

ASB In-Depth discussion

2016 PSA extract:

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) can seriously damage the quality of life for residents and have a negative impact on neighbourhoods and communities. The local authority, police and other partner agencies such as social registered housing providers all play a critical role in tackling anti-social behaviour and addressing the underlying causes.

During the assessment period, police recorded incidents linked to anti-social behaviour have increased by 3.1% and 3.9% in the short term picture (April 16 to Sept 16). The forecast for the end of March 2017 shows an anticipated increase of 11.8% resulting in the baseline set in the Community Safety Plan just being met.

Further scrutiny of incident types shows that those recorded as 'personal', which are directly linked to an individual rather than general ASB, have increased by 16.1%. This type of incident accounts for 38% which is well above the national average of 27% and an increase on last year (33%).

Analysis of previous data indicates that ASB levels should increase slightly over the autumn before reducing again and falling off in the winter.

Stockton maintains the lowest rate per 1000 population for the Cleveland area although Darlington has the lowest figures for the Tees Valley area when compared to the national average of 33.5 incidents, Stockton has a far higher rate than this (63.1 incidents)¹.

The public's perception of issues surrounding ASB remains positive. The Residents' Perception survey shows that the proportion of residents stating that various anti-social behaviour issues are problematic is relatively low². They also appear to have improved since 2012, particularly with regard to the issue of rubbish and litter which is lower than the national average as measured by the Crime Survey for England & Wales.

The local authority Community Safety Team, Police and Fire Brigade have implemented numerous initiatives, focusing on enforcement, preventative and supportive elements mainly within schools in order to raise awareness with young people about various issues relating to ASB and criminal damage. These sessions focus on risk taking behaviour, the consequences of a person's actions and the effects these issues have upon the community.

Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBOs) have also been issued along with pending applications regarding the new Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs). The fire brigade also educate residents through public campaigns, working closely with the police and other partner agencies to deter, identify and prosecute those linked to deliberate fire setting. Anti-social behaviour covers a wide range of behaviours from environmental, such as littering and noise, through to personal nuisance for example neighbour disputes. The majority of the analysis focuses on police data, as the data sets are often incompatible with other systems and therefore difficult to analyse collectively.

Incidents that are directly linked to a person account for the majority of ASB related calls to the police (38%) whereas local authority data sets relate to more varied issues from noise,

¹ Based on rolling 12mth data

² Stockton residents perception survey

neighbourhood disputes, dog fouling to general ASB. The type of ASB that affects residents varies from rowdy behaviour, swearing, misuse of off road bikes to groups congregating. The local authority has also seen an increase in contact to the 'Out of Hours' hotline regarding these types of issues.

The local authority Enforcement Team is responsible for the majority of environmental issues from fly tipping to graffiti and unlicensed vehicles. National research indicates that the public's perception on the level of ASB in an area is often based on the presence of rubbish, graffiti or just general lack of care for an area. The associated risks of lower level incidents such as littering can lead to deliberate fire setting or further offending. Enforcement Officers deal with such incidents by issuing a warning letter to residents who leave out household waste on non-collection days.

The public's view of those committing ASB is commonly linked to youths with police data showing that a third of all ASB is categorised as being 'youth related'. This has not changed in recent years and is mainly linked to groups rather than individuals, varying from underage drinking, noise issues to verbal abuse.

The profile of ASB perpetrators shows no changes with similar traits to those who also commit criminal damage and fire setting. Young males are more prominent for this type of behaviour and this is reflected in those who have had an Anti-social behaviour order or Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) imposed on them however there has been slight increase in the number of young females on ABCs.

The main concerns reported to the local authority are linked to groups committing ASB, generally of youth age. Despite this, there is nothing to indicate an emergence of gang cultures in the borough. The use of social media such as Facebook has been attributed to highlighting incidents of fights between youths however this is not a common occurrence.

