



## **CRIME & DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17TH MARCH 2016**

**SUBJECT: SAFETY CAERPHILLY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP 2015  
UPDATE**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the work of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership throughout the calendar year 2015.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership consists of five agencies:

- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Gwent Police
- South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- National Probation Service (statutory body)
  - Wales Community Rehabilitation Company (support agency)

The above agencies work together to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder across Caerphilly County Borough. The partnership work is facilitated by the Community Safety Team employed by Caerphilly County Borough Council and based in Penallta House. This report will outline some of the main work that has been carried out by the partnership in 2015.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 Caerphilly Delivers – Safer Caerphilly theme, one in which all residents:

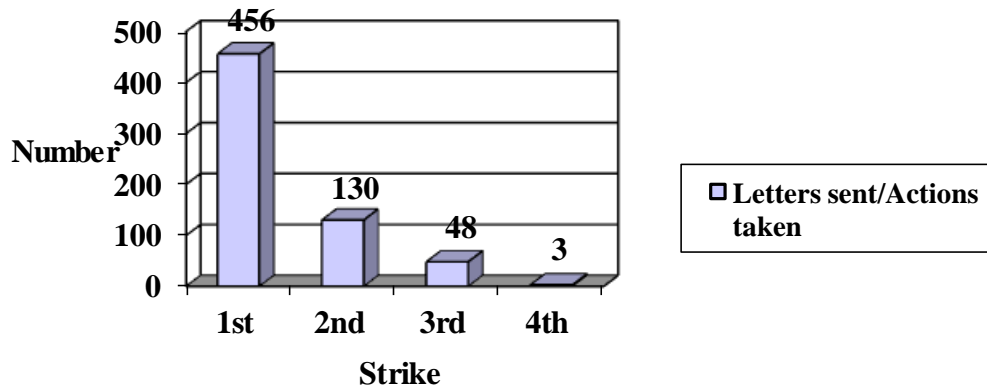
- Are safe and feel safe inside their homes and out in the community.
- Are reassured, listened to by community safety agencies, and encouraged to report any crime and disorder issues they may have.
- Need to feel safe and independent and when they need additional support, or where they have additional need, they should be able to access support from community safety and safeguarding agencies.

## 4. THE REPORT

### 4.1 Anti-Social Behaviour Outcomes

As members may know The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Whilst this legislation brought in a number of new tools and powers to address anti-social behaviour the Anti Social Behaviour Four Strike Process used in Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) remains relatively unchanged. Throughout January – December 2015 the following number of interventions took place:

**4 Strike Figures January - December 2015**



These figures illustrate the success of the first 3 strikes of the process in deterring future anti-social behaviour.

Due to the combined efforts of partners anti-social behaviour has been on a downward trend for a number of years. In 2014 there were 7755 incidents, in 2015 there were 6732.

Under the previous legislation the Anti-Social Behaviour Order was utilised at the Strike 4 stage. However under the new legislation the Civil Injunction is now used by Safer Caerphilly for individuals who fail to engage with the process or to moderate their behaviour. During January – December 2015 the partnership were successful in obtaining three Injunctions. Along with the Injunctions the partnership has used a number of the new tools and powers introduced by the new legislation. Some examples are below:

### 4.2 Anti-Social Behaviour Civil Injunctions

Of the three Anti-Social Behaviour Civil Injunctions obtained during 2015 two were on youths and one on an adult. A brief overview of two cases is given below to provide an example of the type of cases being dealt with:

### 4.3 Youth Injunction

An Injunction was obtained in Cwmbran Youth Court in September on a 17 year old boy from the Caerphilly area. The boy was first referred into the 4 Strike Anti-Social Behaviour Process in May 2012 and received numerous warning letters, an Acceptable Behaviour Contract and eventually an Anti-Social Behaviour Order in 2013 to try and modify his behaviour. Unfortunately his behaviour did not improve and there were over 120 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported by victims including his neighbours. Incidents included: verbal abuse, playing loud music, revving car engines at all hours of the day, banging and hammering things in his garden and throwing items.

