

Working in Partnership to Address Anti-Social Behaviour – Case Studies of Work Undertaken During 2021/22

Case Study 1: Patna Anti –Social Behaviour November 2021

Background: Anti-Social Behaviour by young people was causing community concern in Patna, which resulted in a multi-agency site visit being arranged. Police analysis showed a total of 37 disorder type calls during the past year with the top 3 locations being Patna Library/Whitehill Avenue, Plantation Avenue and Carnshalloch Avenue. It was recognised that the number of incidents may not accurately reflect the extent of the issues and it was felt that direct engagement with community representatives would assist to build a more realistic picture of what is taking place for action planning purposes.

PATNA LIBRARY



The library was identified as a continual gathering point for young people who would start to congregate as early as 1630 hours and would usually be there until the 2030 bus, as some of the group, which can be 15-20 people aged approximately 12 – 17 years, were not from Patna and travel from other areas. Issues identified included disturbance to local residents, loud music, deliberate damage caused to the library walls and broken glass, intimidation of staff and library users by knocking on doors and windows and standing around access points, alcohol consumption and littering. Environmentally it was agreed that a high fence similar to that around the school and blocking off the sheltered space around the entrance doors would make it more inaccessible and less attractive as a gathering point with wifi access from the library also being a feature which would be considered an attraction.

Actions and Outcomes: The group agreed that the sheltered and open frontage of the library contributed to it being a meeting point for young people. Consultation was undertaken with East Ayrshire Leisure Trust's Development Officer for Libraries, who confirmed that there was already a plan to install a high fence around the library with a meeting being held later in November to review additional safety improvements following reports from staff regarding the youth disorder. Library CCTV which covers the interior and immediate exterior of the building would be reviewed daily by staff and any offences identified will be reported to police. With immediate effect the library wi-fi was disabled when the library is not open and opening hours were amended to 1000 – 1200 and 1300 – 1500 Tuesday to Friday. The Development Officer was provided with police details as a point of contact as they had previously not been reporting issues and those contact details were shared with staff and encouraged them to report concerns and incidents to the police with CCTV recording capture taking place. A meeting was also held with a resident who lived near the library, who confirmed the negative impact this continued ASB was having on local residents and they were encouraged to report incidents to the police by 101 or via the Contact Us email on the police website.

PATNA BUS SHELTER – CARSKEOCH DRIVE



Background: A number of reports had been received about noise from young people gathering at the bus stop which tied in with the library information that young people were travelling from other areas to meet in Patna and it is believed at times parents were dropping their children off and leaving them to spend the night in Patna then get the bus home. Disturbance at the bus stop usually ended around 2030 once the bus has left.

Actions and Outcomes: This bus shelter is essential for the community as it is an exposed area for anyone to stand with no shelter however Police Scotland Safer Communities officer agreed to review the type of shelter and any possible adjustments that would make it less attractive as a gathering point for anyone not actually using it to await a bus

PATNA - JUBILEE WALK



Background: This area was a well-used gathering point for young people who light fires, often stealing bins and other items such as pallets to do this. They would then sit round the fire and drink causing a disturbance and environmental issues, with SFRS being called on occasion to extinguish the fires. This woodland was funded by a community initiative and was being abused by individuals who were effectively preventing other members of the public from enjoying it for the leisure and recreational purpose it was intended for.

Actions and Outcomes: The dense woodland was subject of discussion to establish whether some of the trees which were fire damaged should be removed to open the area up and make it a less attractive gathering point and it was agreed that this would be reviewed by EAC Green spaces. SFRS would be contacted as early as possible to extinguish any fires that were lit there and consideration would be given to regular police visits to intervene at the earliest opportunity.

PATNA - CARNSHALLOCH AVENUE – ENTRANCE TO CARSKEOCH CARAVAN PARK AND DRIVING ISSUES



Background: Reports of speeding taking place by drivers in the area causing disturbance and safety issues for pedestrians and other roads users. Anti-Social Behaviour was reported in the Caravan Park area which is used for fly tipping and underage drinking. There was also a report of an abandoned burnt out vehicle.

Actions and Outcomes: Worn road markings and bollards and signage issues were identified and highlighted to Ayrshire Roads Alliance. Speeding detection patrols would take place by local police when possible. Some of the area in question was privately owned land which made it difficult to block driving access but it was identified as an ideal deployment area for the East Ayrshire Council funded Quad and Trail bikes which are used by Police Scotland Officers. Analysis was undertaken to establish key times for Officers to be deployed on bikes in the location, for the prevention and detection of crime and there was consideration of joint Police/Environmental Officer action.

