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Anti Social Behaviour & Drug dealing

**Location: Area of Turnpike Lane
Transport Hub, Borough of Haringey,
Greater London, United Kingdom**

Project Name: Operation Turpin 1 & 2



Working together for a safer London

Key partnership contributors:

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12) Haringey Legal Services

SUMMARY

Local residents and businesses and the wider community who use the transport facilities in the locality of Turnpike Lane bus/Underground stations had expressed their concerns in relation to the ongoing issues surrounding Anti Social Behaviour. This involves large groups of youths congregating and loitering at the above locations as well as Ducketts Common and surrounding streets. It has been conveyed to the Safer Transport officers that many of the youths are using and selling drugs openly to members of the public unabated, and without fear of repercussions from the police. This has left many residents feeling disillusioned at the lack of police intervention causing residents, and the general public, to feel isolated and intimidated by these particular youths. The youths loiter from the early afternoon until late at night outside bookmaking establishments, residential side streets and the park area which affords them concealment from the public and the police. This problem is a real concern which mirrors and reflects the volume of complaints and calls the police receive in the immediate vicinity.

Main factors identified attracting this large groups of youths to loiter: Ducketts Common park area is a direct cut through for people to use when either going or returning from work, shopping, using public transport, or just using the park facilities on their lunch break thus providing a high volume of prospective customers. The park affords them concealment by the density of natural foliage, trees, hedges and poor lighting etc. There are also a number of secondary schools in the vicinity where pupils use the transport network, and they could be both vulnerable and impressionable. There are a number of fast food shops and betting establishments providing them with plausible excuses for being in the area, as well as potential customers. Residential communal areas again shelter them from the public gaze.

Homes for Haringey (housing providers) were contacted and confirmed that in residential blocks where a high volume of complaints had been received caretakers regularly found large amounts of detritus on the stairwells including cannabis joints, cigarette butts, food wrappers, spit stains, and urine.

SCANNING

There have been various gangs that have existed in and around The Turnpike Lane and Wood Green area for over twenty years, as well as other localities on the Borough of Haringey. The various gangs have evolved and fragmented over time. Historically there were clear dividing lines within these particular groups.

Primarily these distinct features in terms of association would start as early as primary/secondary schooling, older siblings, and defined geographical areas, and in many cases, defined ethnic groups. Over time, this is no longer the case, what we now see are groups of gangs coming together from different ethnic groups, boroughs/postcodes etc. As well as older well established members, there is also an increase in younger members.

The main source of income for the gangs who operate in the Turnpike Lane/Wood Green area is Class B drugs, namely Cannabis and Skunk. Over more recent times, there has been an increase in those youths arrested being found in possession of class A drugs.

There has been a further fragmentation within these groups, as younger member's started breaking away from the core group, and setting up their own operations independently.

By early 2011 the main gang of youths in and around the major transport hubs of Turnpike Lane and the junction of Wood Green High Road were a group who called themselves the "North London Somalis" (NLS). Further up Wood Green High Road another more established gang known as the "Wood Green Mob" (Money over Bitches) would ply their trade of drug dealing, robberies and other forms of ASB around Turnpike Lane which has a large foot fall of potential customers using the busy transport hubs.

In more recent times, over the past 2-3 years there has been a murder concerning drugs, several stabbings and numerous weapon related offences, all within the vicinity of Turnpike Lane. Turnpike Lane has received widespread media attention from the local tabloids. This has also been glamorised by various gangs who have You Tubed their exploits, either through disrespecting other rival gangs, or filming their videos on other rivals territories, and displaying their apparent wealth with luxury vehicles, jewellery and large amounts of drugs and cash.

The publicity has gone some way in creating fear and concern amongst the local residents and the wider community, which has caused a ripple effect across the Borough.

During various Street Surgeries and consultations with the local residents, their main concerns were the use and selling of drugs and their perceived perception that weapons are being used by the gangs, also local residents approaching officers on patrol, informing them of their concerns stating that they witness large groups of youths selling drugs openly in public on a daily basis. The information is then placed on database system.

ANALYSIS

- 1) We need to examine who is affected by the drug dealing issues, and ASB related to it?
- 2) The possible perceived perceptions that the local residents/businesses and the wider community have.
- 3) Confidence the local residents/wider community have in the police and Haringey council in dealing with their concerns related to youths selling drugs in their neighbourhood and nearby transport hubs, which has a high foot fall of potential customers.
- 4) Identifying the individuals/culprits within the gang(s) who are selling drugs and come to police attention on a regular basis from those who just associate and are on the peripheral of the drug dealing activities by the group collectively.
- 5) Youths selling drugs at peak flow times when members of public are using transport networks.

