



## Report to Customer and Communities Committee

12 September 2013

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**Title:** Anti Social Behaviour Partnership Update – April to June 2013

**Report of:** Director of Customer and Communities

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a quarterly update on anti-social behaviour (ASB) partnership work and neighbourhood activity.

### **Background**

2. The report provides details of the partnership work undertaken between April and June 2013.
3. The report includes updates on work undertaken to tackle hate crime, domestic abuse and fire safety awareness in partnership with other agencies.
4. Progress updates against the Safer Gateshead Strategic priorities across the neighbourhood management areas are also included. This progress is detailed in the Appendix to this report.
5. These priorities have been identified through a strategic assessment undertaken between November and December 2012 and confirmed within Safer Gateshead's Partnership Plan 2013/14. The priorities are;
  - Crime, ASB & Confidence
  - Protecting & Supporting Vulnerable Victims and Communities
  - Harm Caused by Substance Misuse
  - Reduce Re-Offending

### **Domestic Abuse Cases**

6. During this period a total of 59 new cases were reported, as compared to 47 for this period in 2012/2013. This is an increase of 20%. These reports can come from a variety of sources, including direct from customers, from other agencies, from neighbours, our repair service, and our employees.

## Sub Categories

7. To help us to effectively address domestic abuse and identify trends, investigating officers now record the specific sub category of behaviour towards victims. These are:

**Physical** – Aggressive behaviour usually resulting in physical injury.

**Emotional** – Behaviour that causes the Victim to feel worthless and uncared for.

**Psychological** – Mistreatment with the intent to cause mental or emotional harm.

**Financial** – Withholding or controlling all finances.

8. The types of Domestic Abuse reported and compared to the same period last year are as follows:

	April – June 12	April – June 2013
Physical	23	22
Emotional	4	11
Psychological	1	3
Financial	4	1
MARAC – Info only	15	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>59</b>

9. Cases reported during quarter one can be broken down by gender, age and neighbourhood area as follows:

Age	Female victim	Male victim	Total
18 – 24	12	1	13
25 - 40	19	-	19
41 - 59	10	1	11
60 +	7	-	7
Unknown	9	-	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>57 (97%)</b>	<b>2 (3%)</b>	<b>59</b>

Neighbourhood Area					
Central	Inner West	West	East	South	Total
15	3	12	19	10	59

## Closed Cases

10. 76 cases were closed or resolved. This is an increase of 69% in comparison to the same period last year where 45 cases were closed.

### Case Closure Reasons

- 28 Resolved without the need for legal action
  - 25 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC - recorded for partnership arrangements) Cases
  - 1 Written warning issued
  - 2 Investigated by NRT no further support required by customer
  - 7 Rehoused by Homeless
  - 4 Customers ended their tenancy
  - 1 Referred to other Agency to investigate
  - 4 Non-engagement from Customer
  - 1 Perpetrator Re-housed
  - 2 Complainant Re-housed
  - 1 NOSP served but not pursued
11. In one case a perpetrator of Domestic Abuse received a written warning on their tenancy; however no legal actions have been taken against perpetrators during this period. This is mainly due to the nature of the cases were victims have felt unable to provide evidence or statements, or where it was felt enforcement action would heighten the risk to the victim and their family.

### Current Open Cases

12. There were 30 open cases of Domestic Abuse as at 30 June 2013. This is a decrease of 40% compared with the same period last year where 42 cases were open. Although fewer cases were open at the end of the quarter compared with the same period last year, we have investigated more reports of Domestic Abuse during this period than the previous year. This can be attributed to the combined factors of more swiftly resolving cases and an increase in cases being referred to us to investigate via MARAC meetings.
13. Open cases are broken by neighbourhood down as follows:

Neighbourhood Area					
Central	Inner West	West	East	South	Total
5	3	3	11	8	30

### Referrals to Other Agencies

14. To ensure that victims and alleged perpetrators of domestic abuse receive the relevant support 24 referrals were made to the following agencies:

MARAC	12
Housing Options	10
Safer Families	2

### Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

15. During April 2013 to June 2013 NRT attended six MARAC meetings and have completed 105 research forms. The information provided on these forms includes information relating to tenancy details, rent arrears, anti-social behaviour cases, any outstanding or upcoming legal actions that TGHC may be pursuing, as well as any local knowledge or intelligence.

16. Of the 105 research forms that were completed, 45 (43%) victims lived in council tenancies and 38 (36%) perpetrators were council tenants or were living-in with a council tenant.

