



Subject:	Tackling Anti Social Behaviour - Update
Date:	12th May 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure Siobhan Toland, Lead Operations Officer H&ES
Contact Officer:	Alison Allen, Safer City Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members may recall the approval of an internal review on how Belfast City Council deals with anti-social behaviour in June 2014. Update reports were provided previously to Health & Environmental Services and Parks & Leisure Committees on the progress of the review.
1.2	<p>The purpose of the review of Council's responses to anti social behaviour is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide a level of assurance that anti social behaviour issues are being tackled in an effective, cohesive and unified manner. The review provides the strategic purpose for the Council on the future direction, development, implementation and evaluation of work related to anti social behaviour.• To consider the changing needs within the city with a view to providing a more focused, cohesive and joined up approach; streamlined in order to enhance effective service delivery in dealing with anti-social behaviour.• To provide scrutiny in relation to anti-social behaviour related work in keeping

	<p>with this Council's obligation to secure continuous improvement in the way in which functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of the work to date and to outline the expected future direction of the work in line with the priorities of the new Council.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to consider the progress of the collaborative working to date and to endorse its future direction.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Members will be aware that the 4 areas of particular focus (as above) to date have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falls Park/City Cemetery; • Woodvale Park; • Musgrave Park; and • Orangefield Park.
3.2	The operating models used in each of the 4 areas of focus have been developed based on local need, the availability of supporting community and statutory infrastructure and the scale of any issues.
3.3	<p>Additionally, as each of the 4 areas of focus are parks/open spaces the following shared aim has been the driving force:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“To promote and support positive participation and community ownership in making parks safer, cleaner and greener”</i></p>
3.4	In addition to this planned work and our routine activities to tackle ASB, officers have been working together over the last few weeks to tackle the spike in ASB that has occurred in several locations due to the longer evenings and the recent spell of fine weather. These activities have concentrated on Falls Park/City Cemetery, Orangefield Park, Cavehill Country Park and Musgrave Park/Woodlands and Blythefield. When required interventions have also taken place in smaller neighbourhood parks.

Progress to Date

3.5

The activities undertaken to date in working towards achieving this aim for each of the areas of focus are as follows:

- Regular operational group meetings between area based Parks staff and Community Safety staff to develop and monitor implementation of operational plans
- Joint patrolling of Park Wardens, Safer Neighbourhood Officers and on occasion PSNI with the purpose of tackling the public consumption of alcohol (seizures and warnings), addressing crime/ASB and engagement with those people using the areas positively
- Visits to local Off Licenses to provide advice and information on consequences of selling alcohol to minors
- Joint visible reassurance patrols between Park Wardens and Safer Neighbourhood Officers
- Partnerships formed with local youth providers and regular deployment of supporting youth engagement support
- Delivery of diversionary activities to support the youth engagement model at times when issues are most prevalent (often after park closing time)
- Partnerships formed with existing community infrastructure to support effectiveness of work and encourage sustainability
- Delivery of positive local media articles further promoting the positive image of the park
- Further delivery of positive events within the parks to encourage community participation and engagement in the space
- Proactive engagement of young people, parents, schools and community groups as part of a "Where is your Child" campaign via outreach and promotional work. This campaign encourages parental responsibility as well as re-enforcing positive behaviours for young people.

Going Forward

3.6

The work outlined above, will continue over the summer months and beyond to fully consolidate the progress made to date in each of the 4 focussed areas. Significant improvements have been identified by members of the community in relation to both Falls Park/City Cemetery and Orangefield Park.

<p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p>	<p>In further developing this work the internal review will undertake the following pieces of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly tasking meetings between Parks and Community Safety to ensure maximum effectiveness of joint resources (both staff and financial) • Citywide roll out of the “Where is your Child?” campaign to reach those young people and parents who may travel to parks/open spaces • Community based evaluations of performance to date • Workshop session with staff involved to review what works well • Documentation of agreed intervention model between Parks/Community Safety based on experience to date of what has worked well • Quarterly schedules of potential high risk times in order to facilitate early planning of interventions • Further roll out of the model to other affected parks/open spaces. <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Parks and Leisure and the Safer City Unit have a total resource of 8 safer neighbourhood officers and 26 park wardens. In addition Parks have a revenue budget of £290k for planned intervention programmes and activities to tackle tackling Anti Social Behaviour.</p> <p>No additional budget has been required for the progression of this work, instead the more effective service delivery models are identifying opportunities for increased effectiveness within existing budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Much of the ASB programme work spans activities related to reducing interface tensions and bringing young people together to take part in positive programmes and activities. All of the programme work is delivered in line with the council’s equality and good relations policies and procedures.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>None</p>