Identifying core gang members selling drugs a number of indices were utilized.

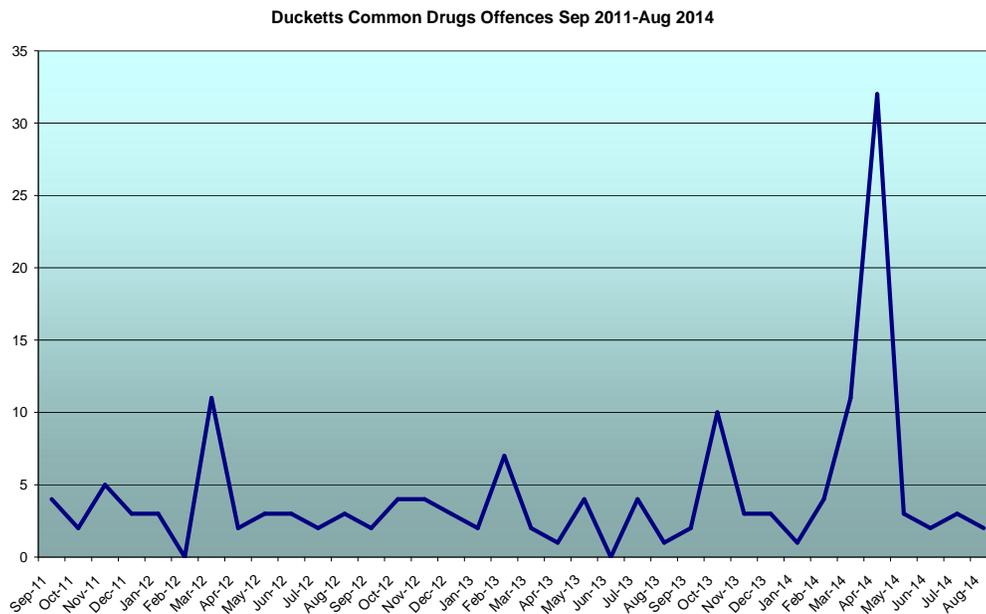
- 1) Haringey Gangs Unit

- 2) Haringey anti social Behaviour Team (ASBAT)
- 3) CAD/ASB calls, CRIS, and Police intelligence Criminal Intelligence (Crimint).
- 4) Contact with Police School liaison officers.
- 5) Homes for Haringey
- 6) Residents / Businesses
- 7) Local mosques / place of worship

Identifying the most prolific drug dealers the intelligence sources were PNC reports in relation to arrests/bail conditions etc. also scrutinising social networking sites. The problem surrounding drugs in the area have not been addressed previously, which has resulted in high levels of complaints due to dissatisfaction of police and local authority to address the issues of drug dealing/usage in the locality.

Ducketts Common - Drugs Offences

The tables and graph below show monthly levels of drugs offences in the Ducketts Common area for the 3 year period (Sep-Aug):



Month	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
Sep	4	2	2	8
Oct	2	4	10	16
Nov	5	4	3	12
Dec	3	3	3	9
Jan	3	2	1	6
Feb	0	7	4	11
Mar	11	2	11	24
Apr	2	1	32	35
May	3	4	3	10
Jun	3	0	2	5
Jul	2	4	3	9
Aug	3	1	2	6
Total	41	34	76	151

As shown on the tables & graph there is a rise in Drug Offences in the locality between 2013-2014. This is due to proactive work from police and local authority in arrests and breaches of ASBO from prominent offenders.

Sep-Aug	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
Possession Of Drugs	34	34	59	127
Drug Trafficking	7	0	16	23
Other Drugs	0	0	1	1
Total	41	34	76	151

Over the past 3-4 years there have been two main gangs that have been responsible for drug dealing in the locality of Turnpike Lane. This resulted in Trident officers carrying out a test purchasing operation known as "Op FADDEN" IN 2012 which resulted in 31 mainly the North London Somalis and the Young Albanian Guns receiving lengthy sentences. This however left a void that was immediately filled by a younger generation

19 arrested in two-day blitz on drug gang



Brazen: a young suspect is led away by a policeman in Haringey

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/19-arrested-in-twoday-blitz-on-drug-gang-7498317.html>

TOTTENHAM & WOOD GREEN JOURNAL

Again the main group responsible for a wide spectrum of different offences from using and selling drugs, anti social behaviour, such as loitering and urinating in the doorway of business and residential properties, littering of food, alcohol cans, bodily fluids, cigarettes and cannabis joints, and violence amongst the gang, which mostly goes unreported.

