

**OFFICIAL**

**ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL**

---

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>COMMITTEE</b>          | Communities, Housing & Public Protection   |
| <b>DATE</b>               | 5 September 2023   |
| <b>EXEMPT</b>             | No   |
| <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>       | No   |
| <b>REPORT TITLE</b>       | Antisocial Behaviour – Aberdeen City Centre  |
| <b>REPORT NUMBER</b>      | CUS/23/299   |
| <b>DIRECTOR</b>           |  |
| <b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>      | CUS/23/299   |
| <b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>      | Mark Wilson, Community Safety and City Warden Manager, Aberdeen City Council<br><br>Chief Inspector Darren Bruce, Partnerships, Preventions, Interventions and Events, Police Scotland<br><br>Inspector John Lumsden, City Centre and Rosemount Community Policing Team, Police Scotland |
| <b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b> | 1.1.1, 2.20 and 2.21   |

---

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update members regarding the nature and extent of Antisocial Behaviour within Aberdeen City Centre and measures being taken to address these.

**2 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Discuss, comment on, and endorse the report.

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 City Centre Antisocial Behaviour has been highlighted by members of this committee and has featured in previous reports.
- 3.2 A report has been provided in ‘Appendix A – City Centre Antisocial Behaviour’ providing an overview of our robust joint response to tackle City Centre Antisocial Behaviour, by the Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.3 It should be highlighted at the outset that since January 2023, there has been a significant decrease in youth related Antisocial Behaviour in Aberdeen City Centre (See Appendix D). This in itself, providing evidence that our partnership approach is both robust and committed to reducing Antisocial Behaviour in our City Centre.

**OFFICIAL**

**4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 While progress is positive, our evidence has shown that we must continue to work collaboratively to target and provide support to a small minority who choose to travel to Aberdeen City Centre and become involved in ASB.
- 4.2 Business engagement is key to aid their understanding that a City Centre Intervention must be considered. Their support thereafter is necessary to explore opportunities for mentoring, employment and other means, helping our young people reach positive destinations. This work will be sustained through the Community Safety Partnership links to businesses through its partnership with Aberdeen Inspired.
- 4.3 Recognising that Aberdeen City Centre remains an attractive place for young people to socialise, we must consider a sustainable model for interventions there, which maximises funding opportunities and support available to us, recognising the landscape of resourcing and funding challenges within Scotland's public services. Work is already underway to explore and develop the hub concept.
- 4.4 Issues are far more complex than being ASB alone. We know that underneath most instances of ASB, is a perpetrator of same with complex multiple needs. Often a solution to these complex needs is required before ASB can be eradicated. For example those with alcohol addiction or indeed young people with little support in a family setting. The Community Safety partnership continues to make connections towards services to support these individuals through its work alongside other agencies and within the Youth Justice Improvement Group.
- 4.5 We must also continue to engage and communicate with our public. Providing a positive narrative about the majority of young people who are our citizens of the future is vital to reduce a harmful prejudice and also support our young people.

**5. RISK**

| <b>Category</b>       | <b>Risks</b>         | <b>Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level</b> | <b>*Target Risk Level (L, M or H)<br/><br/>*taking into account controls/control actions</b> | <b>*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Strategic Risk</b> | No significant risks |  |  |  |

**OFFICIAL**

|                              |   |  |   |     |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|-----|
| <b>Compliance</b>            | No significant risks  |  |   |     |
| <b>Operational</b>           | No significant risks  |  |   |     |
| <b>Financial</b>             | No significant risks  |  |   |     |
| <b>Reputational</b>          | Risk of Increasing ASB, Impact of ASB and Public Perception of ASB and management of ASB. | Continued Co-ordination of partner activity through the Community Safety Partnership.<br>Co-ordination of Aberdeen Inspired members and Levee Payers via ACCSG | L | Yes |
| <b>Environment / Climate</b> | No significant risks  |  |   |     |

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

**7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

**9. OUTCOMES**

| <b><u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u></b> |  |
|--|--|
| Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes                         | The Community Safety Partnership contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ‘ <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ’ and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to make people more resilient and protect them from harm; where every child, irrespective of their circumstances, is supported to grow, develop and reach their full potential; and where all people in Aberdeen are entitled to live within our community in a manner in which they feel safe and protected from harm, supported when necessary and fully included in the life of the city. |
| Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes                          | The Community Safety Partnership contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ‘ <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ’ and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to support individuals and communities to live in healthy, sustainable ways.   |

**10. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

| Assessment                               | Outcome      |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>      | Not required |
| <b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b> | Not required |
| <b>Other</b>                             | None         |

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 Not applicable

**12. APPENDICES**

- 12.1 Appendix A – City Centre Antisocial Behaviour  
 Appendix B – Antisocial Behaviour End Report  
 Appendix C – City Centre Antisocial Behaviour Data - 2021 to 2022  
 Appendix D – City Centre Antisocial Behaviour Data - 2022 to 2023

**OFFICIAL**

**13. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Name</b>          | Mark Wilson, Community Safety and City Warden Manager, Aberdeen City Council<br><br>Chief Inspector Darren Bruce, Partnerships, Preventions, Interventions and Events, Police Scotland<br><br>Inspector John Lumsden, City Centre and Rosemount Community Policing Team, Police Scotland |
| <b>Title</b>         | Antisocial Behaviour – Aberdeen City Centre  |
| <b>Email Address</b> | <a href="mailto:MarkWilson@aberdeencity.gov.uk">MarkWilson@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>   |
| <b>Tel</b>           |  |

**OFFICIAL**

**Appendix A**



ABERDEEN  
COMMUNITY  
SAFETY  
PARTNERSHIP

# ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ABERDEEN CITY CENTRE

**OFFICIAL**

## **Background - Community Safety Partnership**

Community Safety Partnership has been operating successfully for a number of years, itself being recognised nationally as an exemplar and continually evolving to meet the needs of changing community safety interests. Partners within being, Aberdeen City Council, Police and SFRS, meet daily responding to existing or emerging harms. The partnership is supported by Tactical and Strategic oversight with a prevention focussed approach to tackling underlying causes of community harms that ensures safer, stronger and cohesive communities.