The majority of data collected regarding victims of ASB is determined by police systems. This data does not accurately record the victim's details but the caller's personal data. Dip sampling of incidents shows that females are more likely to report than males and that older people are more likely to be victims of ASB. This is in comparison to youths who are the main offenders.

For the small minority who are repeat victims they receive a coordinated response specific to their needs and a risk assessment is undertaken to ensure they receive the correct support. Cleveland Police 'Victims First' initiative is now in place which focuses on how the police deal with vulnerable and repeat victims associated with crime and anti-social behaviour.

'Victims First' protects and safeguards such victims, keeping them safe and improving their quality of life. Incidents are identified where the victim may be 'vulnerable' and / or a 'repeat victim'. This is done at the first point of contact with a victim whether through call takers or an officer being stopped in the street. Victim care and advice service (VCAS) also provides a free, independent and confidential service to victims of crime.

Restorative justice interventions continue to be used as an alternative means of disposal. Restorative practices support people to recognise that all of their activities affect others and that people are responsible for their choices and actions and can be held accountable for them. It enables people to reflect on how they interact with each other and consider how best to prevent further harm and conflict.

The local authority, police and partners have also recently signed up to using ECINS database. This went live in February 2016 and is a platform to allow the sharing, recording and tasking of information. Users of the system can choose who they share information with which can be across multiple agencies, local authority and policing areas regarding vulnerable or high risk people or locations.

The demographics of the borough shows there has been a slight increase in the population of the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community in Stockton along with migrants to the area. At present there is nothing to suggest any concerns with regards an increase of incidents linked to residents from the BME community, with regular monitoring in place ensuring vulnerable victims are identified. However as with hate crime there is a belief that there is under reporting of these issues and this is to be explored further to ensure that the right systems are in place to encourage reporting.

It is anticipated that community mapping of our communities will take place during 2017 so that we are in a position to identify where our communities are residing. Community mapping is also all about involving residents in identifying the assets of their neighbourhood, looking at opportunities and creating a picture of what it is like to live there.

The exercise is a valuable and effective method of community engagement. Community engagement, which lies at the heart of the approach, brings highly localised problems to the attention of the police and partner agencies. This will then inform neighbourhood policing and local authorities so that they can determine local priorities and provide up to date and invaluable information to residents.

Recorded rates of anti-social behaviour are the highest in Stockton Town Centre, Mandale & Victoria and Parkfield & Oxbridge.

The majority of incidents in these areas are mainly linked to groups congregating, verbal abuse and street drinking. Incidents in Stockton town centre have mainly been linked to adults committing ASB whilst under the influence of alcohol in the High Street and surrounding area.

