

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Crime and Antisocial Behaviour Task and Finish Group - 14 November 2023

Subject: ASB Challenges and Opportunities

Report of: Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

This report provides an overview of the tools and powers that are used to address ASB and some case studies of how they are used. It sets out some of the work we undertake with our partners to prevent escalation of ASB. The MCC Policy and Procedure for addressing ASB is also included.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- (1) To consider and comment on the information in the report.
 - (2) Identify any further information required.
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Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

None

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments
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Addressing anti-social behaviour is a key priority in the Community Safety Strategy 2022-25. The impact of this strategy on protected groups has been considered through an Equality Impact Assessment.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Effective services are critical to ensuring the safety of our citizens, who can connect and support the drive towards a thriving and sustainable city
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Supporting individuals, children and families to prevent ASB will ensure that they are able to reach their potential
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Effectively addressing anti-social behaviour will ensure that our neighbourhoods look and feel safe contributing to the quality of life for our residents and ensuring our neighbourhoods are a destination of choice
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents

are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy, please contact one of the contact officers above.

Community Safety Strategy 2022-2025

Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Anti-social behaviour powers – Statutory guidance for frontline professionals (March 2023)

Manchester's Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review Procedure (May 2023)

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee requested a task and finish group:

1. To determine the scale of types of ASB in the city – especially those related to young people.
2. To explore the factors that might lead individuals into more serious crime across the city
3. To determine the tools and powers available to address ASB and their effectiveness.
4. To identify issues around how safe people feel in their neighbourhoods and what can be done to improve their feelings of safety
5. To determine what role Members can play in addressing ASB and promoting reporting of ASB and how this can be embedded, in line with the Our Manchester approach

1.2 This report focuses on the challenges and opportunities to addressing ASB and identifies recommendations from the Task and Finish Group.

2.0 Background

2.1 ASB is addressed through a range of tools and powers that may be taken by different agencies such as the Council, police, or registered providers. We know that, where left unchecked, anti-social behaviour can have an overwhelming impact on its victims and, in some cases, on the wider community.

3.0 Feedback from Young People

3.1 At the meeting on 16 October members requested feedback from young people on Anti-social Behaviour and the work undertaken with Remedi to be included in the report.

3.2 Engagement has taken place with children across the city as a part of the child friendly city work to understand priorities for children in Manchester. A key theme that has emerged is around children feeling safe and secure, detailed below are some of the comments captured on this theme:

- A city where children can be safe,
- cleaner streets, safe and comfortable travel
- A place that is safe and friendly
- A place that's safe, not all danger on streets
- Being be able to explore without harm and danger
- Feeling comfortable with going out
- Having signs that tell cars to slow down for children
- Less exposure to adulthood such as public drinking and smoking
- No gangs
- Safe streets at night-time
- More lights in narrower alleys

- 3.3 Children from a secondary school in Manchester presented on the safe and secure theme to child friendly champions on their concerns about ASB which included:
- Safety in parks
 - Drug use and dealing
 - Graffiti
 - Safe cycle routes

- 3.4 It was highlighted that children do not always know what to do or where to seek help.

They identified activities that they would like to see:

- Clearly identifies safety patrols in parks and at facilities
- CCTV in parks and cycle routes (e.g. Fallowfield Loop)
- A programme to clean up the streets e.g. graffiti removal

- 3.5 Remedi have provided feedback from children involved the restorative justice work undertaken with children engaging in ASB.

Child: "I'm 100% more calmer now. Before I used to think of something and stick to that. Now I can see the bigger picture."

Child: "I didn't understand the effects it has on other people and how badly it can hurt someone until now."

Child: "I enjoyed the sessions, and I learnt quite a bit. I think this will benefit me as I go on in life"

Child: "The sessions have helped me so much, I'd probably have a criminal record by now because of the stealing and shoplifting."

Parent: "I have definitely noticed a change in his attitude towards school, he is much more settled where he is now and even at home and out on the streets he has been getting into much less trouble."

4.0 Challenges in addressing ASB

- 4.1 Feedback has been requested from Housing Providers in the Manchester Housing Provider Partnership and GMP to understand some of the emerging themes and key challenges faced when addressing ASB in Manchester. These have been identified as follows:

- 4.2 Many ASB reports received by providers link into other complex issues such as mental health, substance misuse and safeguarding. Providers have reported they are seeing an increasing need to work in partnership with other in-house services and partner agencies to coordinate a multi-agency approach to address issues and support residents. Challenges in the provision of mental health services continue to have an impact on the progress of cases where there is a mental health requirement.

- 4.3 Several providers have reported increases in cases of cuckooing where individuals with vulnerabilities are subjected to exploitation by individuals or groups in their properties. The property is used to people to misuse or deal drugs often involving both crime and anti-social behaviour. These can be difficult to resolve and require a coordinated multi-agency response to both support the individual being exploited, address those exploiting the individual and supporting those being subjected to the anti-social behaviour.
- 4.4 Some providers report having a small number of cases that are very time consuming and difficult to resolve. They have involved counter allegations made by both parties, and very little corroborative evidence that supports either party claims.
- 4.5 It is key to be able to manage expectations around complaints e.g. of household noise that would not meet any requirements for legal action. These may have an impact on the individual reporting the issue but may not be progressed through enforcement action. In these cases, it is important to be clear about action that may be taken and explore other actions that may assist such as mediation of support for an individual. Similarly, residents or partners may expect housing providers to be able to evict tenants where ASB is taking place. It is important to be clear that possession proceedings are only taken as a last resort only, where all other reasonable steps to stop the behaviour have failed.

5.0 Opportunities for improved responses to ASB

- 5.1 Many of the challenges that have been reported, require targeted multi-agency responses to address the ASB being experienced in local communities. The development of Multi-agency Prevention and Support (MAPS) meetings provide an opportunity for place based multi-agency discussions to coordinate activity across police, social care, mental health, housing and support agencies for adults. The MAPS currently operate in pilot areas; Wythenshawe, Old Moat and Withington, Harpurhey, but there are plans to expand the approach through Making Manchester Fairer Kickstarter funding. Further development of these across the city will facilitate better multi-agency working, with a focus on earlier intervention and prevention.
- 5.2 Development of the Prevention Hubs in GMP is also providing a facility for a multi-agency approach with GMP to look at areas of significant demand in an area, such as repeat ASB and coordinate the response across partners.
- 5.3 It is recognised that a visible presence of coordinated multi-agency action can have a positive impact on communities experiencing ASB. Whilst these may be difficult to resource, it is an effective tool to encourage reporting, provide reassurance and collect evidence of ASB.
- 5.4 The Community Safety Partnership will continue to seek feedback from young people to improve the response to ASB in the city, including the services we commission and the problem solving that is undertaken in our local partnerships.

5.5 Further training to support professionals to identify and respond to cuckooing is being identified through the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership.