

**Report of the Executive Director Core Services
and the Executive Director Public Health & Communities,
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on 10 October 2023**

Antisocial Behaviour in Barnsley

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview and update with regards to work undertaken by the Council and its partners in relation to antisocial behaviour (ASB) in the borough. This includes considering current performance as well as future challenges and plans.

2.0 Background

2.1 In its broadest terms, ASB can be any act or behaviour that impacts negatively on others. This could include, but is not limited to, noise nuisance, off-road biking, damage to property, rowdy and threatening behaviour, environmental crime, neighbour nuisance, shouting and swearing, public drunkenness and verbal abuse.

2.2 The primary legislation for tackling ASB is the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 which gives 2 definitions of ASB. Non-housing related which is conduct capable of causing harassment, alarm or distress, covers behaviour in public spaces, and housing related, where the lower threshold of conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance applies. This recognises the added impact of nuisance behaviour when it occurs around your home.

2.3 The Act reduced 19 formal tools and powers down to 6, putting victims of ASB at the heart of all responses. It also introduced the Community Trigger (more recently referred to as the ASB Case Review), giving victims a voice when they feel their complaints have not been dealt with appropriately. The main aim of the legislation is to give authorities the tools and powers to stop, reduce or minimise the impact of poor behaviour on others.

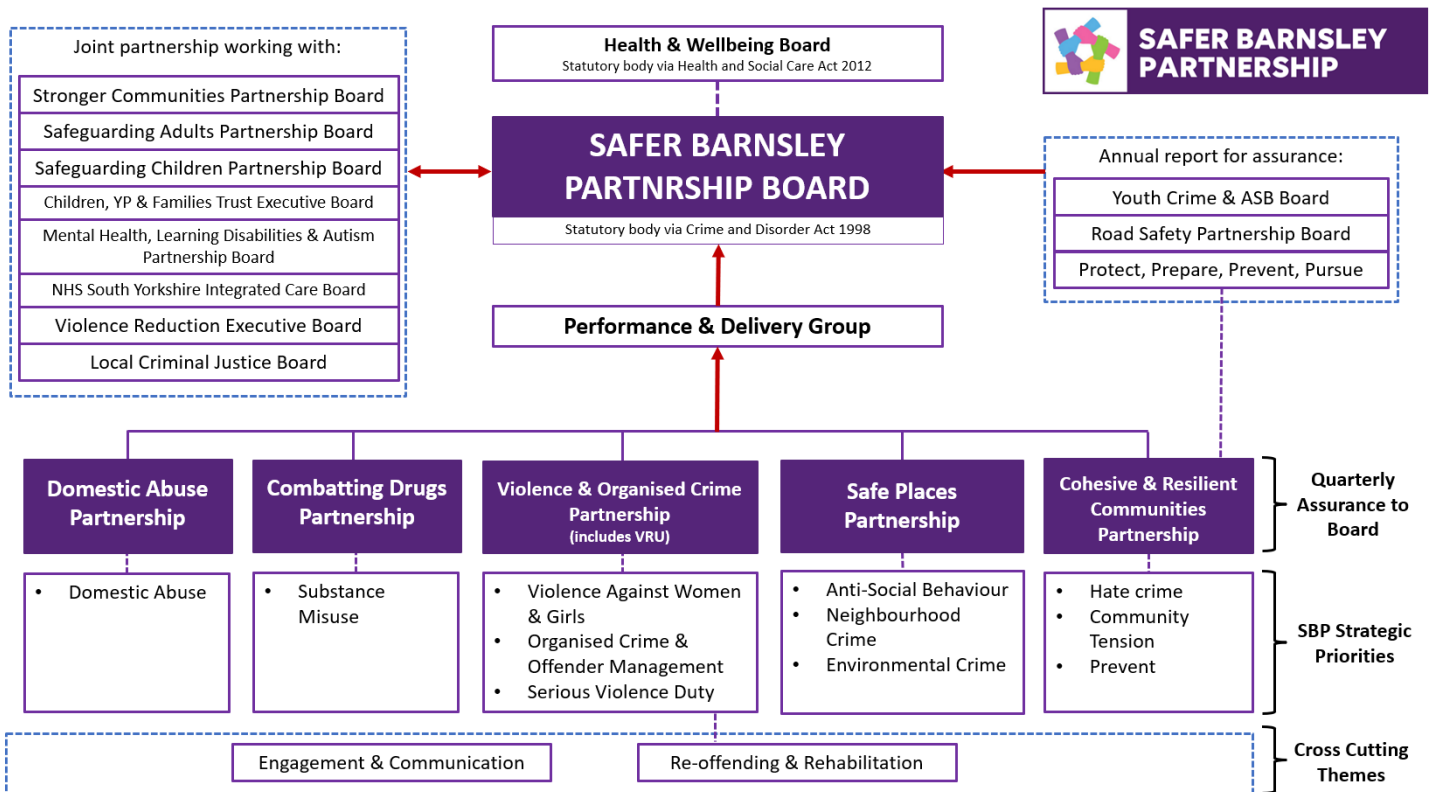
2.4 The powers contained within the Act are aimed at the Council, Police and Registered Social Landlords. Local Authorities are able to further delegate some of the powers to their Arms-Length Management Organisations (ALMOs). We have recently given Berneslai Homes the power to prepare and serve Community Protection Warnings where tenancy action has failed to sufficiently address the ASB. All services also have informal tools to address ASB including Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, mediation and verbal or written warnings which can be extremely effective when used in a timely manner and as part of an escalated response.

2.5 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides Councils with the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices, issue cautions or prosecute for certain offences relating to damage to the environment and the appropriate disposal of waste or litter.

2.6 In a recent report published by the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman, some 74% of complaints were upheld and Councils found to be at fault for the way their ASB cases were handled. The report makes it clear that Councils must not dismiss complaints as low level and that teams responsible for upholding the Council's duty to investigate ASB should be flexible and responsive to the circumstances of each case. Other learning points include having a robust case review process in place, not providing sufficient support to victims, poor communication with victims, unreasonable delays, rigid/inflexible operating procedures, 'passing the buck', poor decision making and failure to use the full range of tools and powers available.

