

Hi everyone, in my last Blog I shared some information with you about the great work undertaken by Police and Partners in Rhymney through the *Safer Streets* Project.

In this Blog, I would like to share some great engagement and enforcement activity during the past couple of months in Bargoed.

Whilst overall Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Bargoed remains low we did start to experience an increase in ASB on the Town Centre just prior to Christmas which continued to increase into the new year.

The isolated incidents on the Town Centre were having an adverse impact on residents, retailers and customers accessing the Town and Retail Park and as a result the teams at Bargoed have worked closely with Partners at CCBC, Youth Services and Local Retailers and I am encouraged to report that as per the below ASB is now decreasing.

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| --- | --- |
| **Dec 21** | **8** |
| **Jan 22** | **19** |
| **Feb 22** | **18** |
| **March 22** | **4** |

The Teams have tackled the core persistent offenders and through effective use of the Anti-Social Behaviour legislation available to us and since the 1st January we have processed 66 Anti-Social Behaviour Referrals which have resulted in:-

* 30 advisory letters sent to Parents and Guardians
* 13 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts signed and in the process of being signed.
* 1 Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction and a second application progressing to court in April.

This process provides us with an opportunity for positive intervention work to correct behaviours and de-escalate repeat behaviours whilst preventing young people entering the Criminal Justice system.

A number of the young people subject of these referrals have already made great improvements with their behaviour which is really positive to see.

Whilst some of the young people visiting the Town Centre reside in Bargoed, they have also travelled into the town from the surrounding areas but it would be remiss of me not to stress that it has only been a small minority who have been insistent on causing the damage and ASB. I am very aware from conversations with our teams and patrolling the area myself that the majority of young people who frequent our Town Centre are polite and respectful and are just looking for somewhere to go and some positive activities to become involved in.

Therefore, whilst we will continue to tackle any poor behaviour and criminality , we are also exploring a number of positive engagement activities for our young people to focus their energies on, working with our Partners including CCBC, Youth Services, Youth Cymru, Positive Futures and our Next Generation officers.

We will be facilitating a number of activities in around the Town Centre including a week of positive action during the Easter Half Term where young people can get involved in

* Driving simulation with Virtual Reality headsets, having great fun whilst learning essential information about the ***Fatal 5*** which are the 5 leading causes of death and serious injury on our roads.
* Access to gaming with Play Stations
* Street Golf, Football & Rugby related activities.

We have also recently held some taster sessions with a local sports club and “Positive Futures” at Morrisons Store and will be running further events throughout the spring and summer months.

In addition, we have an educational event planned in the Town for the 11th April with our colleagues at South Wales Fire and Rescue focussing on the dangers of fire setting.

I was also recently successful in an application for some funding through the Positive Impact Fund and will be utilising this fund to build on these engagement activities across the wider Caerphilly North area as well.

I have regular contact with Management at Morrisons, our elected representatives and members of Bargoed Town Council and we will continue to work collectively to ensure Bargoed remains a safe place to live and visit. We will be holding regular Police Surgeries at Morrisons which provide an opportunity to meet with the team in person.

The next surgeries will be held on

* **Tuesday 12th April 13:30 - 14:00**
* **Tuesday 19th April 13:30 – 14:00**
* **Tuesday 10th May 13:30 – 14:00**

Whilst we still have challenges, I am confident we can start building on the good relationships we already have with the young people in this area which will have a positive impact in the long term for both them and our wider communities.

This is just 1 of many pieces of work the teams have been focusing on in 2022 and I look forward to sharing another piece of the teams work in my next Blog.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Inspector Lysha Thompson**

**Caerphilly North Neighbourhood Team.**