

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



Trigger: Reports from various section of the local community in Rustington about the presence of street beggars basing themselves in the village centre, particularly within the shopping precinct. Complaints were received about the aggressive nature of the begging for money and food, but also about concerning breaches of Covid-19 restrictions including beggars not wearing face masks, and not allowing people to socially distance by sitting directly outside shop doorways and obstructing footpaths.

History: On engagement, it was established that, in the main, the beggars were Eastern Europeans but were not homeless in the local area. The ASB team undertook extensive research with other agencies and identified that these individuals were travelling from Brighton and were accommodated there. Joint working with Immigration Compliance and Enforcement (ICE) confirmed that they were travelling between the UK and Romania, some doing so every month. Individuals were being supported by a charity in Brighton, benefitting from accommodation, meals, clothes, and toiletries which illustrated there was no need for them to be begging. It was also established that some individuals were connected with incidents of begging in other areas

Concerns:



Actions:

- Initial work undertaken to try and identify who the beggars were. Largely this was conducted via site sits from ASB Caseworkers and stop-checks from the Police.
- Individuals identified were spoken to in English or Romanian and ID cards were requested to establish the identity of the person spoken to. On each occasion they were instructed to leave the area.
- Close liaison with ICE helped to understand the powers and procedures that could be utilised to focus on those who were not eligible for EU settled status. This work with ICE also helped to establish the regular air travel between the UK and Romania of most of the cohort.
- On identification of the individuals, liaison took place between the Council and Brighton & Hove City Council's homelessness service. Enquiries were also made with the Brighton Exploitation Co-ordinator to rule out concerns that this group were being exploited. As a result, the Senior ASB Caseworker attended regular Sussex wide multi-agency forums to understand the scale of this issue and to input on ways to deal with it across the county.

- Community Protection Warnings and Notices were issued by both the ASB team and Sussex Police to repeat offenders.
- Regular intervention and engagement with beggars by the ASB team and Sussex Police.
- Reissuing of the Council's homelessness campaign to encourage members of the public to give money to charities, where homelessness support can be provided, rather than to individuals which may incentivise begging on the street.

Outcomes:

- ☑ Proactive engagement with agencies, including the parish council, enabled efficient engagement with street beggars and enabled identification of individuals.
- ☑ Services in Brighton were able to engage with individuals and ultimately repatriated 6 of the 7.
- ☑ Use of Community Protection Warnings to deter beggars from continuing their behaviour.
- ☑ Significant reduction of incidents of beggars in the village centre.
- ☑ Highlighted the ability of the ASB team to engage with partners and lead multi-agency responses to community based concerns.
- ☑ No further incidents have been reported. The ASB team continue to monitor the area and will not hesitate to take action should the issue return.

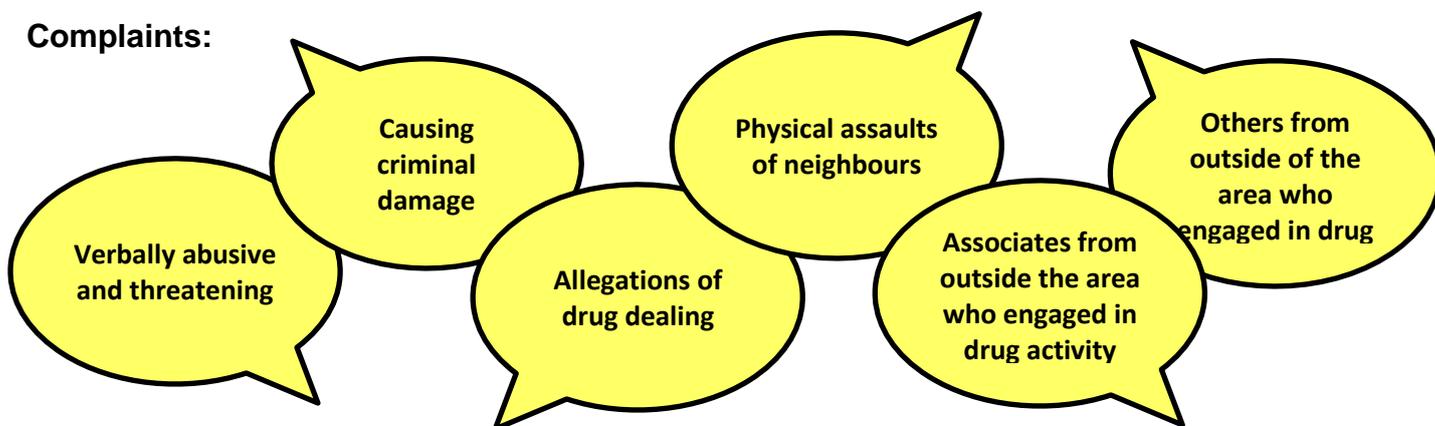
Arun DC Anti-social Behaviour Team Case Study (2)

Trigger: Complaints received by the ASB team in relation and individual, and their associates, causing anti-social behaviour on the Trees Estate in Bersted. The individual was not a resident of the local area but had family who were. At the time, they had taken to living in a horse box which had been parked in a residential car park without permission. Incidents included alleged drug dealing, threats to residents, screaming and shouting, acts of violence and verbal aggression to neighbours. Residents on the estate were concerned for their own safety and wellbeing, reporting lack of sleep, fearful of going out, panic attacks, and being frightened to leave doors and windows open (at the height of a heatwave at the time).



Background: The individual was quickly identified, and it was established that they were well know to the Police. Their activity and behaviour brought others to the estate where they too involved themselves in the supply of drugs which caused a significant negative impact on residents across the estate. Despite arrests by the Police, the individual was permitted to return to the estate and continued to cause harm to the community.

Complaints:



Actions:

- Close liaison between the ASB team and local Policing team to identify the calls and reports being made with specific relation to this individual and their associates.
- House to house enquiries conducted to identify residents being affected and to understand the scale of the problems being caused.
- Work carried out to engage with residents and provide reassurance about reporting and providing statements.
- Joint work instigated with the Council’s neighbourhood housing team to compile further details about the impact on residents and to identify what was happening. The horse box was parked on land owned by the housing team and so work was undertaken to remove it.

Outcomes:

- ☑ Prioritisation given by the ASB team to collating a detailed case against the individual, including taking and giving statements, documenting injuries caused, obtaining a chronology of calls, crime reports and police data.
- ☑ Taking the lead in instigating legal action and applying to Court for an injunction; this process was completed within a two week time frame, a particularly quick period when going through the Court system.
- ☑ A two-year injunction was secured requiring the individual to leave the Tress estate immediately and prevented from returning to a defined area around the estate. The power of arrest was also attached to the Court Order.
- ☑ The individual left the area when served the injunction and has not returned since.
- ☑ Liaison with residents continued after the injunction was obtained and residents have reported they feel much safer in their community.