

Appendix 2

Summary of LASBT activity by ward for meeting of the Inner South Area Committee – Wednesday 18th March 2014

City & Hunslet

57 cases were opened for this ward area during 2012/13. Increased reporting around beggars and street drinkers has been noted in the area during the year. There has been a multi-agency response to tackling this issue and a number of beggars have been identified. Beggars and street drinkers are highly vulnerable and referrals to support agencies are made, but there has been little success in actual engagement with support providers. It is noted that the majority of those identified as beggars were not homeless. The activity of five prolific beggars was identified and legal files prepared for Injunctions to stop their activity. These cases are currently pending court hearings.

Further work was undertaken in the Brett Gardens area that crosses the ward boundary with Beeston and Holbeck following a number of reports made during November 12. The issues in the area escalated and allegations made that gangs of youths were involved in drug dealing, intimidation, theft and arson attacks. Concentrated work was undertaken jointly with LASBT and police and 30 youths were identified from intelligence received. A letter drop was undertaken in the area to encourage further reporting, and all those identified were visited and a range of enforcement was undertaken, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts signed, Housing Cautions and Notice of Seeking Possession served where appropriate.

One high profile family in the area and named ring leaders of the gang were taken to court for possession of their property. They are now subject to a Suspended Possession Order and no allegations of ASB have been made against them since the order was secured in July 13.

This intensive action taken in the area broke down the gang of youths and reports of ASB to LASBT have reduced significantly since the above interventions.

Beeston & Holbeck

63 cases were opened for this ward area during 2012/13. LASBT have continued to be involved with Operation Dairy (sex workers). Case officers have been working with the police to identify sex workers and have spoken to the workers to offer referrals of support. Officers also advise how their activity affects the community. LASBT are part of the Sex Workers Case Conference and refer in sex workers who give consent for support services to contact them. Sex workers who repeatedly work in the area are asked to sign Acceptable Behaviour Contracts to keep them away from the area. If this is breached enforcement action will be considered.

Kerb Crawlers have been targeted as part of this work and any Kerb Crawlers identified in the area are invited into Millgarth Police Station for an interview with police and a LASBT Officer. In excess of 40 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts have been signed as a result of this, and to date none have breached the contracts.

Middleton Park Ward

122 cases were opened for this ward area during 2012/13. During February 13 LASBT & Police noted an increase in the reporting of Hate Crime in the area, a number of the complainants reported that youths were responsible. In response to this, information was collated about the localised area, including a comprehensive list of all call logs for ASB and Hate Crime. The problematic areas were mapped from this and an Action Plan was devised. Resources were deployed into this area under name Operation Deanton (phase 2). Rothwell NPT delivered seven hundred Hate Crime Awareness leaflets within the area, and officers from the police, LASBT and NACRO patrolled the hot spot areas. Young people in the area were spoken (stop checks conducted) and youths re-directed to diversionary activities where possible.

Aire Valley Homes Mobile Office was also deployed into the area, and text messages were sent to tenants encouraging them to report incidents of ASB & Hate Crime.

Reports of ASB & Hate Crime increased as a result of this intervention, and a number of youths and families were named as being involved in ASB activity. It is clear from LASBT's investigations that some of these problematic families lead chaotic lifestyles and required intensive support. Joint work has been undertaken with the families, LASBT, Signpost, the Clusters and other support agencies to stop the cycle of ASB. There have been positive outcomes for those who have engaged with support, but enforcement action has been taken against those who continued to cause ASB.

A report requesting additional funding for the area was presented to Aire Valley Homes during 2013. This was granted and money was awarded to reduce asb in the area. This money is being spent on educating youths around the impact of ASB for the victim and communities, for diversionary activities such as the Young Fire Fighter Scheme (especially during the bonfire night period). Youths are also being identified to attend the National Citizenship Scheme.