

Birkenhead Constituency Committee (Wirral Borough Council)

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (11/05/2015)

1. CONTEXT (CRIME)

- 1.1 **30,551** crimes (including ASB) were reported to Police by Wirral residents during 2014 (Jan to Dec). That's approximately **1** crime for every **10** Wirral residents.
- 1.2 **13,808** crimes (including ASB) were reported to Police by Birkenhead residents during 2014 (Jan to Dec). That's approximately **1** crime for every **6** Birkenhead residents.
- 1.3 Birkenhead accounts for **45%** of all crime reported (but only **28%** of Wirral's population)

2. ASB ACTIVITY

- 2.1 **11,962** ASB incidents reported to Police by Wirral residents (**39%** of total crime in 2014).
- 2.2 Birkenhead reported the largest number of ASB incidents **5,175** or **43%** to Police during 2014. This equates to **17%** of all crime reported in Wirral.
- 2.3 Downward ASB trend over the past 4 years, but reduction in Birkenhead not as significant as the rest of Wirral:
- **Wirral -19% (2,857)**
 - **Wirral (excl. Birkenhead) – 24% (2,131)**
 - **Birkenhead -12% (726)**
- 2.4 ASB activity concentrated in Birkenhead/Tranmere and Bidston/St. James. Charing Cross is a 'hot spot' for ASB activity (alcohol & youth ASB in-particular) (across all agencies).
- 2.5 There were 82 incidents of ASB reported in Birkenhead Park during 2014.
- 2.6 0.45% of locations (11) in Birkenhead are responsible for 6.6% of all Wirral ASB.
- 2.6 Rowdy inconsiderate behaviour is the most common form of ASB (across all agencies).
- 2.7 **59%** (554) of all Wirral ASB fires (deliberate secondary fires) were in Birkenhead in 2013/14, costing an estimated **£1.2m** (Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service).
- 2.8 **82%** of all Wirral Sports Development prevention activities targeted in Birkenhead. Services demonstrate measurable ASB outcomes (e.g. Operation Banger). Collaborating with a Health Economist to confirm the cost benefits of sports investment to partners (e.g. health) and to maintain and secure further external funding streams (e.g. Sports England).

- 2.9 **117** Wirral families (**out of 287**) participating in the Troubled Families programme to date have achieved the specified outcomes for education, youth crime and ASB. **52** of the families are residents of Birkenhead.
- 2.10 **75%** of families identified with ASB problems have demonstrated an improvement following input from the Family Support Service (during 2014/15).
- 2.11 The Youth Outreach team made **827** interventions during 2014/15.

3. ASB BUDGETS

Tackling ASB Activity

- 3.1 **£993K** was invested during 2014/15 in tackling the consequences of ASB in Wirral (excludes Cabinet Budget Resolution and Merseyside Fire & Rescue). **£436K** of this budget was allocated to Birkenhead (2014/15).

ASB Prevention

- 3.2 The collective ASB prevention budget during 2014/15 was **£862K**. **£397K** of this budget was allocated to Birkenhead (2014/15).

4. NEXT STEPS

The conclusions outlined in this section have been developed by the project sponsors (Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead, Chair of Birkenhead Constituency Committee and Phil Davies, Councillor for Birkenhead and Tranmere, Leader of Wirral Borough Council) based on the information contained within the report.

- 4.1 Establish why ASB levels are reducing at a slower rate in Birkenhead in comparison to the other three constituencies and Wirral overall.
- 4.2 Target ASB resources as a matter of urgency in areas of the highest need (e.g. Birkenhead and Tranmere ward). Ensure that interventions are tailored to meet the specific requirements of particular areas (e.g. Birkenhead Pak and McDonalds) and issues (e.g. rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour versus inappropriate vehicle use).
- 4.3 Focus new investment on services/initiatives with a strong evidence base for delivering improvements in ASB outcomes e.g. all new ASB investment should quantify in advance the outcomes that will be delivered.
- 4.4 Consult residents and the local businesses community to establish the type of ASB support needed in Birkenhead (e.g. consider the possibility of making some funding available to community groups to deliver improvements in ASB measurable outcomes).
- 4.5 Quantify the level of resources utilised by both Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in preventing and tackling ASB.
- 4.6 Establish the tolerance levels of residents to ASB. There is currently no contemporary data (quantitative or qualitative) available which examines the impact of repeated ASB incidents

on victims reporting levels (regardless of the agency to which ASB is reported). The difference in tolerance thresholds between areas also needs to be considered in greater detail. Anecdotal evidence suggests that both of these factors may have an impact on incident reporting and therefore, the statistics (ASB and general crime) analysed in this paper (e.g. potentially resulting in under reporting in areas of deprivation where ASB is disproportionately high).

- 4.7 Develop and implement integrated systems that record and analyse activity (e.g. number and location of ASB incidents across multiple services), outcomes (e.g. ability to measure reductions in ASB following an intervention) and finances (e.g. to ensure that resources are allocated to meet need). These systems should be designed to reduce the focus and time spent on process and facilitate the measurement and delivery of outcomes. The development of a common ASB across all agencies could be the first stage in this process.
- 4.8 Implement an outcomes based approach to ASB service delivery, measurement and performance management.
- 4.9 Rebalance ASB investment in the long term to focus on preventative services as opposed to services which address the consequences of ASB (e.g. in line with Children Centres).
- 4.10 Development of an ASB recovery plan for Birkenhead Constituency which delivers outcomes consistent with those experienced by residents in other constituencies. The plan should quantify timescales and outcomes to be delivered.

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Birkenhead Constituency Committee

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