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**Anti-Social Behaviour – Briefing for Children’s Social Care**

**November 2023**

**Partnership working:**

Crime, Disorder, and Anti-Social Behaviour is tackled in every local district and borough area by Community Safety Partnerships. These partnerships are made up of a wide variety of organisations all working together to make Surrey a safer place, including: - Surrey County Council; Surrey Police; Borough and District Councils; Surrey Fire and Rescue Service; Clinical Commissioning Groups; National Probation Service; and other agencies and organisations determined locally, for example the local social housing provider or drug and alcohol services.

The above-named organisations have a statutory duty to work together under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act states that all relevant authorities (including Surrey County Council) have a duty to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area.

**Anti-Social Behaviour:**

The phrase Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) takes in a range of nuisances, disorder and crimes which affects people's lives daily. It looks different and feels different in every area and to every victim. What is considered anti-social by one person can be acceptable to another. The Home Office describes ASB as, 'any aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity that damages or destroys another person's quality of life'.

ASB covers a wide range of incidents and is dealt with by several different agencies. If ASB is not dealt with appropriately and in a timely manner it can have a devastating impact on the lives of individuals, families, and communities. It is widely recognised that single agencies cannot tackle ASB alone and must work in partnership to address the issues.

**Contextualised Safeguarding:**

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people’s experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people’s experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Therefore, children’s social care practitioners, child protection systems and wider safeguarding partnerships need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse beyond their front doors.

It is widely recognised that young people who are involved in ASB in our communities may be vulnerable to other more serious crimes such as criminal or sexual exploitation including county-lines drug dealing.

Multi-agency problem solving procedures followed by Community Safety Partnerships promote the use of early intervention which includes police or multi-agency visits and warning letters, and these measures can often nip the problem in the bud. Failing this there are a range of other measures introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour Police & Crime Act 2014 that can be used including:

* Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
* Civil Injunctions (aged 10 or over)
* Criminal Behaviour Orders (aged 10 or over)
* Community Protection Notices (aged 16 or over)

**Community Harm and Risk Management Meetings:**

CHaRMMs are accountable to local Community Safety Partnerships and will discuss and agree action to reduce the negative impact that problem individuals and families have on Surrey’s communities through their anti-social behaviour. Using the expertise that exists on this multi-agency group, members will share information on high-risk cases, and incidents, and put in place appropriate risk management and disruption plans to address the ASB and reduce the negative impact on victims. CHaRMMs are the agreed forum for implementation of tools and powers introduced by the ASB Crime & Policing Act 2014 as described above.

At the start of the pandemic CHaRMMs moved to an online meeting format and continue to be run in this way making it easier for partners to engage. ECINS is the agreed multi-agency case management system for CHaRMM cases, providing a secure, GDPR and data protection compliant platform for timely and efficient information sharing on joint interest cases for the reduction of crime, disorder, ASB. If you have any questions about ECINS, require support to use it, or would like to request access please email: ECINSSupport@surrey.pnn.police.uk

**Community Trigger:**

The Community Trigger was introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014. It gives victims of ASB the right to request a review of their ASB complaints and brings agencies such as the local council, police, and housing providers, together to take a joined up, problem solving approach to find a solution.

If a Community Trigger submission meets the defined threshold, a case review will be undertaken by the local Community Safety Partnership. Agencies will share information, review what action has been taken and decide whether additional actions are possible to resolve the issue.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner provides a route for victims to query the decision on whether the threshold was met or the way a Community Trigger review was carried out if they remain unhappy following the Community Safety Partnership's response. If it is felt that a particular local authority has not engaged in the process then complaints can be escalated to the Local Government Ombudsman.

**Surrey Community Safety Team:**

For further information and advice on working in partnership to tackle crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour you can contact Surrey County Council’s Community Safety Team:

Email: communitysafety@surreycc.gov.uk

The Community Safety Team lead on Surrey-wide policy, strategy, and guidance in many areas of community safety such as: Domestic Abuse, Prevent (Counter Terrorism), Anti-social Behaviour, Serious and Organised Crime, Child Exploitation, Information Sharing.

**Useful links:**

* [Surrey community safety - Healthy Surrey](https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/community-safety)
* [Anti-social behaviour - Healthy Surrey](https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/community-safety/asb)
* [Community trigger - request a review of your ASB case - Healthy Surrey](https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/community-safety/asb/what-to-do/community-trigger)
* [Child exploitation - Healthy Surrey](https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/community-safety/child-exploitation)

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