Strategic, Tactical and Operational Arrangements

- 2.7 The Barnsley Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory partnership. The partnership coordinates how Barnsley will tackle crime and disorder, protect vulnerable people, and reduce reoffending. Our partnership is called the Safer Barnsley Partnership (SBP) and annually the partnership agrees community safety priorities for the borough informed by the joint strategic intelligence assessment and public consultation.



- 2.8 Year on year ASB is identified as a community safety priority for the residents of Barnsley. To provide strategic and tactical direction and accountability for ASB the priority is overseen by the Safe Places Delivery Partnership reporting into the Partnership Assurance Group and Partnership Board.

- 2.9 The Safe Places Delivery Partnership has the following objective and commitments:

'We aim to reduce neighbourhood crime (such as burglary, robbery, and theft), antisocial behaviour incidents and environmental crime working with the communities through early action and interventions'.

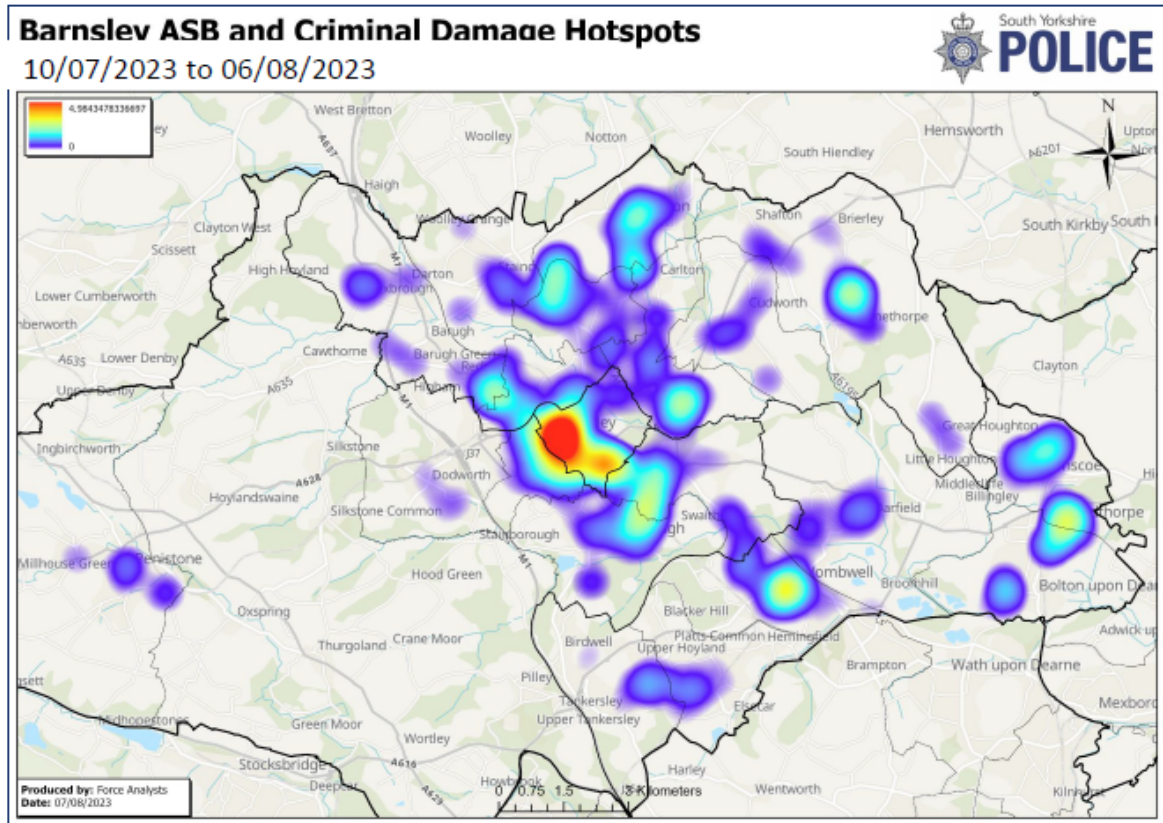
- 2.10 The Safe Places Delivery Partnership's key commitments are to:

1. Tackle neighbourhood crime through good partnership working with all communities and focussing on problem-solving, building trust and confidence.
2. Prevent antisocial behaviour and reduce its impact on communities and places such as Barnsley town centre.
3. Further develop the approach to reduce antisocial behaviour in our housing and neighbourhood communities.
4. Provide excellent services to support victims of and those affected by antisocial behaviour.
5. Create opportunities that promote a positive attitude and behaviour change towards littering and environmental crime through education and support.
6. Strengthen local partnerships to tackle litter and environmental crime in communities.
7. Take consistent action to deal with littering and environmental crime.

- 2.11 Partners also come together to discuss tactical and operational priorities within the THRIVE (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability and Engagement) group which considers multiple needs and

local Multi Agency Action Group (MAAG) forums. THRIVE is a central monthly meeting hosted by the police considering all intelligence around key crime and ASB pressures and demands. The meeting agrees action-owners and deployment of resources, which can be cross-borough. The MAAGs are locally specific meetings of partner agencies to discuss, prioritise and action priority community safety issues specific to the locality. The MAAGs are held monthly and are co-terminus to the Area Council boundaries. At both MAAGs and THRIVE, priorities from the previous period are discussed and assessed in relation to progress and any new and emerging themes or problems are identified. Both groups are informed by intelligence, including information and priorities emerging from local engagement networks such as the PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings.