The partnership is supported by the wider functions of each of the key organisations. Additionally, the aims of the partnership are often shared by other governance arrangements including Community Planning Aberdeen. Linkage into Outcome Improvement Groups and innovative projects means that many of the issues that lie beneath Antisocial Behaviour (ASB), benefit from Community Safety Partnership insights to ASB.

The work of the Youth justice Improvement group is a key example where members of the Community Safety Partnership have helped shape improvement projects including those to reduce offending by young people: a project to prevent Looked After Children going missing and a bespoke project to reduce City-Wide Antisocial Behaviour by testing new means to engage with young people in settings they have designed.

This project, which was recently closed by the Community Planning Board, saw a reduction in ASB across the City as a whole (See Appendix B – Antisocial Behaviour End Report) the project itself led a number of successful ‘Tests of Change’ being undertaken. This included the formation of the ‘Tesco Hub’ which saw high levels of Antisocial Behaviour reduced significantly within its area of operation. Using the Hub as a base, young people in the area quickly gravitated towards the facilities available there, allowing for adult led interventions and mentorship at that location.

Other ‘Tests of Change’ under this project saw the Streetsport project more closely align to the partnership and strong co-ordination to work within areas of high ASB.

However, ASB within Aberdeen City Centre saw an increase post-Covid pandemic demonstrated below, reaching pre-pandemic levels. Understanding this rise, in the context of ASB reducing in most parts of Aberdeen, has been a focus of recent work.

## **Understanding City Centre ASB**

Data analysed by the Community Safety Partnership includes data from Police Scotland, Aberdeen City Council and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. This wide data gather is key in determining ‘Hot Spots’, co-ordinating partnership activity and predicting areas of demanding and resourcing requirements across the partnership.

Data from 2021 to 2022, is shown with Appendix C

## OFFICIAL

This shows that Youth ASB calls reduced by 3% across the whole city in 2022 compared to 2021, however the contacts in the City Centre over that same period increased by 55%, 389 complaints in 2021 to 605 complaints in 2022.

Despite a positive decline of ASB elsewhere in Aberdeen, Aberdeen City Centre communities, including businesses, were reporting increasing levels of ASB.

Decreased tolerance to young people, post-Covid pandemic was evidenced during the Antisocial Behaviour Project, decreased commercial footfall in the City Centre made the appearance of groups of young people stand out, further aggravated by a prejudice towards all young people by some. Additionally, from our data, we know that the majority of ASB is perpetrated by a small few.

### **Youth Work**

Engagement with young people in Aberdeen City Centre is key to understanding the situation with evidence indicative of young people travelling from elsewhere in Aberdeen and the North East.

Complementing the work of the Community Safety Partnership, Aberdeen City Council's Youth Workers, alongside Police Scotland's Intervention Officer, have been operating within Aberdeen City Centre to understand youth ASB. Their engagement data clearly evidences issues perpetrated by a minority and the vast majority of young people attend Aberdeen's City Centre to socialise with others. In addition to data gathering, youth work creates an opportunity for rapport building and intervention with those involved in ASB.

An 8 week program, taking place from August 2023, will also see engagement sessions being run with a range of 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector and youth focussed partners to help support and co-ordinate effective planning and intervention delivery.

Experience has shown that interventions and activities placed within the communities that young people live in is vital, such work having taken place during the Antisocial Behaviour Project. However, despite this, we know from our data that young people who are not engaged in ASB and those that are, continue to travel to Aberdeen City Centre despite strong activity provision in their areas.

We understand that to effectively intervene, approaches such as the Tesco Hub or the successful approach of Street Sports, should be looked at. In August 2023 front line staff across, Aberdeen City Council Youth Work, Police Scotland and Union Square will visit 'Hot Chocolate' in Dundee. The group operate within Dundee City Centre offering support, guidance and interventions that encourage good citizenship while helping link vulnerable young people towards greater support. Hot Chocolate Trust is a youth organisation, open to all young people of secondary school age to 21. The group from Aberdeen will meet young people and staff involved at Hot Chocolate to understand the approaches used and what learning and reflection from the visit can be utilised in Aberdeen.

OFFICIAL



## OFFICIAL

Offers of financial support for such an approach have been made by some City Centre businesses. Additionally there has been interest from a charity who operate several projects across the United Kingdom and have offered peer support to help design and implements Aberdeen's own approach.

### **Police Scotland - Safer City Unit**

In response to the rise in ASB, during 2022, 'Operation Galaxite' was implemented by the Aberdeen City Centre & Rosemount Local Policing Team (LPT) in co-ordination with Aberdeen City Council City Wardens. With a particular focus on ASB involving young persons, additional resource provided high visibility and robust approach to ASB challenges, carrying out 'High Visibility' patrols in the City Centre, proactively targeting issues identified by the local community and statistical data.

