

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER: SUPPORTING DATA**SHREWSBURY TOWN CENTRE**

- OVERVIEW

The following report outlines the proposed prohibitions contained within the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which will be applied to Shrewsbury Town Centre. These conditions have been aligned with requirements put forward by partner agencies and local businesses.

Data available to Shropshire Council is presented in relation to each of the conditions in order to highlight reporting trends, as well as gaps in data availability. Where gaps are highlighted, recommendations will be put forward regarding reporting requirements and changes to current processes. Issues identified as problematic via data analysis, but not currently covered the PSPO proposal will also be highlighted. The data utilised within this report has been collated by Team Shrewsbury attendees (via the ASB Reporting Form), with additional information supplied by West Mercia Police and the Public Protection ASB team. All data covers the period 1st October 2015 – 30th September 2016.

Please note, data collected by Team Shrewsbury is aligned to the identified Team Shrewsbury geographical boundary. Crime data provided by the Police covers the beat codes FA01 and FA02, which are the closest match to Shrewsbury Town Centre. Prior to the implementation of the proposal datasets will need to be aligned with the exact boundary identified by the order. As multiple reporting categories have been utilised in relation to single incidents, the figures detailed below will not match the raw data provided.

- PROPOSED PSPO PROHIBITIONS

The draft order currently contains the following prohibitions;

- 1. 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 to prevent public nuisance or disorder.**

Partner/Business requirements: Power to stop people drinking. No drinking in a public place.

Supporting data:

INCIDENT TYPE	DATA SOURCE	1 st October 15 – 31 st March 16	1 st April 16 – 30 th September 16	Sept 16 Total
Alcohol related crime	Police	156	173	36
Alcohol related incidents	Police – PSPO database	7	15	3
All alcohol related incidents	Police - OIS	248	262	45
Alcohol litter	Team Shrewsbury	8	10	2
Drunk individuals	Team Shrewsbury	2	17	9

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As illustrated, all incident types have experienced an increase in reports during the last 6 months in comparison to the 6 months previous indicating alcohol related issues present a significant problem in the town centre.

- 2. No person shall refuse to disperse from a public area and not to return to that public area for 24 hours when required to do so by an authorised officer, provided that officer has reason to believe that those persons are causing or likely to cause nuisance, alarm, harassment or distress to any other person.**

Partner/Business requirements: Power to disperse people causing a nuisance, alarm, harassment, or distress. Stop people sitting on the floor for prolonged periods of time. No congregating if told to disperse. Damaging property.

Supporting Data:

The data below captures reports regarding groups of individuals likely to congregate, as well as behaviours resulting from groups of individuals congregating;

INCIDENT TYPE	DATA SOURCE	1st October 15 – 31st March 16	1st April 16 – 30th September 16	Sept 16 Total
Rough Sleepers, Beggars, Drunks, Drug Addicts	Team Shrewsbury	31	113	54
Congregation of Youths	Team Shrewsbury	3	8	3
Suspicious Individuals	Team Shrewsbury	2	1	0
Damage to Property/Graffiti/Arson	Team Shrewsbury	37	42	13
Homeless Incidents	Police	61	69	13
Damage	Police	0	1	0
Rough Sleepers	Public Protection	1	2	1
Congregation of Youths	Public Protection	0	1	1

The level of detail captured via the ASB Reporting Form utilised by Team Shrewsbury will need to clarify the circumstances of the incident in order to illustrate that individuals are likely to cause nuisance, alarm, harassment or distress. Also, there will need to be separate recording categories for specific groups of individuals; for example rough sleepers.

- 3. No person shall in a public area perform any type of street entertainment that causes a nuisance to nearby premises or members of the public.**

Partner/Business requirements: Street entertainment which causes a nuisance (incl obstructing Highway).

Supporting Data:

INCIDENT TYPE	DATA SOURCE	1st October 15 –	1st April 16 –	Sept 16
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		31st March 16	30th September 16	Total
Busking	Police	2	1	0

There is very little evidence that street entertainers or buskers have caused a problem in Shrewsbury Town Centre, as there is a very low level of complaints recorded. Team Shrewsbury have not recorded any complaints during the review period. Qualitative data will need to be generated in the form of officer knowledge to determine whether this is a problematic issue and has been under-reported.

4. No person shall beg in a public area OR

No person shall aggressively beg in a public area. Aggressive begging to include;

- (i) Begging in a manner reasonable perceived to be intimidating
- (ii) Begging in or immediately next to the entrance or doorway of an occupied commercial or residential premises
- (iii) Begging near to a cashpoint
- (iv) Begging by making direct approaches to individuals on foot.

Partner/Business requirements: Persistent begging. Stop people sitting on the floor for prolonged periods of time. No sitting on the ground to beg.

Supporting Data:

INCIDENT TYPE	DATA SOURCE	1st October 15 – 31st March 16	1st April 16 – 30th September 16	Sept 16 Total
Begging	Team Shrewsbury	0	4	2
Begging incidents	Police	0	4	1

As illustrated complaint levels are low in relation to begging, suggesting that this is not a particularly problematic issue in the town centre. Again, qualitative data is required in order to determine whether this issue has been under-reported. Changes are required to current reporting processes in order to introduce a separate recording category for begging, and also to capture the required detail to determine the nature of the incident in line with the behaviours outlined above; for example aggressive nature, approaches to individuals, location.

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

Partner/Business requirements: No urinating and defecating in public space.

Supporting Data:

INCIDENT TYPE	DATA SOURCE	1st October 15 – 31st March 16	1st April 16 – 30th September 16	Sept 16 Total
Excrement/Urinating	Team Shrewsbury	7	5	0
Excrement/Urine	Police	0	5	0
Excrement/Urine	Public Protection	0	4	3

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Current data does not suggest that this a particularly problematic issue, as reports have not significantly increased during the last 6 months. However, it is important to retain specific reporting categories in order to evidence links between this type of behaviour and specific groups of individuals.