Extract From Thrive Analytical Product

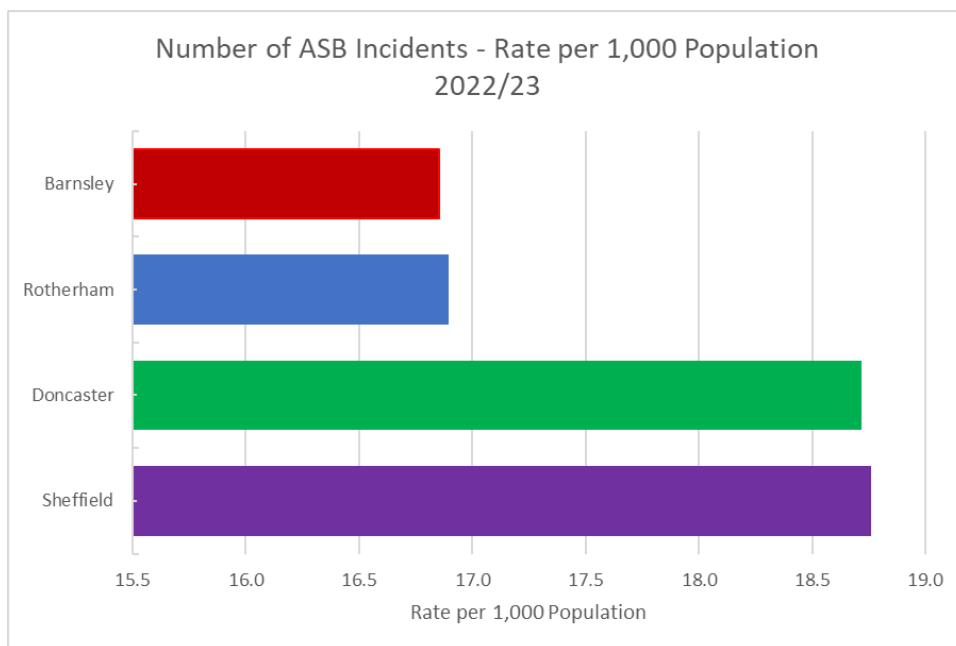


- 2.12 ASB typically dominates concerns raised in community networks such as PACTs, and significantly influences the priorities for delivery discussed and agreed across the partners in THRIVE and the MAAGs.
- 2.13 The Youth Crime and Antisocial Behaviour Plan Board (YCAAB) has strategic oversight of the delivery of the local Youth Justice Plan. Representatives from the Safer Barnsley Partnership Board are part of YCAAB and ensure read across in terms of priorities and delivery. The Youth Justice Plan recognises the importance of early intervention with young people to reduce the risk of being drawn into crime and considering and reflecting victims’ needs in intervention activity. Both the Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support services are integral to delivering Barnsley’s approaches to address the causes and impacts of ASB.

3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 Barnsley has a strong and established fully integrated model of neighbourhood policing reflected operationally by the alignment of police and council resources into local area teams and a central unit to manage more complex demand. The model, which has been commended by such as His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC) places police personnel (Sergeants, Police Constables [PCs] and Police Community Support Officers [PCSOs]), Council Wardens and Housing and Environmental Officers within 6 local teams across the borough co-terminus with Area Council boundaries. There is an additional bespoke multi-agency team for Barnsley Town Centre.

- 3.2 Central to this working model is the provision of a seamless cross organisational service driven by and reflective of the community safety priorities of local people. Under the stewardship of Neighbourhood Police Inspectors and council Community Safety Coordinators. A key facet of the arrangements is to ensure access to and engagement with local communities, their representatives and other partners, through a number of formal forums such as the PACTs and MAAGs and informal and proactive engagement events. The local teams seek to identify and intervene early in issues impacting residents with a view to reducing demand and maintaining safe and harmonious communities. The central team at “the hub” in Churchfield further aligns council and police resources to address more complex and protracted demand typically managed on a case-by-case basis with robust and comprehensive intervention plans. ASB is always one of the primary drivers of demand and these arrangements have historically and continue to put Barnsley in a strong comparative position in relation to managing ASB.
- 3.3 The following diagrams show trends in data regarding ASB. Diagram 1 below shows the average rate per 1000 population for ASB for the 4 South Yorkshire Districts during 2022/23:



- 3.4 Diagrams 2, 3 and 4 show year on year reductions in reported ASB and a continuing downward trajectory:

Diagram 2:

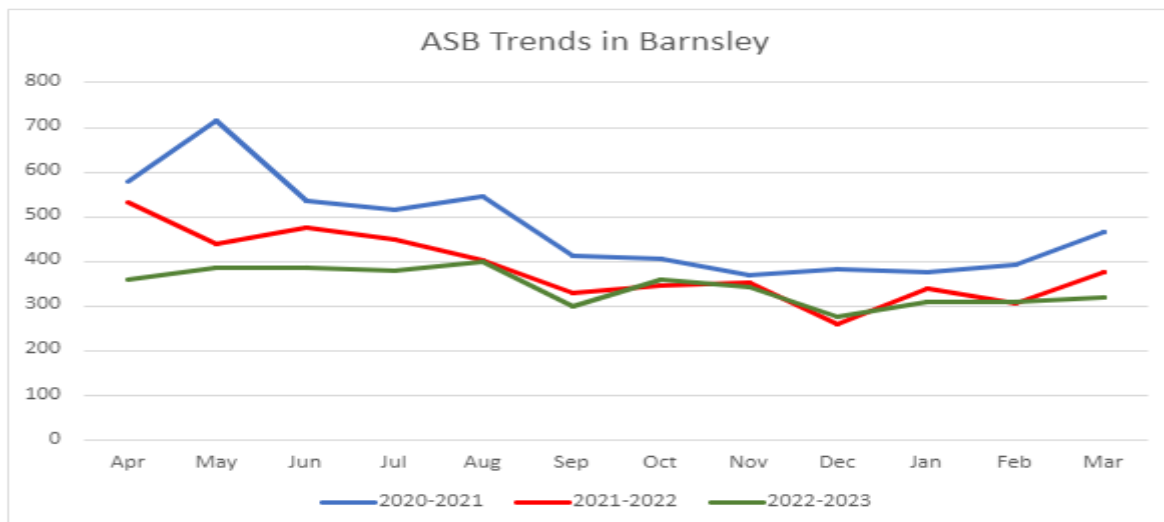


Diagram 3:

