

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 16th March 2022

Wards: All

Subject: Safer Merton update re antisocial behaviour

Lead officer: Peter Clifton, Interim Head of Community Safety

Lead member: Councillor Agatha Akyigyina

Contact officer: Peter Clifton, Interim Head of Community Safety

Recommendations:

- A. That the Committee note the work undertaken and to be undertaken to tackle anti-social behaviour in Merton.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Addressing Antisocial behaviour remains one of the strategic objectives of the Safer Merton partnership and Community Safety Strategy. This is because it is clear that antisocial behaviour is a concern for local residents and as local surveys have shown, can impact greatly upon people's quality of life.
- 1.2. This report provides the committee with an update of the patterns and trends in antisocial behaviour in Merton as well as the steps being taken to address instances within the Borough.
- 1.3. The main sections of this report are as follows:
- *The Voice of the residents* – a summary of feedback received from the residents of Merton about the antisocial behaviour issues which concern them the most.
 - *The ASB data* – an overview of trends and patterns apparent in the reported anti-social behaviour data.
 - *What have we been doing* – an overview of the work being undertaken in connection with Merton's Community Safety Strategy to tackle antisocial behaviour.
 - *Next Steps* – an outline of the work the Safer Merton Partnership will be focusing on over the coming year as part of the ongoing effort to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- 1.4. As antisocial behaviour often overlaps and interacts with other issues (such as environmental crime and various other crime types as well as contextual safeguarding issues) some information about other crime issues and associated interventions have been included in this report; however this information is not intended to be exhaustive and further details about these issues as well as strategies and activities directed towards them are available via the links in the background papers section (11.0).

1.5. **The voice of the residents**

1.6. The Safer and Stronger Executive Board agreed that the public consultation (Safer Merton Community Safety Survey) shall be carried out biannually, the most recent one being the 2021 survey which went out to consultation in July (5th) 2021 and the consultation closed in mid-October (15th) 2021. In addition to considering the result from the Community Safety Survey (**CSS**) the section below also considers results from other consultations which have relevance to the topics of anti-social behaviour and community safety. The other consultation/surveys considered are Council's Annual Residents Survey (**ARS**), and the Your Merton Survey.

1.7. A summary of the key findings from the consultation activity as pertaining to anti-social behaviour is provided below. For the evidence base upon which the summary is based please see **Appendix 1 (Public Consultation and survey results)**

Summary of survey and consultation results

- 1.7.1 Encouragingly, the majority of residents feel safe in their local areas (**91%** of ARS respondents reported feeling safe during the day and **84%** at night). However, there has been some decline since the surveys undertaken in 2019. Both the CSS and ARS highlight the differences in perceptions between wards in the borough.
- 1.7.2 In relation to the types of antisocial behaviour: In the CSS, Graffiti (**42%** of respondents expressing concern¹) and Vandalism (**42%**) were the top types of antisocial behaviour concerns. Residents also expressed concerns about alcohol related antisocial behaviour (**38%**), street drinking (**37%**) and the presence of drug paraphernalia (canisters) (**39%**) and drug use (**38%**).
- 1.7.3 The Your Merton survey highlighted the impact of **antisocial behaviour** on local communities and the associated links with alcohol. Safety in parks was also highlighted as an issue in the Your Merton Survey and the CSS.
- 1.7.4 The ARS highlighted that people felt less safe in the east of the borough. In particular, the ARS highlighted that **antisocial behaviour** related issues as well as drug dealing and groups hanging around were perceived as a problem.
- 1.7.5 According to the ARS: Residents living in East Merton, Mitcham, South Mitcham, and Morden areas had the highest percentage of residents who saw anti-social behaviour and people using and dealing drugs as a problem. Residents in the East Merton and Mitcham areas also saw being drunk or rowdy as a problem.
- 1.7.6 Crime and Gangs were also raised as problems by young people in the Young Peoples ARS.

¹ i.e. reported that they considered the issue either a 'fairly big problem' or a 'very big problem'

1.9. The ASB data

1.10. For the second successive occasion the crime and anti-social behaviour patterns have been greatly affected by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown periods. A second lockdown in England commenced on 4th November 2020 and ran to 2nd December 2020 when a return to the tiered system ran until early January 2021. A third national lockdown then began, being lifted in stages ending on 21st June 2021. A detailed timeline produced by the Institute of Government can be found on page 28 or here:

1.11. <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/chart-images/timeline-lockdown-updated.png>

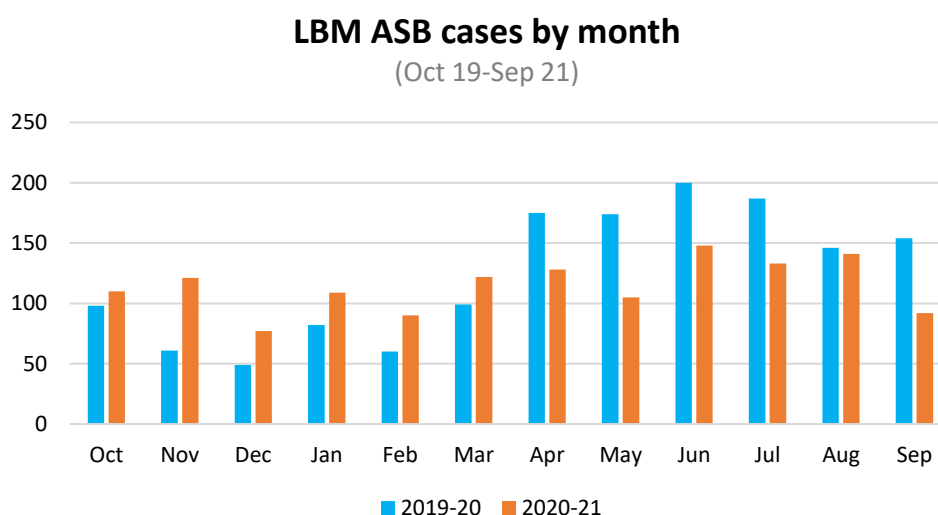
1.12. Overall crime levels during 2021 have been significantly lower than the pre-pandemic crime levels: There were **12,873** Total notifiable offences (TNO) recorded by the police in Merton in the 12 months to September 2021. This is **11.6%** (1,685 offences) lower than the 12 months to September 2019. In contrast to this the pandemic period saw an increase in the volume of ASB reports.