17. Actions agreed from the MARAC meetings are as follows:

Tag address	105
Offer additional security	9
Discussing housing situation	2
Check tenancy details	4
Chase up outstanding repairs	1
Issue written warning against perpetrator	1
Update re prison visit to perpetrator	1

### **Domestic Abuse Training**

18. In order to refresh the content of Domestic Abuse Training and seek to deliver consistent content across all partner agencies. Safer Gateshead has procured a new training module. The training includes specific sections on Honour Based Violence, Forced Marriage and the MARAC referral process.

19. During May, two NRO's undertook this externally facilitated training over a two day period and one further NRO is also to receive this training. All three NRO's will then be accredited to allow them to be part of a multi agency pool of trainers who will deliver Domestic Abuse Awareness training to relevant partner agencies.

20. It is anticipated that once training materials have been obtained, this will enable a training programme to be rolled out for all partners later this year. A specific Domestic Abuse Training Sub Group has been established to monitor and evaluate the delivery of this training.

21. Updates on this work and outcomes will be provided within future reports. Due to the review of Awareness training, there was no actual training delivered to staff during this period.

### **Repairs & Security Measures**

22. 32 repairs have been completed during the period which has benefited 21 customers.

23. Information regarding the invoiced cost of these repairs is not currently available and will be included within future reports to consider value for money implications.

### **Hate Incident Cases**

24. During this period ten new Hate Incident cases were reported. This is equal to the same period last year. Of the ten new reports, nine were racial and one homophobic.

25. All ten cases reported during this period resulted in further action being taken.

## **Closed Cases**

26. 12 Hate Incident cases were closed during this period. The reasons for closure were

Resolved without the need for legal action	7
Non-engagement from customer	2
No hate incident evidenced	2
Perpetrator terminated tenancy	1

27. Cases closed due to non engagement from victims of Hate Crime will only take place after we have undertaken robust efforts via different methods to try to speak directly with the victim e.g. telephone, text message, e-mail, letter and home visit if appropriate. Further thorough checks are also made with partner agencies to establish that they do not hold any details which would make it inappropriate for us to close the case at that stage.

## **Open Cases**

28. There were 15 ongoing cases in relation to Hate Incidents as at 30 June 2013. This is exactly the same number of open cases as the corresponding period last year

## **Repairs & Security Measures**

29. There were no security measures completed for victims of Hate Incidents during this period.

## **Hate Crime Training – Extremist Groups**

30. Community Engagement Officers from South Tyneside & Gateshead Area Police Commands were invited during April to deliver a presentation to NRO's on extreme right wing groups and the threat which their activities pose to community cohesion. The presentation also covered radicalisation issues amongst all communities and built on previous training delivered on the 'Prevent' agenda.
31. Following their attendance at the training session NRO's delivered a briefing to all neighbourhood housing offices. It is hoped that this will empower frontline officers to swiftly recognise stickers, graffiti or signage which may be a prelude to more confrontational activity or be designed to provoke a response from the local community.

## **Mental Health Link Worker (MHLW)**

32. South of Tyne NHS Foundation Trust (STFT) have now been commissioned to deliver primary mental health services within Gateshead replacing the Primary Care Trust (PCT). Following ongoing discussions they have confirmed their commitment to continue with the work placed agreement for the post of MHLW within the housing company.
33. During March and April 2013 an NRT Manager took part within Interviews to recruit a new worker for the post of MHLW but they were unable to appoint to the post

34. STFT have advised they are looking to appoint an internal worker for the post in the near future and discussions are currently ongoing. An update on this progress will be provided to the committee within a future report.

### **Safeguarding Adults**

35. In order to promote the importance of protecting adults at risk, a Team Brief was delivered to all employees during May 2013. This highlighted how officers can recognise and identify the signs and symptoms of abuse and raise an appropriate safeguarding alert.
36. Safeguarding Alerts are initially forwarded by officers to NRT Managers to assess if they fully meet the criteria to be referred to the Safeguarding Adults team to action.
37. Data is now being collated on the number of referrals made in respect of safeguarding adult referrals and during this period, four referrals were made by officers, two were deemed not to fully meet the criteria and appropriate advice was given to officers on alternative actions to support customers.
38. In respect of the two referrals which were made by us to Safeguarding Adults, feedback was provided that; due to the customer having capacity and electing to remain within their current circumstances there was insufficient evidence of risk to progress to investigation; After speaking to family members it was determined that the behaviour being displayed by the customer was not a category that met the criteria for safeguarding intervention.
39. In both cases Safeguarding Adults have been contacted by the investigating officer to confirm the reasons provided for not progressing the referrals made. This has ensured that the perceived risks to customers have been fully explained and correctly highlighted. Based on the information provided there was no need for Safeguarding Adults to re-consider their decisions; however advice has been given to officers to assist them in relation to addressing the specific concerns we have identified.
40. Should the circumstances or risk change in either case further referrals will be made. Updates will be provided to the committee within future reports.

