

Arun DC Anti-social Behaviour Team Case Study (1)



Trigger: Complaints were being received from several businesses on the Shripney Road Retail Parks that two individuals were aggressively begging in their car parks. The reports highlighted that a male and a female (working collaboratively) were approaching both members of the public and staff for money, sometimes even approaching people before they had a chance to get out of their vehicles. Further reports received of the male also trying car door handles on occasions. Neither of the individuals were street homeless.

History: Entrenched substance misuse issues by both individuals and continuing lack of meaningful engagement with partner agencies. Ongoing criminality in the area separate to begging offences. Both individuals were, at the time, occupying an address nearby giving them easy access to the retail parks on a daily basis.

Concerns:



Actions:

- Interrogation of Police systems to understand the scale of the issue and levels of reporting.
- Evidence gathering to ensure the level of offending met evidential thresholds.
- Site visits conducted to liaise with retail staff and gather first-hand evidence and identify patterns in times of day and days of the week.
- Close working with the Arun Police Prevention team to identify opportunities to patrol this location (including a joint reactive response by Police and ASB team on a day when shops were reporting issues directly to the Senior ASB Caseworker).
- CCTV checks by the ASB team at stores where footage clearly showed suspects on camera.
- Individual's home address visited by the ASB team to issue both with Community Protection Warnings which outlined a wide exclusion zone encompassing all the retail parks along Shripney Road.
- Joint follow up visits by the ASB team and Police to the home address to assist the homeowner in removing both individuals from his home.
- Liaison with other services to update them of the course of action (Police / Probation).
- Social media posts/updates advising the public of the activity these two individuals and urging people not to give them money, food or drinks.

Outcomes:

- ☑ Proactive engagement with retailers and members of the public enabled quick intervention and prevention of any serious issues arising.
- ☑ Perpetrators removed from the address they occupied nearby resulting in them being absent (geographically) and less likely to access the car parks.
- ☑ Positive feedback from business that shoppers and staff comfortable accessing their premises without fear of being harassed or intimidated.
- ☑ Innovative use of Community Protection Warnings to be able to deter perpetrators from their behaviour.
- ☑ Highlighted the close working relationship between the Council's ASB and local policing teams in achieving positive results.

Arun DC Anti-social Behaviour Team Case Study (2)

Trigger: Ongoing complaints of youth disorder / ASB were received from Arun Community Church in relation to a small group of youths causing issues at their Rustington and East Preston Youth Clubs. This led to Arun Church taking the decision to temporarily suspend opening of their youth clubs whilst they liaised with both the Police and ASB Team to look at ways of mitigating risks and preventing further issues. Other similar complaints were also being made at this time of the same group causing issues in and around Rustington, including causing distress to vulnerable residents in a nearby sheltered housing scheme and causing general ASB on a residential estate.



Background: The youths in question were all known to multiple agencies and presented with both complex behavioural issues and family needs. Intervention work had previously taken place with most of this small group which seemed to curb issues for a while but then resurfaces without warning.

All bar one individual in this group sat beyond the threshold for REBOOT referral and intervention due to involvement by either Early Help or Children’s Social Care (and wider services). Whilst the behaviour was impactful on the wider community, the activity by this group hasn’t always met the necessity or threshold for more stringent involvement by the Police i.e. arrest or summons.

Complaints:



Actions:

- Interrogation of systems and key contacts to identify appropriate keyworkers and other services working with these children and their families.
- Close and regular liaison with Arun Community Church and Rustington Parish Council.
- Multi-agency meetings arranged for each child to discuss the issues, identify current work being pursued by agencies and assign/task actions to reduce the risks and deal with the behaviour.
- Liaison with ADC Housing and other providers to involve them in terms of utilising tenancy enforcement measures.
- Issuance of tenancy warning letters to all parents.
- Issuance of 6 month banning letters for all the youths.

- Liaison with an investigating Police Officer to identify satisfactory outcomes in terms of two Community Resolutions for two of the individuals.
- Directed Patrol Activity set up to target key locations for police patrols.
- Home visits conducted.
- Partnership work between the ASB Team and Police to investigate reports of criminal damage.
- Site visit by Council officers to the sheltered housing scheme to letter drop residents, speak to affected parties and look at any opportunities to improve building security.
- Review of key CCTV footage.

Outcomes:

- ☑ Following the extensive multi-agency interventions and partnership approach taken, the youths clubs were able to recommence, providing a valued community activity for young people, with Arun Youth Project satisfied that their staff and attendees were no longer at risk.
- ☑ No reports of the sheltered housing scheme being a target of youths, and the residents felt more secure in their homes.
- ☑ Significant reduction in reported community wide anti-social behaviour by this group. The ASB team and Police continue to monitor calls closely for this location and will actively pursue lines of enquiry where ASB is reported.

Arun DC Anti-social Behaviour Team Case Study (3)

Trigger: Complaints were made directly to the ASB team of a continuation of anti-social behaviour and persistent loud music noise nuisance from within a rough sleeper encampment located in woods within a residential area in Ferring.

Background: Complaints were initially received in October 2019 with an investigation being conducted jointly by the Council's ASB and Environmental Health teams. Further reports were received in February 2020 highlighting this as an ongoing issue, although the Council had not received any referrals, via Streetlink, that rough sleepers were present at this location. The receipt of noise complaints brought to light the encampment that was then found in the woods.

Concerns:

Reports of a male shouting and swearing in the woods, confirmed by mobile phone recording where loud swearing could be heard. Officers felt that the volume would cause alarm to anyone within hearing distance.

Reports received of loud music being played through the night. One complainant took to moving her young daughter to another room to get sleep due to the "rave" regularly taking place.

A long term rough sleeping encampment was found at this site now very much ensconced in the woods.

Actions:

- Wide ranging enquiries were conducted by the ASB team to ascertain and confirm land ownership for this plot of land. This involved liaising with Ferring Parish Council, Land Registry, Ferring Conservation Group, Crown Estates and a land developer.
- Interrogation of police systems to identify any calls to the police which may give information to help identify any of the individuals on site. This involved liaising with a Police Officer who themselves had attended the site in December and obtained details of one male.
- Further interrogation of police systems around this male highlighted relevant background information and led to further liaison with colleagues from Adur & Worthing Borough Council.
- Regular liaison with the principal complainant.
- Several site visits with the Council's homeless outreach co-ordinator to see what, if anything, could be done to assist those on site with their homelessness situation. One male was offered an appointment the following week but failed to turn up.
- A second site visit resulted in the Senior ASB Caseworker witnessing loud shouting and swearing by one male which confirmed the reported activity.

- A follow up site visit was conducted the very next day by the Senior ASB Caseworker and two Police Officers to issue the male with a Community Protection warning prohibiting him from shouting, swearing and playing loud music at key times.
- Partnership work with the Council's Environmental Health team to look at pursuance of noise legislation should the music/noise continue. This led to the victim being issued noise diary sheets and being placed on the out of hours call list for night-time / weekend attendance by a standby officer.

Outcomes:

- On completion of the above actions, no further calls or complaints received by the ASB team about this location.
- Measures are in place that would allow legal enforcement to take place against the primary individual should there be further issues; Court action and/or Noise Abatement Notice.
- The Council's Housing Options team offered assistance to a second person in terms of their homelessness situation.