The ASB mainly occurred in and around Turnpike Lane, Wood Green High Road, Ducketts Common, and surrounding streets. The two main aforementioned groups previously worked separately from each other, but now co-exist in a joint enterprise of selling class B & A drugs.

Turnpike Lane, Wood Green High Road and the transport hubs is a very busy intersection, with a high volume foot print. This would provide a lucrative customer base for the gangs to ply their trade. This gives us a greater understanding the appeal, the joint associations and the internal conflicts that have occurred between the older members and the younger ones.

The hierarchy is less obvious then previously, and although they work collectively together for one common purpose, which is to sell drugs, they also operate in smaller groups.

There are approximately 15-20 members who have been identified belonging to or who associate with the main hard core element within the gang.

On the Borough of Haringey we decided to take a two tier approach of tackling the issues relating to two main groups. For us to be more effective we decided to pay closer attention to the individuals, as oppose to the group itself. Each person in the group was scrutinised. The thought process behind this was that each individual had their own unique set of problems, and their level of involvement varied.

There were those who were not involved in any of the ASB or drug dealing but would congregate and loiter with the main group. Secondly, the implementation of preventative measures, intervention and constructive diversionary programmes, and the enforcement aspect.

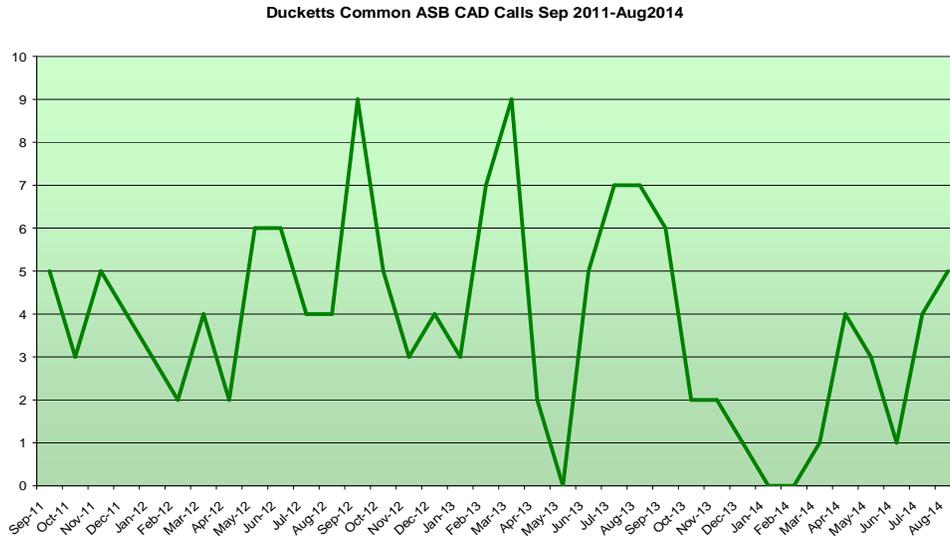
Looking through the various indices/high visibility patrols/speaking to local residents/businesses we were able to ascertain areas that were most affected the gangs ASB. This consisted of residential properties, betting establishments, gaming arcade, Tesco Express, and the local park, namely Ducketts Common and the Sandlings Estate.

The group in question would spend the vast majority of the time outside the above location from the early afternoon until the early hours of the morning. This would be more prevalent during the summer periods.

Through various sources a number of weapon sweeps have been conducted due to youths concealing weapons at various locations, especially in Ducketts Common, which affords them the natural foliage to hide weapons. Knives and batons have been found by Safer Transport Officers

Ducketts Common – ASB Cad Calls

The tables and graph below show monthly levels of calls regarding ASB in the Ducketts Common area for the 3 year period (Sep-Aug):



As shown on the tables and graph, the number of Cad (Commuter aided Dispatch - emergency calls - ASB) have significantly been reduced in the locality. This is due to robust policing, dispersal zone, bail conditions and ASBO's against offenders, prohibiting them from entering the area.