### **Safeguarding Children**

41. We continue to work in partnership with agencies to promote and safeguard the welfare of children. This supports the objectives of 'Gateshead Vision 2030' that 'every child should grow up in a loving and secure environment, which is free from abuse, neglect and crime, enabling them to enjoy good health and fulfil their social and educational potential'.
42. During this period seven referrals were made to Children & Families Safeguarding Children section. These related to the following neighbourhood areas:

East	1
West	1
South	4
Central	1

The following outcomes were reached;

- 2 Cases were investigated by Social Services but no further action was required.
  - 2 Cases were already open to Children and Families who will continue to support and provide relevant interventions for the family.
  - 2 Cases investigations are currently in progress and we are awaiting feedback from these.
  - 1 Alternative support has been offered to the family who are engaging with the Family Intervention Team.
43. To further improve joined up working in relation to the welfare of young persons, we have agreed an information sharing protocol with Children & Families. This involves Children & Families contacting us once they have received a referral which relates to child protection issues. NRT will then carry out checks on the named persons and share relevant and appropriate information with Children & Families.
44. Updates in relation to the protocol and number of enquiries that we have received will be provided within future reports.

### **Safer Neighbourhood Groups**

45. Following consultation with partners during November 2012 the SNG framework has been refreshed and meetings are now held across all neighbourhoods on a bi-monthly rather than monthly basis.
46. The revised objectives are:
- To develop appropriate multi agency interventions to deliver upon the strategic priorities.
  - Develop an annual Safer Neighbourhood Plan to include addressing public perceptions and confidence.
  - To provide regular performance reports to the Crime, ASB and Confidence Sub Group and the Community Safety Board.
47. An update on the activity undertaken and data discussed by the groups across all neighbourhoods is provided within the Appendix.

### **Non Attendance Panel**

48. The panel meets every three weeks and has met on four occasions during this period; 41 cases for young people have been discussed.
49. 19 of the cases related to young persons who were living in 15 council tenancies.
50. Of the 19 cases discussed four were current open ASB garden cases. There were no current cases open in relation to problems with the behaviour of the young persons. Further to the discussions on these cases it was not necessary to open any subsequent ASB cases nor was there any identified need to provide or signpost young persons to support services. Updates from the

Panel meetings will be provided to the committee within future reports on partnership working.

### **Victim Support**

51. The Victim Support workers role funded via Safer Gateshead continues to play a vital role in supporting vulnerable victims.
52. During this period the Victim Support worker received 34 referrals from partner agencies. 14 of these referrals (41%) were made directly by us, 11 were via ARCH reports, five were from self referrals and four were Police referrals
53. Of the referrals we made 100% of customers accepted support. Community Safety has agreed to provide quarterly reports in relation to evaluating the outcomes of referrals made to the Victim Support Worker. Updates on this role will be provided within future reports.

### **Involvement**

54. The ASB Service Improvement Group met on two occasions during May and July 2013 and have continued to progress with their work plan including being provided with updates on the TALISMAN action plan.
55. During their meeting the group have received presentations on Hate Crime and HouseMark. These provided members with an evaluation of ARCH reports and an introduction to our approach to benchmarking on ASB performance, satisfaction and VFM.
56. Further updates have been provided on year end ASB performance and evaluation of the Customer Assessment Tool. Discussion has taken place with the group who have contributed positively and suggested areas for improvement from a customer perspective in respect of ASB training which we intend to deliver to frontline employees later in the year. Updates on ASB Training and SIG meetings will be provided to the committee within future reports.

### **Mediation Training**

57. During April four NRO's attended a two day training programme delivered by an external provider on core mediation skills.
58. The training was funded by Safer Gateshead and was also attended by Victim Support and officers from the Private Landlord Service. Objectives for attendees were;
  - To understand the principles and theory of mediation, know the importance of creating a safe environment for mediation.
  - Build rapport and trust with people in conflict, engage resistant people in a constructive process, manage and structure the mediation process.
  - Facilitate co-operation and problem solving.
  - Assist people in conflict to achieve win-win outcomes.
  - Know when to mediate and when it would be appropriate to do so.

59. After their attendance on the training course officers undertook additional coursework which was assessed and resulted in them obtaining an Open College Network (OCN) accredited certificate in Mediation Skills. Discussions have taken place with the officers regarding the learning outcomes from their training. The areas identified will be utilised to support the content of future ASB training for investigating officers.