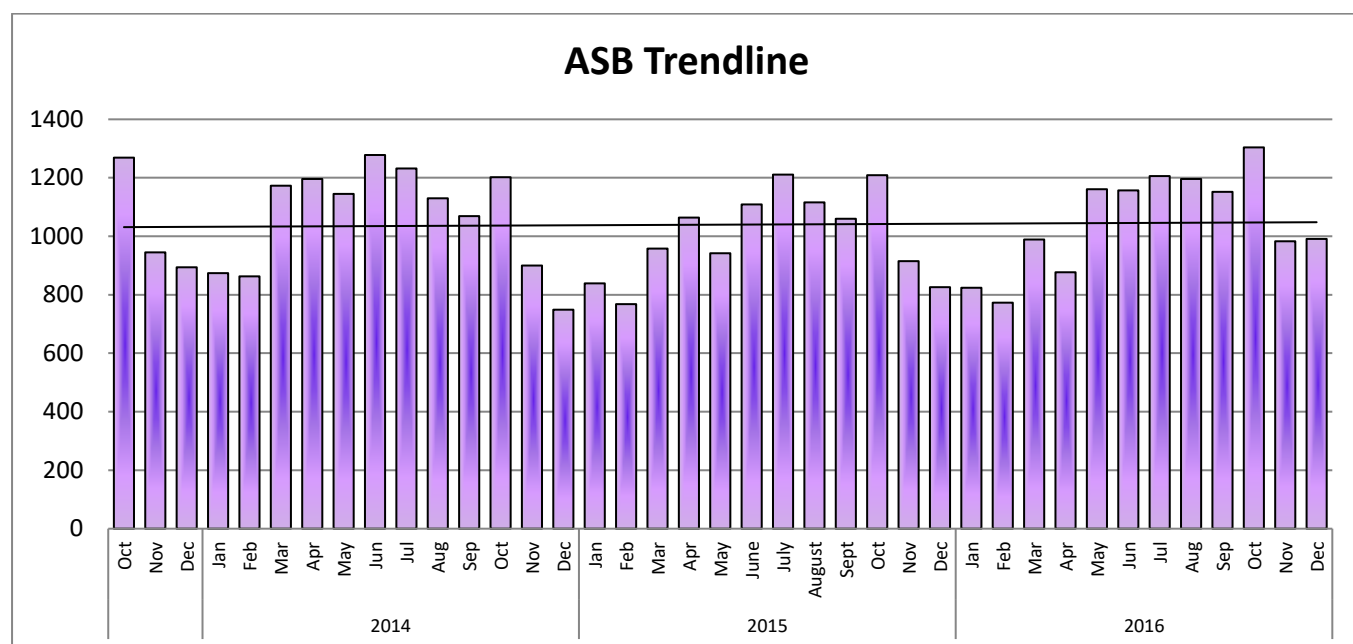
Any emerging areas continue to be identified through the monthly Joint Action Group meetings where the appropriate resources are then deployed. These areas also correlate with locations of where damage and fire settings are more prominent.

Housing and Environmental Health services also play a role identifying problematic tenants who are subjecting other residents to incidents of noise, verbal or mental abuse. This can result in social housing tenants being evicted or moved to other properties or ward areas. These types of issues are often linked to adult residents and are often in locations where ASB is higher than average.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Oct16 – Dec16:

- 3278 anti-social behaviour incidents reported in Stockton LPA within the three month period.
- An 11.1% increase in comparison to the same period last year (2950 incidents)
- The below chart shows ASB incidents are following a relatively static trend.

ASB Trend line – Three year period



ASB type

	Total
Anti-Social Behaviour - Environmental	41
Anti-Social Behaviour - Nuisance	2165
Anti-Social Behaviour - Personal	1072
Total	3278

In terms of time, the largest proportion of ASB takes place between the hours of 16:00 and 23:00 Wednesday to Saturday. Youth related ASB accounts for approximately 40% of all ASB.

Ward breakdown (20 or more incidents)

Ward	Total
Stockton_Town_Centre	194
Mandale_And_Victoria	132
Billingham_Central	80
Parkfield_And_Oxbridge	68
Billingham_East	56
Hardwick	56
Stainsby_Hill	45
Roseworth	40
Village	39
Norton_South	31

Newtown	30
Yarm	25
Ingleby_Barwick_East	25
Eaglescliffe	22
Bishopsgarth_And_Elm_Tree	21

During this period there were also **1028** calls the ASB hotline **607943**.

Criminal Behaviour Orders and ASB Injunctions

Members will recall that the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 replaced Anti-Social Behaviour Orders with Criminal Behaviour Orders and Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions. Within Stockton we currently have 3 active Criminal Behaviour Orders in Place and 1 active Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction. An additional 3 Criminal Behaviour Orders and 1 injunction are pending approval.

Issues around Christmas and New Year in Stockton Town Centre

Over Christmas and New Year there was a spike in incidents of youth related ASB/Disorder on evening times (1800 – 2030) in the Stockton Town Centre area. Groups of youths began to target the KFC area of Wellington Square as well as the scaffolding site around Dawson and Sanderson close to the fountain on the High Street. The majority of incidents concerned minor criminal damage and ongoing nuisance – which appeared to be a tactic by the youths to get a chase on their bikes from ASB/NES and Police officers. In order to address these issues joint work was carried out with SBC CCTV and Wellington Square CCTV to initially gather information on those responsible.