Month	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
Sep	5	9	6	20
Oct	3	5	2	10
Nov	5	3	2	10
Dec	4	4	1	9
Jan	3	3	0	6
Feb	2	7	0	9
Mar	4	9	1	14
Apr	2	2	4	8
May	6	0	3	9
Jun	6	5	1	12
Jul	4	7	4	15
Aug	4	7	5	16
Total	48	61	29	138

ASB Call Type	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
Veh Nuisance / Inappropriate Use	1	2	0	3
Rowdy Or Inconsiderate Behaviour	34	47	4	85
Rowdy / Nuisance Neighbours	3	2	0	5
Animal Problems	1	1	0	2
Trespass	1	0	3	4
Malicious / Nuisance Communications	2	3	0	5
Noise	2	3	0	5
Begging / Vagrancy	3	3	0	6
Fireworks	1	0	0	1
ASB - Personal	0	0	3	3
ASB - Nuisance	0	0	19	19
Total	48	61	29	138

** Note the reduction in rowdy behaviour calls and rise in ASB - Nuisance calls are due to changes in the way CAD calls are classified/codes used which were introduced during 2013-14.*

We were working closely with Haringey Anti Social Behaviour Team (ASBAT) and invited other key partners, such as the gangs unit, and the Youth Offending Team (YOTS). The concept behind this was to pool all our collectively resources together to achieve.

- 1) A greater understanding of the issues affecting the local residents/businesses in the locality.
- 2) Joint partnership work with other agencies to create and enhance of intelligence database.
- 3) Intrusive plain/high visibility patrols, to disrupt and deter those individuals who have been identified as being affiliated with the aforementioned gang. A data base for all arrests/stop & searches of main culprits, secondly, to identify the main hotspot areas where ASB is occurring.



Member of Parliament David Lammy (far right) out on patrol whilst weapon sweep conducted on Ducketts Common .

RESPONSE

Understanding the causation

The gang of youths that had been identified were predominately from the Muslim community, and many of the youths attended the local mosques in the area. It was decided to reach out to two of

the mosques and make contact with the imams' in the hope of bridging the gap between ourselves and the youths concerned.

Through various consultations it was decided to set up work shops for the youths to attend after prayer where the elders in the mosque could mediate to discuss the issues facing the youths. It also gave the police, in a less informal setting an opportunity to convey and express the concerns of the local residents/ businesses in the area, and the detrimental impact their behaviour was having on the wider community. The youths were also in an environment they felt comfortable in.

One of the events was attended by Sheikh Mehmet Sultan who spoke to the youths about the teachings of the Koran, and social cohesion and how the scriptures reflect on modern day life, and the personal responsibility that each individual plays in society.

Those youths who had been identified were contacted by post, and attending their addresses, speaking with their parents/guardians inviting them to attend the offices of the Haringey Anti Social Behaviour Team.

Again this was seen as a diversionary measure in the hope of curtailing their behaviour. Officers were invited to the meeting, along with the ASBAT officers. Many of the parents/guardians attended the meeting, whereby the discussions were open, honest and transparent. The onus was to educate many of the parents/guardians to take responsibility, and to play a more active role regarding the behaviour of their children, and to work in partnership with the police in offering advice and assistance where possible.

By doing this, and engaging with the parents, we were able to get a better insight into the family composition, which maybe one of the causation factors as to why the individuals within the gang were committing offences and other forms of ASB. Many of the youths were not comfortable with this, but the response from the parents/guardians was very positive. Many of the parents/guardians stated that they had felt isolated and ill equipped to deal with the issues mentioned.

PROFILES ON GANG MEMBERS

1) Social housing/applications, rent arrears, benefits they receive. Info acquired from Haringey ASBAT.

2) Anti Social Behaviour Orders, breach of dispersal orders.

3) Police CRIS, PNC, CRIMINT, CAD etc.

4) Pending court appearances, Bail conditions etc.

5) Vehicles used by most active/prolific gang members.

6) Haringey's Gangs Unit.

7) Youth Liaison workers.

Safer Transport officers would meet with Haringey ASBAT team every month, along with Safer Neighbourhood officers, Parks and recreation, Haringey CCTV Manager, Community leaders to update, review also sharing information on those individuals concerned, with the hope of extending our partnership strand to other internal/external agencies.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES TAKEN

The most productive way to make inroads was to take a two tier approach, was the Engagement aspect and the Enforcement side.

