Agenda Item No 8

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

15 April 2015

Anti Social Behaviour and Young People Scrutiny Review

Report No BW/02/15/SRB of the Councillor B Wright, Chair of the Safer Homes and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To ask Cabinet to approve the recommendations of the Safer Homes and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee's Review of Anti Social Behaviour and Young People

1 Report Details

1.1 North east Derbyshire District Council agreed to undertake a review of Anti Social Behaviour and Young People as part of its work programme for 2014/15. It was felt timely to review this area as the topic was considered important and relevant to both elected members and the Public. The Committee is also the Statutory Committee for the review of the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

1.2 The aims and objectives of the review were to:

- Examine the Councils role in this area and any interventions taking place
- Review the effectiveness of the council in this area including partnership working with other agencies
- Examine what is happening locally including hotspots
- Identify any opportunities to prevent Anti Social Behaviour

1.3 The Review Panel met on five occasions and considered a variety of information to gain an understanding of the subject area. The Review Panel also interviewed the Police and a range of officers at North East Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council. Questionaires were also sent to residents and Parish Councils. The full report attached at **Appendix A** sets out in more detail the evidence gathered and synopsis of the views expressed.

1.4 The recommendations are:-

1) That the Council and the Community Safety Partnership identify further measures that can be taken to engage young people in our communities.

2) That the Council and the Community Safety Partnership identify any opportunities to provide facilities for young people in the District including outreach activities.

3) That the Council continue to support the Community Safety Partnership in exploring further how they can join their services to work better with other partner agencies.

4) That the Council and Community Safety Partnership review the provision of CCTV within the District

5) That the Council and the Community Safety Partnership continue to identify any available funding.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 To ensure the Council is tackling Anti-Social Behaviour and Young People within the District.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 As detailed in the full report.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Not applicable

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

5.1.1 This will be determined if Cabinet decide to accept the Scrutiny Review recommendations as part of the Lead Officer response.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

5.2.1 This will be determined if Cabinet decide to accept the Scrutiny Review recommendations as part of the Lead Officer response.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

5.3.1 This will be determined if Cabinet decide to accept the Scrutiny Review recommendations as part of the Lead Officer response.

6 Recommendations

6.1 As detailed in paragraph 1.4 of this report.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	This is not a key decision at this stage prior to the decision of this matter by Cabinet
District Wards Affected	
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	

8 Document Information

Appendix No	**Title**
A	Anti Social Behaviour and Young People

Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)

Report Author	**Contact Number**
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Appendix A

NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND YOUNG PEOPLE

APRIL 2015

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Chairs Foreword

I am pleased to present this report on behalf of the Safer Homes and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee. It details the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Committee from its Anti Social Behaviour and Young People review.

Members of the Committee felt that it was timely to review this area as the topic was considered important and relevant to both elected members and the Public. The Committee is also the Statutory Committee for the review of the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

The Panel felt that the review process had been successful and identified a great deal of positive work being undertaken in this area by the various partner organisations. It also highlighted some areas where the opportunity for improvement existed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all stakeholders involved in the review for their advice, support and co-operation throughout the review process.

In conclusion I would like to thank members of the Committee and Sue Broadhead our Scrutiny Manager for the work they undertook on the review.

Review Panel

The review panel comprised the following members:

Councillor B Wright	(Labour) – Review Panel Chair
Councillor B Barnes	(Labour)
Councillor Blackburn	(Conservative)
Councillor J Hill	(Labour)
Councillor C Hunt	(Labour)

Recommendations

1.1 That the Council and the Community Safety Partnership identify further measures that can be taken to engage young people in our communities.

1.2 That the Council and the Community Safety Partnership identify any opportunities to provide facilities for young people in the District including outreach activities.

1.3 That the Council continue to support the Community Safety Partnership in exploring further how they can join their services to work better with other partner agencies.

1.4 That the Council and Community Safety Partnership review the provision of CCTV within the District

1.5 That the Council and the Community Safety Partnership continue to identify any available funding.

2. Introduction

2.1 At its meeting on 9 July 2014 the Safer Homes and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review into Anti Social Behaviour and Young People.