This approach was evolved to form the 'full time' Safer City Unit located at Marischal College, Aberdeen.

Identified offenders are dealt with robustly, either using direct measures (fixed penalties and recorded warnings) or by reporting cases to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal's Service and/or the Scottish Children's Reporter.

An approach being taken is notifying parents or guardians by writing to them, with Antisocial Behaviour Letters being sent when a young person is identified as being involved in ASB or present. Feedback and new data indicates this approach is having a powerful impact on young people with supportive parents or guardians.

Many incidents of ASB are not directly witnessed by Police, however Officers use their investigative experience and a range of techniques during their enquiries, with support from City Centre partners and businesses, to detect reported criminality. A partnership approach was taken tackle instances of ASB within the St Nicholas Graveyard. Initially communicated to Police that issues related to both young people and adults, Police found that issues related mainly to the consumption of alcohol within. A range of measures were introduced including the use of enforcement measures such as Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and the deployment of City Wardens and Police Officers to the graveyard with City Wardens supporting Aberdeen City grounds team with the closure of the graveyard at night.

Data from July 2023, is indicative that those previously consuming alcohol within the St Nicholas Graveyard have relocated to St Nicholas Street, Aberdeen. Police Scotland's Safer City Unit continue to focus on this area and enforce the bye law relating to open alcohol containers in addition to taking robust action to tackle criminality. Recognising that multiple complex needs or addiction are present for a number of people choosing to socialise there, our partnership is focused on tackling their needs thorough referral and engagement with 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector.

In support of local businesses, an Environmental Survey was carried out by Police Scotland and Aberdeen City Council. The survey identified that measures were already in place and enhanced measures were potentially cost prohibitive such as reducing the seating from double seating to single seats.

OFFICIAL

## **OFFICIAL**

Through the Community Safety Partnership, the activities of our City Wardens, Police and joint CCTV team are being co-ordinated. Whilst a robust approach is being taken against those who are perpetrating ASB, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and Health partners are being asked to contribute to a proactive 'street based' approach to offering support to individuals.

### **Operations Control Centre (CCTV)**

The joint Aberdeen City Council and Police CCTV Operations Control Centre (OCC) allows for effective CCTV monitoring of our 'hotspots'. Their work is informed using the shared data and their representation within the Community Safety Partnership. System operators also monitor City Centre footfall 24/7 and proactively identified opportunities for ASB, directing resources into the area in order to prevent any criminality.

Data informs camera deployment with cameras recently being installed in Union Terrace Gardens following its refurbishment. Recently purchased re-deployable cameras have been tested during joint operations between City Wardens and Police Scotland to tackle anti-social driving. These proved to be a valuable resource and directly supported the identification and apprehension of offenders. These cameras will now be deployed based on partnership data to support the prevention and detection of crime across the City.

### **SaferAberdeen Scheme**

The launch of a new SaferAberdeen website will provide an online presence for existing and prospective businesses. The website will include information on the systems, instructions on how to join them and a link to login to the secure information sharing platform. There will also be links to partnership websites and to training resources for existing members.

ShopSafe are also providing a mobile app called 'Alert!' free of charge to businesses within the City Centre. This application provides a new secure way for members to share crime information between themselves, including incident data, offender information and instant messaging for discussion.

The app will be strictly for the participating businesses and will be monitored by the scheme administrators in partnership with ShopSafe. The app will help to identify and prevent prolific offenders within the City Centre as well as act as a local forum for general discussions around the Safer Aberdeen initiatives. Data gathered from the app will also assist our Community Safety Partnership further its understating of issues and trends on the ground that may not always require reports to be logged with the Police.

ShopSafe has carried out a further investment on the radio system provided to retailers and night time venues which has recently seen its third iteration of devices. The introduction of this technology provides a host of benefits including enhanced

**OFFICIAL**

## **OFFICIAL**

audio, coverage and remote management. The technology also produces powerful analytics on user engagement and device health.

The radio system will be branded as ShopSafe for all daytime businesses and the introduction of the NightSafe branding for the evening economy will help promote the system to the night time economy.

A quarterly SaferAberdeen meeting has been planned with the first event due to take place in August. All day and evening members have been invited to attend. This will be chaired initially by ShopSafe with the plan being to install a new board of local business representatives to support this. The meetings will be offered as a hybrid format, allowing in-person or remote attendance to maximise engagement.

### **Taxi Marshals**

Taxi Marshals were redeployed in the City Centre in 2022 following the pandemic and the increase in the night time economy. The main aim of the Taxi Marshal Service is to provide a highly visible presence that minimises incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour, helps ensure the safety of the public and aids the efficient operation of Taxi Ranks. On an average weekend the service sees around 1500 people safely dispatched in taxis.

### **Local Businesses**

As a result of the 'City Centre Summit' in November 2022, Aberdeen Inspired committed to a range of actions including efforts to tackle City Centre ASB in support of businesses who cited this as a concern.

The Community Safety Partnership, Aberdeen Inspired and businesses operating in the City Centre are working together to help reduce City Centre ASB. The lived experience and voice of businesses, has also helped the Community Safety Partnership and Safer City Unit shape their responses to existing or emerging harms.

### **Data Analysis Development**

Remaining agile to developing threats, data analysis has developed to understand ASB (see Appendix D). With the recent development of the 'Data Dashboard' to identify repeat offenders, the Community Safety Partnership are in the process of developing a partnership structure to discuss high intensity nominals and identify opportunity for individual intervention.

