



Subject: Early Intervention ASB Officer

Originator: Community Safety Officer

Decision no. 35/2024

Reason for submission: For decision

Submitted to: PCC

Summary:

1. The Safer Norfolk Plan is the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership's plan to respond to community safety issues in Norfolk. It identified neighbourhood crime, including anti-social behaviour (ASB), as a priority for the county. It acknowledges the impact of ASB on feelings of safety within the community.
2. The delivery of this ambitious plan across all seven districts in the county will be supported by a £500k budget. This funding is being provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk to facilitate delivery against this plan. The members of the NCCSP will work collaboratively to utilise existing resources and bring in extra funding to support the aims of the strategy.
3. A key principle within the public health model is testing interventions and then scaling up those which are effective. Much of the response to ASB is reactive when certain thresholds are met. South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils wanted to test responding to ASB complaints earlier and how it will impact complainant satisfaction and levels of ASB in the localities. This funding is provided to test this intervention approach and measure its impact. It will enable employment of an Early Intervention ASB Officer, covering both council areas. The deliverables are set out in greater detail in section 1.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner grant funds South Norfolk and Broadland Councils £31,500 to enable testing of the Early Intervention ASB Officer model.

Outcome/approval by: PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature: 

Date: 23/05/2023

Detail of the submission

1. Objective:

- 1.1 The Early Intervention Anti-Social Behaviour Officer pilot service will employ an Early Intervention Anti-Social Behaviour Officer from April 2023 to March 2024, work individually and alongside a range of professional officers, to:
- a. Gather more early intelligence, identify and tackle root causes of anti-social behaviour in the Councils' Regulatory services, in order to produce long-term improvements in neighbour relations and community safety.
 - b. Increase the capacity and drive, speed and impact, of the Councils' service by taking an early intervention approach to anti-social behaviour and environmental offending.
 - c. Offer stronger visibility and community reassurance.
 - d. Detect better and earlier any wider victimisation, vulnerability and support needs, and safeguarding issues.
 - e. Optimise the deterrence, investigation and enforcement of anti-social behaviour (within the Council's remit) where offences have been committed causing harassment, alarm, distress or environmental harm.
 - f. Test the scope for stronger coordination of responses and tactics for dealing with significant ongoing anti-social behaviour issues and incidents, operating (within the Councils' remit) closely alongside Norfolk Constabulary as a key regulatory partner.

2. Background:

- 2.1 Nationally, the government has developed the ASB Action Plan, which identifies prevention and early intervention as an area for action. It highlights how if low level offending is left unchecked, it can escalate into more serious behaviours, causing further harm to communities.
- 2.2 The Safer Norfolk Plan is the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership's plan to respond to community safety issues in Norfolk. It identified neighbourhood crime, including anti-social behaviour (ASB), as a priority for the county. It acknowledges the impact of ASB on feelings of safety within the community.
- 2.3 The plan states local residents want to live without fear of being the victim of crime in their neighbourhood. Some neighbourhoods are more affected by

neighbourhood crimes than others. The partnership will work together to tackle neighbourhood crime in these areas.

- 2.4 The delivery of this ambitious plan across all seven districts in the county will be supported by a £500k budget. This funding is being provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk to facilitate delivery against this plan. The members of the NCCSP will work collaboratively to utilise existing resources and bring in extra funding to support the aims of the strategy.
- 2.5 The NCCSP will strengthen its response to community safety locally. To do this it will deliver its plan using an evidence led approach, with the Public Health Model of prevention at its heart.
- 2.6 A key principle within the public health model is testing interventions and then scaling up those which are effective. South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils wanted to test responding to ASB complaints earlier and how it will impact complainant satisfaction and levels of ASB in the localities. This funding is provided to test this intervention approach and measure its impact. It will enable employment of an Early Intervention ASB Officer, covering both council areas. The deliverables are set out in greater detail in section 1.
- 2.7 The Early Intervention Anti-Social Behaviour Officer pilot was designed to offer an inexpensive and beneficial extension of the existing Community Protection service which deals with neighbour nuisance, anti-social behaviour and environmental offending.
- 2.8 The pilot service is offered:
 1. In qualifying cases for reported anti-social behaviour and neighbour problems that meet the Council's threshold acceptance tests:
 1. The reported problem is within the Council's jurisdiction as the lead agency.
 2. It is potentially significant and actionable.
 3. There is no prior history of complaint or enforcement.
 4. When an early intervention service approach is offered, the customer actively chooses it.
 2. In cases of reported environmental offending, where a rapid response offers community visibility and reassurance, and optimises evidence gathering.
 3. In 'patrol mode' to keep an eye proactively on hot spot locations of reported fly tipping or dog fouling, to maximise detection and dealing with suspected offenders.

