

## REPORT FOR AREA PANEL 3

### Whitaker Road Day Centre

#### Purpose of Report

To report on boundary issues relating to the Whitaker Road Day Centre and 94 Whitaker Road. Particular attention has been given to comments raised in a petition from 32 residents that highlights issues of anti-social behaviour by youths.

#### Background Information

In 2004 issues of concern had been raised with the Department by Mr S S Tamber who lives at 94 Whitaker Road, which is adjacent to the Department's Day Centre for Older People in Whitaker Road. Mr Tamber was concerned that local youths were using part of the Day Centre's grounds for anti-social purposes. The area in question was in the corner of the plot and because of some redundant fencing and shrubs it was impossible to keep the area under surveillance particularly at times when the Centre was closed.

Social Services arranged for this area to be opened up by removing the old fence and the removal of shrubs and self set trees. This work was completed in the autumn of 2004.

#### Action taken to investigate issues raised in the petition

On 18 May 2005 a site meeting took place to look at the issues raised in the petition. Those attending were:

John Holdridge	Assistant Head of Direct Services
John Wilcox	Support Services Manager
Denise Varty	Unit Manager (Whitaker Rd Day Centre)
Phil Derbyshire	Corporate Services (Property)

Denise Varty reported that the Day Centre had not experienced any problems of anti-social behaviour during the normal operating hours of the Centre. Indeed, there have been no security issues directly concerning the Day Centre since a burglary, some three years ago.

A thorough examination of the site found some minimal damage to the fence bordering the Day Centre and No 94. Other boundary fences appeared to be fully intact. The fence at the rear of the Day Centre that borders the Trevayler Private Home had evidence of leaning, which appeared to be caused by a rotten post.

Contact was made with the Manager of the Trevayler Home, which is at the rear of the Day Centre. The Manager reported that she has no concerns about anti-social behaviour in the area and had no incidents to report.

In addition the Department has made contact with the Crime Reduction Office (part of Derbyshire Constabulary) to discuss reported crime in the area. W.P.C. Anwar visited the Day Centre and confirmed that there had been very little reported crime in this area of the City in recent months.

There was no evidence of recent activity in the Day Centre grounds by young people, something that was apparent prior to the removal of the old fence and shrubs in late 2004.

## **Conclusion**

The petition to be presented to the Area Panel suggests that action be taken to possibly install additional security lighting and/or C.C.T.V to prevent the alleged anti-social activity. It was agreed by all present at the site meeting that more firm evidence was required before any consideration is given to the installation of, what would be relatively expensive measures.

It was agreed to explore the possibility of installing some temporary C.C.T.V equipment to monitor the situation. The Anti-Social Behaviour Team (part of the Youth Offending Service) was approached regarding such a facility. Unfortunately, this equipment is only available for use in previously identified crime 'hot spots' and it was confirmed that this area does not fall into this category.

The Social Services Department has investigated the concerns raised by local residents. Given the information described above the Department could not justify the expenditure to install measures suggested by residents. It is recommended that all parties continue to monitor the situation.

The Social Services Department will be happy to receive any information from residents about their concerns in the future. The Department will ensure that appropriate action is taken in conjunction with the Anti Social Behaviour Team and the Police.

**John B Wilcox**

**Support Services Manager**

**Social Services Department**

**27<sup>th</sup> May 2005**