The approaches and measures being taken is indicative of a decline in ASB over recent months. See Appendix D.

Our data shows that less 'Antisocial Letters' were sent to young people. From our engagement data, we know that young people previously on the periphery of ASB

**OFFICIAL**

## **OFFICIAL**

and therefore previous recipients of a letter, are now choosing not to associate with other young people who may be involved in ASB.

The data in Appendix D shows there has been a 42% decrease in youth Anti-Social complaints since May 2023. There have been no warning letters issued to youths since February, however since the beginning of March there have been 91 youths named on crime reports showing a more robust approach is being taken towards the behaviour of youths within the City Centre.

The age group of youths involved ranges from 11-20 years, with 14-16 year olds making up the majority of complaints. Of the youths identified only 2% live within the City Centre with 18% living out with Aberdeen City.

It is recognised that alongside this robust approach, means of supporting young people involved in ASB must be a priority. Each young person warned or charged by Police is referred to partner agencies, by means of the IVPD system, for support to address underlying causes of ASB. These referrals gives access to support such as 'Fit-Like' hubs, family based support or helps shape the support already in place.

### **Community Safety Partnership Structures**

The strength of partnership has continued to provide an agile working relationship between partners. The partnership has recognised the need to undertake a review of its operational structures to ensure its ongoing effectiveness against evolving landscapes. Understanding the drivers behind demands placed on services has become paramount, with a need to allow our partnership to focus on data driven decision making and early interventions. We anticipate this new design will allow us to identify problems before they arise and cultivate a more resilient and responsive approach.

### **Stretch Outcome 8 - Antisocial Behaviour Project**

A new ASB project has been agreed to operate under Stretch Outcome 8 of Aberdeen's Local Outcome Improvement Plan. Being managed by the Community Safety Partnership, the aim is to reduce ASB across the City. This project will benefit from the Community Safety Partnership's expertise in ASB. This project reports into the Youth Justice Improvement Group, who have a focus on tackling vulnerability that can lead to people being in conflict with the law. This linkage is creating clear pathways into other support mechanisms for this ASB project.

**OFFICIAL**

**Appendix B**



# Community Planning Aberdeen

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Progress Report</b>  | Project End Report: 9.4 Reduce instances of public space youth anti-social behaviour as a result of appropriate and effective interventions in targeted areas by 10% by 2022. |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>     | Eleanor Sheppard – Chair of Children’s Services Board   |
| <b>Report Author</b>    | Jordan Walker – Police Sergeant   |
| <b>Date of Report</b>   | 01/02/2023  |
| <b>Governance Group</b> | CPA Management Group – 22/03/2023   |

**Purpose of the Report**

This report presents the results of the LOIP Improvement Project Aim 9.4 which sought to reduce instances of public space youth anti-social behaviour as a result of appropriate and effective interventions in targeted areas by 10% by 2022, and seeks approval to end project.

**Summary of Key Information**

**1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person' and is a wide-ranging issue which encompasses many aspects of criminal and non-criminal behaviour. The types of behaviour frequently listed range from vandalism and littering to noise and youth disorder. These are the type of behaviours that cause distress in communities and make them feel unsafe. By carrying out effective interventions and diversions we aim to reduce community harm without criminalising young people.
- 1.2 Strategies to tackle antisocial behaviour are underpinned by the principles of prevention and early intervention to provide solutions, reduce the likelihood and opportunity for offending and optimise outcomes for individuals who may otherwise involve themselves in this type of activity.
- 1.3 Any reduction in antisocial behaviour will improve the quality of life for people within that area, increase public confidence and enhance a positive sense of community for residents. This will also increase the collective will and ability of a community to tackle problems itself by increasing community resilience.

## OFFICIAL

- 1.4 In February 2019, a test of change was instigated in the Northfield area of Aberdeen with the aim of reducing antisocial behaviour following an identified increase in this type of conduct in this area.
- 1.5 This created foundations for an effective strategy to tackle antisocial behaviour. The learning and outcomes from that project were used to inform this project to build on what had already been achieved and work towards a longer term outcome, for a significantly larger area.

## 2 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AIM

- 2.1 Against this background, the CPA Board approved the project charter for the initiation of an improvement project which aimed to reduce instances of public space youth anti-social behaviour as a result of appropriate and effective interventions in targeted areas by 10% by 2022.
- 2.2 This change was selected due to impact antisocial behaviour has on our communities. The Covid-19 pandemic as this has a significant impact on the number of calls received due to national measures implemented.

## 3 WHAT CHANGES DID WE MAKE?

- 3.1 The project have tested a number of changes, namely:
  - Formulation of a new Community Safety Partnership (CSP) process to address vulnerabilities quicker and one which can track repeated issues. Design and implementation of the Tesco Hub was a joint approach to address a spike in youth disorder in the local area. The Hub remains open and is now a permanent feature in the community, where youths are given the space and support to be creative. The Hub is a permanent change and is seen as the template for implementing similar projects in the City.
  - Close partnership between Police and diversion providers through the Denis Law legacy Trust (DLLT) (Street Sport)
  - Flagging system introduced to report incidents/hotspots and a mechanism for information sharing was introduced
  - ASB letters are sent to youths identified as being involved in disorder.
  - Operation Galaxite was trialled within the City Centre in response to escalating youth disorder within the area.
- 3.2 As well as the above the following changes are being developed at present:
  - Formulation of a new CSP Tactical process where place based concerns are identified in a more specific way and both the issue and underlying causes are to be addressed. This process has been developed, but not yet been implemented. Although not in place, Police have made relationships so that the efficient sharing of data can take place, with Intervention Providers, to take action in the right place.
  - Design of the Northfield Hub is progressing with partners. This will be a permanent structure in the Northfield area for youths to engage in activities to divert them from disorder.
- 3.3 Approval of the recommendation that the project continue with a revised aim will enable the above two changes to be tested and the impact reported on. Further