A group of females were identified first through taking CCTV into North Shore School; staff at the school identified the girls. All girls were given verbal warnings followed by home visits to speak to their parents. All parents were really supportive – visits were followed up with warning letters confirming details of incidents and future action that would be taken if behaviour continued.

A main group of males continued to cause minor ASB and as a result extra evening patrols were put in place by Town Centre Operations Officers and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers. Cycle patrols were put in place in an attempt to identify the most persistent of those involved. This proved successful and the main males were rounded up and details taken on Sunday 8th January 2017. This was followed up by home visits on the evening, followed by verbal warnings in school and formal letters being sent to parents. This resulted in a reduction in reported incidents and groups attended the Town Centre on an evening.

Extra reassurance patrols continued for a further week on evenings resulting in incidents more or less stopping altogether. This provided officers with an opportunity to speak to youths attending the Town Centre for genuine reasons to educate them on what had been happening and to continue to discourage them from becoming involved. In total around 35 youths were identified and dealt with over a 2 week period.

The role of social media coverage of the town centres incidents was highlighted as an issue. While it is important to acknowledge the role social media can play in wider crime prevention and community safety, it needs to be managed carefully. Some posts during this period drew attention to the area as an ASB hotspot and this both attracted more people to the area as well as increased

community fears and perceptions of ASB, culminating in coverage of the issues on BBC Tees. Subsequently a meeting has taken place with social media administrators to inform them of the ongoing work to reduce ASB and Crime in the Town Centre and to highlight how they can assist us. This has led to improved communication and there will likely be further opportunities to promote contact numbers and key crime prevention messages and initiatives in the future.

Youth Outreach Patrols

The youth outreach patrol service is a multi-agency initiative developed by Stockton Borough Council's Youth Direction in partnership with the authorities Community Safety Team, this was initially a pilot programme and have recently become a permanent addition to Youth Direction in order to continue the project which has seen such success with hard to reach groups of young people.

Ongoing work will continue to support existing youth provision but also to expand this and identify intervention needs of young people working with a range of different agencies both internal and external.

Information gathered shows that the Youth Outreach Service is engaging with an average of over 150 young people per month. Anticipated returns of the same standard should provide an annual return of more than 1800 young people engaged per calendar year. The key to this and future success is the joint working of both incentive based and enforcement based services for young people.

Youth outreach patrols were founded on the concept of having a non-confrontational presence on the streets to engage with young people involved, or at risk of becoming involved in Anti-Social Behaviour. The primary purpose of the service is to reduce ASB by working with and sign posting young people to diversionary and educational activities and programmes.

Street patrols are undertaken in the evening and are comprised of youth workers, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officers and casual staff who all have their own relevant fields of expertise.

Patrol locations are updated on a weekly basis and are based on up to date information provided by the Police, Youth Direction, Community Safety Team, and other community partner's such as voluntary sector organisations and education providers. Strong links have been built between partners allowing a mutual exchange of information on recent incident trends (hotspots), intelligence regarding future incidents, and keys persons of note.

The Youth Outreach Patrol Coordinator attends the Police Joint Action Group Meetings, Problem Solving Group, Youth Providers Network, and internal team meetings across Youth Direction and Community Safety gathering information and acting as a link between the individual organisations. These meetings enable feedback to be given to agencies and also gives chance to discuss the progress of patrols and decide on area priorities for the upcoming period.

The Team currently undertake seven double crewed patrols per week, one of which is set aside as a mobile deployment where multiple locations can be visited in one session and numbers 20-30

minute “park, walk and talk” deployments are completed. The mobile deployments have been successful and they provide flexibility to respond to new intelligence and recent trends.

The patrols enable staff to engage with young people who are at risk of involvement in Crime/ASB and divert them towards accessing the local youth club and positive activities; this will in turn provide a deterrent to ASB. Staff challenge poor behaviour and give appropriate advice to those involved which enables them to gather intelligence and where appropriate make individual referrals to other agencies.

