



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 2ND DECEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR - GWENT POLICE

REPORT BY: CAERPHILLY LOCAL SERVICE BOARD

“Caerphilly Delivers” - Single Integrated Plan Highlight/Exception Report & Scorecard

Outcome: Safer Caerphilly

Priorities:

S1- Reduce the incidents of anti-social behaviour and reduce the fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour.

S2- Reduce crime and the fear of crime for the residents of the county borough.

S3- Reduce the harm caused to communities through substance misuse.

S4- Support domestic abuse victims and their families and raise awareness of domestic abuse, violence against women and sexual violence.

S5- Improve the education, information, early intervention, prevention and harm reduction in relation to substance misuse in the county borough.

Date: 31/07/2015

Context:

This report highlights the progress of the above Priorities/Outcome contained within “Caerphilly Delivers” – the Single Integrated Plan (SIP).

Section 1 is the report presented to the Leads Group on 17th August, 2015.

The Caerphilly LSB is requested to consider and comment on the following actions/recommendations:-

1. Note the contents of this report.

Following consideration of the recommendations, the Leads Group will progress actions on behalf of the LSB:

Section 1: Safer Caerphilly - Highlight Report

<p>‘What do we want to do?’ (Priorities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To introduce new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO’s) under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, to alleviate anti-social behaviour at local authority bus stations namely Bargoed, Blackwood, Nelson and Caerphilly (including Caerphilly Train Station area) and various bus shelters.
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Partners helping us to achieve this:	CCBC Gwent Police ABUHB SWFRS National Probation Service Wales Community Rehabilitation Company Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
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Where are we now?

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 brought in a new power for local authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour problems in a geographical area by imposing conditions on the use of an area. The aim is to ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

PSPO's replace a number of existing legal provisions including Designated Public Place Orders, Gating Orders and Dog Control Orders. Existing Orders made under previous legislation subsist for a period of 3 years from October 2014; at this point they will be treated as PSPO's.

PSPO's can prohibit a wider range of behaviours than previous legislation. Section 50 of the Act allows a local authority to make a PSPO relating to the activities carried out or likely to be carried out, in a public place if it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met:

1. Activities are having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that they will do;
2. That the activities are of a persistent or continuing nature, are unreasonable and justify the restrictions imposed by the order.

The Safer Caerphilly Partnership, in discussions between Gwent Police and the Local Authority Community Safety Unit, Integrated Transport Unit and the Town Centre Development Manager have determined that PSPO's at the four local authority bus stations and selected bus shelters are needed to alleviate problems being experienced by members of the public.

Story behind the data/curves:

In relation to bus stations Gwent Police have provided evidence of persistent youth annoyance, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, damage to property and intimidation of members of the public taking place at Bargoed, Blackwood, Caerphilly and Nelson Bus Stations. Issues vary at each station. For example newly planted trees were recently damaged at the regenerated Nelson Bus Station. Bargoed Bus Station and Caerphilly Bus Station have a high number of reports related to youth anti-social behaviour.

Blackwood Bus Station suffers from congregations of homeless substance misusers who make use of the area for seating and shelter. Incidences of defecation in the waiting area, discarded needles, and persons injecting and sleeping in the public toilet are recorded. Homelessness support services work extensively with these individuals, however many are resistant to support. At present there is no ability to prevent individuals sitting in the bus stations all day. Persistent complaints are received from members of the public, local businesses and the taxi trade. Local authority cleansing staff has had to deal with the clean-up of excrement, blood and drug paraphernalia. Enforcement operations are conducted by partners and proactive use is made of the CCTV system, however current resources and legal powers are not sufficient to address the persistent nature of the problems.

What has worked well? (Successes)?

The Safer Caerphilly Partnership has always had a proactive approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour and historically the county borough has seen large reductions in the number of reported anti-social behaviour incidents.

During the first quarter of 2015/16 the number of requests for service for anti-social behaviour matters made to CCBC were down by 108 when compared to the first quarter of the previous year.

Referrals into the Anti-Social Behaviour 4 Strike Process were also down by 7 when compared to the first quarter of the previous year.

The total number of reported anti-social behaviour incidents reported to Gwent Police were down by 363 during the first quarter of 2015/16 compared to the first quarter of the previous year.

Partners have been working to address anti-social behaviour across the county borough and tackle hotspot areas and issues as they arise. Problem Solving Groups have been convened to look at the issues at Blackwood Bus Station and extensive work has been carried out by partners to solve the identified problems. However due to the persistent nature of the issues at the Bus Stations and Shelters across the borough partners have made the decision to use the PSPO's under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

What are the challenges/barriers?

Prior to making an Order the local authority is required to consult with the Chief Constable, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, appropriate community representatives, and owners and occupiers of land in the restricted area. Further, the local authority must notify town and community councils. Consultation and notification has taken place and no adverse responses have been received. Gwent Police and the Integrated Passenger Transport Unit are particularly supportive.

In addition to statutory consultees, consultation has taken place with British Transport Police and Arriva Trains Wales in relation to the Caerphilly Bus Station. The Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Youth Offending Service, the local bus companies and neighbouring business owners at the bus stations have also been consulted.

As a result of the consultation with Arriva Trains Wales, the lessees of Caerphilly Train Station requested that the area proposed at the Caerphilly Bus Station be extended into their leased area of land to encompass the Caerphilly Train Station within the restricted area. The British Transport Police evidence of anti-social behaviour supports this request.

Stagecoach requested that an additional bus stop be included at Heol Aneurin, Penyrheol due to problems being experienced by their staff and the travelling public. This request is supported by Gwent Police evidence, the area is a persistent source of anti-social behaviour.

Proposed and new PSPO's must be publicised. However the new legislative regime allows that the local authority websites may be used instead of press notices. The text of the proposed PSPO's was publicised with a social media message driving the public towards a web page and also by public notices placed in the locations. Responses received were limited to complaints about anti-social behaviour in areas not subject to the PSPO's. These have been progressed by referral to the Community Safety Warden Service.

What actions are we going to take to improve? (Next steps)

A report will be going before Cabinet in July to seek approval of the proposed PSPO's. If approval is granted the local authority must then provide sufficient signage to allow users of the area to be aware of the conditions imposed and the consequences of non-compliance.

It is an offence to breach a provision in a PSPO punishable by a fine up to level 3 on the standard scale (£1000). In relation to restrictions relating to alcohol the fine is up to level 2 on the standard scale (£500). Alternatively a fixed penalty notice may be offered. The local authority has authorised its Community Safety Wardens to issue fixed penalty notices in the amount of £100 for breaches, reduced to £75 for payment within 7 days. Police Constables are directly authorised under the Act. Gwent Police have indicated that they would make use of local authority fixed penalty notices, subject to an internal decision making process.

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On behalf of the Caerphilly Local Service Board