

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 12th September 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Environment and Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Enforcement Team overview, including annual Community Trigger update.

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide Members with a summary of the work carried out by the Enforcement Team.

2.0 **RECOMMENDED: That Members note the content of the report and comment on any key matters.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In June 2023, the Board received an update report on the Community Safety & Protection (CS&P) division's progress since implementation in February 2023. Within CS&P is the Council's Enforcement Team, led by the newly introduced Enforcement Manager. The team currently covers anti-social behaviour, environmental crime, waste and alcohol licencing enforcement. This report provides an overview of the team including an annual update on community trigger.

3.2 Anti-Social Behaviour

3.2.1 The service has worked with partners to review governance and understand how we can improve working practice to better support one another and respond to the needs of the community. The service continues to respond to referrals from partner agencies by providing support to those experiencing anti-social behaviour, this support includes:

1. Co-ordinating action plans
2. Supporting with pursuing offenders and diverting away from negative behaviours
3. Utilising restorative practice and early intervention

3.2.2 There are currently 10 residents being supported in this way. The service has received 18 referrals for this type of support since

June 2023.

- 3.2.3 The service chairs a multiagency meeting that aims to problem solve key resource intensive locations and/or individuals. This meeting is currently being rebranded as the Problem Solving Group and will meet monthly. During the most recent meeting the group accepted Padstow Square, Runcorn Hill and Lacey Streets as areas of focus; action plans will be developed ahead of the next meeting.
- 3.2.4 On the 27th March 2023, the government launched its Anti-Social Behaviour action plan, this rebranded Community Trigger to 'ASB Case Review'. The service has received two ASB Case Review requests so far this calendar year, neither have met the threshold therefore have been dealt with by the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, Housing Provider and Police.

3.3 **Environmental Crime & Waste Enforcement**

- 3.3.1 During the first Quarter (1st April – 30th June 2023), the Enforcement Team have been involved with investigating 46 incidents including waste related offences ranging from a single refuse sack in an entry to fly-tipping of large amounts of building waste, green waste etc. dog fouling and littering complaints, storage and management of commercial waste generated from business premises, incorrect/nuisance storage of waste receptacles, waste being stored on private land, and other forms of environmental crime.
- 3.3.2 As a result of these investigations and speaking with suspects, witnesses, carrying out interviews under caution in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), Officers have been able to progress 37 actions which has included the issuing of fixed penalty notices, issuing of statutory notices and the issuing of advisory and warning letters.
- 3.3.3 Officers are currently in the process of investigating 3 major tips in the Borough from this period, with PACE interviews having been scheduled recently and these cases remain ongoing. Should sufficient evidence be available throughout the course of the investigation then formal enforcement action will be taken. The team are currently looking at new initiatives, processes and ideas with a view to improving not only response time to incidents but also to achieve greater success in their goal to become more proactive.
- 3.3.4 In addition, the Enforcement Team took part in 'Love Parks Week' which is a national campaign promoted by the charity Keep Britain Tidy. Between the 28th July and 4th August Enforcement Officers carried out patrols in:

- Victoria Park
- Upton Rocks Park
- Runcorn Hill Park
- Runcorn Town Hall Park
- Town Park, Runcorn
- Hough Green Park

Officers engaged with residents providing education regarding waste management and dog control measures. Officers also completed environmental audits to highlight where signage could be improved in the parks.

3.4 **Alcohol Licensing**

3.4.1 The Alcohol Licensing Enforcement Officer has responsibility to act as representative for Halton Borough Council in the consultation process within the licensing legislative regime, through the preparation and presentation of files at relevant committee meetings/court hearings; and work within the Safer Halton Partnership to reduce crime and disorder associated with licensable activities.

3.4.2 Most recently the work programme has been supporting Widnes Pub Watch, working with licensees to support action against those causing disturbance in licenced premises. This is an ongoing commitment to support an effective response to preventing crime and disorder.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Community Safety & Protection division accords with the statutory functions and requirements across a range of legislation:-

Crime & Disorder Act 1988
 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014
 Environmental Protection Act 1990
 Civil Contingencies Act 2004

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no new financial implications as a result of this report.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Enforcement Team impact directly on this priority through its work on tackling the causes and effects of anti-social behaviour and approaches to deliver diversionary activities and work towards making neighbourhoods safer.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The Enforcement Team sits in a newly formed division, there is further scoping work and service remodelling to define the services functions which will generate further training, development and employment opportunities; growing the workforce and enabling skills development.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Enforcement Team activities contribute directly to supporting a Healthy Halton.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Enforcement Team responsibilities and multi-agency work, all contribute directly to a Safer Halton. Programmes of work vary from reactive to pro-active, providing support to victims were needed, working to shift outcomes and build resilient communities in Halton.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The enforcement and licensing responsibilities directly impact on the physical environment. The overall function strives to reduce crime, protect vulnerable residents and create safer neighbourhoods, all of which contribute to building strong and vibrant communities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None to report.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None identified.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None.