### **Youth Crime Education Programme (YCEP)**

60. The manager of the Youth Offending Team (YOT), Safeguarding section, attended a team training session during June to brief NRO's on the role of the Youth Crime Education Programme (YCEP).
61. It was explained that within the last 12 months, the Youth Crime Prevention service which was previously out based had returned to be part of the core YOT services.
62. YCEP aim to accept referrals to provide support to individuals and their families who have been identified as being at risk of committing crime or anti-social behaviour.
63. The requirement to make timely referrals for those at risk of offending was discussed and it was explained that every accepted referral will benefit from targeted prevention interventions which seek to; reduce the likelihood of reoffending; reduce the likelihood of anti-social behaviour; address and identify risk of harm to others or vulnerability of the young person and improve the life chances and employability of the child or young person and improve the family circumstances.
64. A referral process to the service has been established which will support our approach of early intervention and looking at issues holistically when investigating ASB complaints. Further information will be provided within future reports.

### **Safetyworks! Initiative**

65. In March 2013 there was an arson attack on a council property in Wetherby Grove, resulting in serious injury to the tenant.
66. Following the incident we were involved in a series of multi agency response meetings to review the arson incident and consider how this could be prevented in future. As three young persons aged between 10 to 11 years old were arrested and later charged with starting the fire, partners agreed that there needed to be a direct approach towards educating young persons about the dangers and consequences of fire related ASB.
67. A project proposal was developed and agreed by the Community Safety Board on 10 May 2013 which will see an education programme delivered to year six pupils of 11 primary schools within Birtley, Lamesley and Chowdene commencing during September 2013. The primary schools engaging with the sessions are:

Barley Mow Primary School  
Kibblesworth Primary School

Portobello Primary School  
Ravesnsworth Primary School  
St Joseph's RC School  
Birtley East Primary  
St Anne's Catholic School  
Harlow Green Infant's School  
Larkspur Primary School  
St Oswald's Primary School  
Fell Dyke Primary School

68. A further 5 primary schools have also expressed an interest in their pupils attending. Provisionally this will involve delivering fire safety awareness and ASB education training to over 400 school children.
69. Pupils will watch a DVD which has been specifically commissioned for the sessions. The DVD features a re-enactment of the fire service attendance at Wetehrby Grove and an interview with the council tenant who was evacuated from his home. The DVD will be available to us to use for other involvement or community safety awareness training in future.
70. Young persons will be invited to complete a pre and post questionnaire within their schools to identify learning outcomes and benefits from their attendance of the training. An evaluation of the outcomes will subsequently be reported to the Community Safety Board and to a future committee meeting.
71. The overall cost for the project is £7,105, which includes the hire of Safetyworks! and transport for the schoolchildren, and is being jointly funded by TGHC's Involvement Fund, Tyne & Wear Fire Service and Ward Councillors via the Local Community Fund. Match funding will also be provided via the Community Safety Board.
72. In response to the incident we have also implemented a number of measures:
- Making referrals to Tyne & Wear Fire Service (TWFS) for home safety checks for new tenants
  - Providing fire safety information at sign up
  - Providing fire safety information for tenants in high and medium rise buildings as well as sheltered schemes to ensure customers are aware of what to do in case of fires
  - Ensuring fire safety articles are featured annually in fire safety articles
73. A detailed update and evaluation of the learning outcomes and number of attendees of the Safetyworks! initiative will be provided within a future report.

### **Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)**

74. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 provides for the establishment of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) in each area in England and Wales. These are designed to protect the public, including previous victims of crime, from serious harm by sexual and violent offenders. They require the local criminal justice agencies and other bodies dealing with offenders to work together in partnership in dealing with those offenders.

75. The Responsible Authority is the primary agency for MAPPA. This is the police, prison and Probation Trusts in each area, working together. The Responsible Authority has a duty to ensure that the risks posed by specific sexual and violent offenders are assessed and managed appropriately. Other bodies have a duty to co-operate with the Responsible Authority. This includes agencies such as education, employment, housing etc. The housing company therefore is represented at each MAPPA meeting held in Gateshead to ensure housing related issues are considered for such offenders.
76. During this period five MAPPA panels were attended and involved undertaking research from our records on seven cases which were discussed within subsequent meetings. Further updates on attendance of MAPPA meetings will be provided with future partnership reports.

