



Communities, City Management and Air Quality Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Monday 31st November
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Anti-social Behaviour Strategy – Consultation
Report of:	Director of Public Protection and Licensing
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Protection
Wards Involved:	All / Specific
Policy Context:	Fairer Communities
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the work that has been done towards the development of the Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy. The strategy is now out for consultation and the engagement plan to provide details on the consultation.

2. Key Matters for the Committee's Consideration:

- 2.1 The committee is asked to
- provide feedback on the proposed 'Coordinated Community Response' (CCR) approach within the strategy.
 - provide feedback on the key strategic objectives
 - provide feedback on the strategy's consultation plan

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council has committed to develop its first full council ASB Strategy. The aims of the strategy are to:

- collate and promote all that we and our partners do in a single space
- provide a clear position statement on ASB and how it is governed/managed
- provide an opportunity for us to review all our evidence, take a fresh look at our challenges and overlaying this with the latest innovation and best practice nationally/internationally
- make clear what our key priorities are and how we will tackle them
- create a formalised action plan for improvements and a commitment to keeping this under review.

Developing Research & Evidence Base

3.2 Officers have taken an evidence-led approach to the development of the Strategy, looking at the national, regional and local picture and trends. These insights and data have helped to understand ASB in Westminster in the context of

- wider trends across the UK
- best practice
- innovations in tackling ASB
- what matters most to our communities.

3.3 Data and research will help us to embed the Strategy and help us to communicate with and influence partners. However, this only provides part of the picture we also undertook local engagement with residents (particularly victims of ASB), professionals and partners to develop the strategy.

Internal Engagement

3.4 ASB is managed by multiple teams across the Council and an internal workshop was held on 29th September 2021 to collate the widest range of insights, ideas, initiatives, challenges, and partnerships in preventing and delivering ASB services in the community. A core group of officers across PPL, Housing, Policy, Adults and Children's convened to attend the workshop and identified the following key objectives to help provide a framework for the strategy:

- Prevention
- Early Intervention
- Victim Support
- Bringing Perpetrators to Justice
- Community Engagement

External Stakeholder Engagement

- 3.5 In late 2021 a series of workshops were held to gather the views of victims of ASB, as well as some individuals who had been both victims and perpetrators. Over 50 victims of ASB were engaged involved and this has enabled us to ensure that their priorities and needs are at the core of the Council's approach to tackling ASB.
- 3.6 Through targeted workshops and survey's, officers have also engaged with:
- **Residents:** Amenity Societies, Resident Associations, RSL's
 - **Young People:** Youth Hubs, Westminster Youth Council, Youth Crime Prevention Partnership
 - **Mental Health and Social Care:** Mental Health Teams, Drug and Alcohol services
 - **Police teams**
 - **Third Sector:** Age UK, Open Age, Advocacy Project, the Passage
 - **Businesses:** BIDs, SWBN, Small Businesses
- 3.7 The feedback from this engagement resonated with the results of the first officer workshop. Stakeholders would like to see in any strategy:
- increased communication and partnership working with agencies,
 - greater accountability from Registered Social Landlords,
 - increased efforts by the council to use restorative justice,
 - improved data and intelligence sharing

4 Strategic Objectives

- 5.1 Following the desktop research, internal engagement and stakeholder workshops, the following objectives were developed and will form the basis of the strategy
- **Objective 1: Prevention** - The strategy seeks to reinforce positive behaviours and strengthen the community by improving and investing in the built environment and creating safe places that make people feel supported and empowered to deal with ASB in their area.
 - **Objective 2: Early Intervention** – To address ASB as early as possible, a focus will be given to enhancing the collaborative work of agencies when dealing with ASB, especially on identifying root causes and the delivery of early interventions to reduce the suffering of victims.
 - **Objective 3: Victims Supported** – Victims will be provided with access to agencies that will provide a professional and empathetic service when dealing with ASB. Communities will also be given the knowledge to be able to encourage victims to report ASB to agencies who will be accountable for ensuring they follow best practice when supporting victims.

