

Partnership Strategy to tackle nuisance/illegal motorbike activity

Introduction

For several years the towns of Cleveland have suffered with issues of off road bikes, illegal bikes and bike related ASB. Since Covid lockdowns there has been a rise of such activity across the nation and these rises are echoes within our communities. In recent years we have seen a number of deaths as a result of illegal biking activities, disorder, collisions in urban areas, damage to land and property along with disruption of the road network.

With the increase in biking activity and the problems caused by them, there has been increased scrutiny from the media and the public along with issues being raised by local politicians within the House of Commons.

The increase in nuisance/illegal biking activity has raised community concerns and frequently attracts local media attention and regular complaints to services.

Each ward currently has a "Ward Profile" which is supported by analytical data from police and partner agencies. These profiles along with intelligence and local knowledge of officers and partners will allow us to work together to formulate plans and processes to address these issues together.

Within community safety partnership's Cleveland Police has been working with partners to respond to some of these concerns however it is recognised that a more bespoke strategy is now required to address these issues and make our communities safer.

Social media coverage suggests that public confidence in our ability to tackle the issue is low and this view is echoed in data gather by the ONS. A national study conducted on behalf of the home office shows that only 40% of victims/witnesses to vehicle related ASB reported it. Of people who did not report these issues 36% didn't feel that any action would be taken and 27% didn't think it would be taken seriously.

Whilst there have been numerous short term successes and recoveries of bikes causing misery, these are often greeted with negative comments on social media by those who continue to suffer from the related ASB. A sustainable strategic plan is required to implement significant improvements and lead a new drive in tackling these issues together.

The strategy will be in line with the current Police And Crime Plan:

- Bringing offenders to justice;
- Getting tough on drugs and gangs;
- Tackling anti-social behaviour head-on;
- Helping to provide an effective police and criminal justice system;
- Preventing, reducing and tackling serious violence;
- Putting more police on the streets;
- Tackling violence against women and girls;
- Building confidence in Cleveland's communities;
- Providing effective, quality support for victims and witnesses;
- Using technology to combat crime.

The strategy will also align with the community safety priorities of each local authority.

The strategy and subsequent actions will be delivered using the principles of the 4 point plan:

- Prepare
- Prevent
- Protect
- Pursue

What is nuisance/illegal motorbike activity?

The simplest way to consider this activity is to identify it initially as ASB through the use of a motorcycle.

For the purpose of this strategy we will accept the definition as outlined in the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

- (a) Conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person,
- (b) Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises, or
- (c) Conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.

Once you look past the ASB element of motorbike use and the effects that such behaviour has on victims and communities, there are a wide variety of criminal offences which make the usage of these motorbikes illegal. Some such offences for consideration are:

- Driving where there is no right, or contravening a prohibition Driving on 'land' without lawful authority S.34(1) RTA 1988.
- Driving on footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways S.34(1) RTA 1988
- Failure to comply with traffic signs S.36 RTA
- Failure to comply with public spaces protection order S.67 ASBCPA 2014
- Driving without a licence (including underage driving) S.87 RTA 1988
- Driving without RTA insurance S.143 RTA 1988
- Driving without MoT Tests S.47 RTA 1988
- Using a vehicle without the correct excise duty ('road tax') S.29 VERA 1994
- Unauthorised passengers on a motorcycle S.23
- Careless, and inconsiderate, driving
- Driving so as to cause alarm or distress to other people may on occasions fall into S3 RTA 1988 or s.59 PRA 2002

Governance and Accountability

MARORB

Each police district will form a tactical and operations group with partners under the title MARORB (Multi agency response to off road bikes). Whilst not all problem bikes are technically “Off road”, this is a generally recognisable term.

The MARORB will be managed by the district police leads on tackling the issues of nuisance/illegal bikes and supported by the local authority and other identified partners. Each MARORB should have a nominated chair and deputy with those responsibilities shared between police and the local authority.

This group will meet each month to manage resources, identify emerging issues and agree and set actions and the implementation of tactical options.

The actions and progress will be recorded on what is referred to as “the 4p plan” by chair, deputy or nominated minute taker.

It is important that a clear tactical plan is set for each month to focus efforts of all partner agencies on key areas or individuals and allow for scrutiny.

Information shared within these meetings may often be sensitive or private in nature and it is important that partners agree to the principles of sharing information under a lawful basis and in line with information sharing agreements.

The MARORB should be an ever evolving process where there is no set stipulation or who should be members. However members should be able to actively contribute to solving the problem of nuisance/illegal bikes or their impact on victims or communities.

Daily Partnership Meeting

There are currently, daily partner meetings within each district which may highlight new emerging issues in the time period between MARORB’S. These meetings allow for all partners to share issues and allow for instances where immediate action is required. Activity and actions from these meetings should be recorded on the 4PP.

Objectives

Prepare:

- Effective communication between all internal and external partners.
- Develop processes of accurate data recovery
- Creative use of resources and digital assets to identify the needs of communities
- Develop joint communications plan between corporate communication/media departments.

