

## **FORCE RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED BY AREA COMMITTEES AND WARD FORUMS IN D DIVISION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This report seeks to inform Members of the Committee of the Humberside Police response to:
  - Community concerns raised by the Area Committees and Ward Forums in D Division from December 2005 to February 2006
  - The impact of any local Force and/or partnership initiatives as a consequence of these concerns; and
  - Any demonstrable movement in performance at a local level that can be measured as a result.

### **KEY LOCAL ISSUES RAISED**

2. The key local issues raised by the community at Police Authority Neighbourhood Panels were:
  - Alcohol related disorder
  - Anti-Social Behaviour
  - Complaints about young people
  - Call handling
3. Call handling are being addressed at Force level, and the subject is a standing item for the full Police Authority Committee.

### **INFORMATION**

#### **Anti Social Behaviour and Complaints about Young People**

4. Much of the Division's Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator's work is completed in partnership with the Hull City Council Anti Social Behaviour Team, and focuses on Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). There are two types of ASBOs; which in D Division are referred to as post conviction and stand alone. Whilst the Council can process post conviction ASBOs, Humberside Police tends to be the lead agency for this sort of ASBO, if the offender is not subject to likely, pending and appropriate convictions then a stand alone ASBO will be sought and usually the council will be the lead agency. Both ASBO

types involve joint working, primarily through attendance at case conferences.

5. Throughout December, January and February, 11 Anti Social Behaviour Orders have been issued by the police and the Council. Overall, there are 99 ASBOs currently in place in Hull, rising to 101 if ASBOs that cover Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire are included. Over half of the current ASBOs apply to under 18 year olds. Of the 99 that apply to the Hull area alone, they are distributed across LPT areas, as follows:

LPT	No. of ASBOs in area
West	1
Wyke	5
North Carr	5
East	7
Northern	20
Park	27
Riverside	34

6. It is hoped that in April, the ASB Coordinator will provide training to Neighbourhood Officers in how to apply for ASBOs. Following the training, applications will be quality assured by the ASB Coordinator, who will pass them to the Crown Prosecution Service. This should see a substantial rise in the number of applications, as currently the ASB Coordinator can only complete 1 – 3 a week, dependent upon how complex each case is. In the long term, it is thought reasonable that there could be in the region of 300 ASBOs active in Hull.
7. The biggest problem areas for anti social behaviour in Hull have been identified by the police and the ASB Team. The offenders who are involved are advised to discontinue their anti social behaviour. If this advice is disregarded, then there is a sustained effort to obtain ASBOs against the offenders involved. Examples of such tactics have been seen in Tottenham Close in Ings Estate, Wellstead Street and Hawthorn Avenue in west Hull, Scampton Garth in Bransholme, the Quadrant in north Hull and Queen Victoria Square. In the case of Tottenham Close, where the offenders moved on to Longhill Estate to continue their anti social behaviour, officers involved continued to pursue ASBOs against them.
8. Anti social behaviour legislation encourages publicity; indeed publicity is automatic, unless the court imposes a press ban. In the majority of cases, the local press will publish details of the ASBOs, and when appropriate, details of any subsequent breaches. On occasions, further publicity will be generated by distributing posters to raise public awareness of the offender and the terms he or she is subject to.