1.13. The section below focuses on what the data shows about **antisocial behaviour** trends and patterns in Merton.

1.13.1 Anti-Social Behaviour

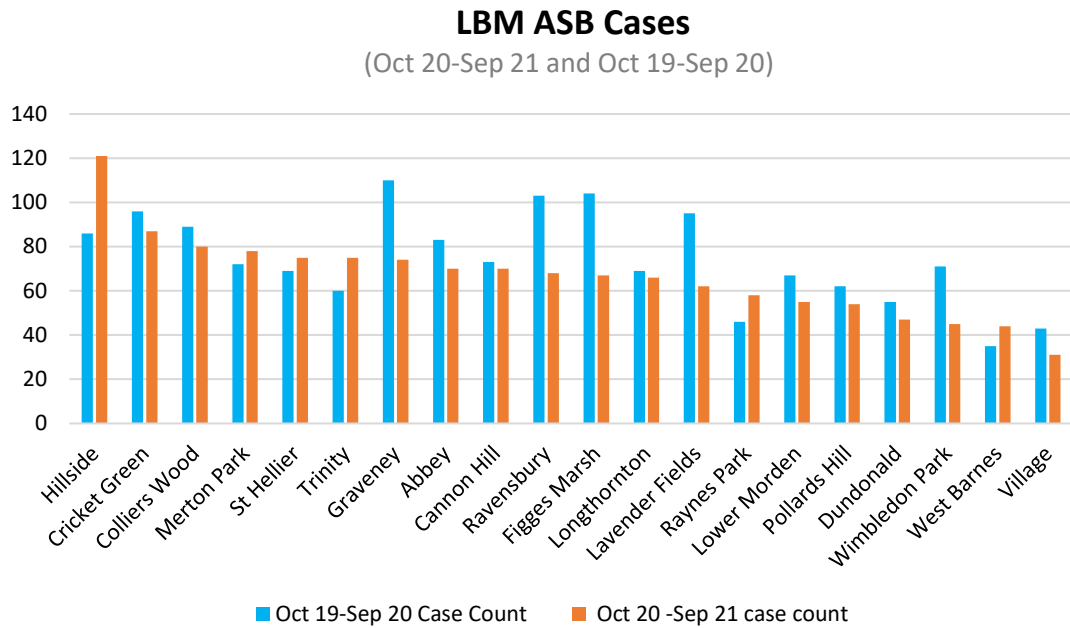
1.13.2 Anti-social Behaviour incidents are recorded in a number of different places across the partnership. The Safer Merton ASB Team record cases that come through to them. The Police record the calls that come through to them for disorder related issues.

1.13.3 *London Borough of Merton Anti-Social Behaviour Team*

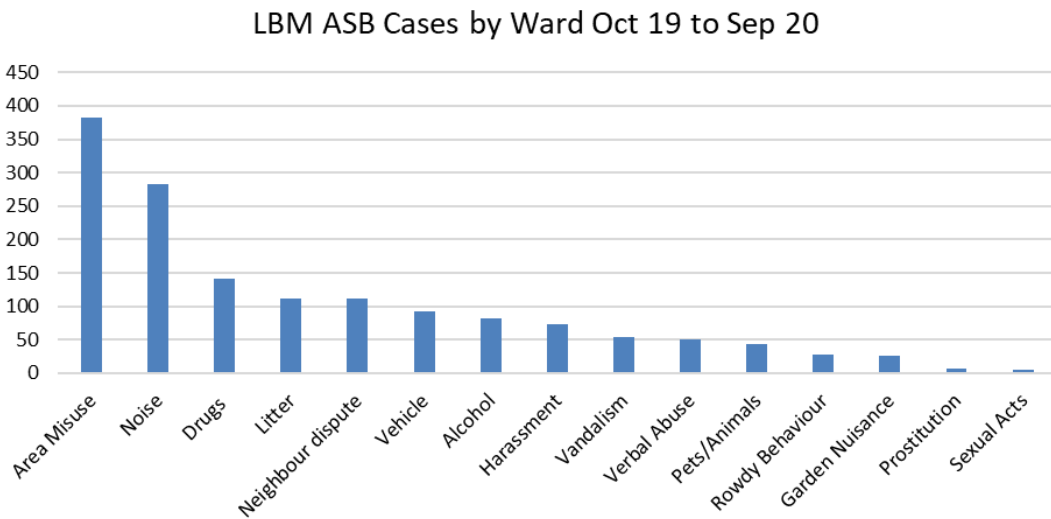


1.13.1 The chart above shows the volume of ASB complaints received by Safer Merton between October 2019 – September 2021. During the first lockdown the number of complaints far exceeded those seen in the corresponding months of 2019. Whilst

there has been some reduction in new cases it remains above the pre-pandemic levels.

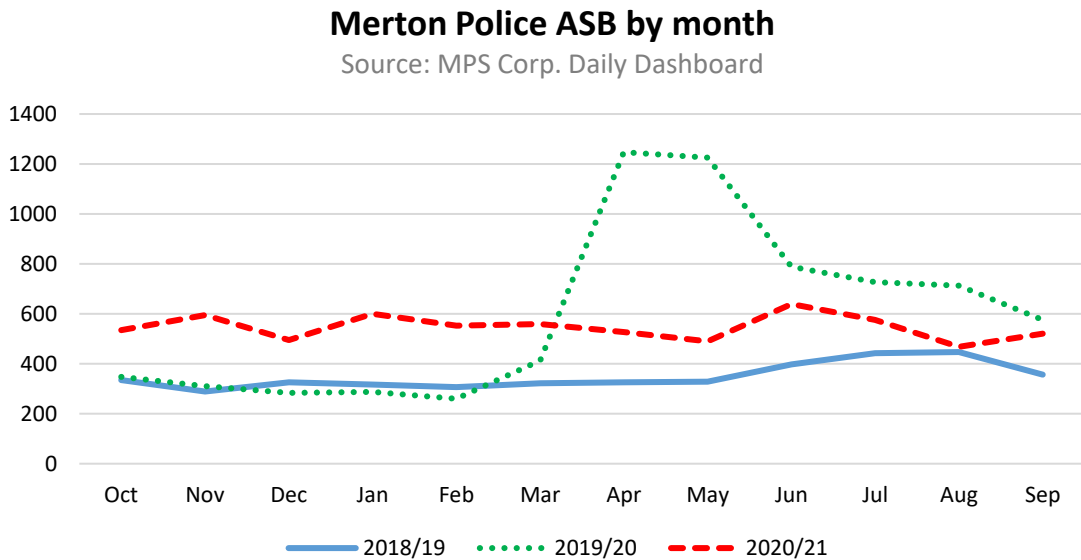


1.13.2 As the chart above shows, the wards with the highest volume of reports were Hillside, Cricket Green and Collier’s Wood. Graveney, Figges Marsh and Ravensbury which had previously been highest saw reductions in the volumes of reports.



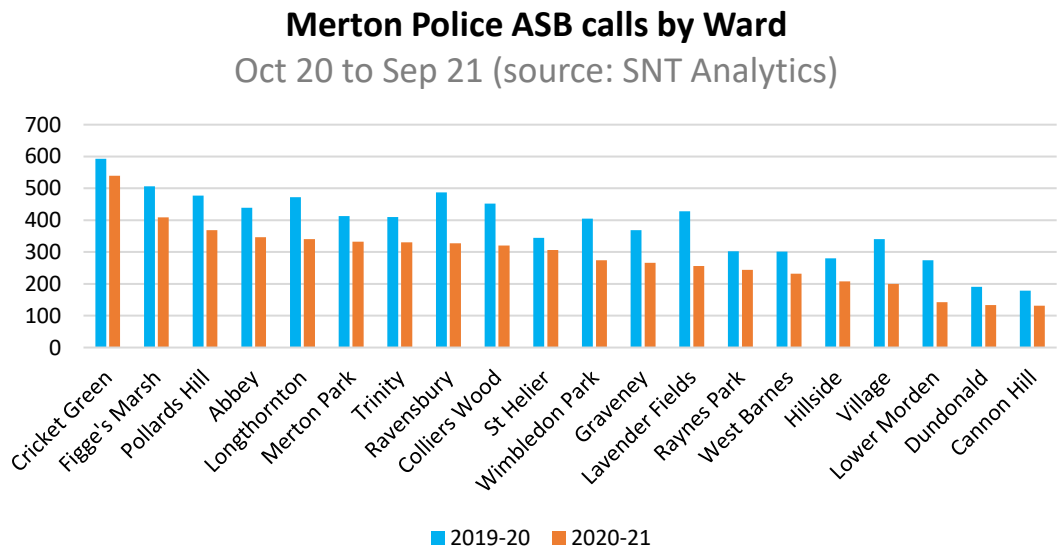
1.13.1 Area Misuse covers a broad range of activities including Begging, Defecation, Fire setting, Fireworks, Games in inappropriate areas, Groups gathering, Other inappropriate use, Rough Sleeping, Urination, and Disorder. And this was the category most used during lockdown, i.e. groups gathering.

1.13.2 Metropolitan Police ASB calls



1.13.3 The chart above shows that during first lockdown period there was an increase in calls to police which were classified as ASB calls. A great many of these additional calls were Covid regulations relate. In the 12 months covered by this report call numbers have fallen by 9% on the previous year but have remained substantially higher than in 2019.

1.13.4 Breakdown by ward



1.13.1 The breakdown of MPS ASB calls by Ward is shown above. The three wards with the highest levels of ASB calls during 2020-21 were Cricket Green, Figge's Marsh and Pollards Hill.

ASB and the Telephone Crime Survey of England and Wales (TCSEW)

1.13.2 Annually the crime survey of England and Wales interviewed thousands of people about their experiences of anti-social behaviour. However due to the pandemic this work has been reduced and conducted over the phone. The TCSEW showed that 29% of adults personally witnessed or experienced anti-social behaviour in their area in the last 12 months.

1.13.3 Estimates from the TCSEW showed that 50% of all adults noticed individuals breaching virus restrictions in their local area since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Of these, 7% reported the breach to the police.

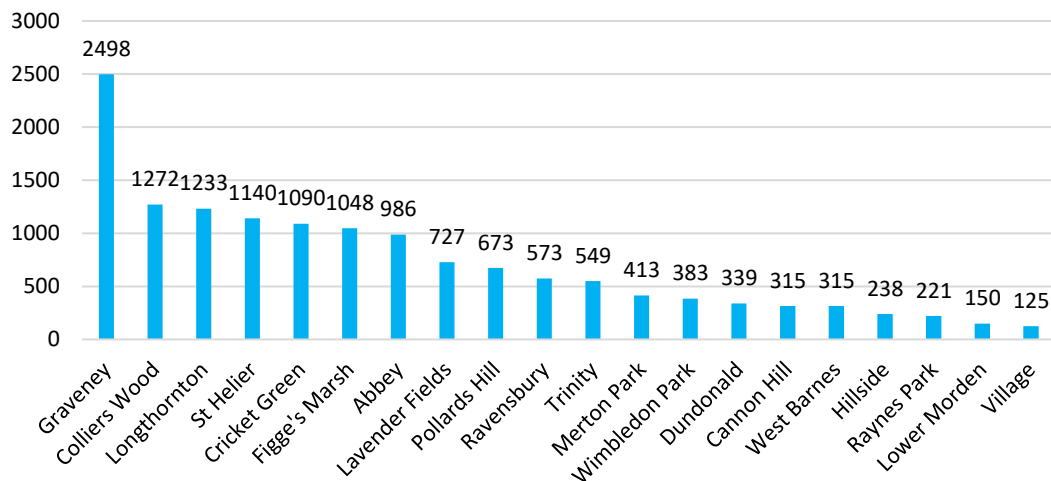
1.13.4 Environmental Crime and anti-social behaviour

Fly-tipping

1.13.5 Most incidents of fly tipping are not reported to the police but to the council via phone and email.

Merton Fly tip reports by Ward

(Oct 20 to Sep 21)



1.13.1 In the 12 months to September 2020 there were **14,288** reports received compared to **12,196** in the previous period, an increase of **17%**. As with some of the other crime-types the wards in the east of the borough appear to be most affected.

1.13.2 Three of the four wards with the most reports are the same as last year and geographically are those adjoining Wandsworth. Graveney Ward had around twice as many reports as any other ward and **17%** of reports. Trinity Ward which includes part of Wimbledon Town centre saw offences fall by nearly half. This could possibly be as a result of lockdown restrictions.

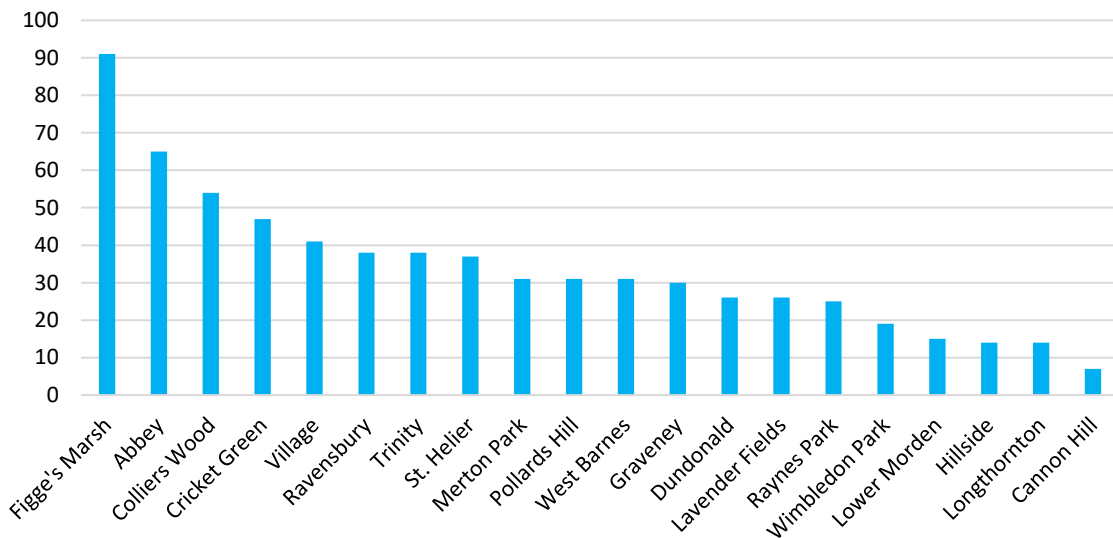
1.13.4 London Ambulance Service (LAS) data

Alcohol Related

1.13.5 The London Ambulance Service data is normally one of the most reliable datasets to use in relation to alcohol related issues on the borough (even so like any data capture system it is reliant upon the flag/field being completed).