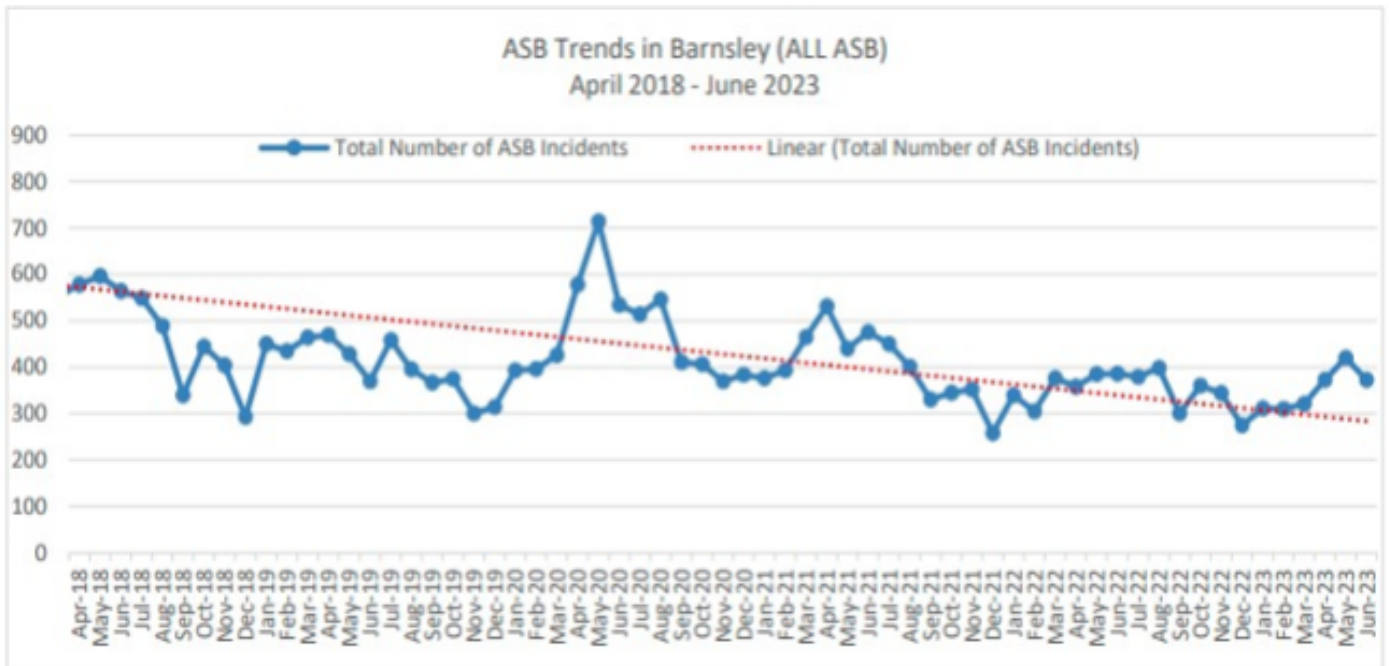
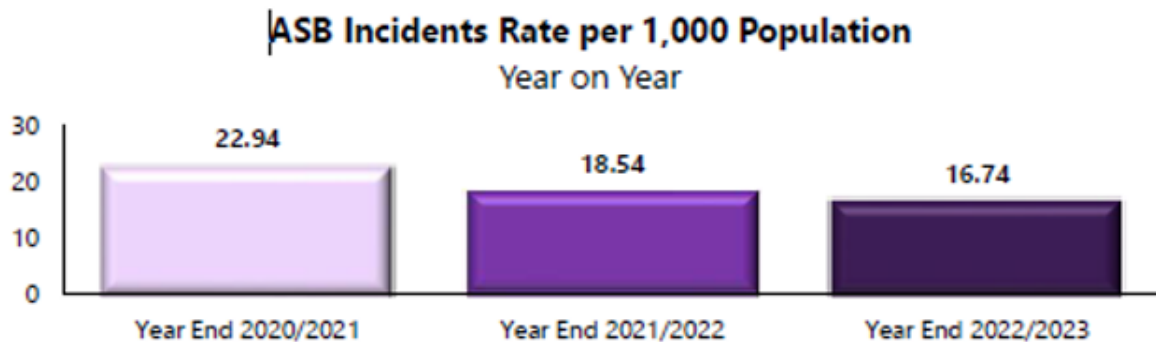
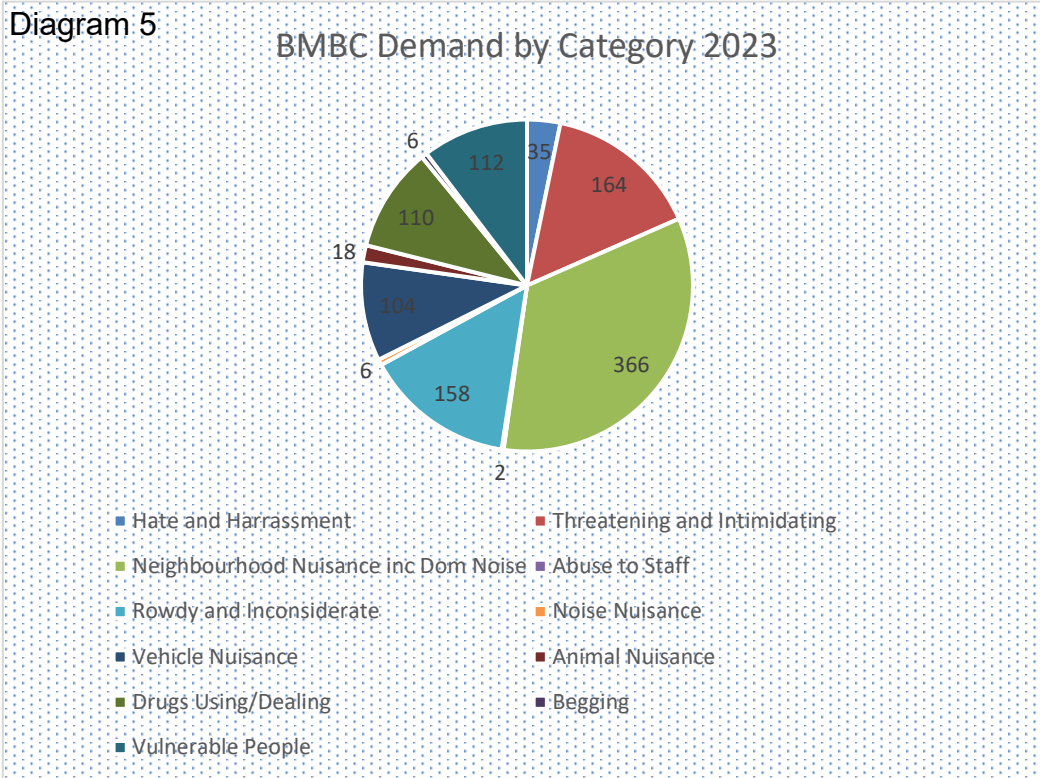