9. Police and ASB officers regularly patrol ASB hotspot areas as identified through analysis.
10. There is extensive evidence of Local Policing Teams (LPTs) working closely with partner agencies, through tasking mechanisms to jointly problem solve and improve communities, this will develop further as a result of the Council's move to Neighbourhood management. C/I Cunningham is working alongside Stuart Davy of Hull City Council to develop a standard corporate operating framework in respect of multi agency tasking and neighbourhood management/Policing.
11. Officers are sending letters to parents of juveniles to inform them of their activities and the consequences thereof.
12. Incident logs relating to Anti Social Behaviour are scanned to identify hotspots and LPT officers are aware of all calls regarding Youths causing annoyance. We are beginning to improve the tasking of officers outside of the LPTs in respect of anti social hotspot patrolling.
13. C/I Cunningham has secured agreement with John Marshall the Wardens manager, in respect of support to LPTs and is in the process of improving information sharing and teamwork, which it is fair to say works better in some areas than others.
14. Park LPT are in the process of obtaining a dispersal order in respect of problems with anti social behaviour on Suddaby Close, where additional high visibility Police patrols have been deployed as part of an Operation ongoing in this area. The Preston Road New Deal Copshop is being located in this area, the ASB Team are fully integrated in working to resolve the problems.
15. Northern Area has seen effective joint working between the Police and co-located Anti Social Behaviour Team officers in securing ASBO and ABCs. Additionally, they are undertaking a concerted operation in the area focusing on the 'no drinking' zones and hotspots to reduce violence and criminal damage and provide reassurance by means of high visibility policing and enforcement activity, including arrests, fixed penalty notices for disorder, seizure of alcohol and intelligence gathering.
16. Riverside LPT has launched Operation Hunter in respect of a dispersal order in the Queens Gardens area in relation to gangs of youths causing alarm and distress. Additionally they have undertaken Operation Chesterton and Operation Capital which refer to anti social behaviour, begging, etc. in the high-profile City Centre area. Numerous ASBOs secured, particularly in the Welstead Street, City Centre and Hawthorne Avenue hotspots.

17. An operation to reduce crime and disorder is ongoing in the Buckingham Street area in the Drypool Ward in respect of youths causing annoyance.
18. Anti Social Behaviour is a priority for the West LPT, having been identified by all Wards. Youth outreach working has been arranged, and the Police are working closely with the Area Committee to identify projects for the young and to reduce anti social behaviour.
19. Joint working arrangements on the Wyke area are reaping benefits in respect of the use of Anti Social Behaviour legislation.
20. Hotspots are identified within the LPTs, through both the Tasking process and by the officers monitoring all incident logs to be able to effectively deploy their resources. North Carr LPT patrols such hotspots on foot, in cars and on cycles, in uniform and in plain clothes. Alcohol is seized from the young and fixed penalty notices have been issued for offences including adult buying alcohol for the young. Additionally, they send letters to parents of juveniles engaged in anti social behaviour, with in excess of 50 letters sent in 5 months.
21. North Carr has, like all LPTs, improving working relationships with partner agencies including the Council Housing department, Environment department, etc. Two offenders have been charged under ASB legislation in the last week, and arrest days are held weekly for those wanted on warrant in the Area.
22. An operation has just been launched to deal with anti-social behaviour around Grandale linking in with the designated 'no drinking' zone. This will involve concerted additional patrols and strong enforcement activity over a period of weeks.
23. Numerous additional patrols have been deployed around the Ings Estate on East Area, in respect of anti social behaviour and evidence exists of excellent joint working between agencies, instigated by the Police. Furthermore, the East Area team is undertaking an operation to tackle violent crime and disorder on the Area.
24. All LPTs recently been tasked and funded for operations in respect of reducing violent crime and disorder linked to the areas and bids are in place.
25. Recently, there have been four crack house closures in Hull. Crack house closure is intended to tackle dealers of Class A drugs who are creating a public order problem, for example, through the number of visitors to the house who are creating a noise nuisance. The police collect evidence of the drug dealing and the disorder however; the evidence does not have to be at the level of a criminal investigation. The police then liaise with the council and once a superintendent and the Head of the Council agree to the closure of the crack house; a court

hearing date is arranged by the Humberside Police Legal Services Unit. Within 48 hours of this date notices of the hearing are posted on all access areas to the premises in question. Visitors will not be allowed to enter the premises in question without breaching the order. Residents are able to come and go until the court case. After which they can be barred from the premises for a maximum of three months.