### **Shelter Offender Management Event**

77. During April a Neighbourhood Relations Manager and the Suspensions & Monitoring Officer attended an event co-ordinated by the housing and homeless charity Shelter.
78. Shelter have been awarded contracts to provide housing advice and support to 5 North East prisons, Northumbria Probation Trust and have a legal services contract to provide representation in relation housing related legal actions.
79. The event involved a series of workshops where partner agencies considered best practice approaches to meet the challenges posed of housing offenders. The event recommended a number of findings including; that support packages within the community and prison are more closely linked; peer mentoring takes place whilst in prison; standardised information on accessing housing to be given to all prisoners on release; better communication with housing providers when offenders are in prison or in housing crisis, and that trial Common Assessment Framework (CAF) meetings with partner agencies take place to discuss ex offenders who are not subject to MAPPA but who have complex needs and are difficult to house or stabilise.
80. Shelter have advised they intend to establish a working group to look at the issues raised and to develop an action plan. Should we receive further information regarding this work an update will be provided to the committee within a future report.

### **Link to Values**

81. The report relates to the following values of the company :-
- Being customer focused, innovative and professional
  - Being motivated, trained and committed across the company
  - Embracing equality
  - Being a listening and learning organisation

### **Risk Management Implications**

82. Tackling anti-social behaviour effectively has continued to be a key priority both nationally and locally for tenants in Gateshead. The company's Commitment to

addressing this issue is recognised through our Delivery Plan priorities and re-signing up to the updated Respect Charter.

### **Financial Implications**

83. The Head of Corporate Services confirms that there is provision within Involvement Budget to fund the sum of £1000 to help deliver the Safetyworks! Project.

### **Value for Money implications**

84. There is no additional value for money implications.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

85. Ensuring we have access to specialist services and resources to support the most vulnerable residents, regardless of what diverse needs they may have is crucial in tackling ASB. Further developing our approach to managing risk for customers will enhance the service provided.

### **Health Implications**

86. Through promptly identifying Safeguarding issues we seek to promote the health and wellbeing of our customers and further work with partners to remove customers from serious risk of harm.

### **Environmental Implications**

87. There are no environmental implications as a result of this report.

### **Recommendation**

88. The views of the committee are sought on whether it is satisfied with the quarterly update on anti-social behaviour partnership work and neighbourhood activity.

### Neighbourhood Updates

#### Central Neighbourhood Update

##### Protecting and Supporting Vulnerable Victims and Communities

- Following an increase in calls made to Northumbria Police relating to disorder within Warwick Court during April & May an operational response 'Operation Knock' was devised by a Neighbourhood Relations Manager and Neighbourhood Police Inspector.
- Operation Knock took place over a three day period during June whereby a Neighbourhood Relations Officer and Estate Officer undertook joint visits with Police Officers to every property within the communal block.
- The aim of the visits was to speak to all residents to establish if they had any concerns or were being affected by anti-social behaviour.
- Where officers were unable to obtain an answer a calling card was left for customers to make contact. Follow up visits were also made to these properties over the 3 days.
- Out of the 103 properties, 28 customers were spoken to, which is 27% of all tenants, and 23 of these customers told officers they were satisfied about living in the block and were not being affected by anti-social behaviour.
- The issues which were identified items being thrown from the window which resulted in a written warning being issued; noise nuisance and fighting which was raised at Tasking & Co-Ordination meetings and incidents reported were relied upon as evidence within an appeal hearing to end an Introductory Tenancy.
- Feedback from the visits was shared with partner agencies at a Tasking & Co-Ordination meeting and it was agreed that the findings did not support any further targeted work or follow up actions at this time.

##### Crime, ASB and Confidence

- The new Town Centre development opened on 23 June 2013: The Central Neighbourhood Police team will continue to carry out patrols in the area to monitor any disorder and the Safer Neighbourhood Group will continue to support the development and work jointly to seek to address any anti-social behaviour and crime issues that emerge.
- Saltwell Park Engagement – following an increase in the number of issues being raised relating to anti-social behaviour in Saltwell Park, Northumbria Police has allocated a dedicated Neighbourhood Beat Manager (NBM) for the park. The NBM will be making contact with all of the engagement groups linked to the park in the near future to encourage more groups to use the park and to promote

public confidence and Partners will continue to monitor issues over the coming weeks.

