

To: Communities and Housing Policy Board

On: 22 August 2023

Report by: Director of Environment, Housing, and Infrastructure

**Heading: Renfrewshire Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2022 – 2025
Progress report**

1 Summary

- 1.1 The Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board on 15 March 2022, approved the Renfrewshire Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Strategy 2022-2025 and the associated Action plan.
 - 1.2 The board also agreed that an update on the progress of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy and delivery of the Action Plan would be reported to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board.
 - 1.2 This paper also addresses the council motion of 28 April 2022 in relation to Community Warden Powers and Anti-Social Behaviour where it was agreed the results be brought to the most appropriate board.
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2 Recommendations

It is recommended that members of the Communities and Housing Policy Board:

- 2.1 Note the progress on the implementation of the ASB Strategy and delivery of the Action Plan to date,
 - 2.2 Note that each area of the action plan will be taken forward through the existing Community Safety Partnership forum's which involve key partners, including Police Scotland and local housing providers, and
 - 2.3 Note the update in relation to the Council Motion in relation to ASB.
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3 Background

- 3.1 Dealing with anti-social behaviour is a collective effort and is delivered through a multi-agency approach, including the Council, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue and other partners.
- 3.2 The Renfrewshire ASB Strategy 2022-2025 was developed with a range of statutory, voluntary and community partners whilst taking account of the legislative requirements set out in the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004. The outcomes / priorities detailed in the Strategy were developed drawing on evidence reported through various channels including the Renfrewshire Public Services Panel as well as consultation workshops with elected members.
- 3.4 The Action Plan reflects improvements that were identified during the review and will be used as the basis for continuous improvement across the partnership.
- 3.5 The statistical comparison over the preceding year has shown a reduction in the number of serious or persistent cases escalated to Anti-Social Behaviour Investigations with an increase in the Mediation referrals. This represents the pattern which the partnership had hoped to see where mediation is being utilised at the early stages of dispute.

Referrals	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Mediation	206	131	164
Investigation	159	182	141

In terms of the wider ASB categories a reduction is evident across most areas other than abandoned vehicles and reported disturbances to the wardens service.

Complaint Category	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Noise-Domestic	1285	1058	576	548	408
Fly Tipping	433	441	437	366	232
Abandoned Vehicle complaint	364	341	447	409	466
Illegal Parking	252	337	4	0	3
Parking Disputes	72	29	105	19	4
Youths Congregating	39	89	45	43	42
Youths Rowdy Behaviour	51	86	35	67	50
Disturbance (Wardens)	41	63	22	17	64
Underage Drinking	26	26	24	32	12
TOTAL	2563	2470	1695	1501	1281

The action plan for the ASB Strategy is attached at Appendix 1 and provides an update on each of the actions detailed in the plan. There has been positive progress with 13 of the 16 actions being completed so far. The other 3 actions are ongoing with progress being made in each area, albeit 2 of the actions are longer term IT based solutions.

4. Council Motion

- 4.1 Council agreed to examine best practice in other local authorities, in terms of increasing the powers of community wardens to eradicate anti-social behaviour, including looking at closer co-operation with Police Scotland and developing the authority and powers of community wardens to deal with anti-social behaviour, and resolved to report back and make a recommendation to the appropriate policy board.
- 4.2 Consultation has taken place with the Scottish Community Safety Network and the Antisocial Behaviour Officers Forum (ASBOF) neither of which have identified additional powers available to Community Safety Wardens nationally other than those held currently in Renfrewshire.
- 4.3 Renfrewshire Wardens have the powers available to them under many different pieces of legislation including parking enforcement, environmental crime and animal control and are trained to support conflict resolution. In Scotland, some Anti-Social Behaviour offences/powers fall solely to Police. While Wardens do have some powers when it comes to issuing fixed penalty notices these relate primarily to environmental anti-social behaviour. Powers for Wardens to intervene in relation to community or neighbour disputes are limited.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community/Council Planning** – A range of statutory, voluntary and community partners were consulted to develop Renfrewshire’s Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2022-2025
4. **Legal** – Renfrewshire Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2022-2025 has been seen to meet the requirements of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004
5. **Property/Assets** – none
6. **Information Technology** – none
7. **Equality & Human Rights** –
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals’ human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council’s website.
8. **Health & Safety** – none
9. **Procurement** – none
10. **Risk** – none
11. **Privacy Impact** - none

12. COSLA Policy Position – none

13. Climate Risk - none

List of Background Papers:

Communities, Planning and Housing Policy Board report 15 March 2022: Renfrewshire
Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2022 – 2025