Additional Issues and Actions discussed: Youth diversionary opportunities were discussed and it was highlighted that there was a football initiative on Friday evenings in Dalmellington. A local Elected Member agreed to approach a local transport provider to discuss the possibility of transport being provided for young people from Patna to Dalmellington to engage in the football. Following the Patna site visit partnership was agreed between CRT: Game On and The Zone to support the Night League in Dalmellington on Friday evenings (7-9pm) by utilising The Zone's minibus to transport youths from neighbouring villages to allow them the opportunity to engage in footballing activities while trying to curb anti-social behaviour on Friday evenings.

Consideration was also given to the Vibrant Communities Youth action team being able to provide a presence in Patna at key times as part of an overall review which was undertaken of key areas of disorder across East Ayrshire. The possibility of providing a sheltered structure away

from housing was also discussed which could be used as a gathering point for young people who do not want to engage with formal services. This and other local initiatives will be a consideration for the recently reformed Patna Community Council to take forward.

The Community Council and local residents were asked to report ASB to the police as a matter of course either using the 101 telephone system or Contact Us email address on the Police Scotland Website, to allow correct recording of incidents and concerns to assist with policing and multi-agency action plans. All local Police supervisors were advised of the focussed multi agency action and the requirement to note personal details of any persons involved so the recognised Anti-Social Behaviour process of warning letters and action building up to enforcement could be followed. The Police Scotland Local Authority Liaison Officer also agreed to establish the current job status of the single public space CCTV camera which had been installed near the shops but was not operational due to electrical issues; and additional CCTV coverage was to be explored either by further public space CCTV or the mobile CCTV unit which can focus on key areas such as the Library.

Review at February 2022:



Fencing has been installed around the library as illustrated in this image, and dedicated patrols are taking place. All supervisors have been made aware of youth disorder issues and concerns, to ensure that an appropriate level of response was given to any calls received. Joint patrols were being undertaken with Environmental Services and a Roads review was also undertaken to assess signage and roads layout and furniture in response to the speeding concerns raised. The Youth Action team played pivotal role in the response, spending time in the area. Overall the partnership intervention was extremely successful with the calls about youth disorder reducing.

Case Study 2: Fairyhill Road, Kilmarnock – Anti-Social Behaviour

Background: A number of reports were received of vandalisms/ASB in Fairyhill Road from members of the public and via elected members. It was noted that youths were congregating under the A71 bypass, sheltered from the elements. Youths were attending from 1500 hours during the day in possession of alcohol. Later in the evening they would appear under the influence and reports filtered to police of vandalisms to cars / property and general ASB on Fairyhill Road.

Action and Outcome: A joint action plan was put in place involving partners including EAC Community Safety, EAC Risk Management, Elected Members, EAC Greener Communities, EAC Vibrant Communities, Youth Action Teams, Licensing and Police Scotland. E-brief slides were produced and circulated and requests were submitted to officers to trace the young people involved and gain their details for intervention. Officers gathered details of the majority of youths involved in ASB and most notably 2/3 main “ringleaders”. Following an incident whereby a police vehicle was damaged and ASB spread to the town centre, the young people’s details were documented and their addresses noted. Upon collation of the details of those involved, relevant officers visited the young people’s homes in person to discuss the ASB with their parents, most of whom were not aware of their children being involved and were supportive of police. Campus officer intervention in school was also implemented and IVPDs submitted and shared with partners for Social Work intervention. Following engagement with the young people, they named some licensed premises that they had managed to get alcohol from. Joint visits to licensed premises were conducted and advice given to shop owners and staff. Work is ongoing to ID those purchasing alcohol to charge them where possible. A joint meeting with Fire/Youth Action Team /Locality Police Inspectors was carried out to brain storm ideas to progress YAT effectiveness and role going forward. Ideas were identified for youth engagement/education/activities to deter them from antisocial behaviour. A joint site visit and walk around was also arranged and conducted by EAC Vibrant Communities, Youth Action Teams, EAC housing, EAC Community Safety, Elected Members, the Local Authority Liaison Officer and ASBO officers, to assess the site appropriately. As such the following actions were tasked out:

- Greener Communities attended and cleared up rubbish, discarded bottles left behind.
- CCTV van to be deployed
- ARA to assess the effectiveness of lighting
- EAC Housing and ARA to consider anti climb paint
- Vibrant Communities to give consideration to be given to utilising school app to message parents
- CEU to give consideration to conduct work in schools on littering