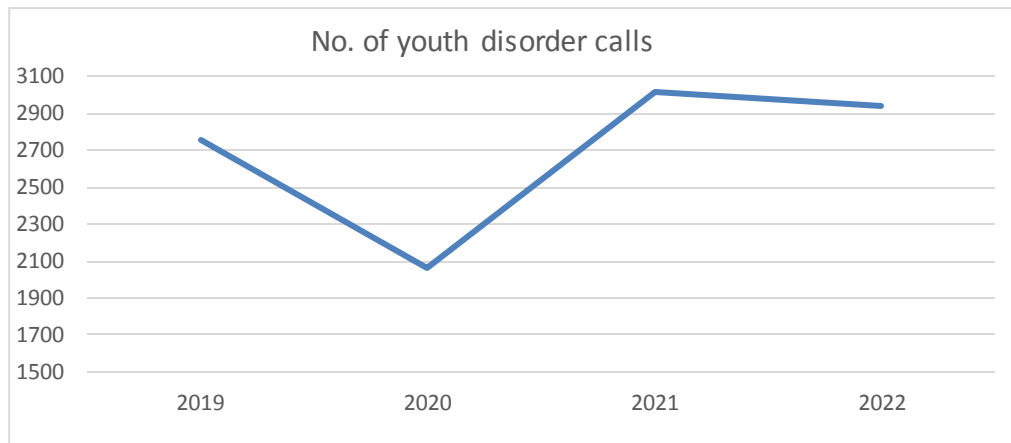
OFFICIAL



changes, including ways to increase availability of and engagement with youth activity, will also be explored.

#### 4 HAVE OUR CHANGES RESULTED IN IMPROVEMENT?

4.1 Whilst the aim has not been achieved, there has been a 2.6% reduction in calls since 2021 and positive outcomes from improvement activity that are reported on. Following the pandemic, and the return to normal life, there was a reduction in youth disorder calls from 2021 to 2022 of 79. The yearly figure totals for Aberdeen City were:



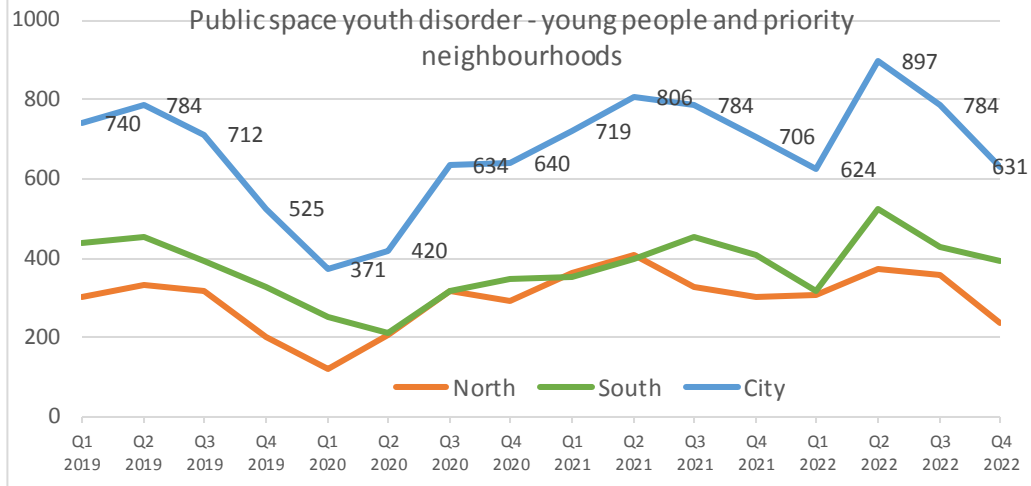
4.2 Following the impact the pandemic had on figures, it was decided to use the 2021 figures as base line data. Although there was a drop in calls between 2021 and 2022, this was not required 10%. There are a number of factors identified that may be linked to the rise in youth disorder since 2019:

1. Tolerance levels were reduced during Covid, with large numbers of regulation breaches being reported. This reduction in tolerance has continued and the public are more likely to report instances of youths gathering, despite them not committing any offences. This is evident through the increase in repeat callers to Police which is assessed to be due to nervousness.
2. Free public transport for youths in Scotland has made it easier for them to travel to different areas of the city. This has been evidenced through work to identify where youths in the City Centre originated from.
3. Following the pandemic, there were less diversionary activities available to youths, such as youth clubs and other clubs etc.