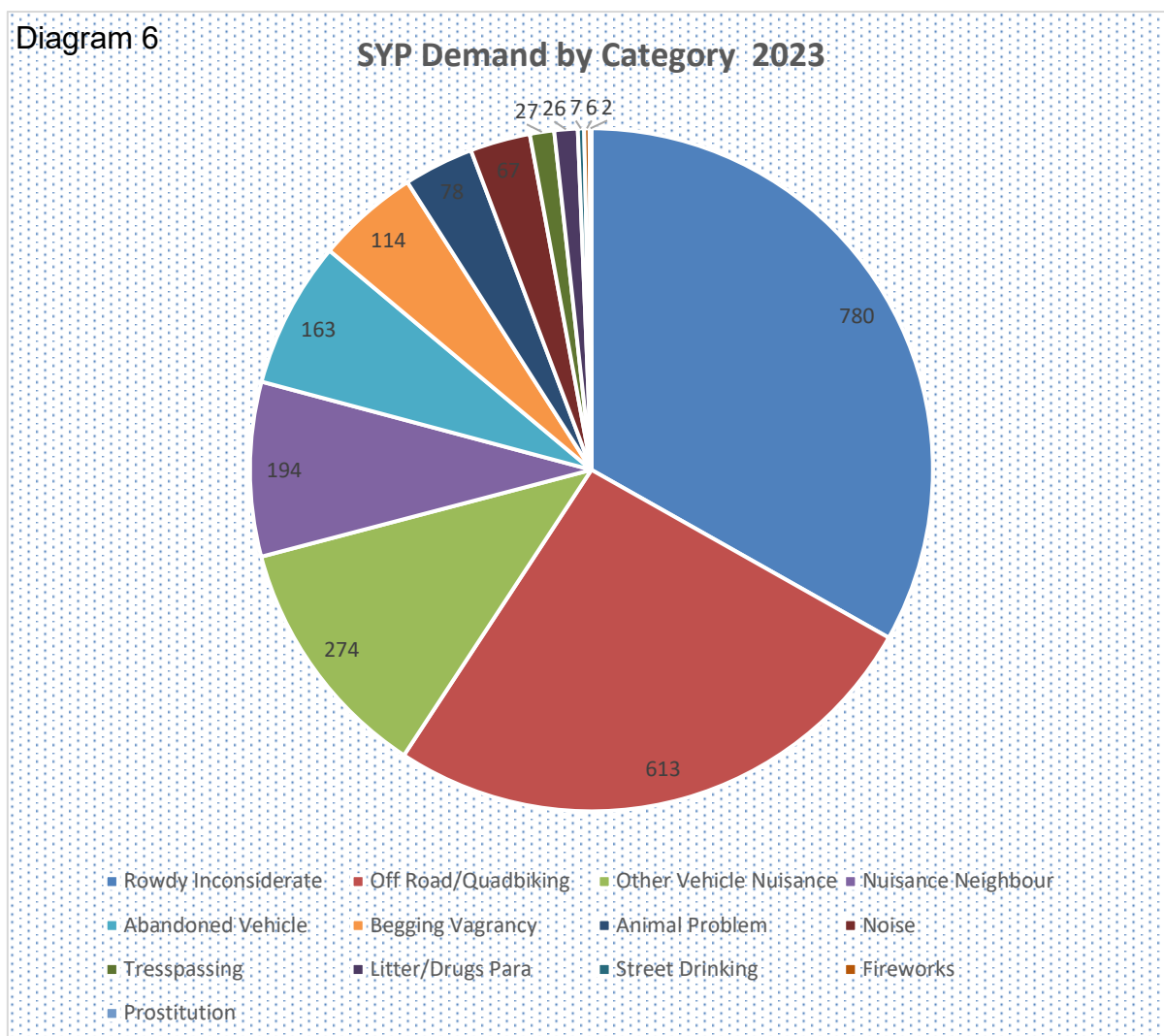
Diagram 4:



3.5 Diagram 5 below shows ASB reported to and recorded by the council from January to September 2023. It highlights how neighbour and domestic nuisance is the highest recorded category (366 records), with threatening and intimidating behaviour and rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour second and third highest categories. In total, 1081 incidents have been categorised during the period. (Due to national guidance, for recording purposes, please note that abandoned vehicles, graffiti, litter, dog fouling and fly-tipping are not recorded as sub-categories of ASB at this time, they are instead considered as 'Environmental Crime'. Locally, each of these account for significant levels of demand, and are however treated and managed in the same way we manage other ASB incidents).



3.6 Diagram 6 below shows a breakdown of demand by sub-category of ASB for South Yorkshire Police (SYP). SYP record slightly different sub-categories of ASB to the council. Between January and September 2023 'Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour' and 'Off Road /Quad biking' are the highest recorded categories of ASB, with 780 and 613 records respectively. In total SYP records for the calendar year to September 2023 SYP have recorded 2351 incidents of ASB.