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Appendix 1

What will we do?	What difference will this make?	Who is leading on this?	UPDATE July 23	STATUS
Continue the review of operational procedures including housing landlords and create a generic process reflecting the links and referral pathways between all members of the community safety partnership	Provide a consistent referral process for the community regardless of tenure	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services / RSLs	Operational Procedures in relation to ASB have been reviewed and updated taking account of the ASB strategy. RSL's remain part of the Community Safety Partnership and there is consistency with the Council's ASB procedures. Agreed RSL's will comply with Generic ASB procedures and publish when review due. The review of the procedures will be ongoing to reflect any new legislation or government direction for investigating ASB.	Complete
Maximise the use of all digital technology available to assist those reporting ASB – eg Noise App and video images	Ensure communities have access to new and emerging technology to challenge ASB	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services / Digital First Team	Review ongoing re Noise App with National Antisocial Behaviour Officers Forum (ASBOF) to establish other council areas experience with App. Local neighbourhood office in process of arranging a trial of the 'ASB app' which differs from the 'Noise App' but allows for wider reporting of ASB issues as well as noise issues. Liaison with partnership RSL who are doing a trial of the 'noise app' and whilst it could not be relied upon in its entirety for court proceedings has thus far been useful in <u>understanding the extent of the noise disturbance being experienced by tenants.</u>	Ongoing
Explore enhanced reporting tools through online channels	Provide clear reporting procedures	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services / Finance and Resources Service	Review completed of Renfrewshire Council external webpages to provide clear direction and links for members of the public to report ASB to the appropriate service which includes RSL's, area housing offices, Noise enforcement team and Police Scotland where appropriate. Engagement with Police Scotland to access and contribute to the 'Partnership Intelligence Portal' ensuring residents uncorroborated complaints contribute to the Intelligence Profile of a particular person or address.	Complete
Update website/comms with reporting information to provide clarity on who to contact in relation to Anti-social Behaviour.	Provide pathways for reporting	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services	Review of website / comms completed and referral pathways updated on website.	Complete
Produce a FAQ to assist customer understanding of what is and is NOT ASB – the Truths and myths	Provide a clear understanding of available actions	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services	Renfrewshire council web page updated to reflect FAQ in relation to ASB and co located on page with link to referral pathways	Complete
Improve communications on the supports available through mediation / victim support etc.	Impact on early resolution	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police, Housing officer and RSL inputs completed by Investigation and Mediation Officers to encourage referrals at the earliest stages. Increased referrals to Mediation to encourage early intervention. Mediation / Victim Support explanation and benefits added to website. 	Complete
Continue to liaise with other Council areas and RSL's in relation to the use of professional witnesses.	Ensure procedures adhere to best practice	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services.	Experience of professional witnesses continues to be investigated.	Ongoing

Review opportunities and resources available to tackle neighbour disputes and ASB	Improve potential available resources to tackle ASB	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services	New Environmental Task Force established to impact on public space litter and flytipping. Joint action plans developed with Police Scotland, youth Officers, Wardens to utilise the 2 x Quad Bikes to impact on harder to reach areas of disorder and reports of illegal Quad bike usage	Complete
Invest in officers across the partnership through joint training and development including Trauma Informed Practice	Increase knowledge to promote reduction of ASB	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services	Trauma Informed Training undertaken by all housing officers and Senior manager trained in Scottish Trauma Informed Leadership Training (STILT). Ongoing training for new officers	Complete
Make available guidance and information in different languages to engage with our multilingual community.	Ensure equality and access for the wider community	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services	Engagement with IT to implement a Renfrewshire wide language translator to the website.	Ongoing
Continue to engage with professionals who can contribute expertise to addressing ASB.	Continuous improvement for partnership working	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services	The Harm reduction team attend areas at identified times and locations to offer harm reduction advice and divert ASB from the communal areas.	Complete
Improve mediation referrals as an initial resolution	Encourage early resolutions	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services / RSL's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police, Housing officer and RSL inputs completed by Mediation Officers to share and encourage referrals at the earliest stages to reduce the potential for escalation. Mediation explanation and benefits added to website 	Complete
Ensure opportunities within the partnership hub are explored to support the Business Community and night time economy as it returns to pre covid levels	Improve public safety	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Environmental Task Force established to impact on public space litter and flytipping. Public Space CCTV operators briefed and engaged to report and provide early intervention for potential ASB utilising the town centre radiolink as well as Police Scotland Community Policing officers. 	Complete
Engage with neighbouring local authorities to improve joint responses to transient ASB	Continuous improvement and reduction of ASB	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services	Intelligence arrangements agreed through National Anti Social Behaviour Officers Forum (ASBOF) as well as higher level issues through the Community Protection PREVENT steering group and Contest SAOC group.	Complete
Develop improved links with Community Learning and Development and Youth Officers	Improve diversionary response for youth ASB	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services	Youth ASB officers now embedded within CLAD and providing conduit between CLAD and Community Safety Partnership.	Complete
Deliver Elected Members workshops which inform on Antisocial Behaviour practices	Provide a clear understanding of procedures	Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services	Workshops delivered	Complete