- Engagement with wider force and partner departments and resources to secure commitment in supporting increased focus on activity
- Daily review of all incidents identified in partner meetings
- Ensure the services best placed to assist in addressing these issues are involved
- Develop programmes such as Neighbourhood Watch Schemes to build community cohesion and drive public engagement in tackling the problem.
- Take an ever evolving approach to problem solving and share and nurture ideas.

Prevent

- Understand in detail the issues and develop bespoke PSP's for repeat victims where necessary.
- Take a collective approach to identifying issues and generating solutions
- Consider all available preventative measures including designing out access to repeat locations or crime prevention advice for repeat victims.
- Ensure problem solving activity is multi agency and that internal and external partners are accountable for their service delivery and responsibilities.
- Develop internal knowledge and wider force application of S59 warnings, CPW/CPN and relevant legislation.
- Develop a bespoke resourcing plan to address the issues in each area according to their needs.
- Develop youth provisions and long term engagement to divert youths away from future ASB activity.

Pursue

- Through partnership intelligence and information sharing identify the suspects for crime and bike related ASB
- Tackle offending through a range of partnership measures and available legislation.
- Open-Source scoping of suspects to identify offending, vehicles, associates, locations frequented and safeguarding concerns
- Effectively deploy existing resources internal and external to provide high visibility policing at key times and adopt robust and proportionate policing style
- All Policing activity related to the tackling of nuisance/illegal bikes to be recorded on any existing PSP and the 4PP
- Ensure work continues with fuel stations around the sale of fuel to potential illegal bikers.
- Adopt a shared intelligence picture across the force area as evidence shows that illegal bikes travel throughout the region to engage in activities
- Share images of offenders/bikes on the Endurance sharepoint for assistance in gaining identification and allow officers/partners to keep a look out for the bikes
- Utilise all available powers to police and partners to effect change
- Ensure staff are aware of the legislation and powers around prosecution, warnings and seizure and ensure robust action is taken where possible.

Protect

- Ensure repeat victims are identified and correctly classified as vulnerable as per the APP
- Ensure ASB Risk Assessments are carried out as per the APP and ASB statutory guidance
- Effective briefing, communication and tasking developing a culture of accountability and ownership.
- Work in partnership to support victims with consideration of the cumulative effect of ASB.

- Work in line with the Home office guidance on ASB Principles
- Ensure victims are aware of their rights of appeal and support services such as ASBhelp and Resolve.
- Ensure the legal rights and freedoms of the general public are protected
- Improve safety to members of the community by tackling bike related crime and ASB.

Terms of Reference

The purpose of the MARORB is to:

- Identify issues of nuisance/illegal bike ASB and coordinate a multi-agency approach to tackle offenders and prevent further incidents.
- To identify the correct mean of dealing with perpetrators of through a coordinated approach.
- To ensure that victims and particularly vulnerable victims are supported in line with the Home Office Principles of managing ASB.
- Identify repeat or persistent offenders and work together to target identified suspects.
- Identify hotspots across the district to inform patrol planning.
- Build public confidence through a coordinated approach.

Membership Representatives which should be considered:

- Local Authority
- Youth Offending Service where repeat offenders are identified as youths
- Fire and Rescue
- Social Care (Children & Adult)
- Probation
- Housing
- CCTV/Wardens

MARORB'S should meet on at least a monthly basis and should be considered as an integral part of the management of nuisance/illegal bike activity and its associated ASB.

Through identifying both hotspots and target offenders the members of the MARORB will be expected to case manage both people and places through a holistic approach.

It is important for each MARORB to have the confidence to freely discuss and share highly sensitive information and data on a "need to know basis"; core membership should be restricted in order to reflect this.

Further attendees might attend in order to give a specific perspective due to their expertise however care should be given around the details discussed in such circumstances should they not be party to an information sharing agreement.

Where core members are unable to attend they should send a representative, who has been briefed, in their place and provide a report about any emerging issues or outstanding actions.

Details of the meeting should be recoded on the 4PP and include a brief synopsis of the meeting and identified hotspots or offenders. Any actions should be recorded on the 4PP for following up with

details of the action owner. These actions should be updated as they progress and discussed at the next meeting.

MARORB agenda:

- Updated operational assessment overview based on analysis of data during since last meeting.
- Performance activity since the last meeting.
- Discuss any vulnerable and repeat victims, including those identified through the ASB Risk Assessment Matrix.
- Intelligence/report sharing from members.
- Identify any subjects or locations of concern based on intelligence and reports (e.g. top 5 offender/location targets)
- Any outstanding actions from previous meetings.
- Seek suggestions on future improvements.
- Determine plans for the month ahead and set actions as required.

Communication should regularly communicate the joint working approach to tackling the issues of nuisance/illegal bikes. There should be a focus on building community confidence and showing a concerted effort to improve service. Consideration should be given to including quotes from partners, generating newsletters and sharing successes across platforms available to all members to widen the audience.

This document is not prescriptive and should evolve as new members are identified and new techniques come to light.