



**Partnership & Place Overview &
Scrutiny Committee**
12th October 2011

**Report from the Director of
Strategy Partnership & Improvement**

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Anti Social Behaviour in Brent

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the current work being delivered in Brent by the Integrated Community Safety Team and their partners to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- 1.2 It explains that how the new geographically based structure delivers focused work, using recognised problem solving formats.
- 1.3 The resources in both the Police and Council have been reorganised to make sure that dwindling numbers of staff numbers and projects budgets deliver the maximum benefit for the communities we serve in Brent.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members comment on and note the contents of the report

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Antisocial behaviour can put a tremendous amount of strain on people and, if left unchecked, it can ruin a community all too soon, with disputes between neighbours being a common problem. There are a whole range of laws

governing anti-social behaviour, which can lead to legal action being taken against the perpetrator(s).

3.2 Anti-social behaviour can incorporate a whole range of issues. These can include problems with:

- Noisy neighbours
- Drug taking and drinking on the streets
- Pets – particularly dangerous dogs and Barking Dogs
- Litter and graffiti
- Vandalism
- Racism
- Teenage groups or other forms of intimidating groups or individuals such as young and unruly children
- Abandoned cars
- Fly tipping

3.3 However, it's important to remember that in certain instances, anti-social behaviour can mean entirely different things to different people. As neighbours, it's always necessary to realise that we will often have different values, beliefs and opinions, and so what someone might object to and see as anti-social behaviour may not be covered by any of the legislation. For example, if you like to mow your lawn every week, but your next door neighbour takes a more relaxed attitude towards keeping on top of their garden and only mows it every month or so, then that wouldn't be classed as anti-social behaviour under the current legislation.

3.4 In most cases of antisocial behaviour involving neighbours or other members of the community, a resolution is obtained before the matter even gets to court. Official warning letters and interviews are often sufficient to stop the problem, but other methods include drawing up Acceptable Behaviour Agreements or Parenting Contracts as well as Fixed Penalty Notices and Noise Abatement Notices. The courts also have the power to issue Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and can resort to other methods such as dispersal orders and demoted tenancies, for example.

Local Joint Action Groups

3.5 Local Joint Action Groups (LJAG's) were set up in May 2011 following a review of Brent Crime Prevention Strategy Groups delivery structure.

3.6 Brent LJAG's bring community safety partners together to provide a more localised, operational response to problem solving ASB. There are three LJAG's in Brent, one for each police safer neighbourhood cluster.

LJAG Locality	ASB Officer	Wards Covered	
Wembley Locality	Jackie Pinnock jackie.pinnock@brent.gov.uk Tel: 020 8733 3932 Mob: 07984 085 857	Kenton Barnhill Preston Northwick Park	Sudbury Tokyngton Wembley Central Alperton
Harlesden Locality	Ashley Cumberbatch ashley.cumberbatch@brent.gov.uk Tel: 020 8733 3938 Mob: 07534 224 434	Queensbury Fryent Welsh Harp Dudden Hill	Harlesden Stonebridge Kensal Green
Kilburn Locality	Simon Egbor simon.egbor@brent.gov.uk Tel: 020 8733 3940 Mob:07960 977 989	Dollis Hill Mapesbury Willesden Green	Brondesbury Park Kilburn Queens Park

3.7 The groups are pro-active seeking to resolve entrenched problems. The groups have a number of resources to call on including:

- Five Officers (two Constable and three PCSOs) from 20 th October 2011
- Three detectives, who can investigate behind the manifestation of antisocial behaviour and so called low level crime
- The ability, via shared data to look deeper at families including domestic violence, violence against women and girls
- Demographic data is being used to form a picture of each cluster, poverty, unemployment
- Limited funding; obtained via bids to the mayor of London and distributed via Brent Joint Action

3.8 All groups have a good membership which includes Brent Police, Ward Working, Brent CRI, Brent Youth Service, RSLs (Stadium, Fortunegate, Genesis, BHP, Hillside and L&Q, ASRA, London Fire Brigade, Addaction, Network Stadium). Other agencies and partners are invited to the LJAG's if required to resolve a particular ASB problem, for example victim support, Brent Mental Health.

3.9 LJAG's meet monthly and a total of 11 meetings have taken place since June 2011.

3.10 ASB problems tackled by the LJAG's have included:

- Problems of drug use, intimidation, harassment of local residents in Azure Court
- Street Drinking problems and irresponsible selling of alcohol in and around the Neasden Shopping centre
- Prostitution
- ASB associated with a Khat House in Wembley Central
- AS, Drugs, criminality in and around Hirst Crescent, Wembley
- Farm House – ASB in communal areas, drug taking, noise and intimidation
- Drug related ASB problems in Kilburn
- Cross borough gang issues in Kilburn and Mozart (Westminster)
- Repeat callers and victims of ASB

3.11 Collectively the LJAG's have received 22 referrals of ASB problems which require more than two agencies to resolve the issues.

