

Briefing Note

Title: ASB Hotspot Pilot**Date: 10 October 2023****Intended Audience:**Internal Partner organisation Public Confidential **Purpose**

To outline arrangements for implementation of the anti-social behaviour pilot in Wolverhampton.

Background

As part of its rollout of a national anti-social behaviour action plan, the Home Office have allocated the West Midlands £2.0 million over two years to increase the presence of authority figures within areas identified as suffering disproportionately from ASB. This funding has been allocated to the Office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner has allocated the funding to local authority areas based on the existing community safety funding formula. As a result, Wolverhampton has been allocated £100,000 for 2023-2024.

The Police and Crime Commissioner will directly utilise 50% of the funding allocated to increase the presence of police officers and PCSOs within the hotspot locations. The additional 50% has been allocated to local community safety partnerships to determine wider spend locally. As a result Safer Wolverhampton Partnership has been allocated £50,000 for 2023-2024.

Wolverhampton Pilot Areas

In allocating the funding the Police and Crime Commissioner stipulated that there must be evidence that the target areas for intervention suffer disproportionately from ASB. A multi-agency group (including colleagues from community safety, public protection, West Midlands Police and the anti-social behaviour team) met to review data and identified the following priority areas:

- A. Warstones
- B. Bentley Bridge/ Heath Town corridor
- C. The Scotlands

Delivery of Activity

Additional police patrols within the identified area will be directly funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Safer Wolverhampton Partnership has been allocated an additional £50,000 per year to ensure wider presence within these areas.

The project group recognised that in order to address anti-social behaviour a flexible approach is important and will seek to divert offenders to diversionary activity wherever possible, using enforcement only where necessary. Therefore, PCSOs and youth workers will initially seek to increase engagement within the hotspot areas to build trust within communities and understand the issues at local level.

Given the links between young people and anti-social behaviour in all hot spot areas it is proposed that additional authority figures will be placed in the areas during peak times (after school and weekends). Authority figures will be largely made up of PCSOs and youth workers. The increased presence will act as a deterrent to the ASB and also give the opportunity for enhanced engagement with the young people involved who will be directed to existing diversionary activity within the city.

Where young people persistently continue to engage in ASB local schools will be engaged via the police and schools panel in order to identify the young people and offer additional support through schools. Parents will also be written to inform them of the young people's behaviour. Only where necessary, enforcement options will be utilised, and young people will be directed to the Turnaround programme as an alternative to criminalisation.

In addition to the additional authority figures outlined within this report, Wolverhampton Homes ASB Team will support patrols in hot spot areas and in areas where environmental ASB is a concern there will be additional presence from the Local Authority contracted enforcement team who will be able to offer additional deterrence and enforcement around environmental issues such as fly-tipping and littering.

Mobilisation of additional police patrols will begin in September 2023 and youth work will commence in the selected areas from 16th October 2023.

Funding will be allocated to existing youth work providers to deliver youth outreach and street-based work via grant agreements. City of Wolverhampton Council has an existing contract with WISE to deliver additional presence and enforcement around environmental ASB.

The pilot will be subject to evaluation to identify effectiveness and if successful opportunities will be sought to upscale activity within other areas of the City.