LAS Alcohol related calls for Merton

Sep 20 to aug 21 n=680

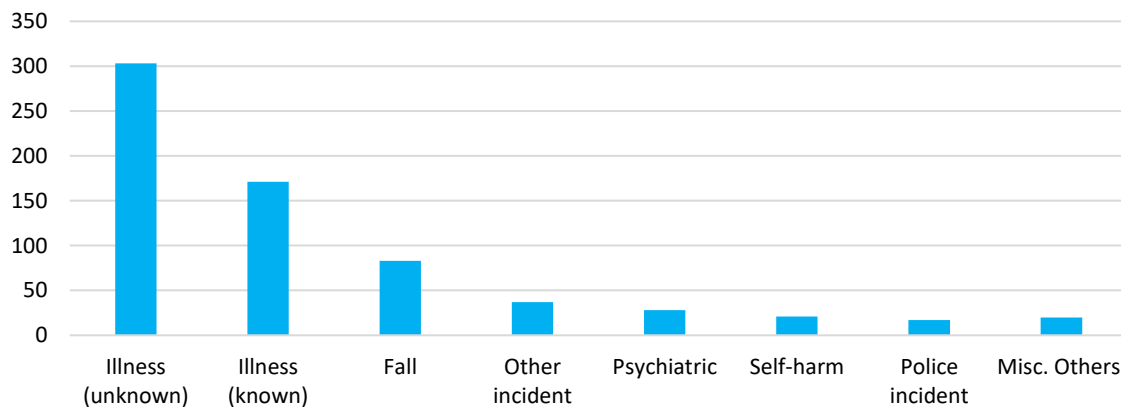


1.13.1 September 2020 to August 2021. As can be seen in the chart below Figge's Marsh has the highest levels of calls.

1.13.2 There were **680** alcohol related ambulance callouts in Merton, an increase of **11%** on last year's figures. It should be borne in mind that last year calls had fallen by **28%** probably as a result of the lockdown. A breakdown of the incident type descriptions is shown below.

LAS alcohol related calls for Merton by Incident type

(Sep 20 to Aug 21 n=680)



LAS Drug Overdose data

- 1.13.3 During the period under review, the LAS responded to **135** calls classified as Drug overdoses. This is less than half the number, (**302**) recorded during the preceding year. The top three wards were Lavender Fields (15), Abbey (12) and Cricket Green (11).

LAS Assault data

- 1.13.4 London Ambulance Service data for violence related incidents from the Safe stats data portal for the period September 2020 to August 2021 showed **176** records a fall of **17%** (30 incidents) of which 4 (2%) were knife or gunshot wound related. The top wards with the highest volume of calls were Figge's Marsh (22), Pollards Hill (20), and Cricket Green (19). Cricket and Figge's were the top two in the last report.
- 1.13.5 Data from the ONS states that hospital admissions relating to assault with sharp objects fell by **15%** in the financial year 2020/21 compared to the previous year.²

[Report continues on following page]

²

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021>

1.15. What we have been doing

Overall approach and framework

1.15.1 Tackling antisocial behaviour as a strategic priority

1.15.2 ASB is a concern for local residents and as local surveys have shown, impacts greatly upon their quality of life. As a result, it is a priority across a number of local strategies and plans:

- Reducing anti-social behaviour supports the delivery of the **Merton 2030** ambitions.
- Reducing Anti-social behaviour is one of the seven Safer Merton strategic priorities
- Tackling Anti-social behaviour is a local ward priority for each of the police Safer Neighbourhood Teams

1.15.3 Antisocial behaviour and the Merton 2030 plan

1.15.4 Reducing anti-social behaviour supports the delivery of the Merton 2030 ambitions. In particular those set out in the 'Communities, high streets and the economy' and the 'Creating a cleaner, greener Merton' section of the Merton 2030 plan.

1.15.5 The Merton 2030 report acknowledges the importance of good, safe local high streets to residents. The Safer Merton partnership's work to reduce antisocial behaviour will support the work in the Merton 2030 plan to *'revitalise Merton's high streets and drive both economic recovery and a sense of community, while addressing residents' safety concerns'*.

1.15.6 ASB in the Safer Merton strategy

1.15.7 The Safer Merton Strategy sets out a number of objectives in relation to tackling anti-social behaviour:

- Ensure a consistent and balanced approach to engagement and enforcement of the PSPO powers going forward.
- Develop a targeted multi-agency response to locations subjected to persistent ASB
- Continue to investigate reported cases, supporting victims and considering wider approaches to address incidents of ASB
- Develop multi-agency processes for using the ASB tools and powers and problem solving
- Keep our communities and victims informed of the action taken to address ASB in their neighbourhood

- 1.15.8 The Mayor's Police and Crime Plan
- 1.15.9 The new Mayor's Police and Crime Plan is due to be published during March 2022 and is expected to include four overarching priorities³. Tackling anti-social behaviour effectively can be considered relevant to delivering on at least three of the four proposed priorities, namely: *Increasing trust and confidence; better supporting victims; and protecting people from exploitation and harm.*
- 1.15.10 Partnership framework for tackling ASB
- 1.15.11 *Why a partnership approach is important for addressing anti-social behaviour:* Individual organisations and agencies may receive reports or complaints about anti-social behaviour. It is important that local organisations work together so that information can be shared to help with the early identification of risk and so that interventions aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour and supporting victims and taking action against perpetrators can be coordinated effectively.
- 1.15.12 We also recognise that often anti-social behaviour does not exist in isolation but may be a symptom of wider criminal or contextual safeguarding issues. For example, complaints relating to noise and disturbances at an address could turn out to be a result of a vulnerable resident having been intimidated and coerced into allowing people to use their address to supply drugs. By working together in partnership, we are better able to identify situations where ASB is linked to other risks and harms such as these.
- 1.15.13 The overall approach aims to ensure that there is a sufficient multi-agency focus of resources and interventions towards the locations suffering from the highest levels of persistent anti-social behaviour and towards the individual cases of on-going anti-social causing the greatest risk of harm towards individual victims. The **Locations Board** is a multi-agency group which focuses on the place based ASB and the **Community MARAC (CMARAC)** is the local multi-agency panel focused on ASB cases pertaining to individual victims and perpetrators. In addition, the E&R's **Enforcement Group** facilitates information sharing and the coordination of enforcement activity towards the locations where it is most needed.
- 1.15.14 The Locations Board and CMARAC are not the only place where multi-agency problem solving works takes place. In between those meetings, ad-hoc Task and Finish groups are formed as needed to deal with emerging ASB issues. In cases where an ASB situation appears to have contextual safeguarding or child criminal exploitation (CCE) implications this information is shared with the Contextual Safeguarding Team in CSF⁴. The Safer Merton team also attends the Strategic MASE⁵ as part of this information sharing effort to support the early identification of contextual safeguarding or CCE risks.
- 1.15.15 A wide range of organisations, agencies and teams are involved in the partnership work described above, these include Safer Merton, the Police, CSF, ASC, Community and Housing, RSP (including environmental health, enforcement,

³ The four priority areas which have been proposed by MOPAC are: Reducing and preventing violence; Increasing trust and confidence; better supporting victims; and protecting people from exploitation and harm.