- A Notice of Seeking Possession was served on a tenant within Park Court during June after they ignored warnings to remove a dog within their flat. A court hearing has now been applied for and the tenant could face losing their home if they do not remove the animal.
- A Notice of Seeking Possession and Injunction application have been served on a tenant of Regent Court during June after they were abusive to staff and contractors and failed to provide reasonable access to complete essential fire safety works. A Court Hearing date in respect of both applications has been obtained for October.
- Following complaints of noise nuisance made to TGHC and Northumbria Police, evidence was obtained of excessive noise levels and a Notice of Seeking Possession served on a Tenant of Regent Court during May. As the behaviour has not moderated Legal Services have been instructed to obtain a court date for possession of the tenant's home.
- After being verbally abusive to TGHC officers on several occasions during telephone conversations a tenant of Cheviot Gardens has been issued with a Notice of Seeking Possession. The tenant is currently working with another agency who are seeking to obtain support to help moderate their behaviour. Should the tenant fail to engage or commit any similar behaviour then an application will be made for a court hearing to apply for possession of their home.
- Crime in the Central Gateshead has increased by a fifth on last year which can be partially attributed to a rise in acquisitive-related crime (such as shoplifting) and criminal damage offences. More serious offences (such as violence, burglaries and vehicle-related thefts) are all lower than the trends seen throughout the rest of the Borough.
- Significant reductions have been experienced in the number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour within Central Gateshead – with levels more than halving on last year; while the numbers of deliberate anti-social behaviour fires is also relatively low.
- The top 3 neighbourhoods for all crime were; Baltic, Town Centre & Sheriff Hill
- Burglary offences in Central NMA account for 30% of all burglaries in Gateshead. A third of all burglaries are to privately owned properties; 11% to private landlords and 4% Council properties.

## **East Neighbourhood Update**

### **Crime, ASB and Confidence**

- At the end of Quarter One all ASB reports to the Police had reduced by 37% in the East (119 fewer incidents).
- Violent crime in East has reduced by more than a fifth on the previous year; while non-burglaries (such as sheds, outhouses and garages) have also decreased.

- Sunderland Road and Cedarway have been subject to most ASB reports made to Northumbria Police. 12 incidents have been reported on Sunderland Road and 7 in Cedarway.
- Youth-related incidents reported to Northumbria Police occur most frequently in the Staneway neighbourhood (10 incidents), whilst more ASB incidents reported to the Police occur within the Falla Park neighbourhood (25 incidents).
- Brockwade, Brearley Way and Woodwynd are the most affected streets for youth-related ASB. There have been 3 incidents reported to the Police in each of these streets.
- Mondays are the peak days for ASB in the East NMA; a fifth of all ASB incidents reported to the Police within East NMA occur on Mondays.

### **Protecting and Supporting Vulnerable Victims and Communities**

- Derelict Building, Wardley Lane – There has been an increase in youth related disorder at ‘The Zone’ which is a derelict building on Wardley Lane. The young people are congregating to misuse drugs and alcohol, cause criminal damage and general disorder which is affecting local residents. Northumbria Police are working closely with Environmental Health as well as the building owners to develop an appropriate solution to these issues.
- Brandling Flower Show Field Estate – Police and TGHC have been working closely to address recent issues relating to anti-social behaviour and crime on this estate due to vacant properties pending demolition.

### **Harm Caused by Substance Misuse**

- Community Alcohol Partnership - The success of the CAP in the South Neighbourhood has led to the initiative being rolled into the East Neighbourhood. Partners are working together to develop the CAP in the Felling area in conjunction with the re-development works and new shopping area.
- Analysis of TGHC and partner agency records highlighted that Crowhall Towers has experienced more reports of drug related litter than any other communal block and overall reports are higher than the borough average.
- The issue forms part of the Co-Ordination & Tasking meeting agenda for the East Neighbourhood and as such Northumbria Police and the Council’s Street Action Enforcement Team (SAET) have been undertaking additional patrols in order to assist with the problems.
- After undertaking surveys and home visits residents have told us that unauthorised visitors to the block (randomly trying to gain access or tailgating) are a problem issue to them.
- Residents have previously benefitted from an upgrade to their Privacy Switches contained within individual flats. The work was carried out to enable individuals to essentially ‘switch off’ their intercom system within the flat thus allowing said individuals to not be disturbed by unwanted visitors ‘buzzing’ flats at random until they gained entry to the block.

- However as the problems have continued EAST SNG has supported the submission of a Design out Crime bid to fund a fob reader to be fitted to the stairwell entrance on the ground floor of the building. Also that the key fobs all existing tenants within the block are re-set.
- The fitting of a fob reader will ensure that only those with fobs would be able to access the stairwell from the bottom floor.
- Individuals without fobs would need to access the lifts in order to access the stairwell, giving an element of control as the lifts are fitted with CCTV and as such perpetrators would be more easily identified.
- Through re-setting the current fobs this would ensure that only tenants living within the block or their authorised visitors such as family members can gain access to the building. Further TGHC would be able to monitor the fob usage and help to improve security within the block to prevent unauthorised visitors.