3.3 The changes tested have had positive impacts:

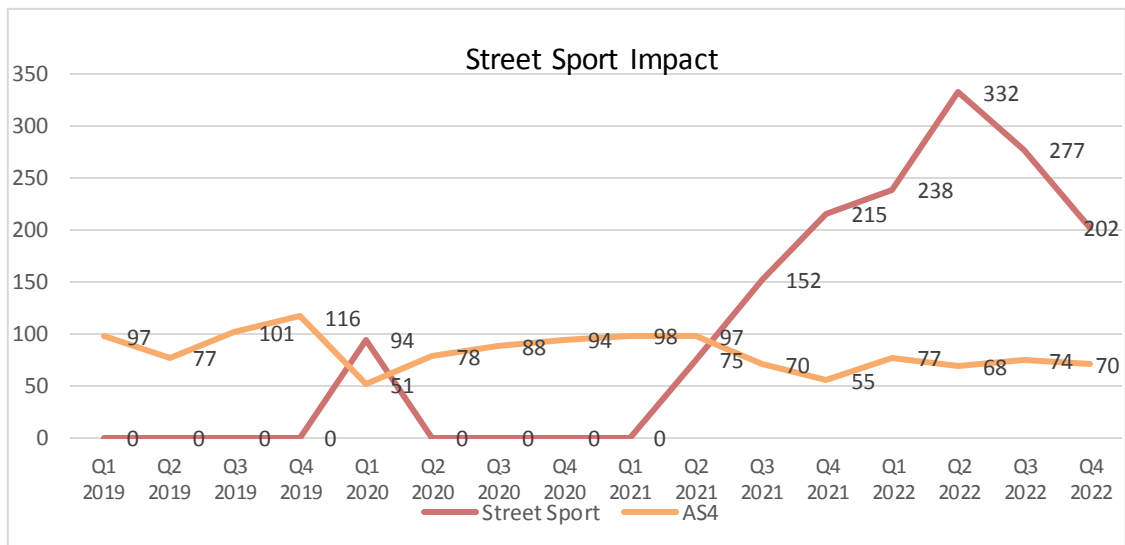
Formulation of a new Community Safety Partnership (CSP) process to address vulnerabilities quicker and one which can track repeated issues.

3.4 This enabled action to be taken to address emerging issues/trends. This will be implemented permanently and will be frequently reviewed and improved where suitable. The chart below shows the number of youth calls received on a quarterly basis from 2019 to 2022. The North/South splits also demonstrate that generally they follow the same trend.



Close partnership between Police and diversion providers through the DLLT (Street Sport)

3.5 This resulted in positive change in response to youth disorder in areas. Data showed that generally when attendance was high at Street Sport sessions, the youth disorder calls in that area reduced. Information sharing has been key in order for Street Sport to deploy to areas where youth disorder calls were rising. This is a permanent change and work will remain ongoing to support DLLT. The chart below shows the number of youth calls in the AS4 (Sheddocksley) area compared to the Street Sport attendance figures for the same time. The chart generally indicates that the higher the attendance, the lower the calls.



Flagging system introduced to report incidents/hotspots and a mechanism for information sharing was introduced.

3.6 All youth calls are reviewed by Police and recorded in order for the data to be analysed. Trends are identified and information is shared with Community Policing Teams and Partners in order for action to be taken at the relevant time and place. This is now a permanent practice.

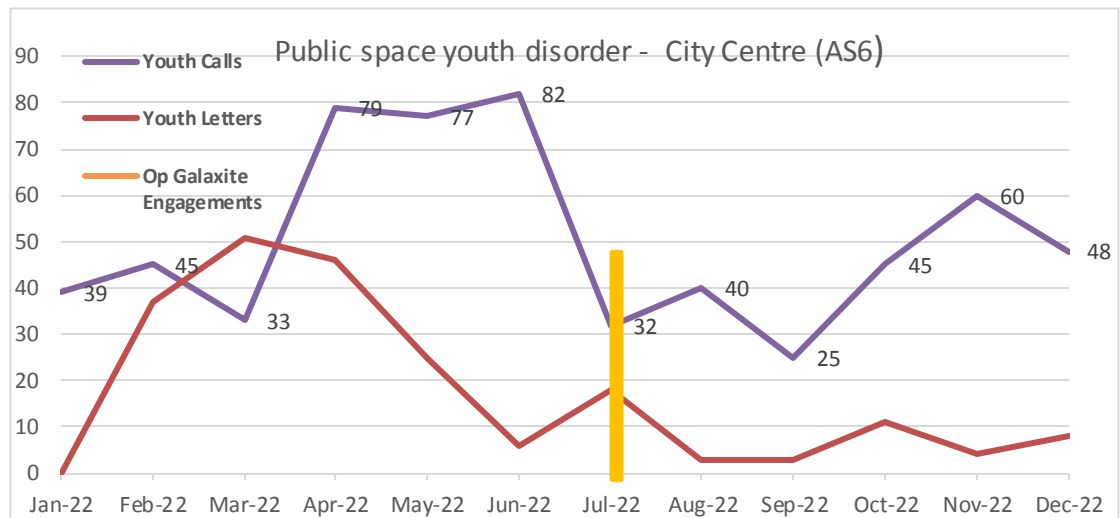
ASB letters are sent to youths identified as being involved in disorder



3.7 These youths are identified via the above flagging system and data is recorded to monitor the involvement each youth has in incidents and which area these incidents occurred. There is an accompanying escalation process should the same youth be involved in multiple incidents. Data showed that generally one letter was enough to halt the youth's involvement in disorder.

Operation Galaxite

3.8 Operation Galaxite was trialled within the City Centre in response to escalating youth disorder within the area. The Operation ran for the month of July in 2022 and 48 positive engagements with youths were recorded and the youth disorder calls for the City Centre was 32. For reference, the month prior to Operation Galaxite, the youth disorder calls were 82. Learning points were taken from this Operation and work is ongoing to implement a long term adaptation of this. The chart below is a snapshot from 2021 to demonstrate the impact Operation Galaxite was found to have in the City Centre area (AS6). Included in the chart are the number of youth ASB letters that were issued during that time which generally shows that the months in which letters were sent out, there was a drop in youth calls.