⁴ Merton Children, Schools and Families department

⁵ MASE is the Merton Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel

trading standards), Public Spaces, Public Health, South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust, Highway, Clarion Housing, WDP Merton and CVFS partners.

1.15.16 The Framework

1.15.17 An overview of the positioning of these groups and panels (i.e. those referred to in the above section) within the wider Safer Merton Community Safety framework is illustrated in **Appendix 2** (*Safer Merton partnership framework*)

Partnership activity

1.15.18 Overview of partnership activity

1.15.19 The Safer Merton Community Safety Partnership continues co-ordination and deliver a multi-agency response to antisocial behaviour, supporting the commitment set out in the Community Plan, this includes:

- Investigating reports received by the council, supporting victims of ASB and resuming site visits post the lock down. During last year (April 2020 - March 2021) over **1500 reports** of anti-social behaviour have been recorded on the ECINS⁶ system by the Safer Merton Team. The ECINS system ensures that this information is readily accessible to the officers who need it, in a safe and secure manner. This supports effective problem-solving work through case management meetings as well as multi-agency panels such as the Community MARAC.
- The Community MARAC meets monthly to discuss high risk and persistent ASB cases. Since April 2021, the Community MARAC has discussed over **60** cases.
- Delivering a targeted multi-agency response to locations in the borough subjected to persistent ASB. The Locations Board meets every two months and oversees this. The locations that are overseen currently by the Locations Board are Mitcham, Graveney, Wimbledon, Morden Town Centre, and Raynes Park.
- Working closely with the Rough Sleepers Group to ensure a coordinated response to rough sleeping (Merton's rough sleeping team has supported over **130** rough sleepers).
- Use of CCTV - During the last 12 months, CCTV operators recorded **3355** incidents. Of these **690** resulted in footage being downloaded for investigative or evidential purposes to support the Police, Council Enforcement team or other relevant agency.
- Deployment of CCTV to anti-social behaviour and environmental crime hotspot locations: Over **29%** of incidents captured by the boroughs CCTV cameras relate to ASB or environmental crimes such as fly-tipping (for further

⁶ A secure multi-agency anti-social behaviour case management and information sharing system.

details see *Use of CCTV to tackle anti-social behaviour* in the Case Study section of this report – 1.49)

- The types of incidents, which have most commonly resulted in footage being captured to support investigation or enforcement, are Fly tipping, Road Traffic Collisions, Robbery, Incident relating to a vulnerable person, Sexual Offence, and Assault. Together these types of incidents account for **65%** of all evidence captures by the Merton Public Spaces CCTV.
- Proportionate use of enforcement tools and powers: a range of powers are provided by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which are purposed to help protect the public from different forms of anti-social behaviour. Over the last 24 months the Safer Merton Team has implemented **1 Public Space Protection Order** (addressing issues of antisocial behaviour related to street drinking⁷) and issued **11 Community Protection Notices /Community Protection Notice Warnings** (5 of which have been since 1st January 2022). In addition, there have been **21** instances of PSPO enforcement action being taken over the last 18 months. (See below for further details)
- Implementing the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to Alcohol Consumption in Public Places, ensuring that the PSPO is monitored and a balanced approach to enforcement and engagement is in place. Between 1st January 2021 and 28th February 2022 there have been **21** instances of enforcement action being taken by the Council or Police of the PSPO (See Case Study section of this report for further details)
- Working with the police to promote and implement a *designing out crime* approach to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. Examples include the work at the Phipps Bridge Estate to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (see Case Study sections below). The Council is increasing its focus on safety in public spaces across the borough and the '*designing out crime*' approach is an important element of this work.
- The Council is collaborating with the Met's Designing out Crime Team in relation to various locations. One example of this being the work currently underway in Wandle Park, where in response to concerns raised by residents, the Council is working together with the Police, and is conducting a review of crime prevention and safety measures in and around the park.
- Community engagement activity to improve our understanding of residents' concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime and to share crime preventions information and advice. This includes surveys and consultations, community engagement via the Neighbourhood Watch scheme (over **400** watches across the borough) and supporting Safer Neighbourhood Board's activities and projects activities - see *Community engagement section* below for more details)

⁷ <https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/Public-Space-Protection-Order>

- Police activity to reduce antisocial behaviour: the Police received around **500-600** calls per month relating to anti-social behaviour in Merton. Every ward on the borough has a local policing team (Safer Neighbourhood Team



/ Neighbourhood Policing Team). The local policing teams⁸ are focused on dealing with persistent crime and anti-social behaviour problems.

- All twenty Merton Safer Neighbourhood Teams have Antisocial Behaviour as one of their priority local issues and carry out patrols targeting ASB hotspot locations. The police carry out enforcement action including using CPNW⁹s, CPNs and ASB warnings. In addition, the police are integral to and highly engaged with the Merton CMARAC process (which they co-chair) as well as the Locations Board and other partnership groups such as SMACE¹⁰.
- Council’s waste enforcement team’s (within Public Spaces) lead on tackling environmental crime such as fly tipping and anti-social behaviour. Over **4000** Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in the previous year in relation to environmental crime. More recently there has been an increase in the focus of the enforcement and proactive waste clearing resources being focused in the Graveney, Longthornton and Figge’s Marsh Wards.¹¹ This has been part of a range of enhanced enforcement and preventative activity carried out as part of the *Your Merton* funded ‘Don’t Mess with Merton’ project.
- A wide range of activity carried out by the Regulatory Services Partnership (RSP) helps tackle anti-social behaviour. This includes the work of the Noise and Nuisance Team who respond to over **3,000** noise complaints a year as well as the work of the licensing and training standards teams.¹²

1.15.20 Community engagement activity

Neighbourhood Watch

There are over **400** Neighbourhood Watches across the borough. The Safer Merton Team works in partnership with the police Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams to support the Neighbourhood Watches, provide updates and crime prevention information as well as arrange community events to raise awareness about crime prevention. Recent examples include:

⁸ For details of local policing teams by area see: <https://met.police.uk/a/your-area/>

⁹ Community Protection Notice Warning (CPNW), Community Protection Notice (CPN)

¹⁰ <https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms1/media/12131/final-mace-panel-tor.pdf>

¹¹ For further details see the Strategic Theme Sustainable Communities – Enforcement report to Council 17 November 2021 (link provided in background papers section of this report)

¹² For further details see the Strategic Theme Sustainable Communities – Enforcement report to Council 17 November 2021 (link provided in background papers section of this report)

- Bike marking event takes place Tuesday 14th December, 10am-4pm outside Wimbledon BR Station. Officers from Wimbledon SNTs and BTP will be marking bikes for free.
- In response to residents' concerns about scams and their continued increase, an online scams talk was held Trading Standards on 10th February 2022.