6. No person shall remain in the public area with the intention of spending the night sleeping outdoors unless they have and are continuing to engage with individuals who are able to provide that person with options for permanent or temporary housing.

Partner/Business requirements: Rough sleepers not to leave belongings. Stop people sitting on the floor for prolonged periods of time.

Supporting Data:

INCIDENT TYPE	DATA SOURCE	1 st October 15 – 31 st March 16	1 st April 16 – 30 th September 16	Sept 16 Total
Rough Sleepers, Beggars, Drunks, Drug Addicts	Team Shrewsbury	31	113	54
Rough Sleepers	Team Shrewsbury	18	72	38
Homeless incidents	Police	61	69	13
Rough Sleepers	Public Protection	1	2	1

Levels of complaints are significant in relation to rough sleepers and homeless individuals. Changes are required to the current Team Shrewsbury reporting process to specifically record rough sleepers/homeless individuals as a distinct category. The level of detail captured will also need to establish if individuals have been offered housing, or are individuals who persistently refuse to engage with support services.

7. No person shall intentionally leave unattended any personal effects or belongings in a public area.

Partner/Business requirements: No littering – rough sleepers. Rough sleepers not to leave belongings. Leaving drug paraphernalia and taking drugs.

Supporting Data:

INCIDENT TYPE	DATA SOURCE	1 st October 15 – 31 st March 16	1 st April 16 – 30 th September 16	Sept 16 Total
Fly Tipping/Litter	Team Shrewsbury	10	6	3
Drug Paraphernalia	Team Shrewsbury	55	77	13
Litter/Belongings left by Rough Sleepers	Team Shrewsbury	12	16	4
Rubbish	Police	1	1	1
Drug litter	Police	0	4	0
Litter/Belongings left by Rough Sleepers	Public Protection	2	1	0

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The ASB reporting form utilised by Team Shrewsbury requires a specific category for incidents involving rough sleepers/homeless individuals, and the level of detail provided will need to be sufficient enough to establish the nature of the incident; for example, personal belongings left in public area, litter left in public area, drug paraphernalia left in public area. Data indicates drug paraphernalia currently presents a significant risk in the town centre.

- PSPO GAPS

Data collected during the review period by Team Shrewsbury, as well as the Police identifies drug dealing and substance misuse as a problematic issue within the town centre. A significant number of reports refer to rough sleepers/homeless individuals, but not all. See below for the number of complaints during the review period;

INCIDENT TYPE	DATA SOURCE	1 st October 15 – 31 st March 16	1 st April 16 – 30 th September 16	Sept 16 Total
Drug Use/Dealing (incl blood)	Team Shrewsbury	8	17	3
Drug Use/Dealing	Police	19	22	0
Drug Use/Dealing (incl blood)	Public Protection	1	4	3

This issue is not currently covered by the PSPO as a distinct prohibition to the same extent as alcohol consumption, and it is recommended that an additional condition is considered. However, prohibitions 2 and 6 should assist in tackling the issue.

Partner/Business requirements not currently covered by the PSPO proposal include the following;

- No dogs off lead
- Cycling down one way streets/Pride Hill
- Vomiting
- Drug taking

- DATA RECORDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The ASB Reporting form utilised by Team Shrewsbury, alongside relevant Police recorded incidents will provide the basis for monitoring the impact of the PSPO. However, some changes are required in order to ensure that the Team Shrewsbury data captures specifics in relation to the prohibitions currently proposed. For example;

- Specific reporting categories for rough sleepers, begging, busking.
- Sufficient detail to clearly establish the nature of the incident; eg aggressive begging, personal belongings left by a rough sleeper, litter left by a rough sleeper, drug paraphernalia left by a rough sleeper.
- Potentially introduce a keyword column rather than colour coding to allow multiple reporting categories to be captured. For example, a disturbance caused by a drunk rough sleeper who has also left behind alcohol litter.

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For analytical purposes it would also prove useful to add an additional column with the relevant prohibition number, in order to effectively assess the impact of specific conditions. The reporting format will be developed by the Public Protection Intelligence Officer in conjunction with Shrewsbury Town Council, prior to the introduction of the PSPO. Recommended reporting categories include the following;

- Alcohol litter
- Begging; to include the required level of detail regarding behaviour type
- Busking
- Congregation of Youths
- Dog issues
- Damage/arson
- Drug paraphernalia
- Substance misuse/blood
- Drug dealing
- Drunk individuals
- Excrement/Urinating
- Fly tipping
- Graffiti
- Litter
- Rough sleepers; to include the required level of detail regarding behaviour type and engagement with support services
- Suspicious individuals

Additional Police data will be provided on a monthly basis, and is currently aligned with the reporting categories detailed above.

It is also vital that all relevant partner agencies and town centre businesses utilise this reporting format (via Team Shrewsbury) to fully capture all incidents and present an accurate picture of problematic issues and behaviours.

- CONCLUSION

Currently, there is insufficient data to support prohibitions in relation to begging and busking. However, this may be a result of under-reporting and qualitative data is required in order to fully understand the extent of the problem; for example this may include officer statements.

Data indicates there may be a gap in terms of a specific prohibition to tackle drug dealing and substance misuse. Prohibitions 2 and 6 will assist in tackling the issue, and will also have an impact on the presence of drug paraphernalia within the town centre. However it may be beneficial to consider a more specific prohibition similar to that aiming to tackle street drinking.

Changes will be made to the current reporting format utilised by Team Shrewsbury (ASB Reporting Form) to ensure the level of detail required to monitor the impact of the PSPO is collected prior to any implementation.