

# Portsmouth: Tackling and preventing **anti-social behaviour**



“We always focus on what makes a difference to our residents because they’re the people that really matter.”

David Williams, Chief Executive of Portsmouth City Council

# Welcome to Portsmouth

No longer just a dockyard city, Portsmouth is modern and dynamic, offering a prime location for industry, commerce, leisure and pleasure. With almost 50kms of waterfront Portsmouth has always provided a unique quality of life and a diverse range of attractions and amenities for its businesses and residents.

## Getting Beacon Status

Portsmouth City Council is one of only four local authorities in the country to achieve the prestigious Beacon status award for Preventing and Tackling Anti-social Behaviour. The award highlights the raft of now nationally recognised first-rate community safety services it provides with partners working in the Safer Portsmouth Partnership.

Portsmouth achieved beacon status due to its:

- › clear vision and leadership of all partners in tackling anti-social behaviour;
- › close and highly professional working relationship with Hampshire Constabulary;
- › creation of Safer Neighbourhood Teams with police, police community support officers (PCSOs) and community wardens working with residents;
- › early intervention such as achieved by the Preventing Youth Offending Project (PYOP);
- › successful and practical partnership working with all community safety partners;
- › robust use of tools and powers.

## Community Safety

The Safer Portsmouth Partnership (the CDRP) is the community safety organisation that leads on cutting crime and substance misuse in the city. All statutory and voluntary agencies are involved in this successful partnership. The council’s Chief Executive, David Williams is the current chair of the Safer Portsmouth Partnership and attendees include the Chief Superintendent, Director of Public Health, Youth Offending Team Manager and the Group Manager, Hampshire Fire and Rescue.

More information at [www.saferportsmouth.org.uk](http://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk)



Rachael Dalby is Head of Community Safety for Portsmouth City Council. The community safety team leads on the “twin-track” approach of support and enforcement and consists of the Anti-social Behaviour Unit (ASBU), Hidden Violence Team, community wardens, Strategy and Partnerships Team incorporating the Drug Action Team and the Preventing Youth Offending Project (PYOP).



Rachael Dalby, Head of Community Safety at Portsmouth City Council



## Anti-social Behaviour Unit

The Anti-social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) is a multi-disciplined team co-located to ensure a coherent approach. The ASBU works as part of the wider community safety remit and works closely with its colleagues to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour.

The ASBU currently has a team of 11, including a manager supported by a dedicated ASB solicitor, legal support officer, four local authority housing staff (also assisting local authority properties outside the boundary of Portsmouth), a CCTV manager, public caseworker, two police employees and an office administrator.

The ASBU provides a co-ordinated and timely response to anti-social behaviour and one of its strengths is its ability to facilitate multi-agency meetings to ensure that responses are joined up. This will include robust action in its use of the tools and powers available such as anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs), injunctions and crack house closures. However whilst these powers are used, a long-term approach is adopted to stop ASB issues re-occurring. This includes early intervention and support processes running in parallel to the use of tools and powers known as the ‘twin track approach.’

The ASBU has helped obtain over 100 ASBOs, 20 crack house closures and 30 Dispersal Orders in Portsmouth. Casework examples include an ASBO obtained for domestic abuse and a crack house closure for a house of multiple occupation. The ASBU is available to give advice to partner community safety teams to disseminate its good practice.



# Policing and Enforcement

## Partnership work and Tasking Groups

Community Tasking Groups – where key agencies come together to resolve community issues – are a key feature of partnership working in Portsmouth.

In January an official launch was held to raise awareness of and encourage attendance at the Tasking Group meetings. Regular Tasking Group meetings are held in the four main areas of the city: Southsea, Fratton, Cosham and Portsmouth Central, to address community problems that may not be classed as an emergency, but certainly impact on peoples' lives.

Local Councillors, community wardens, police officers and PCSOs, trading standards and housing officers all attend these regular, well-organised meetings.

The meetings are not open to the public due to the sensitive nature of some of the items discussed, however the aim is to provide achievable solutions to local issues and people are encouraged to approach key agencies and resident forums who do attend the meetings to discuss issues on their behalf. They will then find the best long-term solution.

## Community wardens

Portsmouth City Council's community wardens have enjoyed vast success within their communities using a multi-agency approach. Community wardens are the 'eyes and ears' of the community and, although they have powers of enforcement, their preferred approach is to educate and advise.

In their high-visibility role, the community wardens make a positive difference to the quality of life of residents by helping, and working with, communities so they can help themselves to live in a cleaner and safer environment.

The aims of the Community Warden Service are to improve the quality of life in residential areas, parks and open spaces; to make people feel more secure and reassured; to help make public spaces cleaner and safer; to engage citizens and foster community spirit, pride and a sense of belonging.

The community wardens work closely with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. This partnership offers communities Home Fire Safety Referrals and undertakes Environmental Audits for the fire service. They also work with:

- Hampshire Constabulary as part of the Safer Neighbourhood Team
- Local communities and have had success apprehending nuisance youths by gathering evidence for anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs), acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) and crack house closures. They have also built trust within communities with schemes such as youth wardens and inter-generational bingo sessions.



