

Site visit note: visit to Bethnal Green Police Station to support the Police and Crime Committee's investigation into antisocial behaviour in London

On 6 September 2017, Members of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee visited Bethnal Green Police Station to support the Committee's investigation into antisocial behaviour (ASB) in London. During the visit, members were given a presentation on Tower Hamlets' approach to tackling ASB and went out on patrol with officers.

The issue

- Tower Hamlets had one of the highest levels of ASB reports to the MPS.
- Those in community policing roles know that ASB can be one of the most impactful issues for people. This is why Tower Hamlets took the decision to focus on ASB.

The challenges

- ASB is dealt with differently in every borough in London.
- There is not a central list of partner organisations that work to tackle ASB. This is something Tower Hamlets have had to build up themselves.
- There is very little support available for those over 24 years old. This means it can be challenging to resolve ASB issues caused by older people.
- Tower Hamlets has a surprisingly high level of ASB caused by people who are 25 years or older. Partly this is due to Tower Hamlets having a large number of older Class A drugs users.
- Vulnerable repeat callers calling about a range of ASB related issues.

The approach

- Designed a bespoke ASB warning pad which can be used by police and council officers.
- Implemented an information sharing system whereby ASB warnings are added daily to a database. This information is shared every week with a range of partners, including the local authority, housing associations, drug and alcohol services, youth offending team, Tower Hamlets Gang's Unit, and community mental health services etc.
- Worked with vulnerable repeat callers in order to support them, understand the root causes of their calls, and ensure they got the right response and wider support.
- Worked with Tower Hamlets Homes in order to bring about 8 injunctions.
- Made use of positive requirements on injunctions e.g. requiring an individual to engage with drugs/alcohol services.

The outcome

- Results have shown significant reduction in demand between March 2017 to May 2017.
- Significant reductions in ASB related calls and reports.
- Reduction in gang activity.