

Scrutiny Working Group – Environment, Housing and Communities

Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team (LASBT) Review – 18 December 2018

In attendance

Cllr Barry Anderson
Cllr Ann Blackburn
Cllr Javaid Akhtar
Cllr Peter Gruen
Cllr Paul Truswell
Cllr Angela Gabriel
Cllr Jonathan Bentley
Cllr Hannah Bithell
Cllr Asghar Khan

Officers in attendance

Paul Money
Harvinder Saimbhi
Becky Atherton
Cllr Debra Coupar
Sandra Pentelow - Principal Scrutiny Officer
Helen Gray - Governance & Scrutiny Officer

Apologies were received from Councillor G Wilkinson

Purpose of the working group

- 1.1 At the meeting on the 28 of June 2018, Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) considered their work programme for the 2018/19 municipal year. At this meeting the Board were advised that the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team would be undergoing a review during this municipal year. The Scrutiny Board resolved to support that process whilst the review was being undertaken in order to inform the decision making process. The information to be presented at this working group outlines the initial stages in the review. The Working Group is asked to consider the information and provide feedback regarding the development proposals and planned stages.
- 1.2 The following attached information has been prepared for consideration of the Scrutiny Working Group:
 - LASBT – Briefing Note

Officers were also be in attendance to provide additional verbal information and responded to the questions of the Working Group.

Background

- 2.1 The Working Group was advised that historically LASBT arrangements were put into place in 2010 to provide a joined up approach. Previously, service delivery was fragmented. Over time the services has experienced increasing levels of demand and cases of increasing complexity and risk in a climate of reducing resources and support from agencies and Policing.
- 2.2 The purpose of the review is to reaffirm LASBT and the form that the service should take and to formalise governance arrangements and links to the Safer Leeds Board. It was added that an approach is needed for the strategy, which needs to this include early intervention and prevention; community empowerment and engagement.
- 2.3 A view was expressed that when issues arise that cannot be sorted out through housing/tenancy management or mediation then it is assumed by many that it would automatically fall to LASBT. This expectation is difficult to accommodate and the LASBT team is not always the right service to resolve the issue. It is therefore considered that there could be a need for an effective triage service to ensure better support and signposting.
- 2.4 Progress so far has included the start of consultation and an OBA session in November, attended by senior managers. Staff consultation has been undertaken and a LASBT Review Steering Group has been set up.

Discussions of the Working Group

- Clarity was sought regarding the range and definition of ASB. The Working Group agreed that it is important to understand the definition of ASB and to clarify what LASBT can deliver in order to manage expectations.
- The importance of mediation and that this should be the first resort before feelings and conflicts become entrenched.
- The working group considered agency partnership working and who would lead on reacting, responding and providing support, taking ownership of the issue. This can sometimes be unclear. The importance of signposting and clear procedure was further explored. The Working Group were advised of the college of policing approach called THRIVE. Threat, harm, risk, investigation, vulnerability and engagement. Geared up around prevention and intervention. The example reinforces the need for triage at an early opportunity. It was explained that if the triage process right a discussion will take place with partners about who is best to deal with an issue. There could then be accountability and responsibility for the referral of cases outside of LASBT.
- The Working Group raised concern regarding individual complaints and that feedback to constituents is not always provided, and Elected Members also need to chase responses. Members added that they sometimes encountered difficulty in establishing who had taken ownership of a referral. Where information is shared, Members asked for clarity regarding open and

confidential information. It was suggested that a person who is an identified key contact for members would be useful.

- Clarity was sought relating to the satisfaction statistics and the split of staffing resources in the South and East of Leeds. It was explained that staffing levels are historically based on staff offered by ALMO's.
- The Working Group sought clarification regarding the future use of apps and technology. In response it was advised that as part of the view the team will be looking at what other local authorities are doing, and the value of technology in terms of providing evidence of anti-social behaviour.
- Clarity was sought regarding the support that could be provided by Community Hubs. In response the Working Group was advised that work is already being done to looking at how closer ties with the Hubs can be created.
- The working group suggested that consultation is undertaken with the courts as part of this review and that there is some focus on how to publicise future successes and results achieved due to intervention by the LASBT team and wider partners.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Working Group

- a) Noted the contents of the report, the information provided at the meeting and the discussions
- b) Will report back to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) in due course
- c) Note that a further update will be presented to the full Scrutiny Board on the 25 February 2019.