Safer Communities

- 3.7 The Safer Communities Team strives to be excellent, finding creative ways to deal with complaints of ASB. The Service already recognises the three categories of ASB highlighted in the Government's ASB Action Plan and the Victim's Commissioner document 'A living Nightmare'. The Service understands that these categories (Nuisance, Environmental and Personal) are not mutually exclusive, but complex, intertwined and historic in many cases, underpinning the need to take a flexible approach when trying to tackle ASB.
- 3.8 The Service is currently undertaking a thorough review of how all reports of ASB are handled, from entering Service (either reactively or proactively) to their conclusion and monitoring thereafter. This review intends to identify best practice and seek areas of improvement where gaps are identified. We have also started to develop a best practice review process with colleagues in Doncaster's ASB team. These processes will be concluded in Autumn 2023.
- 3.9 The 'Tackling ASB Tactical Plan' developed by South Yorkshire Police in partnership with BMBC and Berneslai Homes seeks to standardise responses to complaints of ASB, but retains the flexibility to provide a bespoke response depending on the circumstances of each case. A review of the tactical plan is scheduled for early in 2024 to ensure it clearly demonstrates a victim centred approach to ASB.
- 3.10 The Council's current ASB Policy was rewritten in 2021 and endorsed by the Safer Barnsley Partnership. It sets out partners' commitment to improving the quality of life for those experiencing and affected by ASB. While it aims to provide a framework for consistency, it is sufficiently flexible to allow investigating officers the scope to make decisions based on the individual circumstances of each case.
- 3.11 The demand on the Service and partnership to tackle ASB has remained within stable parameters over the last 12 months. Although, the team is anecdotally seeing a higher number of more serious and complex cases, where both complainants and perpetrators have a greater dependency on drug and alcohol use, and/or are suffering from poor mental health and undiagnosed cognitive impairment. This adds another layer of complexity to the caseload and is impactful on the wellbeing of Officers and Managers. The recent realignment of resources has demonstrated that we are able to pool Officers to meet the demand of higher profile/high risk ASB cases, such as the intimidating and aggressive behaviour of some young people in the interchange over Easter.
- 3.12 Full utilisation of the whole raft of ASB tools and powers remains a challenge and this is mostly the case in relation to previous experience of applications for Civil Injunctions (part 1 ASB, Crime and Policing Act) and court interpretations of the evidential thresholds required to secure injunctions under this Act. Moving forwards we will be looking at increasing the applications for part 1 injunctions to provide prompt relief in more serious cases of ASB, particularly where a risk of harm has been identified.
- 3.13 That said, the Service continues to extensively use powers from the same act such as Community Protection Warnings and Notices and Closure Orders, with the recognised need to develop forfeiture Orders and Seizure Orders where the case requires it. Tenancy enforcement actions are still applied to those individuals and families that reside in BMBC properties and cause nuisance or annoyance to those visiting or living nearby.
- 3.14 There is also the potential for Safer Communities to utilise other tools and powers such as Environmental Protection Act (EPA) s81(3) – an effective tool designed to abate ASB where noise nuisance is the predominant factor. This tool tackles the issue by allowing the Service to directly remove (and with a Forfeiture Order, destroy) noise making equipment where the playing of amplified music has been evidenced. There would be the requirement to provide supplementary training to colleagues, but the effectiveness of this as a tool in tackling ASB cannot be underestimated. The Neighbourhood Warden team operating outside of usual office hours would be best placed to discharge this power and it would be particularly useful to quickly abate nuisance from noisy parties.
- 3.15 The Town and Country Planning act (s215) enables each Local Authority to address buildings or land that are judged to adversely impact on the amenities of the surrounding areas. Rather than being seen solely as a tool to address planning related issues, the Act compliments a raft of powers that can creatively be used to tackle deprivation and decline, key factors that allow ASB to thrive. The Authority can specify both the type of remedial work required as well as the timeframe that such work must be

concluded. Examples could include the requirement for landlords and landowners to remove graffiti. Failure to comply with this notice carries a level 3 fine (£1000) which after conviction, would allow the Authority to calculate penalties of £300 for each day of non-compliance thereafter (Planning and Compensation Act s32). It would be a useful tool both to tackle ASB in a specific location as well as reversing decline along main routes into the borough.

Operation Civitas

3.16 South Yorkshire has also benefited from Home Office Trailblazer monies to increase visible patrols and proactive and robust intervention to tackle ASB in several “hotspot” locations across the county. Ten such locations have been identified in Barnsley which, since the implementation in early summer 2023 has seen more than an additional 120 hours of uniformed police patrolling and intervention across Barnsley, with a significant number of additional real time interventions delivered. Additionally, the funding has also enabled the partners to become better equipped to identify and detect some of the more challenging types of ASB such as off-road biking, by improving both pursuit and technological monitoring and surveillance equipment.

4.0 What We Do Well

4.1 **Victim and Witness Service** - Where a resident of Barnsley is the victim of serious or persistent ASB, they can access the services of this small team. They will carry out an initial risk assessment and use it to develop a bespoke support plan, tailored to the specific needs of the individual or family. The officer will act as the single point of contact throughout the investigation and the team have recently been aligned to the Case Management Team who manage the more complex, high-risk cases. The team revisit the risk assessment to ensure the victim risk of harm is significantly reduced and seek feedback to inform future responses. Some service user comments can be seen below which demonstrate the service offered really does change Barnsley residents’ lives for the better.

Victim & Witness Support

JOINING FORCES
A SAFER BARNSELY

Provide a tailored support service for victims of anti-social behaviour

Act as a single point of contact for those affected by anti-social behaviour.

A selection of victim testimonies received this quarter from the xx cases closed with successful outcomes:

"If you hadn't been there for me, I would be stuck and still be sleeping in my shed, too scared to sleep in my bungalow."

"Having gone through previous abusive relationships and had the offer of victim support I never took it on. I can't believe how excellent the support has been. She has been amazing."

"When I had no heating in my house in freezing weather, you fought my corner with Berneslai Homes making sure they sorted it out and then even brought me a hot water bottle, blanket and a flasks. Those small things showing you cared meant everything to me."

"A huge thank to you for your help and understanding of our plight without you this would not have been possible, and my mental health would have suffered and my marriage. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

"My life is able to continue for the better now and this is all down to you and you only."

"This lady has put her all into making mine and my husband's life good again, helped my mental health back to what it should be and worked tirelessly during her own struggles with family."

Did you know?

During Quarter 1, our 3 Victim & Witness Officers have provided a bespoke support service to 24 new clients. Each of these intensively managed cases have resulted in positive life changes for the residents they have worked with and their families.

CASE STUDY

An Officer from the VWS team was contacted by an Elected Member for the North area and asked to provide a service to 3 separate families all affected by serious anti-social behaviour that resulted in the perpetrator setting fire to vehicles and a camper van in the once quiet cul-de-sac. Tailored support packages were devised according to their specific needs and all have resulted in tenant relocations, despite the perpetrator dying while the cases were ongoing. The families affected have provided positive feedback about their experiences.

4.2 **Partnership working** - Barnsley excels at partnership working, joint problem-solving approaches and taking ownership of ASB in its area. All Housing & Community Safety staff are co-located at police stations, pooling skills, knowledge and experience to develop action plans to address local problems, understanding the differing needs at neighbourhood level. The Joining Forces brand was initially developed to demonstrate a collective resolve to address community safety and ASB in the town centre. The brand has subsequently been rolled out to encapsulate how we work together across the borough.

