

COMMUNITY, CUSTOMER AND ORGANISATIONAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 JULY, 2018

UPDATE REGARDING THE PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

REPORT BY: Ian Waller – Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership implemented a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) on 15th December 2017. This order has been in place now for approximately 6 months and covers Chesterfield Town Centre.
- 1.2 Officers from both the Police and the Council patrolled the dispersal area for the first two weeks and issued 48 dispersal notices in relation to certain individuals, but refrained from issuing Fixed Penalty Notices until after the Christmas period. This was the agreed approach that the council took to help embed the PSPO.
- 1.3 It was felt that this approach, namely putting individuals on notice before undertaking enforcement was a more appropriate approach given the time of year and the nature of the order in place and would help to prevent criticism from the media and the public.

2.0 Current Position

- 2.1 Due to the dedication of the Officers involved in its enforcement, the PSPO based on the results from the first few months of operation, appears to be having the desired effect. Please see below the number of interventions that have taken place since the 15th of December 2017.

Actions	No.
PSPO/TC – Enquiry	6
PSPO/TC – Complaint	6
PSPO/TC – Patrol	5
PSPO/TC- Warning	51
PSPO/TC – Require to pick up items	2
FPN – Dispersal	6
FPN – Loitering & begging	1
ASB – Other	1

- 2.2 Since the introduction of the PSPO, calls for service and reports to the Community Safety Office have dropped significantly. In addition the authority is also receiving positive feedback from retailers and members of the public.

For example the East Midlands Chamber, through Business Watch reported;

`...some of the retailers have seen a vast improvement in the last 2 or 3 weeks. They feel this is probably due to the PSPO being in place...`

- 2.3 We have been able to identify a core group of individuals who are not responding to the interventions. These individuals will be targeted with injunctions, and other interventions, whilst still being offered support from local homeless agencies to turn their lifestyles around.
- 2.4 Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership has been working with the Police and Crime Commissioner through a Summit meeting whose sole

focus was the successful delivery of the PSPO. The Summit meeting had 2 working groups attached to the main group;

1. *Enforcement*

2. *Treatment and support.*

It has been acknowledged that these two groups have worked well to tackle the complex issues highlighted in the operation and delivery of the PSPO. However it has also been recognised that moving forward the continued success of the PSPO will come from closer working and a joined up approach when dealing with enforcement and support.

- 2.5 Consequently at the most recent Town Centre Summit meeting held on the 25th April 2018, it was suggested and agreed that these two groups having fulfilled their initial brief would merge to continue the work on prevention and rehabilitation.
- 2.6 It was identified that all the partners attend the North Derbyshire Homeless Forum and therefore to reflect the most effective and efficient method of working it was agreed that partners would meet after the homeless forum so that the PSPO had a dedicated session with all appropriate partners present.
- 2.7 The work to continue to monitor the PSPO will sit as part of the Community Safety Partnership Plan. The Partnership will, as a result of the format outlined above, also attend the North Derbyshire Homeless Forum to discuss any emerging issues identified and importantly be able to direct and support any identified required interventions.
- 2.8 Through seeking to provide suitable wrap around services and support functions for the most vulnerable the PCC has engaged a local Church Group to look at operating a night shelter in Chesterfield from October 2018. The Partnership will work with the Church group to ensure that this is an effective programme that provides support, help and guidance to the vulnerable and monitor progress of this project and provide appropriate guidance to mitigate any issues that could arise from this intervention.

3.0 Summary

- 3.1 Based on the overview outlined above, the introduction of the PSPO has achieved the desired outcomes. Through effective partnerships, close working of the enforcement officers and a true collaborative approach to making a difference the first six months of the PSPO have been a success.
- 3.2 The joining of enforcement and treatment / support sub groups is a positive progression to further coordinated working to achieve the desired outcomes. Partners remain focussed on ensuring the PSPO continues to be effective and a further update will be provided at the next Town Centre Summit on the 24th October 2018, 10.00am – 12pm, Committee Room 1, Chesterfield Town Hall.