

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>24 JUNE 2019</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: CRIME AND DISORDER RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY – COUNCILLOR DANIEL WILLIAMSON</b>		
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>		
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>NO</b>		

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to present the recommendations resulting from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Crime and Disorder meeting that took place on 12 March 2019.

The meeting focussed on anti-social behaviour in Ashfield and included representation from Nottinghamshire Police, the Council's Community Safety and Housing Teams, as well as a charitable organisation providing support to adults, children, young people, and families.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) consider the possibility of engaging a dedicated Mental Health Worker within the Complex Case Team should any additional funding become available
- b) having acknowledged the benefits of restorative justice, to consider its application on a wider basis and to focus on the rehabilitation of anti-social behaviour offenders through reconciliation with victims and local communities
- c) the Community Safety Team be requested to endeavour to capture additional anecdotal evidence from professionals and regular visitors to the courts to enable any ASB issues to be addressed more efficiently

### **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

To provide Cabinet with the considerations and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its extraordinary meeting to consider crime and disorder in Ashfield.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## **Detailed Information**

### **Ashfield District Council's Community Safety Service**

The Council's Community Safety Service consists of three core areas; Complex Case, Community Protection, and ASB and Nuisance. All of these three core areas play a pivotal role in addressing, preventing, and reducing anti-social behaviour across the District. Additional responsibilities of the Community Safety Service include CCTV, domestic abuse, and safeguarding.

### **Complex Case Team**

The Complex Case Team focus on complex individuals who appear in crisis with multiple support needs. The Complex Case Team act as a single point of contact for the individual providing assistance with a range of issues including:

- Housing
- Finances
- Crime
- Employment
- Health
- Domestic abuse
- Drug misuse

Improving the quality of life for residents in Ashfield is central to the work of the Complex Case Team.

### **Community Protection Service**

Community Protection Officers undertake a problem solving approach to tackle on-street anti-social behaviour, environmental, and nuisance related issues which affect the quality of life of residents in Ashfield. The Community Protection Service utilises high visibility patrols, resident engagement, proactive challenge, and preventative action.

Community Protection Officers follow a patrol plan including schools, parks, town centres, and estates, focussing on the areas which evidence the greatest levels of need. Situational demands are received and responded to accordingly. Operational hours for the Community Protection Service are typically between 08.00 to 22.00, seven days a week.

The Community Protection Service works collaboratively with the Police to undertake joint patrols in response to hotspot locations. Key areas of focus during joint patrols include; underage drinking, alcohol related anti-social behaviour, nuisance vehicles, and littering. The Community Protection Service also provides intelligence to key partners, including the Police and ASB and Nuisance Caseworkers when suitable.

## **ASB and Nuisance Caseworkers**

ASB and Nuisance Caseworkers are the Council's most direct resource in addressing anti-social behaviour reports from residents. Caseworkers respond to issues and complaints raised by residents and seek to prevent reoccurrences of anti-social behaviour.

ASB and Nuisance Caseworkers respond to a variety of issues, including:

- Noise
- Fires
- Waste
- Abusive language

In response to the above issues, ASB and Nuisance Caseworkers utilise all available options, from early interventions to prosecution.

## **Anti-Social Behaviour Action**

A wide variety of actions can be utilised in response to anti-social behaviour in Ashfield, including:

- Mediation
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- Community Based Restorative Justice
- Verbal and Written Warnings
- Community Protection Notices
- Civil Injunctions
- Public Space Protection Orders
- Criminal Behaviour Orders
- Notice of Seeking Possession
- Fixed Penalty Notices

## **Overview and Scrutiny: Crime and Disorder Meeting**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is legislatively required to scrutinise crime and disorder issues through the Police and Justice Act 2006.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Crime and Disorder Meeting took place on 12 March, 2019. Set by the previous Chair of the Committee, the meeting centred on anti-social behaviour in Ashfield, and more specifically on the following points:

- Anti-social behaviour issues in Ashfield
- Anti-social behaviour issues nationally
- Action taken against anti-social behaviour in Ashfield