- 4.3 **Continuous service improvement** – The Council's Safer Communities Service operating model is and has always been a flexible, responsive service, able to react to any given situation efficiently and effectively. Having a dedicated service improvement team allows continuous check and challenge of responses to ASB, which includes understanding the customer experience, learning and developing the services.
- 4.4 **Wardens Service** - This team operate a 7 days a week uniformed service to 10 pm Monday to Thursday, 11 pm Fridays and 6 pm Saturdays and Sundays excluding Bank Holidays. They carry out well over a thousand high visibility patrols each year, responding instantly to witnessed ASB in parks, recreational areas and other spaces accessible to the public. They also respond to ASB calls made to South Yorkshire Police where a presence is required, not necessarily a police officer. The officers also investigate environmental crime which includes the deployment of covert cameras in fly-tipping hot-spots. Their CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) vehicles have been used in a number of investigations to support police action, including capturing drug dealing in parks and identifying off-road bikers.
- 4.5 **Easy access to services** - Members of the public can access services by telephone, email or online as well as via their local Councillor or Housing Officer in person. All cases reported into service will be triaged, graded and prioritised, to increase the number of cases that get to the right team first time.
- 4.6 **Being intelligence led** - A tactical intelligence product has been developed to combine soft intelligence with data, trends and demand, to depict a direction of travel and associated risk for each of our service's key functional areas, including community and neighbourhood safety. Information is produced monthly and used to help inform tactical planning and intelligence-led deployment, as shown below:

Official Sensitive Document

Safer Communities Intelligence Overview

August 2023

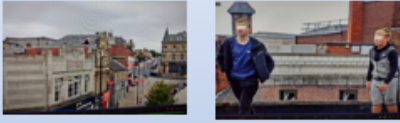
- Community and Neighbourhood safety ↔
- Homelessness and rough sleeping ↔
- Housing standards ↓
- Environmental standards ↔
- Migration, asylum and resettlement ↑
- Prevent ↔





- 4.7 **CCTV** - Over the past 5 years we have significantly increased the capability and reach of our public space CCTV network. This has included upgrades and enhancement in the town centre and installation of networked CCTV into most of our other urban centres and high streets. We have also increased our re-deployable capabilities, which allow for prevention and monitoring of problems where they occur. In recent months we have had increased successes in tracking and identifying perpetrators of ASB, and now have an officer dedicated to this area of work. Some successes from Quarter 1, 2023/24 can be seen below:

•Town Centre Roof top incident, 2 youths identified by partners and both children and parents received home visits and were advised accordingly.



•Op Lumbar Bravo drug dealing. 4 arrested and charged with possession of class A drugs, Intel submitted regarding vehicle reg and involvement.



•Irresponsible motorist identified, reminded of his responsibilities with regards to the Road Traffic Act 1988 and issued with an Admin 171 warning under Sec 59 Police Reform Act for driving in an anti-social manner.



Did you know? We currently have 82 CCTV systems in place across the borough. We also have access to 22 re-deployable cameras that provide flexible solutions to the identification of offenders.

Case Study – Suspected Arson on Wellington Street.

Extensive review of all Town Centre CCTV units and full chronology of the movements of 2 youths recorded entering the building and leaving shortly before smoke can be seen coming from the property passed to SYP. Their image were circulated amongst partner agencies and one of the youths was positively identified. South Yorkshire Police investigation on going.



5.0 Consideration of Existing and Emerging Challenges

- 5.1 Despite overall ASB demand trajectories reducing, the volume of recorded ASB is only one aspect of demand. More worryingly it does feel that more complex demand which can be reflective of multiple underlying issues and/or be more protracted and difficult to resolve is increasing. This can be both debilitating and frustrating for those affected, and resource draining on services trying to deal with it.
- 5.2 It should also be noted that whilst ASB is recognised as a local priority, resources do have to be prioritised alongside other competing demand pressures. This can be particularly the case for the police where it is expected that all neighbourhood crimes are investigated, and for council case managers who also are required to deal with housing and environmental regulation. It therefore remains crucial for services to effectively prioritise, according to the presenting risk.
- 5.3 There is much recent national posturing from both the government and opposition in relation to becoming tougher on enforcement around ASB. Whilst Barnsley already adopts a robust approach to enforcement, in reality, there are competing local dynamics which drive a more balanced approach to what are appropriate interventions. These include the aim not to disproportionately criminalise children and young people, the clear requirements to demonstrate necessity, proportionality, and public interest, and the view of the courts in relation to certain measures such as injunctions. It should be noted that the government are seeking to publish league tables for ASB enforcement by 2024/25, and increasing pressure to enforce is likely to be part of political campaigning leading up to the next general election.
- 5.4 At a time of competing demand pressures both the council and the police are also facing significant financial challenges. These will inevitably impact on some of the supporting and enabling functions such as intelligence and analysis which have been so important in our fight to tackle the prevalence and impacts of ASB. Increasing demand and case complexity becomes challenging given a static or reducing level of resource. Increased caseloads reduce opportunity for early resolution, leading to increasing levels of risk and community impact.
- 5.5 It is also extremely important that outcome expectations are managed with the public when addressing ASB. Using evictions as an example, evicting someone from their home is one of the most significant powers available to the council. The courts rightly insist that there is compelling evidence to demonstrate why such action is necessary and will insist that all other measures have been explored before

considering granting an order. Evictions on management grounds for ASB remains relatively rare and in the most extreme circumstances, yet it is often what complainants “expect” to happen at the outset.

6.6 Broader social and economic challenges also have a direct impact on ASB and at a time when people are struggling due to things such as the legacy of COVID and cost of living, tensions and pressures within communities can become more pronounced.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 In conclusion, services in Barnsley recognise the priority of tackling ASB in the town and urban centres, and neighbourhoods. The impact ASB can have and the damage it can do to people’s lives is without question.

6.2 Services have a strong track record of working effectively in partnership in tackling ASB and connecting with local communities to identify what is important to them. Barnsley has seen a reducing rate of recorded ASB and has been able to make real and sustained differences to significant problems faced such as in the Town Centre and some of our most affected neighbourhoods.

6.3 Notwithstanding our comparatively strong position, there remain significant and emerging challenges. From off road biking, to larger, more mobile congregations of young people connected via social media, the dynamics of problems continue to evolve. It is recognised that services need to evolve and adapt in the same way in order to continue to be able to intervene early, where possible prevent escalation, and respond to the needs and pressures being felt by residents.