ENGAGEMENT

1) Working in partnership with Liaison officers as part of the Basketball Clinic (Ducketts Common Park).

- 2) St Ann's Mosque St Ann's Road Tottenham N15 and Sydney Road Mosque, Hornsey N8.
- 3) Arranging with Police schools officers at local schools, talks on the dangers of drugs, gangs, and the perceived myths and glamorising of gang culture.
- 4) Officers from Safer Transport attending and taken part in Junior Citizenship, which is provided by Haringey Council.

This particular aspect of early prevention is to educate the younger more vulnerable, and impressionable children the harsh realities of being drawn into a gang, or selling or using drugs through peer pressure.

There are many schools of thought on how gangs attract and recruit within, but the primary attraction towards gangs are their ability to respond to student needs that are not currently being met in their lives.

This could be a sense of belonging, coming from a dysfunctional family environment by schools having a better understanding how gangs can attract and recruit students from within their schools will be invaluable. The ethos is to stem the flow of impressionable students joining such groups, or committing such acts, and that they can achieve their long term goals through education, and not be tempted by what many youths see as "Short Term" aspirations.

ENFORCEMENT

- 1) Anti Social Behaviour Orders
- 2) Breach of Dispersal Orders, (Replaced by Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) which impacts on freedom of travel or association.
- 3) Convictions

4) Imprisonment

5) Eviction from Council Property (Breaching Tenancy agreement for drugs found in

Premises owned by Homes for Haringey.

The hard core elements within the gang selling drugs were not fazed by being arrested, and viewed it as an "Occupational Hazard", a slight inconvenience when selling drugs.

We have been able to unitize various pieces of legislation to curtail, and attempt to decrease ASB and other offences, which has also greatly assisted in convicting the most persistent offenders. This can clearly be seen by some of the main perpetrators no longer in the affected areas, also those who have adhered to the orders that have been placed on them. We have also had personal testimonies of those who have gone onto part time/full time education and work placements.

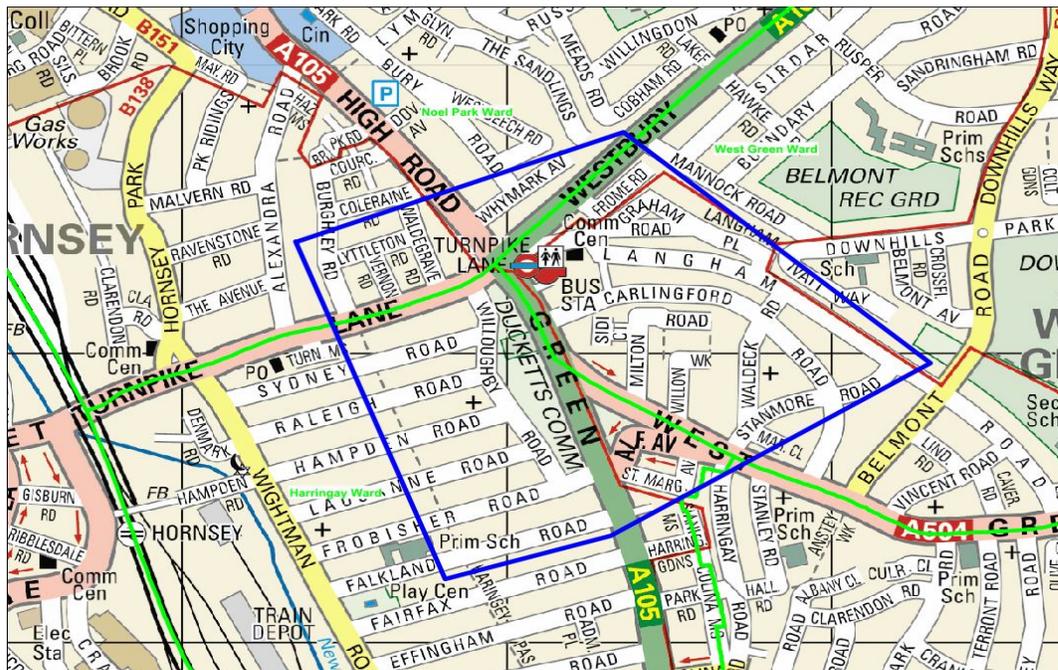
LOCALITY

A noticeable change has taken place in and around the affected areas of where the drug dealing/usage and other forms of ASB was taking place. There has been a decline in ASB calls by local residents. The gang of youths can be seen on a daily basis loitering in large groups outside residential properties, shop fronts, betting establishments, which many of the general public view as causing anti social behaviour, and very intimidating.