**5 HOW WILL WE SUSTAIN THESE IMPROVEMENTS?**

5.1 New CSP processes form part of daily and monthly working practices. These processes are subject of reviews and will be altered if improvements are identified.

5.2 The flagging system and ASB letters are a result of call monitoring on a daily basis, which is part of core roles of relevant staff. Proactive work is done to identify youths involved in disorder.

5.3 The work done at the Tesco Hub is recognised as best practice and the introduction of the Northfield Hub is expected to have a positive result on disorder. Through partnership working, it is a shared priority to ensure the longevity of these, and any future Hubs.

5.4 The DLLT is recognised for the difference made with youths. Support will continue to be provided to the DLLT by partners, which include representatives

## OFFICIAL

of Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service being members of the Management Group.

- 5.5 Plans are ongoing to introduce a long term and sustainable version of Operation Galaxite within Aberdeen City Centre. If there is continued success, this template could be implemented in other areas of the City.

### **6 HOW WILL WE MONITOR THESE IMPROVEMENTS?**

- 6.1 The data relating to this charter will continue to be monitored as standard working practice within Partnerships, Preventions & Interventions. Trends will be monitored monthly to identify problem areas and highlight these to the relevant CPTs for plans to be put in place.
- 6.2 Should the recommendations be approved, the data recorded will continue to be monitored and reported to the Children's Services Board, as well as added to the Outcomes Framework/Improvement programme Dashboard to ensure that performance continues.

### **7 OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCALE UP AND SPREAD**

- 7.1 The practices implemented throughout the charter are suitable for tailoring to other areas of business. The core function is ensuring we are aware of call patterns/trends in order to ensure an accurate understanding is held. Thereafter, action can be taken to address issues. This could be letters, highlighting issues to partners via the CSP, or initiating an Operation to directly address the problem.
- 7.2 The impact of youth community activities is evident as described above. Youth community activities such as StreetSport could be spread to other areas of the city and should the aim be revised, this will be actively taken forward through the volunteer led model described in the project end report for aim "Increase by 50% the number of 10 to 16 year olds in target areas of the city who access youth community activity by 2023."

### **Recommendations for Action**

It is recommended that the CPA Management Group:

- i) Acknowledge the positive outcomes achieved to date as a result of the improvement activity and to agree to recommend to the CPA Board on 19 April 2023 that youth anti-social behaviour remained a priority and that the project continue with a revised aim of "Reduce by 15% the number of instances of youth anti-social behaviour calls to Police Scotland by 2025." as proposed within the draft revised Children's Services Plan 2023-26;
- ii) Note that the improvement activity described at 3.2 which has not yet been tested will be taken forward and reported under the revised aim should the proposal be approved; and
- iii) Note the opportunities for scaling up and spread to other areas of the improvements tested to date.

OFFICIAL

**Opportunities and Risks**

Opportunities

- To build a network of volunteers across the city who take responsibility for running community-based youth activities that leads to increased youth participation and reduction in anti-social behaviour
- To adapt SFRS ‘fire setters’ intervention and re-education scheme for different organisations to educate and work towards reducing anti-social behaviour.
- For children and young people to support the development of new and existing youth activities.
- To learn from the successful changes of this project and apply to other offences
- To build an early intervention model of youth work provision that focuses on areas with highest need.

Risks

- Not having the capacity to offer support across the city to volunteers.
- Media reporting stigmatising youths – engagement with communities and opportunities for youths to tell their stories (EG using SHMU FM)
- Resources to successfully implement projects
- Finance to improve environmental matters

**Consultation**

Stretch Outcome 9 Sub Group  
Children’s Services Board

**Background Papers**

The following papers were used in the preparation of this report.

- LOIP 2026-26
- 9.2 Project Charter

Contact details:

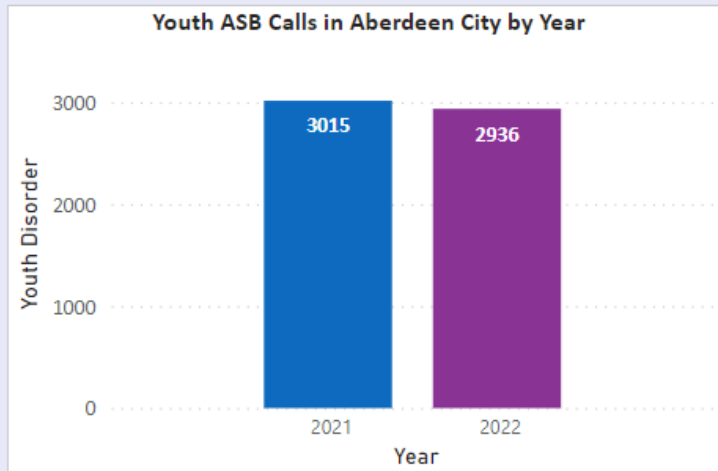
Jordan Walker  
Police Sergeant  
Partnerships, Preventions & Interventions  
Jordan.walker@scotland.police.uk