6.4 What is without doubt is that services must maintain and develop focus on the needs of victims of ASB, making sure that victims’ needs are at the heart of decision making and response. Within this context Elected Members continue to have a crucial part to play in being the voice and advocates for their constituents when it comes to ASB.

6.5 The following two slides are extracts from the Safer Communities Service Quarter 1 2023-24 performance report and provide some examples of recent casework:

Robust enforcement against perpetrators of ASB

Putting victims at the heart of our responses

Minimising the impact of ASB on individuals, families and communities

Crime & Anti-social Behaviour

**JOINING FORCES
A SAFER BARNSELY**

This quarter the teams have dealt with 241 anti-social behaviour cases, 139 of which were neighbourhood nuisance

ROGUE LANDLORD CONVICTED OF UNLAWFUL EVICTION
In May a Landlord pleaded guilty to unlawful eviction at Barnsley Magistrates Court and received fines totalling £5,000.
The London based Landlord arranged for 4 men from Liverpool to pose as court bailiff’s with a fake possession order and carry out the eviction of the family from a rented property in the North East area. Following an investigation, the Landlord was prosecuted and the tenants reinstated at the property. The Landlord’s details are to be published on the Rogue Landlord Database.
Another prosecution is pending for an illegal eviction in Goldthorpe this quarter where the Landlord boarded the property while the tenants were out

5 Partial Closure Orders were granted at Court this quarter. Addresses on Lytham Avenue, Meadstead Drive, James St, Providence St and Wilman Road were all closed after ASB, drug dealing/using and nuisance behaviour were reported to the team by affected neighbours. One case has been referred to the national illegal money lending team

CASE STUDY – CANNABIS TAXING
4 people wearing balaclavas and wielding machetes tried unsuccessfully to gain entry a property in Royston. The Housing Officer carried out an ASB survey on the street and 2 weeks later a resident called to say the same thing was happening again. The information supported a warrant being executed where the remnants of a recent cannabis grow, dealer bags and weapons were recovered. The tenant was arrested and remanded in custody. The people attending with balaclavas and machetes were most likely trying to steal the cannabis.

In a North Area park, children were being bullied by older children causing the young kids parents to attend and confront the older ones. Other incidents included ASB, vandalism and drug taking. Wardens arranged for 8 of the children/young people to attend at the police station individually with their parents, where they were spoken to and advised. The complainants confirm there have been no further incidents.

Robust enforcement against perpetrators of ASB

Putting victims at the heart of our responses

Minimising the impact of ASB on individuals, families and communities

A Possession Order was granted at Court in May. This was in relation to a Council tenant and her links to neighbourhood ASB and drug related activity at the address.

The female tenant was unable to attend court to defend the application as she had been arrested the night before the hearing, having been found in possession of drugs by the Police.

The Wardens have undertaken 407 ASB patrols this quarter and responded to 72 calls to SYP, providing a more efficient service for our residents

Anti-social Behaviour



Our new CCTV van proves its worth capturing footage of off-road bikes at Kendray. It contains high-definition cameras to capture images of riders and machines. Instead of temporarily dispersing riders, footage captured is used to identify offenders leading to seizing the bikes from their home addresses. The van has also been used to capture drug dealing and taking at 5ives in Kendray along with the faces of 5 off road bikers on the same site. The footage has been shared with SYP who have been able to identify a lot of the people involved.

JOINING FORCES
A SAFER BARNSELEY

CASE STUDY - SWIFT ACTION TO CLOSE PREMISES

In June, a firearm was discharged with a bullet entering the bedroom window of an address in Lundwood. The incident related to an ongoing dispute and followed reports of anti-social behaviour and concerns that 'looked after' and missing children were regularly attending the address. Some occupants of the address had received child abduction notices due to concerns of young people being susceptible to child criminal exploitation (CCE).

Due to the severity of the incidents, a closure notice was served on the tenant with the closure order then being granted by Barnsley Magistrates Court just 1 week after the firearms incident, closing the property to all visitors for 3 months.



7.0 Invited Witnesses

7.1 The following witnesses have been invited to the meeting to answer questions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding their role in this area of work:

- Phil Hollingsworth, Service Director, Communities, BMBC
- Paul Brannan, Head of Safer Barnsley, BMBC
- Jane Brannan, Group Leader, Housing & Community Safety, BMBC
- Councillor Wendy Cain, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities, BMBC
- Sajeda Khalifa, Litigation Team Leader, BMBC
- Chief Superintendent Simon Wanless, Barnsley District Commander, South Yorkshire Police (SYP)

8.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

8.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What area of performance are you most proud of and why?
- What are the greatest challenges with regards to dealing with ASB in Barnsley?
- How confident are you in the data regarding ASB in Barnsley? How do you know it is accurate and reflects the true rates of ASB across the borough?
- How effective is partnership working amongst the agencies involved in tackling ASB from incidents occurring to carrying out justice?
- What considerations are made to ensure victims are at the heart of decision making? What recent example demonstrates this?
- How have trends in types of recorded ASB changed over time and how has this impacted the deployment of resources?
- What links do partners have with the Police Crime Commissioner and how do these impact on the management of local ASB?

- How effective are partners at exercising legal powers available to take action against perpetrators?
- What is in place to ensure learning is undertaken from the management of cases and support provided to victims in order to ensure there is continuous service improvement?
- What can members do to best support this area of work?

9.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

- Safer Barnsley Partnership:
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/community-safety-and-crime/safer-barnsley-partnership/>
- Safer Communities Antisocial Behaviour Policy:
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/21976/2022-asb-policy-final.pdf>
- Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/contents/enacted>

10.0 Glossary

ALMO	Arms-Length Management Organisation
ASB	Antisocial Behaviour
BMBC	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
HMIC	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies
MAAG	Multi-Agency Action Group
OSC	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
PACT	Police and Communities Together
PC	Police Constable
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
SYP	South Yorkshire Police
THRIVE	Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability and Engagement
YCAAB	Youth Crime and Antisocial Behaviour Plan Board

11.0 Officer Contact

Jane Murphy/Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officers, scrutiny@barnsley.gov.uk
29 September 2023