2.2 It was felt timely to review this area as the topic was considered important and relevant to both elected members and the public. The Committee was also the Statutory Committee for the review of the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

3. Scope of Review

3.1 The review aimed to:

- Examine the Councils role in this area and any interventions taking place.
- Review the effectiveness of the Council in this area including partnership working with other agencies.
- Examine what is happening locally including hotspots.
- Identify any opportunities to prevent Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

4. Method of Review

4.1 The review panel met on five occasions to consider the scope of the review, key issues they wanted to discuss and key people they wished to interview.

4.2 Evidence was gathered in a variety of ways including written sources and interviews with a range of officers at North East Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council. The review panel also interviewed a police representative and sent questionnaires to all Parish Councils. Additionally they received questionnaires from residents who responded to an invite in the Councils newspaper to participate in the review.

5. Evidence and Research

5.1 The following documents were considered as part of the review:

- Scene setting presentation and briefing paper on Anti Social Behaviour and Young People by the Community Safety Partnership Manager and the Community Sergeant.
- Young People, Crime and Anti Social Behaviour: Findings from the 2003 Crime and Justice Survey – Home Office.
- Tired of Hanging Around – Using sport and leisure activities' to prevent Anti-Social Behaviour by young people – Audit Commission.
- Tackling Anti Social Behaviour – North East Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership.
- Community Safety Partnership Annual Action Plan 2014/15 – North East Derbyshire.
- Community Involvement Annual Impact Assessment 2013/14- Rykneld Homes.
- Leaflets and SMART Funding Totals 2013/14 from Extreme Wheels

6. Key Findings

6.1 <u>Strengths</u>

6.1.1 The Review Panel heard consistent evidence that the Community Safety Partnership Team at the District Council was well regarded. Several stakeholders commented that the team was working well in partnership with them. One tangible benefit highlighted was the sharing of information and knowledge. The Joint Anti Social Behaviour meetings were also working well and building trust between partners and helping to improve the service. This was supported by the Police representative who stated that the Community Safety Partnership team had officers with a good knowledge of the issues who he met regularly.

6.1.2 The Police advised the review panel on a number of initiatives they were involved with. They spoke highly of Rykneld Homes and the work they undertake, together in dealing with anti social behaviour. An example was provided of a young person who was arrested. Rykneld Homes took a proactive approach and visited the home of the tenant with whom he lived and gave them a letter on the incident and discussed with them their obligations. Regular meetings were also held with Rykneld Homes to discuss issues. The Police commented that engagement with Young People from all agencies was an important part of preventing ASB. However, whilst it was easy to engage with young people in some areas others were more challenging. The police provided details of walkabouts they undertook in areas to identify issues.

6.1.3 Further comments were made by the police on the effectiveness of a number of tools used by the Community Safety Partnership in the past and new ones being introduced as part of new legislation. These included Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC), Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO), Parenting Orders, injunctions to prevent nuisance and annoyance, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Dispersal powers, Public Space Protection Orders and Community Protection Notices. Part of the new tools would be the community remedy which gives victims a say in the out- of- court punishment of offenders for low level crime and ASB and the Community Trigger which gives victims and communities the right to request a review of their case and bring agencies together to take a joined-up problem-solving approach to find a solution. He thought the tools available worked well but have different reputations. In his opinion unlike some larger areas ASBO's were not regarded as a badge of honour in smaller communities where everyone knows you. He believed that it curtailed people's activities. Examples were provided of them working successfully in Grassmoor and Holmewood. ABC's needed the support of parents to be effective. Alcohol dispersal orders were working with Killamarsh highlighted as an area where they had been used and this had resulted in a reduction in number of incidents. A new computer system (ECINS) had been introduced which records cases which is useful as it allows a history to be built up which helps partners deal with ASB better. This resource was shared between partners and works well although social care was not on the system yet, which would be beneficial.

6.1.4 A number of stakeholders commented on the partnership with Rykneld Homes including the Police. A number of areas were highlighted where Rykneld Homes was working proactively to improve Anti Social Behaviour. Evidence provided included working with schools and other partners to try and educate young people and work on their perception. One example provided was the impact a simple action like kicking a ball against a house wall could have on the residents living there. Also a visit to a prison had been arranged so young people could talk with the prisoners about events that had led to them being in prison. Some attendees had said the visit would prevent them from taking a similar course. A proactive stance was being taken on carrying out enforcement and preventative actions to safeguard tenants. Rykneld Homes also were taking part in the B Safe patrols. The Portfolio member commented that Rykneld Homes do a lot including putting money into youth clubs and offering volunteer ships to young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETS).