- **Objective 4: Perpetrators Brought to Justice** – Victims will be given the opportunity to choose restorative approaches to tackling ASB and deciding how the perpetrator is made accountable for their actions. The strategy also seeks to understand the root causes as to why a perpetrator engages in ASB and any underlying issues that contribute to the offending in the first place. This allows agencies to provide support to allow individuals to change their behaviour and become a positive member of society.
- **Objective 5: Engaging with our Communities** – There must be a two-way flow of information and intelligence between the Council and its communities to help build approaches that address the key concerns of local residents that allow them to see the positive differences that successful actions have achieved.

5.2 The strategy emphasises a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to tackling ASB, which asks everyone to play their part. It requires us not only to respond appropriately within our own agencies, but also to work together with other organisations. Each objective has a CCR framework that details Westminster expectations of Individuals, Communities, Professionals and Society in achieving the objectives. The objectives also have a description, details of what the pillar looks like and the difference it will make, case studies and stakeholder feedback.

5.3 The Strategy will be underpinned by the Housing Related ASB Policy and the General ASB Policy which detail how the council will carry out its ASB related functions. The Housing Related Policy already exists, the general ASB policy is being developed alongside the strategy.

6.0 Consultation

6.1 There is a commitment that our residents' voices are heard as part of developing the ASB Strategy, to ensure it reflects local needs and is built up from the aspirations and experiences of local communities. However, there is also recognition that considerable work has been undertaken to inform our existing strategic priorities that feed into the strategy, and this will be reflected in the first draft of the ASB strategy being presented for consultation.

6.2 The consultation on the strategy launched on 17th October and will run for 8 weeks until the 12th December.¹ During the consultation period we will gather feedback through a variety of methods including workshops, surveys, market stalls and attending strategic boards.

¹ <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/leisure-libraries-and-community/crime-and-community-safety/anti-social-behaviour>

6.3 The table below outlines key stakeholders and how we intend to consult them on the strategy. The who have already contributed to the development of the strategy will be engaged with on a ‘you said, we did’ basis so they can ensure their contributions have been reflected on the draft strategy. Full details on Consultation activity can be found in Appendix 2.

Method	Groups
Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents - Churchill Gardens Youth Club (South) - Church Street Library (North) - Westminster City Hall - Mental Health Services - Drug and alcohol services - Youth Council - Youth Hubs - Libraries - PPL/ Housing Colleagues - School Inclusion leads
On street engagement/ Market Stalls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents - Maida Hill - Church Street - Berwick Street Market
Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents - Victims - Amenity Societies - Safer Westend Business Network - Resident Associations - Faith Community - Open Age - Disability Rights UK - BIDS - Federation of Small Business - The Passage - Clinical Commissioning group - Neighbourhood Watch
Presentation at Strategic Board Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding Adults Board - Safeguarding Childrens Board - Integrated Care Board - Youth Crime Prevention Board - Safer Westminster Partnership - Housing Association Chief Executives - Early Help Strategic Board - Westminster Integrated Care System

7 Equalities Impact Assessment

7.1 A preliminary EQIA has been completed with the final EQIA due once the final strategy is presented for approval. An additional EQIA will be completed for the action plan that will accompany the strategy.

- 7.2 Data on ASB is collected by a number of different organisations including the Council, the Police and RSLs. As a result of this, the data is often fragmented, Mismatched and incomplete. This makes demographic analysis difficult. Resolving this will likely form a key part of the ASB action plan.
- 7.3 The preliminary EIA has identified one group likely to be negatively affected by the strategy, that is perpetrators of ASB. This is due to the increased awareness from victims of the tools available to report ASB and one of the key objectives being 'being perpetrators to justice. This group is largely men (79% of cases where the gender of the alleged perpetrator is known) and contains a disproportionate number of people with mental health issues. The effect on people with mental health issues will be mitigated by improving referral pathways and coordination of services to ensure that these individuals have access to support.
- 7.4 It should be note that the victims of ASB often also have mental health issues, and ASB can cause and exacerbate mental health issues. This strategy will positively affect these residents.

If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers, please contact Wayne Chance-McKay, Head of City Operations wcmkay@westminster.gov.uk

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – DRAFT Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
- Appendix 2 – ASB Strategy Consultation Plan