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SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Function:</u>	Communities, Housing & Public Protection Committee
<u>Date:</u>	16 May 2024
<u>Title of Update:</u>	City Centre ASB update
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UPDATE:

At the most recent CH&PPC meeting Councillor Graham asked a question about City Centre ASB and I undertook to come back to Councillor Graham, and to the wider Committee. The output document from the meeting recorded the query as the following but I hope I can give yet further context that will be useful to you.

- (i) *to request that Police Scotland feedback to the next meeting of the Committee, with details of the engagement that was previously undertaken with 200 members of the public, to include details on issues that people may require help or assistance with, as well as the new various locations where anti-social behaviour has taken place.*

On 5 September 2023, Police Scotland and the Community Safety Partnership presented a Thematic Report on this topic, to the Committee, within which, analytical data produced by the Community Safety analysts was provided. It was referred to as Appendix D. The report highlights there was Police engagement with 262 young people and identified numbers engaged with as a result of their involvement in criminality, or where a letter was sent to their Parents or Guardians as a result of their presence when ASB had taken place, or participation in ASB that did not amount to a crime.

Our observations were that certain locations saw larger gatherings of young people and therefore, allowed specific targeted work at those locations. These appeared to have become a focal point for young people adding to a perception of ASB at those locations. Within that report, it was highlighted that there had been a significant decrease in youth related ASB calls within Aberdeen City Centre over the period within that report. This downward trend continues which we believe is attributable to engagement with young people and work highlighted within the previous report.

Our observations were also that the majority of the young people coming to our attention had no previous Police contact. It should be noted that the data, both in terms

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of those who were issued with a letter or charged, shows that very few went on to come to Police attention again.

Recognising that we must also address a group of persons who are repeatedly coming to Police attention, additional data has been assessed. During the period 1 April 2023 to 30 March 2024, of the ten people who were assessed as being responsible for the largest volumes of ASB crime, only two were aged under eighteen. It was highlighted within the previous report that issues were far more complex than being ASB alone and of these individuals, all are noted to have had underlying support needs and all of whom were supported by multiple services. Issues being supported included alcohol and substance use in almost all cases for those above the age of eighteen. With that in mind, the existing strategy of involving partner agencies to help address underlying issues remains necessary.

Union Street, Aberdeen as whole, remains the most commonly recorded street in the City Centre for ASB during 2023 to 2024. However, this is owing to the length of the street, ease of identification for callers when reporting issues, and large numbers of licensed premises seeking Police support with ASB issues associated to the night-time economy. Our night-time economy remains extensively Policed using our Weekend Policing plan with continued safety evidenced through the Purple Flag being awarded last year.

The Adelphi features as a repeat location of ASB. However, through our engagement with businesses, a clearer picture of what the issues are has been developed. Issues reported are in the main, associated to persons consuming alcohol or instances where it was believed that persons congregating there were involved in the supply of alcohol or tobacco products to young people. Through our work alongside partners including Trading Standards, our aim has been to deter shops from selling products that may go on to be supplied to young people. Additionally, our high visibility engagement with those congregating there has led to a reduction in issues. However, work continues in support of the local community. Additionally, support agencies have been directed to that area.

Issues previously seen at St Nicholas Street appear to have reduced significantly through the work, as detailed in the previous report, which continues.

I hope this has been of benefit to you, to help understand the developing and continued improving picture associated to City Centre ASB. I am more than happy to talk through anything you need.

Darren Bruce
Chief Inspector

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