6.1.5 Several of the partners commented on the issue of perception versus reality of the involvement of Young People in anti social behaviour. The Police representative commented that sometimes it is the perception that young people are involved in ASB when they are not. This is difficult to deal with. All acknowledged the impact ASB could have on the lives of people who are victims of it. However, the Police commented that the majority of young people cause no issues. The level of incidents within North East Derbyshire was low. This was supported by statistics provided by Derbyshire County Councils Youth Offending Team. The figures were provided by central government and indicated that the District had fairly low levels of crime and a low reoffending rate. It was stated that the new legislation will improve working together even more.

6.1.6 Several stakeholders commented that many parishes were seeking to engage with young people. Examples provided included Killamarsh which invited young people to take part in parish meetings. Eckington also had seats on the Parish Council for young people. Mickley and Stonebroom were also mentioned as being proactive. Reference was made to the new skate park at Mickley that had been provided. Young people had been involved in the project and the new facility had been well received by them. The Police also commented that some parishes do a lot of work where others are not so proactive.

6.1.7 The Police representative also commented on the importance of provision of facilities for younger people. He stated that his experience was that when they were provided generally young people used them and appreciate it. Reference to play grounds was made and the case of Homewood and Heath having no ASB which in the interviewee’s opinion was as a result of the parish having play grounds for the youngsters. Young people need activities they can get involved in; they want space of their own. However, it was also raised by several stakeholders that the positioning of facilities needed to be carefully considered for them to work successfully for all parties.

6.1.8 Other initiatives highlighted were the Positive Ticket scheme that was being trialled. If a young person takes part in an activity and responds positively they will be eligible to receive a voucher that provides them with a reward like a cinema ticket or trip. Extreme Wheels received positive feedback from a number of stakeholders. This initiative provided a range of wheeled and actions sports that could be used anywhere in the district. The road show had been well received by young people and was mobile so could be used in hotspots where ASB was occurring.

6.1.9 Derbyshire County Council said that they thought there were good links between the County and District. The Head of the Youth Offending Team thought there was a balanced approach in Derbyshire which was about right. This involved a more problem solving approach to Anti Social Behaviour than once was the case, rather than giving young people a criminal record. He commented that according to statistics North East Derbyshire was a good place to live with a low rate of ASB activity. He felt the employment of an ASB Co-ordinator was very beneficial as many Councils no longer have one.

Comments from another stakeholder were made on the importance of the District maintaining green spaces so young people can play and providing a good environment with good housing for people. Reference was made by another stakeholder on the provision of leisure facilities in North East Derbyshire. This was engaging some young people which was welcome but more could be done to reach out into the community.

6.2 Areas for Improvement

6.2.1 The majority of stakeholders raised the issue of perception versus reality with regard to young people and anti social behaviour. Some people had the perception that there were many young people involved in Anti Social Behaviour. The Police representative stated that it was not his experience that there was a high level of incidents within North East Derbyshire of Anti Social Behaviour involving young people. However, activities such as large groups of young people congregating in communities could cause anxiety for some people. The Police commented that sometimes there was a mismatch with what people want the Police to deal with and what they actually do. This issue was therefore a very difficult area to address. However, when incidents of Anti Social Behaviour did occur the impact could be significant for people experiencing it. Therefore it was acknowledged that it was an important part of the work of Partnership to address these concerns and incidents of ASB.

6.2.2 Equally it was felt important that more work be undertaken to ensure that young people are engaged and encouraged to be seen in a more positive light. One initiative aimed at contributing to this process being trialled was the Positive Ticket Scheme already mentioned in the report previously. More activities like this and publicity of positive activities by young people would be welcomed by many stakeholders.

6.2.3 Several stakeholders commented on the need to provide more play areas. Give young people places to go and things to do. Several felt that this could make a difference and be effective in preventing ASB. It was important that the location was selected carefully where disturbance would not be caused to neighbouring residents. The review panel received one example from a resident who was experiencing Anti Social Behaviour. A play area had been sited close to his house which he felt had caused a number of problems including excessive disruptive noise, litter being thrown into the property and footballs striking his window. He also stated that mopeds were driven at night on the grass bank at the edge of the play area which overlooked his property and large teenage groups were often hanging around. He had lots of contact with various agencies but felt the ASB had not been tackled effectively. He felt that young people having ‘nothing to do’ contributed to the problem. He felt the environment where the ASB occurs needed looking at.