Community Consultations and Surveys

- 1.15.21 It is vitally important that we seek to understanding residents' perceptions of anti-social behaviour and community safety issues across the borough in order to be able to respond to the issues and concerns in an effective manner. For this reason, the feedback from the Merton Community Safety Survey as well as other local surveys (e.g., the Annual Residents Perception Survey, Your Merton) are used to help inform our focus and activity. For details see the *Voice of the Residents* section of this report (1.5) and the *Consultations Undertaken* section (3.1)

Merton Safer Neighbourhood Board's Projects

- 1.15.22 **Give and Get Consent:** A Campaign for Social Action (Rape Crisis South London): The project aims to prevent crime, specifically sexual violence, and deliver community engagement by facilitating a group of 'Consent Champions' aged 16+ in Merton College via an eight-week programme. Working with young people to create a youth led consent campaign to be rolled out across the college. Resources produced will be available for future use for other communities
- 1.15.23 **Young Women's PASS Programme** (Pollards Advanced Soccer Skills) (Commonside Community Development Trust, Fulham Foundation, Met Police): Football programme to encourage increased participation from young women. The project is aimed at preventing and reducing crime through engagement and education and by providing the participants with a safe and supportive environment where they can develop social skills e.g. communication, teamwork, leadership qualities and decision making.
- 1.15.24 **Hate Crime Third Party Reporting Pilot** Supporting Merton Hate Crime Strategy Group (Inner Strength Network): A project supported by the Merton Hate Crime Strategy Group which aims to support prevention of hate crime and intolerance and to be active in the delivery of hate crime Third Party Reporting, supporting victims of hate crime within Merton, working closely with the Polish group, LGBT+ groups, disability groups and other protected characteristic groups.
- 1.15.25 **Bike Marking Project** (Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association): Due to both an uptake in cycling and an increase in bike thefts during the pandemic, Merton NHW will be working with the SNTs to hold bike marking events in Morden, Wimbledon, and Mitcham town centres.



1.16. **Case studies illustrating the partnership activity**

Case study 1 (Use of tools and powers of the ASB and Policing Act 2014)

- 1.17. Community Protection Notice Warnings (CPNW) and Community Protection Notices (CPN)
- 1.18. Community protection notices (CPNs) are designed to stop a person aged 16 or over, business or organization committing antisocial behaviour (ASB) which spoils the community's quality of life.
- 1.19. The Safer Merton Team had been receiving numerous reports about a household causing anti-social behaviour that was having a detrimental impact on the quality of life of other people living in the street. The issues had been ongoing for months and after a number of attempts to engage those involved failed to result in an end to the behaviour, the team issued a Community Protection Notice Warning. As the behaviour persisted, the team worked to compile a comprehensive set of evidence and Community Protection Notices were issued to each of the people involved.
- 1.20. This work, undertaken during a national lockdown period involved preparing the file, engaging with witnesses and the police, securing evidence, conducting site visits, and serving the CPNWs and CPNs.
- 1.21. The notice included conditions requiring that the behaviour in question cease. Failing to comply with a CPN is a criminal offence. As a result of this intervention, the anti-social behaviour ended, bringing much needed relief to people living in the area.

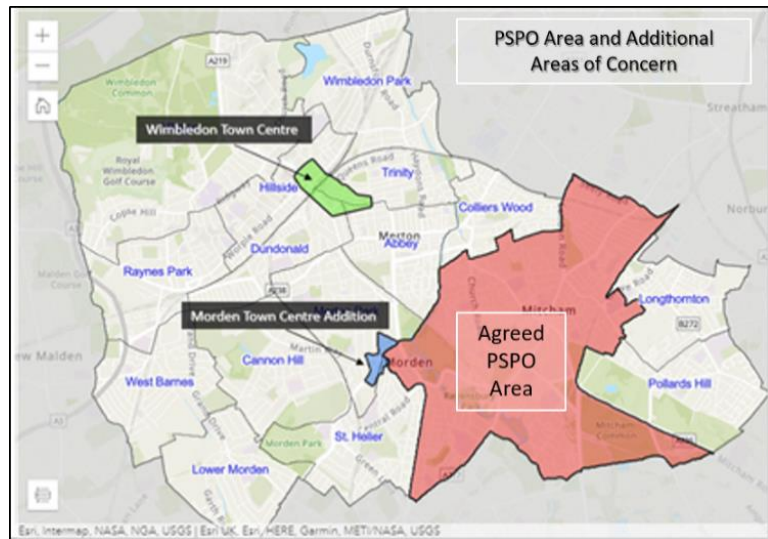
Case study 2: A UME¹³ linked to ASB in the night-time economy

- 1.22. During early 2022 there was an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour (including noise and rowdy behaviour) around Mitcham Clock Tower and the venues in nearby street (Upper Green East).
- 1.23. The issues seemed to occur in the evening/nights on certain days of the week and CCTV footage indicated an increase in the number of people gathering and involved in rowdy behaviour in the area at those times.
- 1.24. A multi-agency Task and Finish group was convened to share information and identify appropriate interventions to address the issues. Following this Environmental services carried out joint visit with Planning Enforcement to venues in Upper Green East as a result of which the site was secured to prevent further access and prevent their continued use. Alongside this intervention the police (supported by live monitoring by the Councils CCTV control room) increased their patrols to this area in the evening on the main days when the ASB had been taking place to prevent and deter ASB from occurring.

¹³ Unlicensed Music Event

Case study 3: Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

1.25. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) are a tool to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) and its impact on individuals and communities by prohibiting certain activities within a defined public area.



1.26. Following an assessment of the available evidence, the results of the consultations with the public, police and community representatives and an equalities impact assessment, a Public Space Protection Order was put in place in October 2020. The purpose of this PSPO is to address alcohol related ASB in the wards of Cricket Green, Figges Marsh, Graveney, Lavender Fields and Ravensbury.

1.27. The PSPO gives authorized officers of the council and the police the power to:

- Require an individual to stop drinking alcohol (or anything reasonably believed to be alcohol) in public where the individual is causing or likely to cause nuisance or annoyance or
- Confiscate alcohol (or anything reasonably believed to be alcohol).

PSPO enforcement Activity

1.28. Between 1st January 2021 and 28th February 2022 there have been **21** instances of enforcement action being taken by the Council or Police of the PSPO

1.29. FPN's issued for Street Drinking

1.30. Since October 2020 Kingdom have **6** records in relation to the PSPO. **3** were in Figges Marsh and **3** in Graveney.