The case came back into the Problem Solving Group meeting in April 2015 and it was decided to proceed with an Injunction. The individual agreed to the Injunction in Court which had a number of prohibitive conditions including: not to cause harassment, alarm or distress to any

person in CCBC, not to directly contact his former neighbours and not to enter the street where they lived. The exclusion to the street was possible as the Council also supported a move for him and his family to another area so he did not need to go anywhere near where the victims lived. This Injunction and the supported house move have now enabled the victims to finally live a peaceful life without suffering from constant anti-social behaviour by the individual.

#### 4.4 **Adult Injunction**

An Injunction was granted without notice on a 44 year old man from the Blackwood area in September. The man subjected his neighbours to various criminal and anti-social behaviour throughout a period of approximately 10 months. All parties lived in a very isolated area and in close proximity so could not avoid seeing each other. This resulted in the victims becoming increasingly fearful for their safety and afraid to leave their properties. The case was self referred to the Safer Caerphilly Team at the beginning of September and was placed on the next Problem Solving Group agenda. The group agreed to apply for an Injunction as soon as possible. The victims were visited and statements were gathered and the Court file put together within a week. Incidents involved victims being verbally abused, having nails put in their tyres, criminal damage of their property, racial abuse and verbal threats to kill one of the victims.

Due to the nature of the case the Injunction was sought very quickly to protect the victims and the Court granted it without notice to the perpetrator. Conditions included: no contact with any of the victims, not to use violence or threatening to use violence to any person, not to cause damage to any property and not to enter the village where the victims live. Whilst this is a Civil Injunction we also requested that each condition had a power of arrest attached which was granted by the Court. No breaches have been reported to date and the victims have reported feeling a lot safer knowing that the individual cannot enter the area. Community safety partners continue to provide support the victims.

#### 4.5 **Community Trigger**

At the beginning of September the victims involved in the above case invoked the legislative victim call for action, the Community Trigger, as they were not happy with how agencies had dealt with their case over the 10 months they had been reporting incidents. The Community Trigger was introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act in October 2014. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for victims of persistent anti-social behaviour (including hate incidents) to request a review of actions taken by agencies when they feel these actions have not been adequate to resolve the anti-social behaviour.

This was the first Community Trigger received in Caerphilly and the process that had been established worked very well. Within the process there are tight timeframes for each stage and all of these were met. The review panel was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> of November and the members interviewed all staff that had been involved in the case and reviewed the available evidence. The panel looked at whether anything else could possibly have been done to address the issues that the victims were dealing with and made a number of recommendations. These included: training for Victim Support and Gwent Police Neighbourhood Policing Teams on the new anti-social behaviour legislation and the Anti-Social Behaviour 4 Strike Process, awareness raising materials for staff notice boards and Gwent Police to ensure there is internal accountability for identifying and dealing with repeat anti-social behaviour issues and neighbourhood disputes, and review their processes for creating and implementing action plans to deal with these issues.

#### 4.6 **Closure Order**

A Caerphilly county borough council resident, who continuously committed acts of anti-social behaviour in the community, was issued with a Closure Order in February 2015. The Closure Order was also introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act in October 2014. The power allows the police or council to quickly close premises which are being used, or likely to be used, to commit nuisance or disorder. In this case the Tenancy Enforcement Team worked with the tenant to improve her behaviour but when this failed sought a Possession Order. Due to the amount of time to achieve possession the partnership looked at seeking a Closure Order to give the local community respite from the anti-social behaviour.

The Closure Order, which was valid for three months and excluded the tenant and her family from entering the property, was granted by Newport Magistrates Court on 17th February 2015.

#### 4.7 **Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)**

PSPOs were also introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act and replace Designated Public Protection Orders (DPPOs). They have a wider scope than the previous DPPO. PSPOs are intended to deal with problems in a geographical area by imposing conditions that apply to the use of that area. They are designed to ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour. Safer Caerphilly introduced a number of PSPOs in 2015 which cover numerous bus shelters and bus stops across Caerphilly county borough. The PSPOs will hopefully help to reduce anti-social behaviour and disorder in key areas across the county borough.