The mere presence of the gang loitering in the door ways of building, with the strong pungent smell of cannabis/skunk only adds to the perception that the police/local authority are not addressing the issues as stated above, and that certain parts of the vicinity have become "No Go" areas.

Using various methods to combat and dispel we have used a number of tools in order to keep our fingers on the pulse of criminal activity that is taken place.

- 1) Haringey CCTV Cameras - most effective with breaches of ASBO conditions
- 2) Dispersal Orders/ Public Spaces Protection Orders - Allows police to disperse groups of more than two, thus preventing gang members travelling in large groups whilst selling drugs and causing other forms of ASB.
- 3) Dedicated high visibility and plain clothes patrols, based on Intel and the times when drug dealing/usage is taking place around the transport hubs and surrounding area.
- 4) Weapon sweeps - Cris/Crimints and other forms of Intel. Weapons have been found in park area, which offers the drug dealers concealment from the natural foliage, and weapons are easy access if needed. Drugs dogs have been deployed in park and surrounding roads.



OLD dispersal Zone / ASBO



NEW Extended dispersal Zone / ASBO - Soon to be replaced by the NEW Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

ASSESSMENT

Success can be measured in a number of ways. Firstly some of the individuals within the gang selling drugs have managed to steer clear of former gang associates, and no longer loiter in the locality as a result of the various tactics used to curtail their behaviour, and secondly the positive feedback from local residents/businesses and the wider community. There was no evidence to suggest that the gang had moved to another location, as the transport hubs afforded them a large foot fall of customers. From the personal testimonies below, it is evident that we have gone some way in restoring faith and confidence in our ability to deliver on the realistic promises we made to deal effectively with the drug dealing in the area.

Success Story 1 - (former drug dealer/user)

Male was a leading member of the gang selling drugs, and had been arrested on numerous occasions. As a direct result we were able to obtain an ASBO on conviction, which was for 5 years. His conditions were not to associate with named individuals within the group. The male in question

was also excluded from the affected area where he was selling drugs and causing ASB.

Since the ASBO the male has only breached his ASBO order once. Below link is of male giving a personal testimony on how the ASBO and other tactics used impacted on him, and the positive outcomes he has made as result.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5gcFbG9ghq7iyzGf35Pg_OBQe7MUkDrY

Success Story 2 - (Former drug dealer/user)

Male was youngest member of the gang, who was deemed to be very impressionable. It wasn't long before the youth was holding the drugs for the older members, and selling drugs unabated on the High Road. The youth was arrested on numerous occasions. He was invited, along with the other members in the gang for a meeting with the Anti Social Behaviour Team regarding complaints of ASB being committing by the group. All received Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's), which was the first instance approach.

During this meeting the group were told not to be in the locality, and the consequences, should they choose to ignore it were fully explained to them all. However this was breached, almost immediately.

Through various agencies we were able to speak with the mother of the youth. The mother informed officers that she was very concerned that her son was coming home late, sometimes in the early hours of the morning, and also police knocking on her door wanting to know where her son was. She also stated that her son was no longer attending school, and was sleeping until late in the afternoon.

Diversionsary tactics were used to steer and curb the youth away from the gang. Police officers made contact with the Youth Offending Team (YOT'S) in order to offer some assistance to the parent. Initially the youth would not engage with outside agencies or the police, which resulted in the youth, along with the other gang members receiving a 2 year ASBO order.

Goldstein Award Entry - Haringey R.P.T.C

Officers continued to monitor the youth and stayed in contact with his mother. The robust tactics and the assistance of other agencies yielded very positive results. The youth is now on a training scheme, and has been working with his father who lives in Poland.

Success Story 3 - (Manager of store) 2014

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5gcFbG9ghq7iyzGf35Pg_OBQe7MUkDrY

“The businesses up and down the High Road felt very unsafe because of the young teenagers smoking and selling drugs. There has been difference since the ASBO’s have come out. We have worked very, very closely with the police. I have CCTV in my venue and outside the venue. I know the other businesses up and down the road have it as well. It has actually made the area safer, making our businesses work better and our customers are coming back. Customers are actually saying that they feel safer coming back into the area as well, and feel a lot safer as a result of what the police have done for the past two years.”