### **Alcohol Related Disorder**

26. In Autumn 2004, Hull BCU (D Division) was statistically the most violent BCU nationally. As a consequence, the Division became 'engaged' with the Policing Standards Unit and Home Office, as part of Tranche One of the national Tackling Violent Crime Programme.
27. During the summer period of 2004, there had been several changes to the Senior Management Team personnel. Following the initial bedding down of staff, Violent Crime was highlighted as an area for concern and action, prior to engagement.
28. Chief Inspector Cunningham leads on a multi agency approach towards tackling violent crime, and in particular more serious violence and seeking to change the culture through enforcement, publicity and improved premises management. The work undertaken by the team has been heralded across Great Britain as good practice, and Hull has led the way in relation to the issuing of Fixed Penalty Tickets for disorder on the street.
29. The Division set out to tackle this issue by means of a multi-faceted, multi-agency approach. Initially, analysis was undertaken which identified hotspots and trends. From this the 'Safer Entertainment Zone' (SEZ) was identified. This was an area in the City Centre, which, predictably, featured significantly higher than average levels of violence and disorder.
30. The SEZ was deliberately and consistently branded as such to emphasise the 'Safer' aspect. The strategic intent has been to change the culture and reduce offending and fear of crime, through a strict enforcement policy, high visibility policing, and raising standards of premises management. The establishment of the SEZ in the city centre has been considered for the European Crime Prevention Award very recently.
31. D Division has seen a reduction of about 25% in terms of contact violence in 18 months, within the Safer Entertainment Zone. More specifically, during the period August 2005 to February 2006 (\*projected), performance gains across the City of Hull linked to the tackling violent crime project are;

	Recorded Crime						Feb 06
	Aug 05	Sep 05	Oct 05	Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	
<b>Violent Crime</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>721</b>	<i>694*</i>
Violence Against the Person	773	843	824	762	652	639	<i>592*</i>
Sexual Offences	33	34	35	26	30	23	<i>22*</i>
Robbery	73	73	69	43	36	59	<i>69*</i>

32. Premises management has been tackled by means of a concerted effort and programme of multi-agency visits, test purchase operations and formation of a Responsible Licensees Forum. This has promoted the positive aspects of joint working with members of the licensing trade being encouraged to work with the agencies, with the threat of sanctions if they fail so to do.
33. The Division continues to build upon its partnership work. This is illustrated by the development of the Best Bar None (BBN) scheme in the city, which is to be introduced 1 March 2006. The BBN scheme was developed by Greater Manchester Police in 2003, and has been running annually ever since. Since conception, the scheme has expanded and at the present time it is in place in over 40 Basic Command Units across the country. It is supported by the Police Standards Unit and is widely considered to be best practice.
34. The overall purpose of the scheme is to provide sustainable reductions in alcohol related violence and anti social behaviour by raising the standards of licensed premises by consent rather than enforcement. The scheme introduces nationally accepted minimum standards that have to be achieved by the operator for them to be successful.
35. The BBN scheme will run along side current enforcement practice and is not to take place of the enforcement methods. The establishments that are successful receive full accreditation and a BBN plaque to advertise their success. They are then able to compete for further recognition and become an entry for the 'best of' category, success here would mean that they are the Best Bar None. Whatever level of success that is achieved results in positive publicity relating to their premises and is highly likely to see an increase in the level of custom. Premises that do not reach accredited status are provided with action plans that will be monitored, supported and reviewed, with the whole process starting again the following year.
36. The BBN scheme focuses on key areas that are outlined in the Licensing Act 2003; the prevention of crime and disorder and public nuisance, public safety and the protection of children from harm.
37. The success of the scheme will be measured by;
- Reductions in violent crime and alcohol related disorder
  - Reduction of licensing offences committed
  - Improvements in the quality of life for local residents and revellers who enjoy the pubs and clubs in Hull

