 CrASBU deal with complex and high-risk cases of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) across all tenures. They also deal with all reports of ASB from residents and tenants in private sector housing from initial report to high level investigations and legal action. Due to the nature of this work CrASBU has accumulated specialist knowledge of dealing with ASB. The type of case that CrASBU deals with includes issues that can relate to mental health, substance misuse, domestic violence, and knife crime and all too often drugs and drug dealing.
- 4.2 The Council's Tenancy Management Service within the Housing Division also have a responsibility to ensure that Leicester City Council tenants adhere to responsibilities and obligations outlined within the Conditions of Tenancy. Currently, Housing Services deal with low to medium reported ASB incidents which primarily involve Leicester City Council housing stock. This work is due to transfer over to Community Safety in April 2023. Where cases are assessed as complex and/or high risk they are referred to CrASBU.
- 4.3 The Housing Division and CrASBU have started a soft handover whilst we complete the recruitment process for the new Housing ASB Team. CrASBU in agreement with tenancy management have agreed to a short term, less rigid referral pathway to allow some lower-level cases to be transferred without delay and there is some capacity to pick this work up in CrASBU. The benefit being that victims have faster access to case resolution and specialised staff. CrASBU continue to deal with ASB referrals from partner agencies, residents, landlords and businesses.
- 4.4 CrASBU deal with matters that cause an individual (or individuals) harassment, alarm and distress through ASB. The team address ASB through a range of mechanisms including legal sanctions such as Civil Injunctions, Possession Proceedings and Closure Orders.
- 4.5 Since COVID and lockdown the nature of this work has become more complex, and the number of high risk and complex cases has increased. Whilst the effect of the lockdown resulting in people spending increasing amounts inside their homes has magnified neighbour disputes across the City and new patterns have started to emerge.
- 4.6 Some of this is as a result of the unintended consequence of the 'everyone in' scheme to ensure no one slept rough during the lockdown. A number of individuals who benefitted from this initiative have been placed in accommodation that is not suitable to their needs and nor is the community to which they have been placed.
- 4.7 CrASBU have seen an increase in referrals for cases of 'cuckooing' and targeting of vulnerable residents. Some from the homeless pathway have become significant perpetrators both in their homes and in the homes of nearby vulnerable tenants and there has been an increase in properties being taken over for the use of drugs and drug dealing as well as places to just hang out with associates and cause ASB to other residents. This has resulted in an increase

by Leicestershire Police carrying out warrants under the misuse of drugs act along with section 8 notices warning tenants about their potential involvement in drug dealing and criminal activity whether coerced or complicit. Such behaviour has increased CrASBU's demand for legal action and in particular consideration of Closure Order applications to the Magistrates court.

4.8 Processes such as complex decision-making meetings (CDMM) and complex individual management meetings (CIMM) continue to provide a fair and reasoned approach ensuring that decisions made can be evidenced and all options considered.

4.9 CrASBU refer cases to the Changing Futures programme where an individual or set of individuals meet the criteria of the Changing Futures work. Changing Futures is supported by CrASBU to carry out enforcement work (such as civil injunctions or Closure Orders) on cases where a legal sanction is required, such as aggressive begging. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the performance of the team together with the information on the outcomes achieved.

5. Community Safety Street Lifestyle Update

5.1 The Street Lifestyle Enforcement Taskforce (SLET) was initiated in November 2019 and the high-level strategy for the task force set out by Leicester City Council are as follows:

- To tackle the high levels of street lifestyle criminality and anti-social behaviour within the city centre
- To prevent and disrupt street drinking and drug taking in the city centre
- To increase public confidence and business support
- To share information and embed multi agency assessment practices of risk and prioritisation
- To maximise the opportunity for multi-agency enforcement where other interventions have proven ineffective or are resisted by the individual.

5.2 The table below shows the progress made from September 2019 to the current date:

SLET Figures			
Referrals received	70	Awaiting court hearing listing	0
Legal action taken	43	Awaiting criminal hearing	0
Criminal action taken	14	Incremental approach applied	39
Monitoring	0	Closed cases	49

a) Out of the 38 cases with legal action taken (shown in Table 1 above), see the breakdown of what legal action was taken:

- 5 Interim injunction Orders
- 9 Full Injunctions Orders

- 19 Injunction Order breaches
 - 10 Committal applications
 - 6 expired Injunction Orders
- b) Of those 15 cases where Criminal action was taken (shown in Table 1 above):
- Criminal Behaviour Order
 - 3 Community Sentence
 - 4 prison custody
 - 1 deportation
 - 1 Community Resolution
 - 2 Conditional Discharge
 - 1 deportation
- c) In relation to the 39 cases where the incremental approach was taken (shown in Table 1 above), the action taken of issuing warnings (both verbal and written) resulted in a reduction of street lifestyle activity and ASB therefore legal action was not considered appropriate.
- d) Current records show that with the 6 individuals who were subject to Injunction Orders, since these Orders expired they have not been involved in street lifestyle anti-social behaviour. At the start of the initiative, 5 of these 6 individuals were sleeping rough have been accommodated, 3 of which have Council tenancies and received tenancy support which has helped them to sustain this for over a year.
- e) Work continues to be undertaken to share the SLET model with the Changing Futures Team working in partnership with services such as Turning Point and Probation to share good practice and provide a consistent approach to tackling those living a street lifestyle who cause nuisance and distress to the public
- f) Throughout the duration of this initiative SLET have supported 30 businesses working in partnership with BID Leicester which has encouraged them to report street lifestyle anti-social behaviour resulting in businesses providing evidence on statements to support legal action in obtaining Injunction Orders.

6. Changing Futures Update

- 6.1 The city has been awarded £2.6 million (over three years) under the Changing Futures programme. The key elements of the city's bid include: -
- The identification of the cohort which will form part of the programme (via the establishment of a data warehouse),
 - The establishment of a multi-disciplinary team,
 - The development of priority pathways to enable access to existing services at reachable moments for complex individuals.

6.2 As members will be aware the city's local Changing Futures model is based on the success of the previous street lifestyle work, and furthermore focuses on: -

- Women with Multiple Disadvantage particularly sex workers
- Prison leavers including short term/revolving door offenders
- Those with a dual diagnosis or proposed dual diagnosis
- Complex mental health cases.

6.3 The Changing Futures programme fully launched in September 2022 and we are pleased to share the following updates: -

- a) All project staff now in place and engaging with beneficiaries including 6 x Intensive Support Workers, Team Manager, Project Lead, Data Analyst, Lived Experience workers and administration support.
- b) Recovery worker, Lived Experience Worker, Specialist Social Worker and 2 seconded Police Officers are supporting the work and are key to supporting the interventions with beneficiaries.
- c) Staff embedded with Community Safety Hub at Mansfield House Police Station.
- d) Systems mapping exercise in place and regular data analysis feedback provided to DHLUC an National Lottery.
- e) Data warehouse created which allows referrals to be received and referring agencies to check progress. This enables an effective 'one stop shop' for referrals and negates the need for beneficiaries to retell their story (trauma).
- f) Partner work around those with lived experience, an important aspect of this programme, is being progressed through Dear Albert (an organisation which works with those with substance misuse, homeless etc).

7. Changing Futures Operational – Update

7.1 The Changing Futures Multi-Agency Case Management (previously FLSM) meeting discusses individuals with multiple disadvantage every fortnight including new referrals. The programme is currently engaging with 45 individuals who each have identified action plans for specific pieces of intensive work which will be undertaken for up to 6 months

7.2 The Changing Futures Steering group has been re-established and is complimented by a Strategic Operational Board. The steering group is currently meeting monthly and once established we will review this with consideration of meeting quarterly. The group continues to take a co-ordinated approach to dealing with the issues faced by those individuals as well as supporting the sustainability plan.

7.3 The steering group will feed up to a newly formed Multiple Disadvantage Strategic Board. This board replaces the previous Street Lifestyle Operations Group (SLOG) and will meet with an aim to resolve street lifestyle and homelessness issues that need policy change locally and where necessary nationally. The group will ensure escalated problems are resolved and will work to embed the sustainability of the Changing Futures ethos of tackling multiple disadvantages in Leicester.

8. Financial, legal, and other implications

8.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Amy Oliver, Interim Head of Finance

8.2 Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Jeremy Rainbow – Principal Lawyer (Litigation) – x. 371435

8.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

There are no significant climate change implications associated with this report.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

8.4 Equalities Implications

When making decisions, the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not.

In doing so, the council must consider the possible impact on those who are likely to be affected by the recommendation and their protected characteristics.

Protected groups under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy/maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Whilst there are no direct equality implications arising from this report as it is for noting, it is important to ensure equality considerations are embedded throughout the work of the Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (CrASBU), as demonstrated through the attached case studies and to ensure that all relevant protected characteristics are

addressed as appropriate and mitigating actions put in place to identify any areas needing further support.

Sukhi Biring, Equalities Officer, 454 4175

8.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

Section 17 Crime & Disorder Act: implications with regards to the duty of local authorities to consider the impact of their decisions and actions on crime and disorder in the local area.

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9. Background information and other papers:

10. Summary of appendices:

11. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

12. Is this a “key decision”?

No

13. If a key decision please explain reason