Appendix C

# Youth ASB Calls Aberdeen City

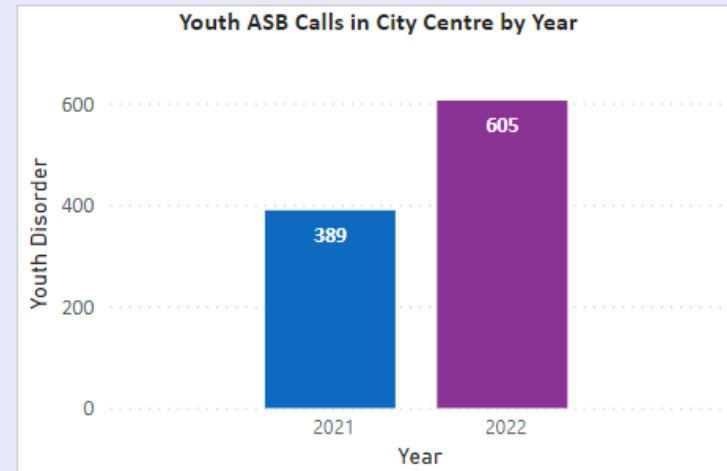
Youth ASB for Aberdeen City all Areas

|              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 2021<br>Year | 3015<br>Youth Disorder |
| 2022<br>Year | 2936<br>Youth Disorder |



Youth ASB for City Centre

|              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| 2021<br>Year | 389<br>Youth Disorder |
| 2022<br>Year | 605<br>Youth Disorder |



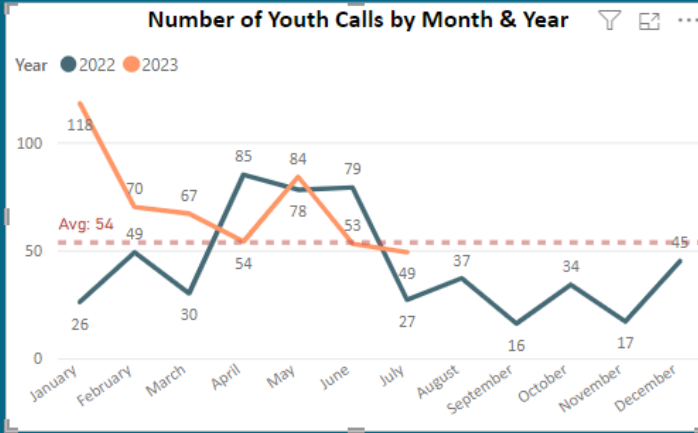
Source: Police Scotland

Appendix D

# Youth ASB - City Centre

Source: Police Scotland

The graph above provides an overview of the call demand across 2022 and 2023 so far. Calls spiked significantly in January 2023 then gradually decreased to April before spiking again in May. Calls have however decreased significantly over last 2 months with a 35% reduction in youth ASB contacts since May 2023.



22 individuals (16%) have been involved/present or loitering on 2 or more occasions of which 5 youths (3.6%) have been involved in 3 incidents. No further letters have been issued in relation to city centre incidents since February.

## Warning Letters Issued

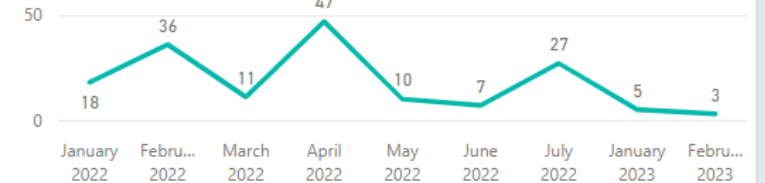
Date of Incident

01/01/2022 30/06/2023

Number of Youths Issued Warning Letters

139

Letters Issued by Month

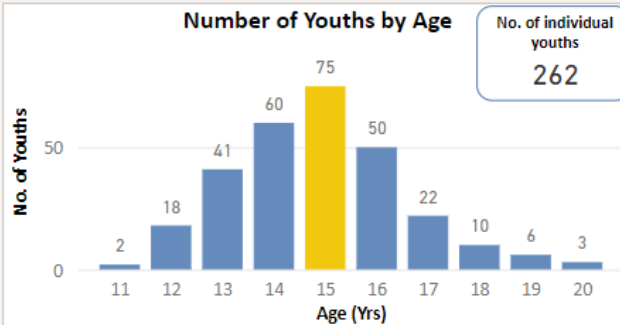


## Number/% of Youths by Home Address Neighbourhood

| Beat Area        | No. of Youths | % of youths |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Outwith Aberdeen | 47            | 18%         |
| Nigg             | 39            | 15%         |
| Northfield       | 29            | 11%         |
| Torry            | 25            | 10%         |
| Mastrick         | 22            | 8%          |
| Bucksburn        | 19            | 7%          |
| Bridge of Don    | 17            | 6%          |
| Tillydrone       | 15            | 6%          |
| Hazlehead        | 12            | 5%          |
| Seaton           | 10            | 4%          |
| West End         | 9             | 3%          |
| Kittybrewster    | 7             | 3%          |
| City Centre      | 4             | 2%          |
| Rosemount        | 3             | 1%          |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>262</b>    | <b>100%</b> |

This is an overview of the youth nominals who have come to police attention based on incidents within city centre from 01/01/2023 - 30/06/2023.

During this period there have been 139 youths who have come to Police attention of those 18% live outwith Aberdeen City. The graph below shows a distribution of the youths by age group highlighting 15 year old's as the most common age.



From 1st March 2023, there have been 91 youth names noted on crime reports of these 17 individuals have been noted on more than 1 crime report.

## Crime Reports

Date of Incident

01/03/2023 30/06/2023

No. of Crime Reports

80

No. of youths by month and if named on crime report (CR)

