

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 June 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019-2023 Annual Review 2020/21
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ advise on the completion of the 2020/21 annual review of the South Lanarkshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019-2023, as detailed in Appendix 1.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Executive Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s): -

- (1) that the progress for the first review of the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019-2023, as detailed in Appendix 1, be noted
- (2) that the outcome of the first review of the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019-2023 be reported to the Safer South Lanarkshire Board on 13 September 2021 for noting.

3. Background

- 3.1. Part one of the Anti-social Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 requires the council and Police Scotland to jointly prepare a strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour. The key purpose of this strategy is to set out: -
- the understanding which partners have on the extent and nature of anti-social behaviour;
 - the services available to tackle anti-social behaviour; and
 - the actions which partners will take to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour
- 3.2. Approved by Executive Committee in November 2019, the South Lanarkshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019-2023 was developed to ensure effective progress would be achieved in relation to key national and local outcomes set out in the South Lanarkshire Community Plan.
- 3.3. To support the achievement of the relevant outcomes, the strategy is constructed around six strategic outcomes. These provide the overarching focus for the actions set out in the strategy's action plan and were derived following an analysis of key anti-social behaviour issues reported to community safety partners from across South Lanarkshire. The six strategic outcomes are:-

- People behave responsibly in their attitude to alcohol and the impact of drug misuse is reduced.
- People behave responsibly in relation to fire safety
- The impact of domestic noise is reduced, improving the health and wellbeing of residents
- Illegally discarded litter and household waste is reduced, improving the safety and attractiveness of communities
- Levels of disorder are reduced, including graffiti and vandalism, improving safety within communities
- Partners engage with residents to promote and improve the availability of and access to services for those affected by anti-social behaviour

3.4. The Anti-social Behaviour Strategy Implementation Group (ASBIG) is responsible for overseeing the ongoing implementation and monitoring of the strategy. This partnership group considers progress against outcomes achieved and the effective reporting of progress through the Safer South Lanarkshire Board and wider community planning structures.

3.5. In addition, the ASBIG is responsible for identifying issues that require to be reflected as part of the review of the strategy, including any additions or removals to or from the action plan.

3.6. As part of discussions during the strategy's approval at Executive Committee in November 2019, it was agreed that service and partner responses to both drug and vandalism issues would be taken account of. This has been reflected in the strategy, where each issue has been incorporated into strategic outcomes one and five. ASBIG partners will continue to monitor these areas and consider further actions to tackle them within the strategy.

4. **Anti-social Behaviour Strategy Annual Review**

4.1. The review identified that in the first 17 months, good progress has been made on 76% of the 42 measures and actions within the strategy. A summary of progress against each of the six strategic outcomes has been provided in the table below:

Strategic Outcome	Green	Amber	Red	Report Later	Total
1. Alcohol / Drug Misuse	7	1	0	0	8
2. Fire Safety	5	0	0	0	5
3. Domestic Noise	2	0	2	0	4
4. Litter and Waste	4	1	1	2	8
5. Disorder / Vandalism	7	0	1	1	9
6. Engagement / Access	7	0	0	1	8
Total	32	2	4	4	42

4.2. Since April 2020, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly impacted efforts from all organisations to tackle anti-social behaviour as well as altering both the type and prevalence of anti-social behaviour across different areas of South Lanarkshire. Further details on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on progress within the strategy is detailed in section 5 of the report.

- 4.3. The table below summarises key progress achieved throughout 2020/21 within each of the strategic outcomes within the strategy. Further details on each of these areas, alongside supporting statistics, is provided in Appendix 1.

Strategic Outcome 1 – *people behave responsibly in their attitude to alcohol and the impact of drug misuse is reduced*

- A reduction of 73.4% was achieved in the number of crimes of public drinking for offenders aged under 25 years. Although this has undoubtedly been influenced by the restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic throughout 2020/21, partners continue to work together to develop a range of prevention and enforcement initiatives to tackle this issue which will have also contributed to this reduction.
- The planned 'Is This Me?' school alcohol drama was unable to take place in its original form. However, to ensure key messages on alcohol and drug consumption still reached young people, Arkeen Theatre Company produced a digital version of the play which has now been agreed with 20 secondary schools for showing to pupils by school staff, either in a classroom or through remote learning.

Strategic Outcome 2 – *people behave responsibly in relation to fire safety*

- The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service recorded a reduction of 44.9% achieved in the number of deliberate secondary refuse fires attended by their crews compared with the previous year and Police Scotland also recorded a reduction of 51% in the number of reported crimes of wilful fire-raising.
- Since 2019, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have delivered joint inputs to schools around fire related anti-social behaviour, particularly around bonfire night, and during the summer to tackle water hydrant vandalism. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, partners recognised increased risk associated with bonfires and fireworks and worked together to deliver a range of preventative and enforcement activity across South Lanarkshire. This included virtual presentations to school pupils and the formation of special taskforces to remove bonfire material.