1.31. Police Enforcement

1.32. Since October 2020, there have been 15 instances of police enforcement action in relation to the PSPO, these are broken down as follows:

- Dispersal – **1**
- ASB Warnings – **7**
- CPW's – **4**
- CPN's – **3**

London Ambulance Callouts for Alcohol

- 1.33. London Ambulance Service data can provide a useful indicator in relation to alcohol related issues on the borough (however it should be noted that the data will include alcohol related call outs to indoor venues as well as public space incidents).
- 1.34. In 2020 there were **583** alcohol related callouts. The number of call outs increased by **22%** to **712** during 2021. However, this increase was not uniform. The wards not covered by the PSPO do not appear to have suffered from this increase, as is displayed in the table below:

Number of LAS Alcohol related call outs ¹⁴	2020	2021
Wards in the PSPO ¹⁵	352	487 (38% increase)
Other wards	225	225 (0% increase)


- 1.35. The fact that the PSPO wards did not experience the increase seen in the other wards is notable, however it would be premature to attribute this to the PSPO with a high degree of confidence as there may be other contributory factors involved.
- 1.36. The Safer Merton team is currently carrying out a review of the impact of the PSPO to inform decision making around what next steps to take (the current PSPO is due to expire in October 2022).
- 1.37. For additional information on the PSPO, please see:
<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/public-space-protection-order>

[Report continues on following page]

¹⁴ Nb. This table display totals (not average per ward)

¹⁵ Cricket Green, Figgis Marsh, Graveney, Lavender Fields and Ravensbury

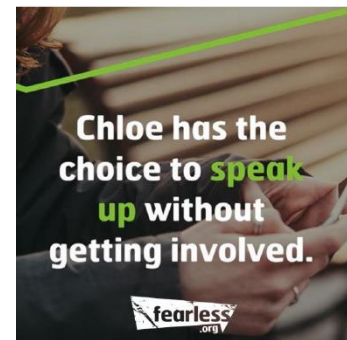
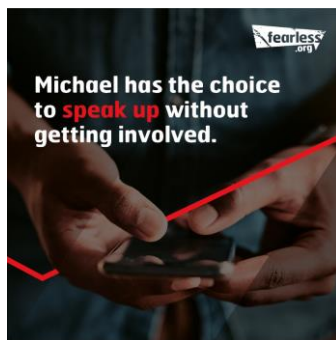
Case Study 4: Use of CCTV to tackle anti-social behaviour

- 1.38. Merton's **24/7** live monitored CCTV service plays an important role in deterring crime and anti-social behaviour across Merton as well as helping bring offenders to justice. In the last 12 months the CCTV operators recorded **3355** incidents and provided over **650** pieces of footage to support investigations the Police, Council Enforcement team or other relevant agency.
- 
- 1.39. Of the **3355** captured the most common categories are ASB and fly-tipping which together account for **29%** of the total incidents captured¹⁶.
- 1.40. Other types of incidents commonly captured by the CCTV cameras include Traffic Collisions, Robbery, Incident relating to a vulnerable person, Sexual Offence, and Assaults.
- 1.41. In addition to the static cameras Merton Council has been expanded its capacity to respond more flexibly to emerging ASB / environmental crime locations by using Rapid Deployment Cameras (RSCs)
- 1.42. One example of such a deployment is Willow Lane where a RDC CCTV camera was installed during 2021; since then, it has captured several large-scale fly tips that have resulted investigation and enforcement action being taken - including:
- November 2021 – van used for house clearance emptied on the side of the road
 - During December 2021 – repeat offender leaving large black bags
 - February 2022 – a sofa dumped on the side of the road
- 1.43. Over the coming months **8** additional Rapid Deployment CCTV cameras will be deployed to ASB hotspot locations including locations where environmental crimes such as fly tipping occur. These additional cameras are the result of an additional **£66,000** investment.

[Report continues on following page]

¹⁶ Fly tipping: 13.3%; ASB/Disturbances: 15.7%

Case Study 5: Community Engagement – young people



- 1.44. Merton secured funding from the MOPAC Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to run a campaign engaging young people to raise awareness about how to report crime and safety issues – including the option to report anonymously via CrimeStoppers.
- 1.45. The ‘Fearless’ campaign, delivered by Crime Stoppers raises awareness among young people of anonymous reporting. It is estimated that 95% of people making reports to CrimeStoppers¹⁷ would not have reported it to the police. The campaign under CrimeStoppers “Fearless” brand is aimed at 11–16-year-olds with the aim to empower young people to report crime.
- 1.46. Safer Merton worked with Crime Stoppers to plan a campaign for young people in Merton with the following aims:
- Raise awareness of anonymous reporting amongst the community (particularly young people).
 - Educate around the benefits and value of reporting and develop lawful behaviours.
 - Increase and improve the quality of information received in relation to knife crime and wider violent crime.
 - Build trust and confidence in reporting
 - Have a positive impact upon the local community and for them to see that the borough views violent crime as a priority
 - Increase the number of reports received which enable police action to keep people safe from harm
 - Help improve confidence and make communities feel safer.
- 1.47. The Project was carried out during 2021 and involved a number of phases outlined below.

¹⁷ Nationally

1.48. **Phase 1: Engagement with Youth Professionals**

Aims	Activity Delivered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops to professionals working in the boroughs. • Work with local partners to share training and resources through their networks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered one workshop on knife crime to a Merton Youth Club- 20 young people attended. • Delivered three professional sessions to Merton Connected, Youth Justice Service and, other practitioners and professionals in the borough. 36 professionals attended across the three sessions. • Information packs were created for all the mainstream secondary schools in the borough.

1.49. **Phase 2: Education and Awareness**

Aims	Activity Delivered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train youth professionals and deliver targeted Fearless outreach sessions to young people living, working, and studying in the borough • Provide educational materials and targeted materials for specific crimes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 professionals in total attended three sessions. More awareness to be created by organizing more training sessions with professionals and youths. • Trust in the fearless campaign is getting instilled in the youths of Merton resulting to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Fourteen online reports made via Fearless within the eight- weeks campaign period, relating to knives/weapons. — More coverage will only solidify trust within the youths in the campaign and on the message of alternative ways to stay anonymous when reporting.

