
OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

Purpose of Report

1. The following were the main areas of work under my Community and Public Protection Portfolio:

Drug and Alcohol Service

2. Since 1 April 2006, Housing Services have dealt with approx **124 cases** of neighbour nuisance. They are broken down as follows:

Noise Nuisance	66
Harassment	20
Burglary	1
Car Crime	1
Assault	2
Racial Harassment	2
Drug Allegations	1
Threat of Violence	7
Vandalism	3
Verbal Abuse	6
Youth Disorder	15

The following actions have been taken:

(a) Camera Installations (6)

In five of the cases, incidents were recorded and were used either by Housing Services to serve Notice or carry out other action. The other action involved 2 youths who were throwing stones at a Council property. In this case joint interviews took place with the Police Beat Officer and the perpetrators were invited to visit the victim with letters of apology, the parents of the youths also signed Tenancy Breach Forms. In 2 cases information was passed to the Police for their action

(b) Installations of noise monitoring equipment (3).

In 2 of the cases intrusive noise was detected and this has resulted in an Undertaking (promise) being signed by one of the tenants. In the other case the information will be used in possession proceedings.

(c) Eviction (1)

The tenants were evicted on the 21 April for alcohol related anti-social behaviour. An Anti Social Behaviour Injunction (ASBI) was already in place but the male tenant did not comply with the Courts order.

(d) Notice to Quit - 1 served

A family were served with a Notice of Possession Proceedings after threats were made to Housing staff. They have now handed their keys in and are living elsewhere.

(e) Management Moves (2)

In one of the cases this was for a male who was problematic in the Whinfield area. There were mental health concerns. He now has tenancy support and there has been an all round improvement in the persons social skills.

(f) Notices Seeking Possession (5)

This included a Notice of Demotion. In one of the cases the tenant decided to hand her keys in and move into other accommodation. Her son also signed an Acceptable Behaviour Contract. In another case a Notice was served on an elderly tenant who was repeatedly blocking/damaging locks in a sheltered housing scheme. One case is going to Court on the 10 of November 2006. Two other cases will be going to Court shortly. There are two Notices currently being prepared for the Branksome area relating to a burglary.

(g) Acceptable Behaviour Contract (1)

This is referred to at (f) above. Due to the family moving, we will now not manage the contract. There are two Acceptable Behaviour Contracts pending.

(h) Tenancy Breach forms signed (3)

In two of the cases video recordings of stone throwing youths were obtained and used to support further actions.

(i) Undertakings (Promises) Signed (4)

In one of the cases support was balanced with enforcement measures and the perpetrator was referred to the Prince's Trust and given a 12-week course.

(j) Mediation Referrals (3)

In two of the cases there was a cancellation due to one of the parties failing to attend. In the other case both parties established a mutually satisfactory agreement.

Major Works Update

3. 3 Blocks of flats at Dinsdale Crescent and a block of flats at Mount Pleasant, Coniscliffe Road have now been completely remodelled and extensively refurbished. The flats have been remodelled and where possible the areas that were studio flats adapted to full mobility standards with flat floor showers and level access. All flats have new gas central heating that is more energy efficient and economic and new kitchens and bathrooms. Tenants were able to select their preferred colour choices for the kitchens and bathrooms. The buildings have benefited from the fitting of new secure doors and security systems and lighting. The garden areas have been levelled and set with grass and patio areas provided with seating, together with new bin stores and drying areas. At a recent open day at Mount Pleasant House, tenants, leaseholders, Ward Councillors, near neighbours and members of the Tenants Board were able to visit and see what work had been undertaken. All who attended were impressed with the scale of the work and very pleased with improvements. Work has started on the next three blocks of flats to benefit from major improvements at Copley House and Rockcliffe House at Lascelles Park and Stocksmoor Close at Firthmoor and tenants will be able to return in late spring.
4. Almost 60 properties at Cockerton and Branksome have had their heating installations renewed over recent months. Work will shortly start on a number of homes at Middleton St George. This year's programme of electrical rewiring and internal planned maintenance is progressing at Redhall and will shortly move to the Longfield Road area.

Temporary Accommodation for Homeless Persons

5. In addition to the three Council properties previously used for temporary accommodation to help meet strict targets for reducing the use of bed and breakfast accommodation by homeless families two further flats have recently been identified for use to meet current demands. The flats will be particularly useful for people with mobility problems.

Youth Offending Service

6. Between 1 April and 30 June 2006 the Youth Offending Service (YOS) worked with a total of 153 young people who committed a total of 254 offences, 68 of these were first time entrants into the criminal justice system (the YOS has a PSA target of 275 for the full year).

7. During this period:

7 young people where remanded to custody.

6 young people received a custodial sentence.

94% of victims were contacted with regard to involvement in the restorative justice process, 38% of these commented and all of these expressed satisfaction with the process.

70% of young people supervised by the YOS were in full time education, training or employment at the end of their order.

100% of young people supervised by the YOS were in satisfactory accommodation.

100% of young people requiring CAMHS assessments had this carried out within 15 days.

89% of young people requiring a substance misuse assessment had this carried out within 5 days and all of these were receiving treatment within 15 days.

Councillor Bill Dixon
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Community
and Public Protection