

- statements from professional witnesses, for example council officials, health visitors or truancy officers;
- video or CCTV evidence (effective where resolution is high and high-quality still images can be used);
- supporting statements or reports from other agencies, for example probation reports;
- previous successful civil proceedings that are relevant, such as an eviction order for similar behaviour;
- previous relevant convictions;
- copies of custody records of previous arrests relevant to the application; and
- information from witness diaries.

Together campaign fact sheet

The Together campaign has produced a fact sheet giving step-by-step guidance on evidence collection which is available on the website www.together.gov.uk

Southampton shopping area blighted by anti-social behaviour

Issue

Lordshill centre was suffering from a large amount of anti-social behaviour, especially around the local supermarket. There was a substantial amount of shoplifting, criminal damage and harassment of visitors and shoppers. At the other end of the centre was a large bingo hall frequented by older patrons who were becoming increasingly afraid to go after 6pm. The supermarket was also shutting earlier in response to these incidents.

Approach

The local anti-social behaviour team's senior investigator met with the manager of the supermarket, together with the local police, and discussed possible ways of working more closely to deal with the issues. They were provided with a log book to record all incidents and this was checked weekly by the anti-social behaviour investigator and the police. This information was then put into a schedule to identify times and dates of the issues and also the perpetrators. Log books were provided to the local library and the bingo hall, as well as the supermarket, in an attempt to collate a large amount of evidence. 'It's Your Call' posters were put up in all shops in the area and premises were visited regularly by a member of the multi-agency team.

Outcome

Because of the joint working and shared support, the stores felt able to tackle those causing the problem. As a result of information provided by the shops, an ASBO was obtained against the main perpetrator, with an exclusion from the whole shopping area.

There was also a Crime Reduction and Environment Week in the area, and a youth project has been funded by the supermarket, which has also provided paint to repaint the subway. This has prevented graffiti reappearing. There is also a dispersal order in place now to complement the ASBO and the perpetrator has not returned to the area. Residents and visitors can now shop in peace and the supermarket is looking to invest more money in the area.

Contact

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