- An improved reputation for Hull, which should encourage visitors to the city for a safe night out
  - An increase in the local economy
  - A more productive relationship between premises operators and the enforcement agencies
38. For the first year of the Best Bar None scheme, the Scheme will be limited to the Safer Entertainment Zone, which covers 'Old Town' and Beverley Road drinking areas, because these are the largest identifiable drinking areas in the city. An expansion of the scheme is expected, with the whole city to be targeted the following and subsequent years.
39. Additionally, a programme of education and prevention has been undertaken in key hotspot areas, working with Surestart and Youth Offending teams. Workers have undertaken questionnaires with young people, and advised them about the dangers of binge drinking, self-awareness and transport arrangements, etc. Drink spiking seminars have been conducted and bottle stoppers distributed.
40. A structured media and marketing campaign has been applied. Key safety messages aimed at changing the culture and educating the public have been broadcast. This has been a joint effort between Police, Citysafe, Council departments, amongst others. The local sports clubs have been involved in promoting safety and anti-violence messages.
41. Working together, agencies in Hull have changed the night-time transport arrangements, by working with the bus companies to provide and publicise the availability of late night buses, and have also managed to relocate taxi ranks to appropriate locations. These have been supplemented through funding street marshals to manage queues. This has been jointly planned and funded.
42. Working with trading standards, Citysafe and Connexions we have provided a strict Push 21 drinking policy to prevent under 18s accessing licensed premises. Clubwatch has formulated a sensible drinks pricing policy and agreed an Under 18 nights protocol. Joint operations with Trading Standards have targeted off-licenses selling alcohol to the young.
43. The structure of multi agency work has recently been formalised and the Chief inspector, leading the tackling Violent Crime programme, now chairs the CDRP Violent Crime sub-group. Membership of this group is currently being assessed and refreshed to ensure that all key players are involved.
44. Licensing departments of the Police and Council have been working closely on the new licensing arrangements and Security Industry Association issues, including thorough checking of every new

application, and treating of each case on its individual merits, making objections as required.

45. Consideration and consultation are underway with a view to co-location of key resources to provide a base to enable joint working, shared accountability and avoidance of duplication. This will result in total multi-agency working.
46. Local Policing Teams are involved in preparation for individual operations in respect of violent crime reduction. Analysis has been commissioned to assess the scale of disorder and violence in schools and an operation will be launched to tackle the arising issues.
47. Riverside LPT has launched an Operation in the Anlaby Road/ Walton Street area, to tackle the issue of alcohol related disorder connected to licensed premises in the area.
48. North Carr LPT is tackling an issue around Kingswood and Grandale, in respect of assaults and disorder, by the use of an operation utilising high visibility policing, and plain clothes work. Enforcement will include the use of fixed penalty notices for disorder, arrest, summons reports, seizure of alcohol, stop & search powers; particularly over the weekend period. These areas correlate to the designated zones under Section 12 of the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 2001, one is currently in place and the other one is being pursued.
49. Wyke LPT has identified Newland Avenue and Bricknell Avenue as key areas to tackle alcohol based anti social behaviour. Action plans are currently being developed to undertake operations in these areas to reduce the nuisance caused as a result of alcohol and licensed premises in the area. Additional patrols have been deployed in these areas and reduced tolerance levels adopted.
50. East Area has seen maximum use of patrols and Special Constables in hotspots and the securing of external additional funding has enabled enforcement activity to be increased and focused.
51. West Area has seen several projects to tackle this issue. Recently operations were undertaken to seize unlawful fireworks and alcohol as part of an intelligence-led operation. Activity was focused on areas identified as those where youths congregate and cause disruption for the Community. Letters are also sent to parents in respect of alcohol seizures from juveniles.
52. Northern LPT has utilised the Regeneration Policing Initiative (Copshop) staff to target alcohol related disorder around the NO Drinking Zones in the Area.
53. Park LPT regularly confiscates alcohol from the young and has worked effectively with Trading Standards and Licensing officers to try to close

down off-licences with poor management standards. The Operation around Suddaby Close will help to tackle this issue.

54. Corporately for the Division, a very proactive Licensing Department ensures that disorderly licensed premises are dealt with effectively

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

55. It is recommended that Members of the Consultation and Partnership Committee:

- i) Discuss the content of the Report
- ii) Continue to refer matters of operational policing to the Chief Constable for appropriate action

**TIM S HOLLIS  
CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**Contact Officer:** Chief Inspector Paul Cunningham, ext. 3203

**Background documents:** None