4. In tactical coordinated responses to significant incidents such as vehicle-related nuisance.

2.9 The Council's Community Protection service has been under heavy demand and a substantial increase in service demand across both South Norfolk and Broadland districts. Some of this in 2020/21 (40% rise in demand) and 2021/22 (39% rise in demand) was due to the special circumstances arising during the Covid-19 pandemic. There was, however, a continuing high service demand in 2022/23 running over 8% above previous annual levels and in the service's peak demand month of August last year demand was running 70% higher than it did four years ago.

2.10 The pilot service corresponds with the Council's strategic aims for 'Supporting individuals and empowering communities' and 'Protecting and improving the natural and built environment, whilst maximising quality of life'. In the Delivery Plan 2022/23 – 2023/24 it forms the specific commitment Q1: 'Robust and dynamic antisocial behaviour rapid response and early intervention service to maximise community safety and public reassurance' with the intended outcomes:

1. Swift response
2. Rapid solution
3. High impact
4. Low re-occurrence

3. Areas for consideration:

3.1 The funding utilised for this intervention comes from OPCCN budget that is dedicated to delivering the Safer Norfolk Plan.

3.2 This funding is agreed to be one-off funding to pilot an approach for the financial year 2023/24.

4. Other options considered:

4.1 Do nothing: this innovative intervention would not be tested, depriving the Community Safety Partnership of valuable learning.

4.2 Funding this innovative project is the preferred option as it will provide valuable learning.

5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

5.1 The Police, Crime and Community Safety Plan is supported by this intervention:

- a. Prevent Offending
 - i. Work in partnership to ensure offenders are managed effectively in the community
 - ii. Strengthen early intervention and preventative approaches to crime in the county and reduce first time entrants into criminal justice
- b. Support Victims
 - i. Safeguarding vulnerable victims of crime and ASB
- c. Safer and Stronger Communities
 - i. Working with partners and communities to prevent crime and harm
 - ii. Early identification and diversion to the appropriate agencies for those suffering with mental health issues
 - iii. Promote crime prevention initiatives

5.2 This intervention directly contributes to the delivery of the Safer Norfolk Plan by delivering on the strategic theme of Tackling and Reducing Neighbourhood Crime:

- a. Short-term outcomes:
 - i. Improve partnership place-based understanding of neighbourhood crime to enable the better targeting of Norfolk's hotspots
- b. Intermediate outcomes:
 - i. Preventative, supportive and rehabilitative interventions in place at primary, secondary, and tertiary population levels

6. Financial and other resource implications:

6.1 To deliver the intervention the OPCCN will grant fund South Norfolk and Broadland councils a total of £31,500 in the Financial year 2023/24

7. Carbon Emissions and Other Environmental Implications:

Carbon Emissions

7.1 The estimated impact on our carbon emissions that must be reported under current statute from this proposal is:

Emission Categories:	Increase in tCO ₂	Saving in tCO ₂
Scope 1 – Fuel – Building Heating	0	0
Scope 1 – Fuel – Transport	0	0
Scope 2 – Electricity	0	0

Environmental Implications

7.2 No material implications

8. Other implications and risks:

8.1 None identified.

Originator checklist (must be completed)	Please state 'yes' or 'no'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	Yes
Have sustainability and environmental factors been considered? (e.g. biodiversity, employee commuting, business travel, waste and recycling, water, air quality, food and catering and estates construction)	Yes
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	Yes

Is this report a Confidential Decision?

No

If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the [PCC Decision Making Policy](#)
Approval to submit to the decision-maker (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.



Signature:

Date: 21/03/2024

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,
Or
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,
Or
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves
And
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signature:



Date: 25/03/2024

Public access to information: *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*

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