

Appendix C: ASB complex case studies

Case Study 1:

Barnet Council's first premises closure order

This case involved a persistent long-term problem household and had been reported on multiple occasions to the police and council for anti-social behaviour. The issues were exacerbated in that the property was a private letting and the managing agents of the property were unwilling to affect any meaningful interventions to protect the neighbours from the persistent ASB at the address.

The case was referred to the Community Safety Team for investigation and after conducting an initial investigation it was established that there were a range of issues including noise nuisance, drug-taking, handling of stolen goods, intimidation and aggression by the occupants towards other residents and their children.

After securing evidence by way of impact witness statements from the affected residents, the Community Safety Team issued Community Protection Notice Warnings upon the perpetrators. When these were reported as being breached, statements were again taken and full Community Protection Notices were served on the household and their guests identified as being involved in the ASB.

Final outcome

The Community Protection Notices were also breached, so the Council applied to the courts for a premises closure order. During the closure order the landlord received no payment for rent and this resulted in the tenant surrendering their tenancy.

One person involved has subsequently been subject to a custodial sentence and a 5-year Criminal Behaviour Order has been imposed upon them.

This was the first time the Council (rather than the police) had exercised this ASB power on a residential property and moreover, upon a privately owned residential premises.

Case Study 2:

Complex neighbour and family ASB

This case was referred to the Community Safety Team for a case review by the local Police and Barnet Homes and was referred to Barnet Community Safety Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CS MARAC).

This persistent anti-social behaviour case involved a family composition of two parents and their son who was under 18 when the issues were initially reported to the Council, Police and Barnet Homes.

This case was deemed complex in that the main victim did not wish to give evidence directly or indirectly for the fear of repercussions from the family. The anti-social behaviour was reported on multiple occasions over a sustained period of 2 years to Barnet Homes, the police and then to the council.

After conducting an initial investigation review it was established that there were a wide range of issues that had been reportedly used to target the victims; including dog fouling, a moped belonging to the alleged problematic household blocking the footpath and noise disturbance that went on into the late night/early morning, caused by online gaming and domestic

arguments. These arguments were reported to involve the use of physical violence and foul language.,

Allegations of illicit substances being used at the property, including smoking cannabis were also reported, along with the smell of the cannabis smoke entering the affected neighbour's home.

Following further incidents of domestic disturbances involving the father and son, the victim disclosed that these issues were affecting their health and as they believed the violence was escalating, they were now willing to attend Court. At this stage, the young male had just turned 18 years of age.

Referrals to the Domestic Abuse MARAC and MASH were made as this home situation had deteriorated into one of parental and child led domestic abuse, mainly by the males in the household.

Additional measures were implemented by the Community Safety Team, Barnet Homes and the local Police Team which included new witness statements from the affected residents being taken in a safe environment. The Community Safety Team then issued Community Protection Notice Written Warnings (CPNWs) upon the occupants of the problem household.

When the CPNWs were reported as being breached, statements were again taken by the Community Safety Team resulting in full Community Protection Notices being served on the occupants of the problem household.

The Community Protection Notices were reported as breached and therefore a closure order was pursued to end the persistent anti-social behaviour by this family.

Final outcome

A full premises closure order was granted by the court for this address and the occupants were removed.

The parents were relocated and rehoused away from the son and the son was accommodated in a new premises with support being provided for his personal health and wellbeing.