

COMMUNITY SAFETY INTERVENTION POLICY

Head of Service:	Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 - Draft Community Safety Intervention Policy

Summary

A policy to ensure the Council's Community Safety resource is effectively targeted at tackling antisocial behaviour and supporting victims.

Recommendation (s)

The Sub-Committee is asked to:

- (1) Agree the Community Safety Intervention Policy as set out in Appendix 1
- (2) Agree that the Community Safety Intervention Policy is recommended for adoption at Full Council.

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 In order to deliver an effective service within the resource available, it is important to set expectations around the extent to which types of antisocial behaviour (ASB), and other community safety issues will be investigated.

2 Background

- 2.1 The resource allocated to the investigation and enforcement of ASB is shared with the administration of the Community Safety Partnership and corporate safeguarding responsibilities. At the most it is 0.3 Full time Equivalent (FTE), although that varies at any one time depending on the priorities attached to the other two areas.

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- 2.2 There is considerable risk attached to this service area as it involves the case management of pressurised and difficult circumstances involving vulnerable members of the public who frequently present in distress, altered mental states and occasionally suicidal.
- 2.3 The service already deprioritises cases which do not present high levels of threat, harm or risk but in the interests of transparency, and to set expectations, it is necessary to express this in a formalised policy.
- 2.4 Following a high number of adverse findings nationally, the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman has recently released a report acknowledging the challenges faced by Councils when dealing with anti-social behaviour and identifying common issues and learning points. Of relevance to this item are the observations around “gate keeping” whereby some councils are using inflexible and overly strict thresholds before they will consider intervention. With this in mind, the proposed policy has deliberately avoided imposing arbitrary thresholds and instead proposes a risk based policy whereby each case will be assessed for the threat, harm and risk posed by the circumstances and that will inform the intervention.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1.1 When considering the adoption of this Policy, the Council must have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). In this context it is considered that equalities will be enhanced by helping to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct by or under the Equality Act 2010.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

- 3.2.1 There is a clear link between adoption of this policy and tackling crime and disorder by focussing the available resource on topics and cases where the Council and its partners can make a difference.

3.3 Safeguarding

- 3.3.1 There is a strong link with the Council’s responsibilities around safeguarding since many of the situations present with multiple compounding issues including safeguarding concerns of both adults and children. Officers work closely with the established Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Childrens Single Point of Access (C-SPA), to ensure vulnerable people are safeguarded.

3.4 Dependencies

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There are no dependencies on adoption of this policy.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The existing budget permits the employment of a single officer with the time spent on this area amounting to a maximum 0.3 FTE.
- 4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships:

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: Safe and Well and Effective Council.
- 6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** There is no impact on this area.
- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** There is a clear implication on the community safety area which can be enhanced by better targeting of resource.
- 6.5 **Partnerships:** There is an existing strong partnership with Police, Housing Associations, Surrey County Council and voluntary or third party organisations in the delivery of the aims of the policy. The existing monthly Community Harm and Risk Management Meeting (CHaRMM), and Joint Action Groups (JAG), are monitored by the Community Safety Partnership and offer an efficient way for partners to formally problem solve difficult cases.

7 Background papers

- 7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:
- Out of Order: Learning Lessons from complaints about antisocial behaviour, Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (2023). <https://www.lgo.org.uk/assets/attach/6465/FINAL.pdf> [accessed 21/8/23]