



To: The Leader and Executive Councillor for Strategy:
Councillor Tim Bick
Executive Councillor for Housing

Report by: The Director of Customer and Community Services

Relevant scrutiny committee: Strategy & Resources
14/10/2013
Scrutiny
Committee

Wards affected: All Wards

REVIEW OF STREET BASED ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Not a Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Executive Councillor agreed that a biennial review of street life issues should be taken to Strategy and Resources Committee. Following the first review presented to the Committee in October 2012 a series of workshops took place in early 2013 with City Councillors, representatives from statutory organisations and support agencies, to consider the management of individuals and trends associated with street based anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- 1.2 The report attached as Appendix 1 details the priorities set by the workshops, as well as findings from further research suggested by those workshops. The research included a detailed look at the quantitative data available to estimate the level of street based anti-social behaviour across the City. Qualitative data was collected through surveys and fora with residents, professionals and service users. National best practice around street life issues was also examined.
- 1.3 The report (Appendix 1) shows that significant resources support people with a street based lifestyle and that there is evidence of duplication and gaps in provision of service (Sections 3-5).
- 1.4 The findings also suggest that street drinkers are not a homogenous group and there is a need to have a flexible individual person centred approach, street drinkers do however broadly fall into three categories; those with low needs who may be able to access private rented accommodation and be supported by the single homeless

service; a second group that may have higher needs related to alcohol, drug and mental health issues and who wish to be supported and find permanent accommodation; and a third small group of people who are responsible for a significant amount of anti-social behaviour and do not presently want to engage with support services (Section 10).

- 1.5 An examination of national best practice shows a lack of hard evidence to suggest that wet centres are an effective tool for addressing street life anti-social behaviour(Section 9).
- 1.6 Consultation with the public suggests there is a need to be more proactive in providing information on the level of street based anti-social behaviour and how to report incidents (Section 1).
- 1.7 The recommendations are based around a management approach that will endeavour to address duplication and gaps in service, develop a model that will better serve the identified groups, and have greater impact in reducing street based anti-social behaviour.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

To note the attached report at Appendix 1 and supporting documents.

To consider the recommendations summarised as follows:

1. Develop and provide a programme of intensive tenancy support, for individuals moving in to general housing stock following homelessness or living in temporary accommodation.
2. Incorporate the provision of tenancy starter packs within the support programme. Consider using donations to the Alternative Giving Campaign to fund these packs.
3. Refresh the Task and Target Group to develop an inter-agency approach that offers intensive support to those who choose to engage and takes prompt enforcement measures towards unacceptable behaviour.

4. Develop different management models for each of the 3 main identified groups, to best serve the needs of the individual, in line with the Integrated Offender Management and Together for Families initiatives.
5. Develop a communication programme for the public, to give information on: reporting street based ASB, the kind of behaviour that is unacceptable, and the actions that can realistically be taken against street based ASB.
6. Set up a multi-agency group to take a strategic overview of street life issues, monitor patterns and take forward the work on the recommendations from this report.
7. Maintain a watching brief with regard to wet centres and review the current approach if more compelling evidence of their success arises in the future.

3. Background

Three priority areas for further work were suggested by the workshop participants:

- The need for better analysis of street life issues, particularly in relation to the quantitative data available on anti-social behaviour in the City and its relationship to the community who have a street based lifestyle;
- Improved tenancy support; and
- To look at the public perception and consider the need for better public information to be made available.

The Community Safety Partnership funded a four month research post to look at these priority areas and make recommendations on the future work on street life issues. The results of the research are in the report entitled “Review of Street Based Anti-Social Behaviour” attached as Appendix 1.

Results from the detailed quantitative research undertaken are detailed in the report entitled ‘Estimating the Scale and Nature of Street Based Anti-social Behaviour in Cambridge City’ attached as Appendix A.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

The financial implications are limited as the recommendations are based around reviewing current resources and potentially targeting them in a different way.

(b) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications at this point.

(c) Equal Opportunities Implications

Equal Opportunities implications have been considered throughout this research project. An EQIA has not been conducted at this stage and will be completed as part of any further development of the recommendations.

(d) Environmental Implications

- Nil

(e) Procurement

Not applicable

(f) Consultation and communication

Consultation was carried out with Cambridge residents and service users through surveys and fora.

Residents were encouraged to be involved in focus groups through advertising on the Councils website and various social media sites along with leaflet and letter drops around the city.

Meeting and interviews with representatives from a number of statutory and voluntary agencies took place, to discuss what is working well for them, what concerns they have and what they believe could be done to better address the issues around street based ASB.

(g) Community Safety

As discussed in the report.

5. Background papers

- Wet Centre Research
- Results from residents and service user surveys and fora
- <http://homeless.org.uk/costs-homelessness> for reports detailing information about cost benefit analysis and social returns on investments

6. Appendices

Appendix 1: Review of Street Based Anti-Social Behaviour

Appendix A: Estimating the scale and nature of street based anti-social behaviour in Cambridge City

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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