Strategic Outcome 3 – *the impact of domestic noise is reduced*

- There was over a 100% increase in domestic noise complaints received across Council resources, which can be attributed to households spending more time at home since restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic were implemented.
- In February 2021, a new project was launched between the council's Environmental Services and Mediation Services, whereby complaints of domestic noise deemed not excessive and normal daily living noise are referred to Mediation to explore and reach agreement with neighbours to resolve, which has improved joint working to reduce the impact of repeat complaints.
- Throughout 2020/21, promotion of services to support households experiencing domestic noise issues has continued. Including on partners' websites and social media feeds. Leaflets and articles in local publications advertising the services available for residents have also been utilised.

Strategic Outcome 4 – *illegally discarded litter and household waste is reduced, improving the safety and attractiveness of communities*

- Environmental Services received 3,651 complaints relating to fly-tipping in 2020/21 and were able to find sufficient evidence to enable 20 fixed penalty notices to be issued to the people responsible for the dumping.
- New CCTV was also utilised specifically for inappropriate waste disposal and environmental anti-social behaviour. Priority areas were identified for deployment by all partners involved sharing information through existing structures including Community Safety HUBs and local Problem Solving Groups.

Strategic Outcome 5 – *levels of disorder are reduced, improving safety within communities*

- To tackle an increase in the number of disorder crimes reported to Police Scotland, the Community Safety Partnership commissioned and funded Community Wardens and Police Scotland to deliver enhanced services over 20 weekend evenings throughout the winter period in 2020/21. 1,508 additional visits and patrols were carried out at peak times and locations and addresses were identified as the cause of anti-social behaviour. A range of actions were taken including arrests, dispersals, robust messages and warnings and young people returned home with their parents made aware of their children's behaviour.

Strategic Outcome 6 – *partners engage with residents to promote and improve the availability of and access to services for those affected by anti-social behaviour*

- In 2019/20 109 referrals were made to Victim Support Services in Lanarkshire, with 52 people taking up the support being provided. In 2020/21, 188 referrals were made with 108 people taking up the support provided.
- A range of digital and physical publicity materials continue to be produced and promoted by all services and partners. This includes social media posts and news articles detailing how to seek help if you are experiencing anti-social behaviour and leaflets sent to potential victims on support services available.

5. Impact of Covid-19

5.1. The review identified that the ongoing restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, impacted upon progress for some of the actions and measures in the strategy, as well as reporting arrangements. These included:

- Physical customer engagement opportunities and activities such as the Positive Communities programme were unable to be delivered
- The delivery of group diversionary or educational activities for young people such as the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 'Fire Reach' programme were postponed
- The delivery of localised educational and enforcement campaigns to tackle alcohol disorder was postponed
- The temporary suspension of the Community Safety Hubs at the initial stages of the Covid-19 pandemic impacted on information sharing and reporting

- 5.2. However, the review also detailed positive actions that had been taken by partners to accommodate or react to new or emerging issues caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. This included:
- The transition to online formats for many services, enhancing opportunities for engagement and improving the range of methods customers have in engaging or reporting issues.
 - Partnership working to react to emerging incidents involving domestic noise and disorder.
- 5.3. Further details on the impact of restrictions relating to the Covid-19 have had on the progress of the strategy have been detailed in Appendix 1.
- 5.4. The impact of restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic on progress within the strategy will continued to be monitored by the ASBIG throughout 2021/22 and reported to Executive Committee as part of the 2021/22 annual review process.
- 6. Amendments to the strategy and future considerations**
- 6.1. The annual review confirmed that there is no current requirement for any changes to be made to the existing action plan.
- 6.2. The strategic actions and outcomes will be subject to ongoing monitoring through the ASBIG, with regular reports presented to its members on progress in relation to each of the strategic priorities and outcomes.
- 6.3. As part of this ongoing monitoring, the ASBIG will also consider actions to tackle emerging anti-social behaviour related issues throughout the year ahead. This includes issues already being discussed by partners:
- An increase in complaints received by Police Scotland and the council regarding football related flags, bunting and signage being displayed on private and public property across South Lanarkshire.
 - An increase in complaints to Police Scotland and the council relating to groups gathering in remote wooded areas, consuming alcohol or drugs and littering.
- 6.4. Any long-term issues relating to the strategic priorities and identified by the ASBIG as potentially benefiting from future inclusion within the strategy will be included as part of the next annual review and be presented to Executive Committee for approval.
- 7. Next Steps**
- 7.1. Following noting by Executive Committee, the annual review, as detailed in Appendix 1, will be submitted to the Safer South Lanarkshire Board on 13 September 2021 for noting.
- 8. Employee Implications**
- 8.1. There are no employee implications arising from this report.
- 9. Financial Implications**
- 9.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1. The content of this report will contribute to the evidence to support the requirements of the Annual Assurance Statement.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 11.1. A screening determination was completed in relation to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which confirmed there is no need for a separate SEA for the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019-2023.
- 11.2. An equality impact assessment (EQIA) was undertaken during the development of the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019-2023 to identify and mitigate any negative impacts and seek opportunities to promote equality. The assessment is that the proposals do not have any adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics groups.
- 11.3. Throughout the development of the strategy, partners within the ASBIG consulted with a wide range of partners, key stakeholders and interested parties.

Daniel Lowe

Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

15 June 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- ♦ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities

Previous References

- ♦ Executive Committee, November 2019, South Lanarkshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019-2023

List of Background Papers

- ♦ South Lanarkshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019-2023

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact: -

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