1.50. **Phase 3: Call to Action Campaign on Knife and Violent Crime**

Aims	Activity Delivered			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted media campaign, including a social media campaign with pay per click adverts, directing young people to a dedicated landing page on the Fearless website. Launch and raise awareness of the Fearless campaign and signpost members of the community to both the Crime stoppers and Fearless websites. Work with partners to help disseminate campaign materials and information about the campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The campaign featured in the My Merton newsletter, <i>Issue 87</i> of My Merton. Along side this a powerful message was delivered through social media channels. The table below provides figures for the reach and impression some of the campaign stories achieved.¹⁸ 		<i>Chloe's story</i> ¹⁹	<i>Michael's story</i> ²⁰
	<i>Reach</i>	45,503	42,044	
	<i>Impressions</i>	502,740	443,148	
	<i>Swipe Ups</i>	3,036	3,153	

¹⁸ Figures based on views between 5th July 2021 – 2nd August 2021

¹⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPoqOwz08SU>

²⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01CxPCUSf1A>

Case Study 6: Multi-agency work and Designing out Crime in Phipps Bridge

- 1.50.1 This project was undertaken in the London Borough of Merton on the Phipps Bridge Estate in Cricket Green ward.

Overarching Aims

- 1.50.2 The overarching aim of this project (which commenced November 2018 with some work still ongoing with evaluation activity taking place during 2022) has been to reduce violent crime, **anti-social behaviour** and also to facilitate contextual safeguarding on the estate, provide community re-assurance and early interventions and engagement with the local communities.
- 1.50.3 Some elements of this project have been funded by the MOPAC Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). Alongside other grant schemes or through the in-kind investment of officer time from the Local authority and partner organisations, both statutory and voluntary/charity. The early research showed that there was a strong sense of community in the area, but ASB was a concern for many people (of all age groups).

Partners and Community Involvement

- 1.50.4 The project implementation was co-ordinated by the Contextual safeguarding manager who line managed the Re-CET Team at the Local Authority and through Merton Youth Services, and drew upon the skills, resources and expertise of many other organisations and teams. It was chaired by the Safer Merton Partnership (CSP) lead.
- 1.50.5 The key partners involved were the Social Care, ReCET Team at the Local Authority, Community Safety Partnership, Catch 22 (Merton Young Person's Risk and Resilience Service), Local Community, Youth Centre, AFC Wimbledon, National Trust, Police, Merton Youth Services, Clarion Housing, Merton Voluntary Sector (facilitated by Merton Connected), South Mitcham Community Centre, Merton CCTV and the local primary schools and PRU.
- 1.50.6 Many of the people engaged as part of the project were local to the area and either lived on the estate, worked on the estate or travelled in to use education or other services in the area. Information particularly in relation to age was collected, as a significant amount of the engagement in the locality was with young people.
- 1.50.7 **75** young people were engaged by the Re-CET team over a six-week period. Information was collected via activity-based conversations and through the use of outcome stars. Engagement with other members of the community, parents and businesses was also undertaken.

Project Strands

- 1.50.8 Consultation with local community, businesses, and young people on the estate to find out more about the local area, areas of concerns and captured the changes to the estate they would like to see in the future.
- 1.50.9 Designing out crime work resulted in physical improvements to the layout of the location as well as a review of the CCTV coverage on the estate. This was as a result of a designing out crime report undertaken in the area, prior to the project start in January 2019. The physical improvements were funded by VRU.

1.50.10 Other activities and interventions have included:

- Detached Youth Work, engagement and consultation with the young people on the estate as to their feelings of safety. Information was gathered via activity-based conversations.
- Diversionary activities organised by organisations such as the National Trust (gardening) and AFC Wimbledon (football). This helped to improve guardianship in the area.
- Recruiting Community champions and delivering Bystander training with the local community and businesses.
- Carrying out weapon sweeps (Police)

Assessment

1.50.11 The Safer Merton team is currently working with partners to carry out and assessment of the impact of the work on Phipps Bridge and identify any areas for ongoing focus.

[Report continues on following page]

1.51. Next steps

- Retain antisocial behaviour as a Safer Merton strategic priority (as antisocial behaviour is a concern for local residents and as local surveys have shown, impacts greatly upon quality of life).
- Continue to provide a multi-agency response to antisocial behaviour (including a targeted neighbourhood problem solving approach, using enforcement tools and powers effectively against repeat perpetrators and delivering interventions to support the most vulnerable victims and locations as identified by CMARAC, Locations Board and (S)MACE²¹).
- Continue to develop the use of the multi-agency casework platform ECINS, as a multi-agency information sharing tool to help to respond to cases of antisocial behaviour.
- Direct casework support for victims of antisocial behaviour and ensure continued effective partnership engagement in the Community MARAC (deals with high risk/vulnerability antisocial behaviour cases)
- Maintain the running of multiple task and finish groups for ASB related problem solving and continue to develop multi-agency processes for using the ASB tools and powers and problem solving
- To ensure the PSPO is reviewed, and appropriate measures are recommended prior to the expiry of the existing street drinking related anti-social behaviour PSPO²²
- Keep the community and members more informed about our progress and response to the issues they have raised and to keep communities and victims informed of the action taken to address ASB in their neighbourhoods.
- Work with residents to raise their awareness and confidence to report incidents of antisocial behaviour and crime to the partnership.
- Deployment of new Rapid Deployment Cameras to anti-social behaviour hotspot locations (including environmental crime hotspots)
- Implementation of whole borough CCTV upgrade - the Council operates a 24/7 CCTV system, extending to approximately 200 public space cameras (excluding those deployed primarily for traffic enforcement purposes). £1.2 million is being invested into upgrading the whole camera network over the next two years. The upgrade will help the cameras to be even more effective in deterring crime and helping provide evidence to bring offenders to justice and reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Sharing analysis of antisocial behaviour trends and patterns with Public Spaces to assist with the tasking decisions re the new park patrols pilot so that the patrols can take place in the locations and time which will bring the most benefit.

²¹ <https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms1/media/12131/final-mace-panel-tor.pdf>

²² The existing PSPO expires in October 2022 <https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/Public-Space-Protection-Order>

1.52. **Recommendation**

1.53. That the Committee note the work undertaken and to be undertaken to tackle anti-social behaviour in Merton.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1. Not relevant for this report.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

3.1. The 2021 Safer Merton Community Survey, the 2021 Annual Residents Survey (ARS) and the 2021 Your Merton Survey (which received over 2500 responses from residents and helped shaped the Council’s vision as expressed in the Merton 2030 plan.

4 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5 There are no financial implications associated with this report (i.e. that that the Committee note the work undertaken, and to be undertaken, to tackle anti-social behaviour in Merton).

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

None for the purposes of this report.

CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report. Safer Merton in partnership with all council departments, continue to ensure that the council remains compliant with our duties under the Crime and Disorder Act.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purpose of this report.

10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

None for the purposes of this report.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1. Merton 2030 – Our ambition for the borough

11.2. <https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/plans-and-policies/merton-2030>

11.3. Strategic Theme Sustainable Communities – Enforcement (report to Council 17 November 2021)

<https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/documents/g3628/Public%20reports%20pack%20Wednesday%2017-Nov-2021%2019.15%20Council.pdf?T=10> (pages 19-60)

11.4. MOPAC Draft Police and Crime Plan 2021-25

<https://www.london.gov.uk/publications/police-and-crime-plan-2021-25>

[Report Ends]