6.2.4 The majority of stakeholders felt that diversionary activities do seem to work but need funding. As well as Extreme Wheels and Oz box there was a good provision of leisure facilities in North East Derbyshire. However, whilst this was engaging some young people it was not catching everyone in the opinion of the Assistant Director. He felt the service had much more it could offer to help engage young people and provide activities for them to do. He would welcome working with the Community Safety Partnership team in this area. He suggested that there was an opportunity to provide a bigger outreach product portfolio. This might provide a mechanism to tackle issues more quickly and responsively. He proposed the use of a mobile vehicle to tap into things that are happening at the time and get to hotspots quickly. The vehicle could be adapted for a wide mix of activities such as laser tag, mobile skate park, gym, and Xbox and DJ decks. He was currently looking at external funding to see if the District Council could access more resource. This would also help targeting of those who don't use leisure centres.

6.2.5 Several stakeholders commented on the changing environment and the reduction of resources. As a result a number of comments were made on the need to work smarter and share resources to avoid duplication of work. The Multi Agency Team representative highlighted that there was a need to undertake more shared activities because of reduction in teams and resources. She suggested that sharing rooms to put activities on and linking in with each other's activities would be useful. In her opinion budget reductions at Derbyshire County Council had lead to shrinking of teams so working together was going to be paramount. A comment was made that it was felt that the Youth Offending Team was joined up with ASB officer at North East Derbyshire but it can always be improved. Several partners take part in the ASB meeting including the Police, Multi Agency Teams and Probation. The meetings were considered useful and responsive but more improvements could be made in sharing information.

6.2.6 Further issues raised were that the Multi Agency Team use to take part in tasking meetings with other partners such as housing and youth offending. These meetings were considered very useful for sharing information but as a result of resource issues this had stopped and the officer felt she now had less information which was a backward step. Additionally reference was made to the ECINS system that had been introduced in certain areas. This system tracks behaviour and was a useful tool. However, the roll out of this system needed to be completed to all partners to ensure a more joined up approach.

6.2.7 All stakeholders were asked their opinion on the use of CCTV within the District. Many commented that the systems were old with some not working. The monitoring company that had been used had also ceased trading. The assessment of the effectiveness of the systems in preventing and dealing with ASB was varied. However, the police representative felt that they were a massive deterrent, prevented vandalism and protected assets, like pavilions. He commented that cameras were not being replaced by most parishes and they had ceased funding them. He gave a positive example of Grassmoor, Hasland and Winsick Parish Council who had recommissioned cameras which had led to arrests. Evidence was also provided that CCTV at Stonebroom led to a youth being caught. The review was also advised that Mickley were reinstating their CCTV.

7. Conclusions

7.1 The review panel had spoken to a variety of different stakeholders during this review. The panel concluded that there were many encouraging examples of positive work being undertaken across the Community Safety Partnership to tackle Anti Social Behaviour. This focus on addressing Anti Social Behaviour within the district should be maintained.

7.2 It was also found that whilst the levels of Anti Social Behaviour by young people in the District were relatively low the impact it can have on people experiencing it could be significant. It was therefore important for all partners to continue to seek ways to engage with young people in our communities.

8. Stakeholders Engaged During the Review

Sally Atkitt	Community Sustainability Team Leader (Rykneld Homes)
Jamie Clarke	Extreme Wheels
Faye Green	Community Safety Manager
Debbie Hadley	Multi Agency Team (Derbyshire County Council)
Lee Hickin	Assistant Director Leisure
Councillor Lillian Robinson	Portfolio Holder and Chair of the Community Partnership
Bob Smith	Youth Offending Team (Derbyshire County Council)
Paul Smith	Community Safety Partnership
Aidan Stones	Community Sergeant
Heather Summers	Head of Community Involvement and Customer Care (Rykneld Homes)
Jonathan Tipton	Extreme Wheels

Questionnaires received from:

- Residents of the District
- Parish Councillor
- Bolsover Parent Practitioner