

HOUSING MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Agenda Item 56

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Minimum standards for responding to reported anti-social behaviour		
Date of Meeting:	8th November 2010		
Report of:	Strategic Director, Place		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Helen Clarkmead	Tel: 293271
	E-mail:	Helen.clarkmead@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Home Office has set out new guidance promoting a consistent, victim and witness focused approach around responding to reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- 1.2 The attached minimum standards have been agreed on a multi agency basis, including by Housing Management and Housing Strategy, Sussex Police and the Anti Social Behaviour Casework team. These were formally adopted in October 2010.
- 1.3 These standards incorporate the views and feedback that we have gathered from tenants to date. Our response to tackling anti-social behaviour will be developed further with tenants through the Anti-social behaviour focus group and Local Offer for Anti-social behaviour.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) HMCC is asked to note the Home Office minimum standards.
- (2) That HMCC refer this report to the ASB tenant working group to further develop and enhance this area of service.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The attached minimum standards, agreed on a multi agency basis, will provide a victim and witness focused, consistent response to reported anti-social behaviour.

- 3.2 Within Housing Management, anti-social behaviour is initially reported through Housing Management Advisors, although on occasion it may be Reported to Community Wardens or Housing Officers.
- 3.3 Most anti-social behaviour is resolved at a low level by tenancy Management staff, with specialist advice and support from the specialist Anti-Social Behaviour Housing Officers in the Social Inclusion Team.
- 3.4 The Anti-social Behaviour Housing Officer Team, enhanced as part of the Turning the Tide pilot, deals with the most serious and complex cases of ASB. The purpose of the team is to bring an end to anti-social behaviour as quickly as possible and to protect and support victims, witnesses and the community.

The team seeks to work with the perpetrator to permanently change their behaviour by addressing personal factors or support issues which contribute to the acts of ASB and in so doing, if possible, to avoid eviction action.

The team culture and work practices are clear: the needs of the community outweigh the needs of the individual we strive to ensure that acts of nuisance are not tolerated but are challenged and prompt enforcement and support actions put in place to deal with the situation.

The Team work in a persistent and assertive approach taking hold of the problem and dynamically pushing for behaviour change. There is progressive case management with targets for change and time limited interventions. The Team ensure a multi agency partnership approach and that there is a coordinated and consistent approach City wide to dealing with ASB.

- 3.5 Recent successes include:

Female harassing and bullying tenants. Injunction and sentenced to imprisonment for two months and costs of £862

Serious noise nuisance – two evictions involving close joint working with Environmental Health

ASBO on conviction – obtained on two addressees. Both breached. One tenant sentenced to 18 months , one tenant held on remand awaiting trial.

Serious drink related ASB – four cases. In three cases action has led to a reduction in complaints in excess of 90%. In one case eviction action.

Drug Dealing and Very Serious Noise Nuisance – two closure orders obtained.

Feedback from 12 customers who used the services of the Anti-social Behaviour in the first quarter 2010 and evaluated their experience showed that 70% were satisfied of which almost 50% were very satisfied.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 HMCC is asked to note the attached minimum standards

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 There are no direct financial implications from the recommendations within this report. The cost of operating the minimum standards by Housing Management will be met within the existing Housing Revenue Account Budget.

Finance Officer Consulted: Susie Allen

Date: 08/09/10

Legal Implications:

5.2 As the report is for noting only, there are no significant legal implications to consider. However, the new minimum standards will standardise the reporting of ASB cases, which in turn will assist in the preparation of such cases for court

Lawyer Consulted:

Liz Woodley

Date: 08/09/2010

Equalities Implications:

5.3 The minimum standards are designed to provide additional, tailored, support to more vulnerable victims and witnesses.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 There are none

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 The minimum standards will ensure a consistent and high quality response to reported anti social behaviour citywide.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 The minimum standards will ensure a consistent and high quality response to reported anti social behaviour citywide.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 The minimum standards will ensure a consistent and high quality response to reported anti social behaviour citywide.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Minimum standards for response to reports of anti social behaviour

Documents in Members' Rooms

None.

Background Documents

None