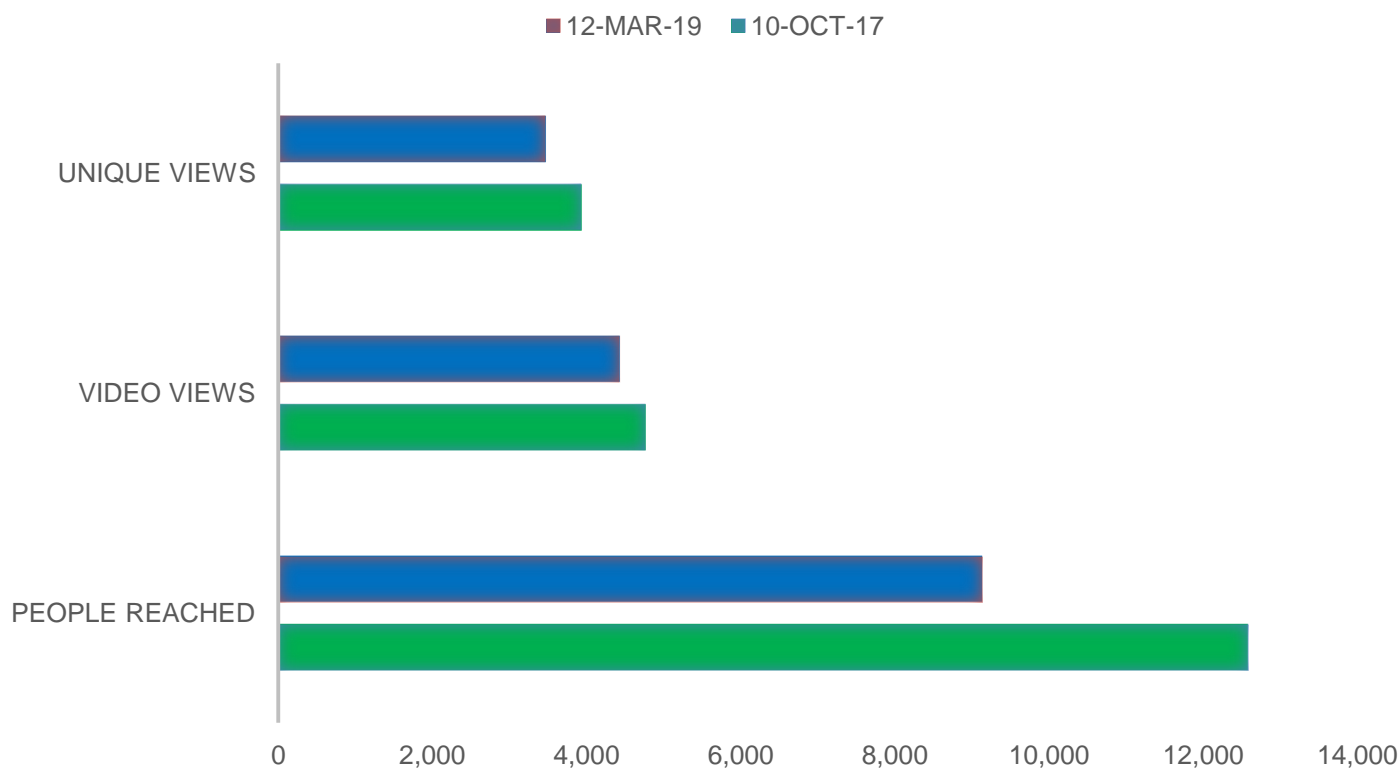
The meeting featured a presentation from the Council's Community Safety Service and from the Nottinghamshire Police Area Inspector for Ashfield. Following the presentations, the meeting was opened up for discussion and followed a question and answer format for Members in attendance and the public through Facebook Live and Twitter.

Full details of the Overview and Scrutiny: Crime and Disorder Meeting, including the agenda and minutes, can be found [here](#).

Following the success of livestreaming the 10 October 2017 Crime and Disorder meeting, the 12 March 2019 meeting featured real-time questions and was streamed via Facebook Live.

The following statistics have been gathered regarding the meeting:

## CRIME AND DISORDER VIEWERSHIP STATISTICS



	2017 Meeting	2019 Meeting
Peak Live Viewers	47	61
Top Audience	Men, aged 45 - 54	Men, aged 45 - 54
Likes	33	37
Shares	14	26
Comments	155	158

Initially, the above figures indicate a decline in public engagement in the Crime and Disorder meeting compared to 2017. However, real-time engagement increased through submitted questions from viewers along with more comments, shares, and peak live viewers.