#### 4.8 **Victim Service**

In addition to the above tools and powers to address the anti social behaviour of individuals Safer Caerphilly has provided a service to the victims of anti-social behaviour for a number of years. The Victim Services Manger is seconded to the partnership from Victim Support and attends all relevant multi-agency groups to tackle anti-social behaviour, provides mediation, liaises closely with all departments within the local authority and outside agencies whilst supporting victims in the community and throughout the court process. From January – December 2015 236 victims received support from the service. Unfortunately the service will have to cease from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016 as, despite considerable efforts, the partnership have been unable to secure the necessary external funding to continue the provision.

### 5. **COMMUNICATIONS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

#### 5.1 **Safer Caerphilly Twitter**

The Safer Caerphilly Twitter feed now has 580 followers and the membership continues to grow. As an example of the number of impressions the account receives over the fourth quarter of 2015 the Tweets that went out had a total of 27,700 impressions, averaging 304 impressions per day. The most popular Tweets during this period included: Hate Crime Awareness Week, the White Ribbon campaign and an online security message. The team continue to put Tweets out with general community safety messages and topics of interest to inform and engage members of the public.

#### 5.2 **Project Bernie**

The Safer Caerphilly Fire Safety Action Team once again ran Project Bernie over the two week Easter period. The project was officially launched at the Morrison's store in Bargoed on 27th March and was attended by various partners such as Gwent Police, South Wales Fire & rescue Service and Crime Prevention Panel members. Over 400 shoppers supported the scheme and signed up to the Bernie pledge. Project Bernie is based on a social marketing concept, which aims to reduce deliberate grass fires by addressing behaviours and attitudes within the community. The project involved a multi-agency response to the problem which included an advertising and marketing campaign, patrols of the area and numerous youth activities, which all focused on addressing the problem of deliberate grass fires.

#### 5.3 **Safer Caerphilly After Dark**

The Safer Caerphilly After Dark initiative has been developed to address night-time economy (NTE) issues and was launched in December 2013. Organisations who have signed up to the scheme include numerous departments within Caerphilly County Borough Council, Gwent Police, and volunteer agencies including the Street Pastor Scheme. The three agreed aims of the scheme are to:

- To reduce NTE related crime (specifically violence, damage, and hate crime).
- Improve communication with NTE agencies and coordinate action.

- Make Caerphilly and Blackwood town centres safer.

The After Dark Group worked to continue promoting the scheme throughout 2015 with posters placed throughout the town centres, engagement with door staff, press releases and regular Twitter and Facebook messages developed.

#### 5.4 **Domestic Abuse Media Campaign**

Throughout March 2015 residents and organisations were encouraged to join forces in 'standing together' against domestic violence in Caerphilly county borough as part of a new social media awareness raising campaign. The **#caerphillystandingtogether** campaign aimed to raise awareness of domestic violence and the support services available in Caerphilly county borough, and to ultimately empower anyone who is experiencing domestic violence to seek support.

People were asked to 'tweet their feet' and upload a photo of their feet to Twitter with the hashtag **#caerphillystandingtogether** to show they believe violence in all forms is wrong. Throughout the month Caerphilly domestic abuse support services also tweeted using the same hashtag to promote services which are available to those experiencing domestic abuse and their families.

The campaign was very successful with over 90 organisations and people sharing pictures of their feet and in excess of 250,000 people were reached throughout the month.

#### 5.5 **Junior Community Safety Wardens**

The Community Safety Wardens continue to offer the Junior Community Safety Warden Scheme sessions to all primary schools across Caerphilly county borough.

The Community Safety Wardens inform the young people about anti-social behaviour issues such as littering and graffiti and promote general community safety messages.

#### 5.6 **White Ribbon Campaign**

White Ribbon Day is The United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and falls on the 25<sup>th</sup> November every year. The White Ribbon Campaign aims to prevent Violence Against Women and Girls and promote respectful relationships.

CCBC were successful in obtaining White Ribbon Status in July 2014. The White Ribbon Campaign Town Award is for Councils demonstrating their commitment to the aims of the White Ribbon Campaign (WRC):

- In particular involving men and boys in prevention activities. By mobilising men the anti-violence message increases in effectiveness and reach.
- Addressing and altering social norms that led to violent behaviour against women.
- Increasing awareness on the issue and providing services aimed at reducing the incidence of domestic violence.
- Mobilise the entire community under the goal of ending violence against women and girls.

