

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER: SHREWSBURY TOWN CENTRE

EVALUATION REPORT: 01.03.2017 – 29.02.2020

OVERVIEW

Following a period of consultation, the proposal for a Public Spaces Protection Order to be enforced in Shrewsbury Town Centre was approved by Cabinet on 21st June 2017 with an effective commencement date of 1st August 2017.

The following report provides an analysis of data collated via the multi-agency operational group 'Team Shrewsbury', Shropshire Council Community Protection team, and West Mercia Police in relation to the conditions outlined within the PSPO. Data recorded during the 3-year period 1st March 2017 – 29th February 2020 has been reviewed in order to evaluate the impact of the PSPO on reporting trends.

Data analysis is in line with the geographical boundary covered by the Public Spaces Protection Order.

REPORTING CATEGORIES

Following a review of the existing datasets collated by Shropshire Council and partner agencies in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour, the following reporting categories were established in order to monitor the impact of the order. These categories were introduced as of 1st October 2016, and are aligned with the behaviours the PSPO aims to prohibit. Other categories relevant to wider ASB issues have continued to be recorded by a number of agencies, however the categories detailed below have been developed to reflect the most problematic issues encountered within the town centre.

Alcohol litter	Drug litter
Alcohol related	Drug misuse
Aggressive begging	Drug dealing
Begging	Excrement/Urinating
Nuisance busking	Fly tipping/Littering
Congregation	Personal items left
Dog fouling	Graffiti
Dog control	Suspicious behaviour
Damage/Arson	

ANALYSIS OF DATA - PSPO CONDITIONS

- a) **No person shall urinate or defecate in a public area not being a facility intended for such use.**

INCIDENT TYPE	1 st Mar 17 – 28 th Feb 18	1 st Mar 18 – 28 th Feb 19	1 st Mar 19 – 29 th Feb 20
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Urinating/Defecating	44	76	108
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- b) **No person shall, for any duration of time, leave unattended in a public area any personal effects or belongings or any other material or paraphernalia including anything that may be considered discarded or waste material.**

INCIDENT TYPE	1 st Mar 17 – 28 th	1 st Mar 18 – 28 th	1 st Mar 19 – 29 th
	Feb 18	Feb 19	Feb 20
Personal Belongings	48	66	62
Alcohol Litter	100	111	57
Drug Litter	201	385	204
Fly Tipping/Littering	63	95	62
Total	412	657	385

- c) **No person shall refuse to stop drinking alcohol or hand over any containers (sealed or unsealed) which are believed to contain alcohol, when required to do so by an authorised officer, provided that officer has reason to believe that that person is causing or is likely to cause nuisance, alarm, harassment or distress to any other person.**

DATASET	1 st Mar 17 – 28 th	1 st Mar 18 – 28 th	1 st Mar 19 – 29 th
	Feb 18	Feb 19	Feb 20
Alcohol Related Incidents	83	92	144
Alcohol Litter	100	111	57
Total	183	203	201

- d) **No person shall refuse to disperse from a public area and not to return to that public area for 48 hours when required to do so by an authorised officer, provided that officer has reason to believe that that person is causing or likely to cause nuisance, alarm, harassment or distress to any other person.**

All reporting categories can be considered relevant to this particular condition. However, it should be recognised that certain issues such as drug misuse, drug dealing, littering and dog fouling will potentially be dealt with via more appropriate and effective primary legislation.

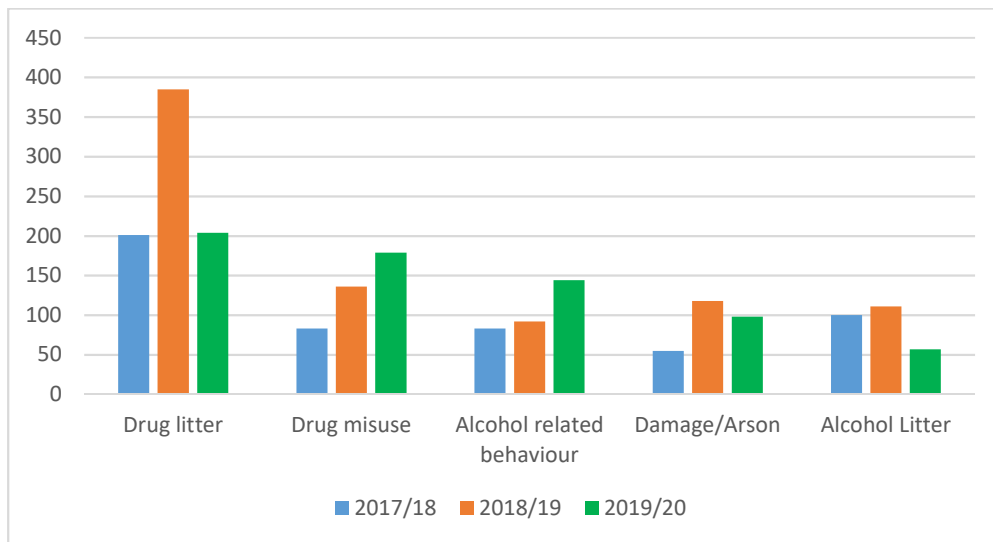
INCIDENT TYPE	1 st Mar 17 – 28 th Feb 18	1 st Mar 18 – 28 th Feb 19	1 st Mar 19 – 29 th Feb 20	TOTAL	3 YR % CHANGE
Alcohol litter	100	111	57	268	43% decrease
Alcohol related	83	92	144	319	73% increase
Aggressive begging	7	3	1	11	86% decrease
Begging	40	47	26	113	35% decrease
Nuisance busking	4	7	12	23	200% increase
Congregation	48	65	78	191	62% increase
Damage/Arson	55	118	98	271	78% increase
Dog control	13	19	8	40	38% decrease
Dog fouling	3	12	5	20	67% increase

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Drug litter	201	385	204	790	1% increase
Drug misuse	83	136	179	398	116% increase
Drug dealing	16	29	27	72	69% increase
Urinating/Defecating	44	76	108	228	145% increase
Fly tipping/Littering	63	95	62	220	1% decrease
Personal items left	48	66	62	176	29% increase
Graffiti	13	8	29	50	123% increase
Suspicious behaviour	34	42	28	104	18% decrease
Grand Total	855	1311	1128	3294	32% increase

KEY FINDINGS

The graph below identifies the top 5 incident types generating the highest number of reports during the review period;



The following incident types have recorded the greatest increases during the review period;

- Nuisance busking – 200% increase
- Urinating/defecating – 145% increase
- Graffiti – 123% increase

The following incident types have recorded the greatest decreases during the review period;

- Aggressive begging – 86% decrease
- Alcohol litter – 43% decrease
- Dog control – 38% decrease

CONCLUSION

All incident types have continued to generate reports since the introduction of the PSPO in August 2017. However, it is noted that aggressive begging, dog fouling, dog control and nuisance busking have recorded significantly lower levels in comparison to the remaining categories. During the review

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period, incidents of aggressive begging, alcohol litter and dog control have recorded the greatest decreases in volume indicating the impact of the PSPO.

Incidents of drug litter account for 24% of the total recorded during the review period and has been identified as the most problematic behaviour within the PSPO boundary. Of the 17 incident types, 11 have recorded an increase in volume during the review period indicating an ongoing need for the Public Spaces Protection Order in Shrewsbury Town Centre.