

## **S5. Report of the Anti-social Behaviour Scrutiny Panel**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting the report and recommendations of the scrutiny panel's review of Anti-social Behaviour.

A scrutiny panel, comprising the Depute Provost and Councillors Binnie, Blackwood (convener) and Grant, had undertaken a review of Anti-social Behaviour between October 2018 and February 2019. The report by the panel, and its findings, were set out in the appendix to the report.

The convener of the panel, Councillor Blackwood, summarised the work of the panel and thanked members, officers and stakeholders for their contribution to the panel's work.

Councillor Blackwood moved that the committee agrees the recommendations of the panel:-

1. The panel commends the good partnership working in place by all agencies in addressing Anti-social Behaviour and encourage this to continue and be built upon as opportunities arise;
2. Services should actively seek to engage with young people out with community facilities and through methods which suit young people;
3. Guidance should be provided for Councillors to assist in dealing with complaints relating to Anti-social Behaviour, including best practice regarding mediation, mental health training and how to have challenging conversations;
4. Requests that the Housing Allocations Scrutiny Panel includes in its work plan consideration of the link between allocations and perceived Anti-social Behaviour.

The committee discussed the panel's findings. In particular the committee welcomed the panel's recommendation that the scrutiny panel which will consider Housing Allocations, consider the link between allocations and perceived Anti-social Behaviour, and gave examples of Anti-social Behaviour. Members also welcomed the panel's recommendations that guidance should be provided to elected members to assist in dealing with complaints in regard to Anti-social Behaviour, particularly in regard to having challenging conversations.

Councillor Coleman commended the work of the panel. In praising the panel's findings he proposed the following amendment which expanded the terms of the motion:-

1. The panel commends the good partnership working in place by all agencies in addressing Anti-social Behaviour and encourage this to continue and be built upon as opportunities arise. Services should

actively engage with communities when activity has been reported, being proactive rather than reactive, Services should work in partnership with other Councils ensuring that proven good practice on Anti-social Behaviour is shared and routinely updated;

2. Services should actively seek to engage with all individuals out with community facilities giving particular consideration young people, elderly isolated people, those with recognised substance abuse issues, and those with recognised mental health issues and through methods which, best suit them;
3. Services should review the support offered to victims of Anti-social Behaviour, whether the victim be directly or indirectly affected by Anti-social Behaviour or whether the victim be the recipient of vexatious Anti-social Behaviour complaints against them;
4. Guidance should be provided for Councillors to assist in dealing with complaints relating to Anti-social Behaviour, including best practice regarding mediation, mental health training and how to have challenging conversations, the Council also recognises the role of local members in issues relating to Anti-social Behaviour as legitimate advocates on behalf of constituents. The Council must recognise the role of the elected member and the expectations on the elected member of the general public;
5. Requests that the Housing Allocations Scrutiny Panel includes in its work plan consideration of the link between allocations and perceived Anti-social Behaviour, thus giving us a more rounded approach to dealing with Anti-social Behaviour from a specific service delivery point.;
6. Council though recognising the complex nature of Anti-social Behaviour ensures that collective and holistic approach is taken to information given to Councillors to enable them to assess situations correctly while being mindful that all Councillors are Registered Data Controllers, with the Information Commissioner's Office and doing so within the parameter of GDPR and potential future legislation relating to data protection.

The committee adjourned, at 10.00 a.m. to allow members the opportunity to consider the proposed amendment and reconvened at 10.15 a.m. with all members present.

With the consent of convener, Councillor Blackwood agreed to withdraw his proposed motion provided that, in addition to the terms of the amendment the committee request an update report, in 6 months time, on the implementation of the panel's findings.

## **Decision**

**The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel, as further expanded and set out below:-**

- (1) The panel commends the good partnership working in place by all agencies in addressing Anti-social Behaviour and encourage this to continue and be built upon as opportunities arise. Services should actively engage with communities when activity has been reported, being proactive rather than reactive, Services should work in partnership with other Councils ensuring that proven good practice on Anti-social Behaviour- is shared and routinely updated;**
- (2) Services should actively seek to engage with all individuals out with community facilities giving particular consideration young people, elderly isolated people, those with recognised substance abuse issues, and those with recognised mental health issues and through methods which, best suit them;**
- (3) Services should review the support offered to victims of Anti-social Behaviour, whether the victim be directly or indirectly affected Anti-social Behaviour or whether the victim be the recipient of vexatious Anti-social Behaviour complaints against them;**
- (4) Guidance should be provided for Councillors to assist in dealing with complaints relating to Anti-social Behaviour, including best practice regarding mediation, mental health training and how to have challenging conversations, the Council also recognises the role of local members in issues relating to Anti-social Behaviour as legitimate advocates on behalf of constituents. The Council must recognise the role of the elected member and the expectations on the elected member of the general public;**
- (5) Requests that the Housing Allocations Scrutiny Panel includes in its work plan consideration of the link between allocations and perceived Anti-social Behaviour, thus giving us a more rounded approach to dealing with Anti-social Behaviour from a specific service delivery point.;**
- (6) Council though recognising the complex nature of Anti-social Behaviour ensures that collective and holistic approach is taken to information given to Councillors to enable them to assess situations correctly while being mindful that all Councillors are Registered Data Controllers, with the Information Commissioner's Office and doing so within the parameter of GDPR and potential future legislation relating to data protection.**
- (7) The committee requested an update report on implementation of the recommendations in six months.**