

Appendix 1 Community Safety ASB Case Studies

Case Study 1

This case was brought to the Community Safety Team (CST) when the victim felt they had exhausted all efforts of intervention from the Police and external partners. This case was referred to Barnet Community Safety Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CS MARAC) due to the severity of the risk involved.

The persistent anti-social behaviour caused by a neighbouring couple had been causing issues within the immediate local community for over two years including issues of domestic abuse and child welfare concerns. This conduct had been affecting many of the neighbours and had prompted a local petition to have the couple removed.

This case was deemed complex in that the main victim did not wish to give evidence because of the fear of repercussions from the neighbouring family. The anti-social behaviour has been reported on multiple occasions to the landlord, the police and then to the council's CST.

After conducting an initial investigation review it was established that issues reported included verbal (racial) and physical abuse to the victim; multiple criminal damage incidents, vandalism, and fly tipping incidents to the victims' property, forcing entry to the property, persistent trespassing and allowing dog fouling on the victim's property. Consistent ASB noise disturbances caused by internal domestic arguments and general anti-social behaviour.

Following further incidents of harassment, and threatening behaviour that kept escalating, the victim disclosed that these issues were affecting their health and wellbeing both physically and mentally. The victim confirmed because the frequency of the behaviour was escalating, and the support and reassurance CST had provided them with, they were now willing to support our ongoing investigation.

Additional measures were implemented by CST, which included formal statements being taken from witnesses and evidence being exhibited; these were taken over the phone and through mail with frequent welfare calls being carried out with the victim to ensure their safety was not being put at risk.

Alternative lower-level interventions were considered but rejected due to the serious and persistent nature of the anti-social behaviour, therefore a closure order by the council was implemented. The victim was also referred by CST to Victim Support services and utilised the service successfully.

Final Outcome:

Closure notice was served on the perpetrators address within less than a month of CST being aware of the situation at the property. The perpetrators did not attend the court hearing. As a result of further direct intervention by CST with Barnet Homes Housing Options team, the perpetrators were relocated to another address outside of the borough as a final chance to maintain their accommodation rather than face eviction.

The victim had been considering having to move however, since the action was taken, they have now chosen to remain in their family home. CST liaised with the landlord of the perpetrators and arranged to have the victim's garden cleared from the damage and waste caused by the perpetrators.

The follow up victim support welfare visit was made by the lead officers from CST and the victim confirmed they were very grateful for Barnet Council's assistance and professionalism throughout the case and confirmed that their faith has been restored in the Council and other agencies.

ASB Case Study 2

This case was brought to the Community Safety Team (CST) after the victims felt they had exhausted all efforts with intervention by the Police and appropriate Housing Association regarding antisocial behaviour (ASB). A task and finish group (TAFG) meeting with relevant partners was held where we discussed case progression and pathways towards enforcement, to address the ASB perpetrators and how to offer support to the victims of ASB.

Following the TAFG, CST were made aware of alleged drug consumption, ASB, and nuisance arising from two residents at separate addresses within a block of flats whilst at one property in the block. The complaints evolved over time ranging from drugs, noise nuisance, aggressive behaviours, and repeated breaking of the communal doorway.

CST began with a letter of engagement to the residents in the block coupled with door-to-door enquiries. The aim being to encourage residents to report incidents to the council and explain that we were gathering evidence to progress towards enforcement against ASB within the block. As a result, the team took two witness statements from supporting residents and issued a Community Protection Notice Warning to the perpetrators. Unfortunately, that did not have the desired effect, so CST obtained further statements and issued a Community Protection Notice to the two residents committing ASB at one of the properties. No appeals were received against the notices.

Further complaints were received, and the incident began to escalate again; including the use of a sharp instrument in the communal hallway and soon after a drug-related death occurred in respect of a visiting guest associated with the ASB property and tenants.

The matter was then put forward for the properties to be closed to prevent further ASB and allow victim respite. Witnesses requested to remain anonymous and were afraid of reprisal at this stage, a core witness fully withdrew their support with statements. CST pursued and secured four statements from residents.

CST worked closely with the Police ASB team for the closure on the two properties and a partial closure of the communal area to restrict persons that do not live at the address from entering. A 24-hour closure notice was placed on the properties and communal doorway by policing teams. At the court hearing CST and Policing ASB team presented the evidence. A closure order for two properties and a partial closure preventing any person who did not live at the address from entering the communal area for 3 months was granted.

The Team updated the victims and residents while the police arranged boarding/securing of the properties. The defendants were handed information relating to housing advice and rehoused in temporary accommodation.

Final Outcome

The defendants subsequently gave up their tenancy and have been moved away from the locality.

The victims were extremely pleased with the result and highlighted that the **difference is life changing as they no longer had to live in fear**. Although they expressed concern that an extension to the closure, injunction or ASB Tenancy eviction may be needed to secure a long-term positive outcome.

Overall, this case is a prime example of how effective teamwork within Barnet Council and partnering between the Community Safety Team and local Police can help to combat ASB in the community and achieve beneficial outcomes for local residents affected by crime and ASB.

ASB Case Study 3

This case was referred to the Community Safety Team as a resident complaint where they reported issues including a group of people gathering outside the address engaging in ASB, resident intimidation, fly-tipping, drug dealing, gang related activities and other environmental crimes.

The managing agents and residents complained to the council that a Bank, who was responsible for the location where the incidents were happening (car park), had not done anything to try to resolve the reported issues.

Once referred to the council, the Community Safety Team went to the site to investigate the allegations and found evidence of class A drugs on the site. The car park was not well maintained, and the barrier was open. Due to this people were gathering around, sitting on the wall of the car park and partaking in anti-social behaviour. Once we had fully checked the area, we informed the police of the suspected Class A drugs located on the site and an enquiry was sent to the facilities manager of the bank.

A meeting was then scheduled to follow up on correspondence that had been received from the Bank's facilities department, advising that planning permission had been applied for to make changes to the parking area. The Bank accepted responsibility to secure the site and wanted to work in partnership to secure the neighbouring area.

A Task and Finish Group meeting took place, and the following actions were agreed by the Bank, Police and Community Safety Team:

1. To conduct regular checks of the premises in Hi-Viz and Control the barrier.
2. Discourage non-residents from gathering at the entrance of the premises.
3. Keep the area clean and secure until your proposed planning work is complete.
4. Report any ASB activities observed or suspicious people to the police by dialling '999/101'.
5. Joint Patrols by SNT and CST regularly.

Final Outcome

The Bank confirmed that there will be an on-site guard that will regularly patrol the car park during the day and regular patrols in the evening by guards who will be driving in a marked van. They also confirmed that signage had been installed and they had further signage on order for the whole site. They fixed the control barrier so that it remained closed and could not be bypassed. They agreed for lighting to be installed above the car park, to increase the visibility of the area. They also noted that they had applied for full planning permission to construct a fence around the car park.

The planning application to install the fence was granted in December 2022 and since it was erected, CST haven't received any further complaints or reports of anti-social behaviour. The police safer neighbourhoods team have also conducted site visits to monitor activity.