# Alcohol and drugs

The Portsmouth Drug Action Team works within the Safer Portsmouth Partnership to provide drug treatment services and crime prevention initiatives. Some of the innovative partnership working in this area includes:



- › **Fleet Project** – police, probation and Drug Interventions Teams work together to get the prolific and other priority offenders into treatment. The project offers a 'carrot and stick' approach getting drug users rapid access to treatment, with a high level of support (clients receiving a script are seen daily by a drugs worker). If the drug user does not accept the offer of treatment the local neighbourhood policing teams are tasked with targeting them for action.
- › **Engage Volunteers** – supports substance misuse clients who have been through treatment and are ready to make the first steps into employment. Engage finds suitable placements for clients, enabling them to experience the world of work and develop their confidence. Engage is a dedicated substance misuse project, which is able to provide the right support for this client group. In addition, Engage provides additional support for the voluntary work providers to overcome the challenges this client group may bring.

## Operation Drink Safe

A multi-agency response to the problem of binge drinking and associated problems, this is a combined communication, education and enforcement campaign. Enforcement activities have targeted the most problematic areas/premises, whilst innovative communications have spread the message to drink safe. Combined enforcement and support measures, such as an alcohol arrest referral service and conditional cautioning, have been introduced to help people with alcohol problems.



## Community Health Practitioners (CHPs)

A project set up by South Central Ambulance Service with funding from a range of partners, including licensed premises. At weekends the CHPs are located within the entertainment areas to provide a rapid response, in order to reduce the number of emergency ambulance calls. During the day the CHPs promote healthy living, including safe drinking, visiting licensed premises and advise on reducing accidents.

# Hidden violence and domestic abuse

The Hidden Violence Team in Portsmouth covers all areas of hate crime and domestic abuse. It has two main projects supporting people who have experienced either domestic abuse or racial harassment.

## The Early Intervention Project (EIP)

The Early Intervention Project (EIP) provides support and advocacy for victims of domestic abuse and is accessed through health/housing or the police. The service is client led and has seen levels of repeat victimisation reduce from 84% to 16% in 3 years. The project has won local, national and international awards and was one of the first to use the now established independent advocate style of working. It is part of an essential multi-agency response and continues to work in creative and innovative ways to secure the safety of clients.

## The Racial Awareness Service

The Racial Awareness Service provides support, information, advice and advocacy to victims of racial harassment. Clients are either referred from the police or by themselves. The service is client led and works with the increasingly diverse community in Portsmouth. A youth worker supports young perpetrators and victims of racial harassment, providing workshop/assemblies and lesson plans for local schools. The service is also involved with local community cohesion work so people know about the service before they need it.



# Youth Projects

## Prevent Offending and Anti-Social Behaviour



### Portsmouth Preventing Youth Offending Project

Portsmouth Preventing Youth Offending Project (PYOP) is the only project of its kind in the country and one of only two in the world (the other is in Canada). It works with young people and their families specifically to reduce the likelihood of offending or causing anti-social behaviour.

The project works with young people aged 6 to 18 who are at risk of disengaging from the education process and becoming involved/more involved with anti-social/criminal behaviour. PYOP offers individual packages of care designed in collaboration with the young people and their parents/carers. They have developed a unique social care model of intervention:

- 1) The referral criteria** – all young people are assessed and must meet PYOP's criteria for intervention. The team concentrates on those young people where there are most concerns about behaviour and links to offending/anti-social behaviour.
- 2) Voluntary accessed project** – young people who may not be known to the criminal justice system are engaged with. Usually young people only receive individual attention once they have committed crimes. PYOP aims for early intervention and prevention and the team's involvement ends when need has been met rather than when, say, an ASBO ends.
- 3) Holistic working** – PYOP works with the whole family and considers everyone's needs on an individual basis by offering a range of interventions including siblings' trips to reward good behaviour, parenting support with one-to-ones and group work.

### Motiv8

Motiv8 is a charity that works with 8 to 25-year-olds, with a primary focus on 13-19s. In a typical year Motiv8 will work with approximately 1000 young people, to reduce offending and anti-social behaviour.

Working in partnership with other agencies Motiv8 offers a variety of activities for young people. Activities range from open access diversionary provision, through targeted (referral based) group and one-to-one work, and intensive work with young people as they transition from custody back to their home environment.

At the core of Motiv8's work is the concept of building relationships, be it with a trusted adult within the Motiv8 team or support with building relationships at home, with a teacher or with an employer. Having built relationships of trust Motiv8 seeks to help young people identify protective factors that make a real difference in their individual circumstance. Motiv8 delivers services in consultation with young people, partner organisations and the local community.



Under the Preventing and Tackling Anti-social Behaviour Beacon scheme Portsmouth can offer a number of opportunities to demonstrate good practice to other organisations including information exchanges, visits and shadowing opportunities.

**I would like more information on:**

- The Anti-social Behaviour Unit
- The Safer Neighbourhood Team
- The community wardens
- Community Tasking Groups
- Preventing Youth Offending Project
- Motiv8
- Early Intervention Project
- Racial Awareness Service
- Neighbourhood Management
- Community Engagement
- Alcohol Harm Reduction
- Drug Action Team
- Cleaner and safer

**Your details**

Name:.....

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Email: .....

Phone:.....

**Please return this form to:**

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