

Report of: Neil Evans, Environments & Housing

Report to: Inner North West Community Committee

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To note

Tackling Noise Nuisance from Student Properties in Headingley & Hyde Park wards – Update on Wellbeing Funded Project 2016/17

Purpose of report

1. To update members of the Inner North West Community Committee on the well-being funded noise nuisance project in the LS6 area of Leeds.

Main issues

2. The funding has enabled additional proactive Out of Hours Patrols to take place during peak periods when we anticipate a significant increase in the number of complaints about noise nuisance and large parties.
3. One of the main challenges is the start of the new University term when many first and second year students move into shared accommodation in the Hyde Park and Headingley areas. This year, additional patrols took place on the following dates;
 - 15th September 2016
 - 16th September 2016
 - 19th September 2016
 - 20th September 2016
 - 22nd September 2016
 - 23rd September 2016

4. These patrols are additional to the existing OOH service provision and are carried out by LASBT Case Officers in a marked OOH van which is ring-fenced to the Headingley and Hyde Park area (note that they will also attend calls about student properties in the Burley area). The Case Officers carrying out these patrols also undertake home visits to student properties to issue formal warnings and noise abatement notices.
5. Traditionally Halloween has proved exceptionally challenging as it is very popular amongst the student community and it is a peak period for large house parties. Due to this, additional patrols were carried out on the 28th, 29th and 31st October 2016.
6. Due to the high number of complaints received about student properties, funding has also been used for overtime for Case Officers to work evenings in order to complete the number of required student home visits. This additional evening work has taken place on 8th September, 15th September, 13th October, 20th October and the 1st December 2016.
7. So far this academic term (September 2016 onwards), LASBT has received complaints about 250 student properties all of which have received proactive home visits and warning letters. Noise abatement notices have been served on students at 50 addresses following large-scale parties and in cases where statutory noise nuisance has been evidenced.
8. This academic year, 49% of complaints have been in Headingley, 37% in Hyde Park & Woodhouse and 14% in the Burley area of Kirkstall. 48% of noise abatement notices served have been in the Headingley ward followed by 30% in Hyde Park & Woodhouse and 22% in the Burley area of Kirkstall. Two seizures of noise equipment at student properties have taken place so far this academic year.
9. In the 2015/16 academic year, LASBT received complaints about 458 individual student properties. Noise abatement notices were served on 90 student properties following witnessed incidents of statutory noise nuisance. Following breaches of noise abatement notices, two seizures of noise equipment were carried out at student properties.
10. Again in 2015/16, Headingley ward was subject of the majority of complaints and this has remained consistent over the past few years. 2015/16 saw a small decrease in complaints relating to Hyde Park & Woodhouse and a small increase in complaints relating to the Burley area within the Kirkstall ward.

Ward	% of Complaints Received 2015/16	% of Complaints Received 2014/5
Headingley	49%	49%
Hyde Park & Woodhouse	38%	43%
Kirkstall (Burley)	13%	10%

11. It should be noted that not all complaints in the Headingley and Hyde Park area relate to student properties – the additional patrols did visit and provide evidence for non-student related noise cases.

Conclusion

12. The funding provided by the Community Committee has been invaluable in increasing the capacity of the service both in responding to calls and in undertaking proactive home visits.

Recommendations

8. That further funding is made available in 2017/18.