

**Briefing to:** Sefton Safer Communities Partnership

**Briefing from:** Chris White, Localities Team Manager

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Subject:** The impact of COVID19 on the Anti-Social behaviour service

**Prepared:** Simon Evans, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer

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### **Purpose/Summary**

The purpose of this briefing is to update Partners on the impact that COVID19 has had on Sefton Council's Anti-Social behaviour service since the implementation of Lockdown.

**Recommendation(s) That:** the partnership notes the briefing.

**Background:** N/A

The restrictions that were put in place at the end of March 2020 to reduce the infection rate and help to support the NHS led to many more people being at home for a long period of time, and a heightened sense of anxiety and nervousness in the community. One of the signs that lockdown was having an adverse effect on our communities was the increase in reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

Measuring the amount of cases recorded between 01/03/2020 and 14/08/2020 and comparing them with the same period last year we can see that there was a 143% increase. The tables below demonstrate where the increases have been identified:

#### **Cases recorded:**

##### **1/3/2019 - 14/8/2019**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Count</b>
Domestic Violence	0
Drugs	5
General	72
Noise	9
Housing	3
Race	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>

##### **1/3/2020 - 14/8/2020**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Domestic Violence	1	1
Drugs	7	2
General	164	92
Noise	42	33
Housing	1	-2
Race	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>129</b>

The largest increase is seen in General cases with the majority of these being reported as Neighbours partying in the garden and/or house and the use of drugs in particular cannabis.

There was also a large increase in Noise complaints, related to the above issue. 42 cases of pure noise nuisance have been referred on to the Environmental Health noise nuisance team. Currently there is no mechanism on the Council web site to report pure Noise Nuisance, so the contact centre reports it to us, and we pass it on. Unfortunately, this can lead to a delay and frustrate residents trying to report noise nuisance cases.

There was an 80% increase in Hate related cases (3 additional cases) all cases involving Hate crime are referred to and jointly worked on with the local Police Sigma team and referred to the Hate Crime MARAC to review and offer support to the Victim.

Housing cases have decreased by 2 cases. A high proportion of all ASB cases have been either private or Social Housing tenants.

During the lockdown period 83 first contact warning letters have been issued, 21 Community Protection Notice Warnings and 3 Full Community Protection Notices. We are also working closely with the Police on three additional closure orders for Anti-Social Behaviour.

All those receiving any type of contact have also received Covid 19 letters advising of their responsibilities as good neighbours. We have made more use of video conferencing as a means of keeping in touch with victims of ASB and with our partners, a practice we will continue post lockdown

The Youth Service were redeployed to support partners in dealing with issues along the coast. There are 2 members of staff each evening patrolling hotspot areas, engaging with groups of young people advising them of social distancing rules and deterring them from taking part in any anti-social behaviour. 95% of cases we deal with are adult cases, this is the reverse of the perception that young people are responsible for Anti-Social Behaviour.

At the height of lockdown Simon held 93 cases over a two-week period, post the easing of restrictions this reduced to 20 cases, but he currently holds 32 cases 17/8/20.