3.12 Brent Joint Action Board is chaired by the Head of Integrated Community Safety and Development meets every four weeks Core membership includes the chairs of the three LJAGs and senior officers from Brent Police, Brent Probation, Brent Fire Service, Brent National Health Service (NHS), Brent Court, Brent Crown Prosecution Service, Brent Council Other agencies and officers can be invited as and when required. The group is supported and managed by Brent Community Safety Partnership Unit. The groups key functions are:

- Managing community safety funds secured to commission interventions supporting the problem solving carried out by the LJAGs,
- Receiving partnership analysis on crime and ASB showing high priority areas
- Directing priorities requiring problem solving by the LJAGs
- Highlighting strategic and policy issues to CPSG and follows up action required by CPSG
- Undertaking performance management of the LJAGs
- Resolving any partnership conflict occurring in the LJAGs

- Monitoring the performance of crime/ASB reduction, repeat victimisation and repeat offending
- Agreeing and signs off partnership working protocols and procedures
- Co-ordinating borough wide crime and community safety communication
- Manage tasking of partnership resources to tackle crime and ASB

3.13 Local Joint Action Groups (LJAGs)

Key points:

- Chairs of the LJAG are chosen by Brent JAB
- Officer from Brent Community Safety Partnership allocated to each LJAG to facilitate meetings, manage documentation, assist in problem solving and following up actions between meetings, ensuring relevant partners/officers are invited, produce quarterly LJAG performance report, support chair and members of LJAG, induct new members, main point of contact for the LJAG
- Meets every three weeks
- Core membership includes – Sector Police Inspector, Police Safer neighbourhood sergeant for the ward the problem is in, Brent Council (Youth Offending Service, street care, local landlords, etc) as and when needed
- Receive a problem, problem solve, agree action and expected outcomes, monitor delivery, evaluate problem and close. Brent JAG notified of problems open longer than three meetings
- Hold partners to account for interventions agreed
- Receive crime and ASB priorities to problem solve from Brent JAG and partners
- Able to request deeper analysis into problems to understand underlying causes, agree and direct action/resources accordingly

Dispersals

- 3.14 Dispersals are used actively to support interventions that tackle ASB caused by a group of individuals in a particular area. Dispersal's can be implemented for up to six months and require police and partnership evidence to support an application. The local authority is consulted and the Police Superintendent authorises the dispersal based on the evidence provided.

3.15 The police have the power to disperse individuals causing ASB in an area covered by the dispersal. Partners engage with the local community during the time of a dispersal, encouraging residents to report ASB. Many residents support the dispersal order as it provides them with respite from the ASB enabling them to go about their business in peace without the fear of intimidation and ASB incidents.

3.16 The dispersals implemented in Brent Since April 2011 are as follows

Name of Dispersal	Ward	Start Date	Finish Date	Current Status
South Kilburn	Kilburn	21.03.2011	21.09.2011	Closed
Bruce Road	Stonebridge	19.05.2011	19.11.2011	Active
Park Parade	Kensal Green	21.04.2011	21.10.2011	Active
Brook Road	Dollis Hill	07.05.2011	07.11.2011	Active
Church Road	Harlesden	27.07.2011	27.01.2012	Active
**Eagle Road	Wembley	10.08.2011	10.02.2012	Active
**Atlip Road	Alperton	12.09.2011	10.02.2012	Active
Willesden Library	Willesden	12.09.2011	12.03.2012	Active

Graffiti

3.17 Brent Integrated Community Safety Team established the Graffiti Partnership Board in 2007 to work with partners to reduce the level of graffiti in Brent and the cost of removing graffiti. An additional focus on investigating and prosecuting offenders who then repaid the cost of the removal of their tags was also pursued.

3.18 51 tags have been investigated to date, 43 individuals have been identified and engaged with, 5 post conviction ASBO's were secured against the most serious offenders and 6 acceptable behaviour agreements have been signed (a voluntary agreement prohibiting further tagging).

3.19 Brent have also conducted investigations and provided the evidence to a pan-london investigation into a tag referred to as 'ZERC'. This tagger had caused over £1million pounds worth of damage across care homes, historical buildings, sheltered accommodation, Schools and underground networks across London. A 21 year old has been arrested and is being prosecuted.

Casework

- 3.20 78 cases of ASB were investigated by Brent Community Safety Partnership Unit between 1st April 2011 and 31 August 2011. Currently there are 68 live cases (as at 23 September 2011).

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 None

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 None

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 None

Background Papers

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