



CRIMINAL DAMAGE & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)



Criminal Damage currently accounts for 27 per cent of all crime and 40 per cent of BCS crime. Our baseline for criminal damage reports in 2003/04 was 6,316. Our target for 2007/08 was to have no more than 4,590 reports. By the end of Qtr 4 of 2007/08 there was a fall of 14 per cent in recorded incidents of criminal damage to a figure of 6,391. The figure from 2006/7 was 7,489 recorded incidents - a 14 per cent reduction on this was a huge achievement.

The annual cost of criminal damage to Plymouth is estimated at **£7M**. The most prevalent type of criminal damage is to vehicles. Other types include dwellings, schools (windows) and bus shelters. There is a strong association with young people, anti social behaviour and substance misuse (particularly alcohol).

To address this, the CDRP rolled out a well supported programme of Weeks of Action in 2007/08; a mix of enforcement and community support, these have had huge impacts, not only on incidents of criminal damage, but also on other crime, culminating in a wide range of outcomes for communities.

These have been developed by working with area-based community infrastructure and multi-agency support and have been acknowledged by Vernon Coaker MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime Reduction, as best practice in the South West.

Following all 6 Weeks of Action during 2007/08, meetings were held with participating agencies and members of the community to discuss the success of the week, which overall proved to be a great success both in the short and longer term. Lessons are always learned from each Week of Action.

Each Week of Action was themed around the specific needs and issues existing in the areas such as substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, speeding as examples. In all areas the PACT priorities were addressed as part of the activities. All the areas reported on the improved relations between the local neighbourhood police team and the young people and all expressed an interest in holding another Week of Action. Some of the outcomes included:

- All the areas involved reported on the improved relations between the local neighbourhood police team and the young people and all expressed an interest in repeating the Week of Action
- There was a noticeable increase in feelings of reassurance by residents supported by a reduction in reported crimes in some areas during these weeks compared to previous years.
- There was an increase in the execution of drugs warrants as a result of intelligence during the Weeks of Action.
- There was also an increase in the number of people brought to court as a result of the increased numbers of court warrants being executed.

There is no doubt that visible improvements to the areas as a result of the clean up operations and the increased high visibility police presence for the Weeks of Action further lowered the fear of crime and raised public reassurance in these areas. Certainly, these Weeks of Action have been a great way for the community, individuals, and agencies to maximise and build on opportunities for stronger partnership working and gain a greater understanding of their purpose. Positive letters have been written to the local press from the community praising the enforcement and clean up aspects of the week.

Alongside CDRP Weeks of Action, the Police also run 'Days of Action' and there is an ambition to deliver these in a more multi-agency way in the future.

Plymouth Youth Service in partnership with the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and Connexions were successful in the bidding process to bring a Challenge and Support Project to Plymouth. Funding has been secured to deliver the project over a three year period between 2008/9 – 2010/11. The project will build on existing provision such as Plymouth Family Intervention Project, Runaways Project and Youth Inclusion Support and Panel, and will complement and help deliver targeted youth support reforms in localities.

A shared database UMIS (Universal Management Information System) is currently being developed to join up five key projects: the Challenging and Support Team, the Runaways project, Family Intervention Project, Anti Social Behaviour Unit and Youth Offending Service's YISP/YIP to coordinate a more joined up response to those young people identified as causing concern.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

Between August 2006 and July 2007 a total of 25,150 incidences of anti-social behaviour were logged by the police: an average of 2,096 per month. Levels vary seasonally, with more incidents in the summer than during the winter months reflecting, for example, the social/school calendar, the weather and length of day.

The level of anti-social behaviour in Plymouth has fallen between 2006 and 2007 and has generally been stable during 2007, averaging around 2,000 incidents per month but remains a high priority for communities. The count for the months of August 2006 to July 2007 was 15 per cent lower than for the corresponding period twelve months earlier.

Initiatives such as 'Together Action' encouraged reporting of anti-social behaviour incidences and this was thought to have contributed to the rise in logged anti-social behaviour incidents in 2006.