Additionally, the 2017 Crime and Disorder took place during Local Democracy Week, which led to an increased focus on community engagement, and also formed part of a package of wider engagement initiatives to promote local democracy. Due to mitigating factors, the 2019 meeting took place later than previous years, therefore missing Local Democracy Week.

The livestreaming and live tweeting of Crime and Disorder meetings has been hugely successful in engaging members of the public in the Council's scrutiny function on a scale that is not otherwise experienced. Real-time questions from viewers have been instrumental in improving engagement and discussion at scrutiny meetings.

In addition, engagement was also sought from Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Forum. The Youth Forum submitted a series of questions for consideration, many of which were asked at the meeting and discussed by the Committee and invited speakers.

## **Recommendations:**

At the conclusion of the Crime and Disorder meeting, and having considered all information presented during the meeting, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed upon three final recommendations to present to Cabinet.

### Mental Health Worker

*To consider the possibility of engaging a dedicated Mental Health Worker within the Complex Case Team, should any additional funding become available.*

At the Crime and Disorder Meeting, the Complex Case Team Leader addressed the Committee and gave a brief overview of the work the Complex Case Team does regarding anti-social behaviour. The Complex Case Team Leader stressed to Members that mental health issues are often at the forefront of issues faced by the people they support.

In response to this, Committee Members were keen to ensure the Council has adequate provision to deal with mental health issues faced by the people supported through the Complex Case Team. This recommendation is to explore the possibility of acquiring additional funding to support this need.

### Restorative Justice

*Having acknowledged the benefits of restorative justice, to consider its application on a wider basis and to focus on the rehabilitation of anti-social behaviour offenders through reconciliation with victims and local communities.*

Committee Members were keen to see the continued use of restorative justice in dealing with perpetrators of anti-social behaviour in Ashfield. The Committee highlighted the benefits restorative justice can bring to both victims and perpetrators.

### Community Evidence Gathering

*The Community Safety Team be requested to endeavour to capture additional anecdotal evidence from professionals and regular visitors to the courts to enable any ASB issues to be addressed more efficiently.*

Through the previous Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a local Care Worker was invited to speak at the Crime and Disorder Meeting to explain their first-hand experience in supporting patients suffering from anti-social behaviour. Having visited elderly patients in Ashfield, the Care Worker had experienced problems accessing homes due to drug use and people causing nuisance in entrances and stairways.

This recommendation is for the Council's Community Safety Service and its partners to ensure improved and more frequent communications with professionals supporting people who are also victims of anti-social behaviour. This recommendation is to ensure that issues raised to the Community Safety Service and its partners are recorded and responded to in a proactive and timely

manner. Furthermore, to also ensure that all partners have the most relevant and up to date information available.

**Implications**

**Corporate Plan:**

Communities and Environment:

- Ensure the foundations for a good quality of life are in place; reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and facilitating cleaner and more attractive neighbourhoods
- Supporting young people to be optimistic and ambitious about their futures
- Work with our partners to ensure we deliver services centred on the needs of people and places, rather than existing teams, agencies, or institutions

**Legal:**

Officers in the Legal Team work closely with Council Officers and our partners when assessing the use of enforcement powers and then provide the necessary assistance and support when the decision has been made to proceed with formal legal proceedings.

**Finance:**

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None.
General Fund – Capital Programme	None.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None.
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None.

**Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
The recommendations were put forward by the Committee in response to the risks identified at the extraordinary Crime and Disorder Meeting. These included concerns regarding Mental Health Support, Restorative Justice and Community Evidence Gathering.	The recommendations submitted aim to provide focus and consideration relating to the risks identified.

**Human Resources:**

There are no human resources implications identified in this report. Subject to funding being identified, it may lead to the recruitment of a Mental Health Worker.

**Equalities:**

The Community Safety Partners recognise that some types of anti-social behaviour affecting minority communities, such as BAME and LGBT, are often under reported and would be classified as Hate Crime in most instances. ADC is working with Nottinghamshire Police and representative groups to increase confidence and reporting of hate crimes.

**Other Implications:**

There are no other implications identified in this report.

**Reason(s) for Urgency**

None.

**Reason(s) for Exemption**

None.

**Background Papers**

None.

**Report Author and Contact Officer**

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