Working relationships built between agencies through joint patrols are also of great value and importance when working together towards common general goals. Monthly returns show around quarter of young people encountered are engaged in what would amount to Anti-Social Behaviour as per partner agencies incident recording practices.

Case Study: PRESTON PARK

In August 2016 Preston Park was brought to the attention of the Joint Action Group (JAG) which is chaired by the police and attended by various different agencies. There was an increase in reported incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour, damage and nuisance behaviour at this time, with reports being made to both the police and Stockton Borough Council. The concerns were related to the increasing number of young people attending the area for various reasons:

- Use of the Skate Park
- Jumping in the river
- Using it as a meeting place
- Older males/females coming and sitting in the park (in cars)
- Cannabis use

It was requested that extra patrols were needed in the park by all agencies including Youth Outreach to gain more intelligence around young people attending the park and the issues. Due to high demand on the area the patrols started off with one patrol of the park per week which was a Tuesday between the hours of 18:00hrs – 20:00hrs. Patrol reports received from outreach staff showed that staff were coming into contact with between 40-70 young people on an evening and it became evident that there was a clear divide in the groups that attend the park, these groups were made of the following:

- Skaters using the park
- Young people hanging around the skate park, using bad language, littering and intimidating other users and members of the public
- Older males/females sat cars within the car park and doing wheel spins
- Young people sitting on the play park area and aviairy smoking cannabis

The area soon became a concern for the VEMT (Vulnerable, exploited, missing & trafficked) group and staff were asked to be vigilant when out on patrol and any information/intel gathered was vital. On four occasions staff submitted information of a concerning nature involving adults and young people, this information was shared with other agencies and as a result of this information a referral for a young female was made into the Switch service which is part of Youth Direction Preventions

team and offers support to vulnerable children who are at risk or have been involved in CSE (child sexual exploitation).

During the 5 months that outreach was in place staff made good relationships with young people and also linked in with All Saints Church. On 17th October 2016, Youth Direction Targeted Youth Support (TYS) staff arranged a night whereby 10 young people attended and took part in some workshops that were presented by Lifeline (Drugs & Alcohol service for young people) Cleveland Fire Brigade and Dale Metcalfe from Community Safety with the Anti-Social Behaviour Team. Following on from this evening there was a further referral to lifeline and a further 2 young people started to work with TYS. The staff from All Saints Church had been building relationships with the young people by attending the park on a Tuesday evening and engaging with the young people, getting to know them, providing hot chocolate and telling them about the work they do and the youth club that is open on a Friday evening between the hours of 7pm-9pm. Outreach staff on a Friday would direct any young people to this youth club if seen in the park or on the streets and some of the young people have attended this provision.

Restorative Justice was also used with a young person after a bin had been set fire within the park grounds. Work was carried out with the male whereby an apology letter was written and the damage to the bin was paid for. The young person also had to attend Stockton Police station with his parents for an interview with the ASB officer and was also asked to attend a session in the half term week called "Prison me, no way" which was delivered by Youth Direction Preventions Team. The young person attended the session as agreed and actively took part in the sessions throughout the day.

Following on from feedback received from outreach staff it was agreed to put a further outreach team out on a Sunday between the hours of 4pm-6pm, staff were briefed with relevant information and were also asked to complete patrol reports so that information could be shared between agencies. Staff were fully briefed on the incidents that had been reported within the park and what work had been carried out by all agencies including police/ASB and youth services.

Discussions with Community Safety and Community Protection took place in relation to CCTV and a site visit that was carried out by officers. It was agreed that 3 cameras would be placed in the park covering most of the grounds and the areas that have been affected by ASB. The cameras are due to be installed in February 2017.

The patrols ended in December due to outreach staff reporting no activity in the park and no further concerns being reported to the JAG; however officers continue to monitor intelligence and will recommence patrols with the onset of the light evenings.