The work of the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) is directed toward the more disruptive and destructive types of anti-social behaviour. Between January 2004 and November 2007 the following were undertaken:

- 170 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- 32 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders
- 22 Drug Den closures
- 33 Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions
- 80 CRASBOs¹

The Police and Plymouth City Council Environmental Services also deal with many incidences of anti-social behaviour through their normal work.

A citywide Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy is under development. The Anti-Social Behaviour Unit has created a tasking process to deploy Police and Partner resources to tackle current and emerging disorder problems. This process runs every two weeks and is co-ordinated with the Police tasking process.

The Police currently hold fortnightly 'Tasking and Performance' meetings based on the National Intelligence Model, which incorporates key partner contributors to allocate resources to fight crime and disorder. Work will be done to develop and more closely align the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and Tasking process.

¹ CRASBO – Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

Plymouth Young Runaways Project, now the Missing Person Support Team, achieved a 29 per cent reduction in running away during the first 12 months of operation. The Multi-Agency team works using the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Assessment Tool², and directs all its work from this model. The availability of partners' information IT in one place has greatly enhanced the information sharing capability of the professionals and the service to clients, who rate the team as good or very good in service delivery.

Diversions Activity:

The council has started some work to review how mainstream sport and leisure provision can be directed towards hotspots where anti-social behaviour features most prominently.

Plymouth Argyle has been working closely with the delivery group to deliver football initiatives in areas identified as suffering high rates of Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour these include 'Kickz Project' (where Plymouth Argyle have received Football Foundation funding in response to their good partnership working), 'Onside Project' and 'Strike It Out' working with Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service. A neighbourhood boxing initiative has been launched in the West of the city which is jointly run by the Community, the Police and the Fire and Rescue Service.

Last year a very successful multi agency Bonfire campaign was run which resulted in a 39 per cent reduction in illegal fires, 66 less call outs for the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and a 24 per cent reduction in firework complaints. It is anticipated this will be run in future years.

This builds on successful initiatives already under way e.g. youth activities at the Mayflower Sports Centre held at times when anti-social behaviour is most likely to occur. Plymouth is also taking part in an Audit Commission National Study in to Youth Sport, Leisure and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Extended Services is one of the delivery mechanisms for the government's Every Child Matters agenda. The intention is to enable children and young people to become healthier, wealthier and safer, to belong and to learn. Extended Services develops and delivers a five-part core offer around: childcare; parenting support; community access to facilities and services; a varied menu of learning activities, including study support; and swift and easy access to a range of specialist services. To achieve this, schools work with a wide range of partner agencies and organisations, both on and off school sites. This involves agencies and organisations from the public, private and third sectors teaming up and collaborating effectively. Extended Services plays a vital role in helping to join the services up in order to best meet identified needs. Plymouth has a team of Extended Services Coordinators, corresponding to the City's six localities.

The Families Intervention Project commenced in May 2007 with the primary aim being to support and challenge families to reduce their anti-social/criminal behaviour, risk of homelessness and restore safety to their lives, their homes and to the wider community. To be eligible for assistance from the Project, families should normally meet one or more of the

² The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a key component in the Every Child Matters Change for Children programme. The aim is to identify, at the earliest opportunity, a child's or young person's additional needs which are not being met by the universal services they are receiving, and provide timely and coordinated support to meet those needs.

following criteria; (a) they are involved in high risk (dangerous, abusive or reckless) anti-social or criminal behaviour or; (b) they are at high risk of losing their home (or have already lost their home) because of their anti-social/criminal behaviour.

Plymouth now has 87 Police Community Support Officers. Their role is to be the 'eyes and ears' of the community and work on the underlying problems behind anti-social behaviour. They work with the young people both in and out of schools. They have created diversionary activities for young people, including football, boxing, and street-dancing along with many others.

There are close links between the Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage Delivery Plan and a wide range of other delivery plans, in particular Families and Young People.