Success Story 4 - (Barrister/resident/business owner) 2014

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5gcFbG9ghq7iyzGf35Pg_OBQe7MUkDrY

“When the dispersal Order is being enforced we noticed a significant improvement of life and the enjoyment of our property around here. We are very happy when the streets are busy. The ground floor is still a commercial property, relies on foot fall and what we don’t want or need are youths standing around and behaving in an anti social manner, and also drug dealing in the area, been very please with the hands on approach”.

Success Story 5 - Quote from Cllr Richard Watson” Tottenham & Wood Green Journal, Written by Stephen Moore. 14th November 2013

Haringey Council cabinet member for communities said “The impact of this group of men has been huge. They have menaced and terrorized these areas and it will come as a huge relief to

shopkeepers and residents that they are now banned from these places - and from associating with each other”.

“Our Anti Social Behaviour Action Team and local police will be watching carefully to make sure that any breaches are reported. We simply won’t tolerate any anti social behaviour, especially not on this scale”

Success Story 6 - Ducketts Common National Award

Sight visit of Ducketts Common in relation to CCTV enforcement / Safety cameras being installed



Member of Parliament David Lammy and his assistant with officers from Roads and Transport Policing Command

Ducketts Common Park is geographically in the centre of a very busy intersection, and historically the park area has been used by the drug dealers to sell/use/collect their drugs, which would attract undesirables to the locality, Making the park a “No Go” area for the community. Through the extensive work that has been ongoing with various agencies. Ducketts Common received a national award for the first time, based on a number of criteria’s, namely

- 1) A welcoming place
- 2) Healthy, safe and Secure

- 3) Community involvement
- 4) Sustainability

Officers have replaced their uniforms to take part in basketball competitions with local youths



NBA and Haringey Basketball Association 3X held basketball tournament in Ducketts Common, Turnpike Lane

Challenges

- 1) Those with numerous breaches of ASBO orders and drug convictions receiving a “Slap on the Wrist” when attending court. Liaising with the courts, with an open and transparent line of communications.
- 2) Austerity cuts, no funding for further workshops at the basketball clinic and local mosques, and funding for additional CCTV cameras.
- 3) Being part of a small unit, we are subjected to abstractions onto other Pan London operations, For example, Op SAFEWAY, Op CUBO etc.
- 4) Dispelling preconceived ideas that the public have at the apparent lack of intervention by the

Goldstein Award Entry - Haringey R.P.T.C

police to deal with the issues that concern them, namely drug dealing.

WORD COUNT : 3,916 (NOT INCLUDING - GLOSSARY SECTION or AUTHORS and CONTRIBUTORS)

Glossary

Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) - Voluntary agreement between local authority and perpetrators of anti social behaviour.

Anti Social Behaviour - Causing alarm, harassment, and distress to Resident's the wider community, and also individuals. This can take the form of public nuisance calls, loitering in large groups, openly using and selling drugs in public.

Haringey Anti Social Behaviour Team - Partnership between the police and local Council authority to combat and reduce anti social behaviour. The sharing of information with regards to finding positive solutions/resolutions to long and short term problems related to low level ASB.

CAD - Computer Aided Dispatch - Records incidents/offences with unique reference number.

Anti Social Behaviour Order - (ASBO) - Legislation enforcing restrictions on those who receive such an order to cease whatever anti social behaviour they are committing, either to an individual or the wider community. Breaches can result in further conditions being added to their original conditions.

Dispersal Order / Zone - Designated area that has been highlighted as a result of low level crime/anti social behaviour, such as drug dealing, robberies, large groups of youths a public nuisance. Individuals can be directed to leave the area and not return for a period not exceeding 48 hours. This can be enforced if the group are causing a nuisance that is likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress, and they have no reasonable excuse for being in the locality.

Turnpike Lane & Wood Green High Road - Area's with the Borough of Haringey.

Haringey - London Borough in North London that borders Islington, Hackney and Enfield Borough.

CRIS - Crime recording information system. Record of offences committed.

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) - Replacing the Dispersal orders, more Legislative powers to deal with those committing anti social behaviour. Such orders are now completed by the local authority and not the police service.

References

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/19-arrested-in-twoday-blitz-on-drug-gang-7498317.html>

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5gcFbG9ghq7iyzGf35Pg_OBQe7MUkDrY

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<http://www.haringeyindependent.co.uk/news/10793197.Nine-men-banned-from-park-for-anti-social-behaviour/>