## **West Neighbourhood Update**

### **Crime, ASB and Confidence**

- An Introductory Tenant of Burnhills had their tenancy extended during April for a further 6 months after a number of complaints were received about excessive noise.
- The number of ASB incidents reported to Northumbria Police in the West NMA between April and May 2013 fell by 29% compared to the same period in 2012 (65 fewer incidents).
- The biggest reductions have been noted in the Blaydon ward, where there have been 29 fewer incidents reported (a reduction of 37%). However, reported ASB incidents in this ward are still the highest within the West, accounting for almost a third of all police reported ASB incidents to date in the Inner West.
- Shibdon Park and Winlaton North neighbourhoods are the two neighbourhoods with the highest number of Police reported ASB incidents, however there has been no change in the number of incidents reported in Shibdon Park compared to the previous year (19 incidents), while there has been a reduction of 53% in the Winlaton North neighbourhood (19 fewer incidents).
- There are three neighbourhoods in the West NMA who have experienced an increase in reported incidents to the Police regarding ASB in the first two months of 2013/14. Incidents in the Crookhill neighbourhood have increased by 75% (six additional incidents), there has been a 63% increase in reported incidents in Highfield (five additional incidents), while incidents within Rowlands Gill North have doubled in the first two months of this year (3 additional incidents).
- The proportion of ASB incidents reported to the Police over a weekend period has increased slightly in the first two months of this year. Half of incidents have taken place over the weekend period (80 incidents) to date in 2013/14, compared to 48% in 2012/13. This can partly be attributed to the slight increase in the number of incidents reported on Saturdays – more than a fifth of all ASB incidents in the West NMA were reported on Saturdays.

- The peak time for all ASB reported incidents to the Police within the West NMA is 19:00hrs – 19:59hrs.

### **Protecting and Supporting Vulnerable Victims and Communities**

- ASB in Chopwell – There has been an increase in youth related anti-social behaviour within the Chopwell area, this specifically relates to one group of individuals from the local area. Northumbria Police are working with a range of partners to gather intelligence to pursue enforcement action against the key individuals involved.
- Derwent Walk ASB – There has been an increase in reports of youth disorder and alcohol misuse in the wetlands site at the Derwent Walk. Northumbria Police are currently working with partners and have increased patrols in the local area.
- ASB Hollins Terrace - A local group of males have been reported to be targeting elderly residents in Hollins Terrace. Northumbria Police and partners are currently liaising with a range of services to ensure that appropriate support is in place for the residents involved. Northumbria Police have also increased patrols in the area to try to identify those individuals involved.
- Bleach Green – Partners continue to contribute to the ongoing re-development of the Blaydon Precinct and are closely monitoring levels of anti-social behaviour and crime in the local area.
- Deliberate Secondary Fires Ryton – there has been an increase in the number of deliberate secondary fires in The Willows in Ryton. This problem has traditionally been an issue leading up to the summer months linked to young people congregating in the open spaces. Northumbria Police have increased patrols in the local area and are working with partners to identify those individuals involved to then take appropriate action.

### **Harm Caused by Substance Misuse**

- Two Notice of Seeking Possessions were served during April & May on tenants within Ullswater and Runhead. Both were issued for drug related offences and legal services have been instructed to apply to court to seek possession of the tenant's homes.

## **Inner West Neighbourhood Update**

### **Crime, ASB and Confidence**

- During April an application was made for a warrant of possession to evict a tenant living within Redheugh Court after they had been found guilty of a criminal offence, which was in breach of the terms of a Suspended Possession Order against their tenancy.
- The tenant lodged an appeal which was heard at a hearing during May and although the tenant admitted the breaches of tenancy, the District Judge allowed the tenant to remain in the property on condition there were no further breaches.