Much work has been achieved within Caerphilly and during 2015 16 days of activity took place leading up to the 25<sup>th</sup> November which included:

- 'Walk a Mile' Event around Caerphilly Castle on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm.
- Domestic Abuse Services stands at Council buildings.
- Beaming a White Ribbon onto Caerphilly Castle up to and including 25<sup>th</sup> November.
- Youth Forum Poster developed.
- Press releases on White Ribbon and the Castle walk.
- Featured White Ribbon overview on the front page of the Safer Caerphilly website.
- 16 day Twitter activity with domestic abuse/White Ribbon messages.

## 5.7 **Social Media Harassment Campaign**

A social media harassment campaign was developed to address the problem of harassment via social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. This was identified as a problem by the anti-social behaviour meetings where incidents of this nature seem to be on the increase. Young people have been committing criminal and anti-social behaviour by posting certain images and messages on sites. The message of the campaign is to raise awareness of the issues and inform people that they may be committing a criminal offence when posting certain messages. A poster for the campaign has been developed and attached as Appendix 1.

## 6. **HOMELESS/ROUGH SLEEPERS GROUP**

- 6.1 Homeless / rough sleepers have been identified as a local priority for Caerphilly county borough council. A group has been developed to discuss cases and is responsible for dealing with known individuals who are homeless/sleeping rough within Caerphilly county borough. The purpose of this group is to make appropriate decisions regarding possible intervention measures for individuals based on the information presented at the meeting by agencies. Meetings are held on a quarterly basis and the group reports to the Safer Caerphilly Delivery Group. Partners involved in the group consist of representatives of: Community Safety Wardens, Supporting People, Town Centre Development, Housing, Gwent Police, Mental Health Team, Phoenix Centre, Cleansing, Community Safety, Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator and the Caerphilly Night Shelters. Numbers discussed vary between 12 to 23 individuals each meeting and various outcomes have been achieved such as: secured tenancies, referrals to night shelters and referrals to drug and alcohol services.

## 7. **PREVENT/CHANNEL**

- 7.1 The Government's national counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST has four components: Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare. The Prevent component of the strategy is a partnership responsibility with agencies working together in identifying and supporting at risk individuals. Sitting underneath Prevent is the Channel process which is a multi-agency approach to preventing vulnerable people from being drawn into extremism and committing acts of terrorism.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 section 26 of The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed duties on Local Authorities to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. These duties include:

- Ensure appropriate frontline staff, have a good understanding of Prevent, are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue.
- Establish or make use of an existing local multi-agency group to agree risk, co-ordinate Prevent activity, and produce an action plan.
- Incorporate the duty into existing policies and procedures

Much work has already been undertaken to ensure all of the duties in the legislation is met. Training of over 200 frontline staff has taken place and other sessions are planned for 2016. The Channel Panel has been in existence since 2013 and has received a number of referrals which have all undergone vulnerability assessments, individual support and a multi-agency response. Prevent/Channel has been included within the new Corporate Safeguarding Policy and its associated training.

## 8. **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no equalities implications as the report is for information only.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 As stated above the work of the Partnership is co-ordinated and administered by the Community Safety Team. The team are currently funded mainly via external grants from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Welsh Government. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **10. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no personnel implications arising directly from this report.

## **11. CONSULTATIONS**

- 11.1 The report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.

## **12. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 That the contents of the report are noted.

## **13. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 13.1 The report is for information only.

## **14. STATUTORY POWER**

- 14.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998.  
The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.  
The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Author: Natalie Kenny, Community Safety Officer  
Consultees: Councillor Hefin David, Chair Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services  
Councillor Sean Morgan, Vice Chair, Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee  
Chief Inspector Nick McLain, Safer Caerphilly Strategic Lead and Delivery Group Chair  
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Vice Chair Delivery Group  
Kathryn Peters, Corporate Policy Manager  
Inspector Chris Haire, LPU Partnership Inspector

Appendices:  
Appendix 1 - Social Media Harassment Campaign Poster