- Following their appeal hearing, TGHC received further reports of anti-social behaviour during May and June. A second application was therefore made to evict this tenant. This was also appealed against by the Tenant and subsequently adjourned for a trial date to consider the eviction application. TGHC are currently seeking legal advice from Counsel to lodge an appeal against the decision not to evict the tenant.
- A Notice was served during April on Tenant of Beech Drive in relation to an overgrown tree in their garden, An Injunction application has also been made as an alternative formal action to ensure the tenant cuts their tree back. A Court Hearing has been listed for October to consider the applications.
- A Tenant of Northumberland Street was issued with a Notice of Seeking Possession during April. The action was taken in respect of criminal offences of the tenant and their son. However due to the length of time which had past between the offences and the criminal sentencing the Notice has not been pursued and will remain on file should there be further breaches of tenancy.
- Chase Park ASB - Information has been shared with the Inner West Safer Neighbourhoods Group in relation to Chase Park and some of the emerging issues relating to anti-social behaviour. The ASB issues will be monitored via Tasking & Co-Ordination and SNG meetings over the coming weeks. Youth Workers will be redirected to carry out detached work in the area
- Clasper Village Demolition - The demolition process of Clasper Village is now entering the final stages and will continue to be monitored via Tasking with bi-monthly updates being provided to the Safer Neighbourhood Group
- Dunston Staiths Structure - Staiths Structure, work is progressing between the Trust responsible for the redevelopment of the structure and the relevant officers from the Safer Neighbourhoods Group to develop projects which will encourage engagement and legitimate use of the structure.
- There were 80 incidents of ASB reported to the Police within the Inner West NMA during both April and May 2013. This is a reduction of a third compared to the same period in 2012 (77 fewer incidents).
- The biggest reductions have been noted in the Dunston and Teams ward, where there have been 41 fewer incidents reported (a reduction of 42%). However, reported ASB incidents in this ward are still high, accounting for more than a third of all reported ASB incidents to date in the Inner West.
- The highest proportion of incidents this year have taken place within the Whickham North ward – there have been 58 incidents reported to the Police to date, although this is a reduction of 11% compared to the previous year.
- The proportion of incidents reported to Northumbria Police over a weekend period has increased in the first two months of this year. Almost two thirds of incidents have taken place over the weekend period (101 incidents) to date in 2013/14, compared to just over half in 2012/13.
- Within the Whickham North ward the number of ASB incidents reported to the Police on Fridays has doubled. The data suggests that these incidents are not youth-related incidents, but rather general nuisance or rowdy behaviour.

- Sundays are most prominent days for reports to be made to the Police regarding ASB in Whickham South and Sunnyside wards– 12 of the 29 incidents so far have occurred on this day, all of which relate to general noise or neighbour disorder. There have been no specific streets identified.
- Clasper Towers Graffiti – there has been recent reports of graffiti on the play equipment at Clasper Towers. Northumbria Police are working closely with partners to tackle these issues and are carrying out increased patrols in the area to identify those responsible.

## **South Neighbourhood Update**

### **Crime, ASB and Confidence**

- ASB incidents reported to Northumbria Police fell by 26% with 98 fewer incidents.
- Saturdays are the peak days for all ASB, with Tuesday and Wednesday the peak days of reports of youth ASB
- The top 3 Neighbourhoods for reported crime were; Springwell; Low Fell and Kibblesworth

### **Protecting and Supporting Vulnerable Victims and Communities**

- Following a contested court hearing during May a Tenant of Thursby Gardens was made subject to a further 6 months Suspended Possession Order (SPO). The Order was sought in relation to criminal behaviour of their son who is subject to an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO). A condition of the SPO is that their son must not reside or visit the property until expiry of the court order.
- Waverley Road Multi Use Games Area – After receiving reports of disorder caused by ball games which were affecting nearby residents a Neighbourhood Relations Officer has worked closely with the Council's Community Safety and Grounds Maintenance sections to develop a solution. This led to the Council providing funds for works to heighten the perimeter fencing of the MUGA by an additional metre. These works were completed during May and it is hoped this will help to alleviate problems of nuisance and annoyance for elderly residents.
- Ravensworth Golf Course – ASB linked to the golf course and surrounding area has been an emerging trend in the South Neighbourhood. Partners are working jointly with the owners of the golf course to develop appropriate long term solutions to the problems.
- ASB Allerdene Estate – Some issues have emerged recently in the Allerdene Estate relating to anti-social behaviour, dwelling burglaries and shed burglaries. A joint meeting and site visit of the estate has taken place between relevant agencies including TGHC to discuss the issues further and identify solutions which will be reported back to Tasking & Co-Ordination meetings.
- ASB Binsby Gardens – there has been a recent increase in anti-social behaviour and crime in the Binsby Gardens area relating to one particular young person. Northumbria Police and TGHC are working closely to consider both support and

enforcement to moderate the young person behaviour. This may include an application for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO).

### **Harm Caused by Substance Misuse**

- Birtley Community Alcohol Partnership – The CAP in Birtley continues to go from strength to strength. An educational training package is currently being developed for use by the local schools, who have agreed to incorporate this alcohol education resource into their lessons
  
- Wrekenton Community Alcohol Partnership – Following the successful establishment of a CAP in Birtley, there are now plans to extend this to Wrekenton, this work is in the early stages and some of the activities will include an increase in the provision of diversionary activities for young people.