

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER: SHREWSBURY TOWN CENTRE

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT – 2017/18

- 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 highlights data collated by Shropshire Council (Community Protection and Team Shrewsbury) as well as West Mercia Police, in relation to the conditions outlined within the PSPO. Data collated during the period 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018 has been amalgamated and displayed in the tables below. Data analysis is in line with the geographical boundary covered by the Public Spaces Protection Order.

Data available to Shropshire Council is presented in relation to each of the conditions of the PSPO in order to highlight reporting trends, and assess the impact of the order as measured against the established baseline.

- 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 have been 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 will still be collated by a number of agencies, however the categories detailed below have been developed to reflect the most problematic issues encountered within the town centre.

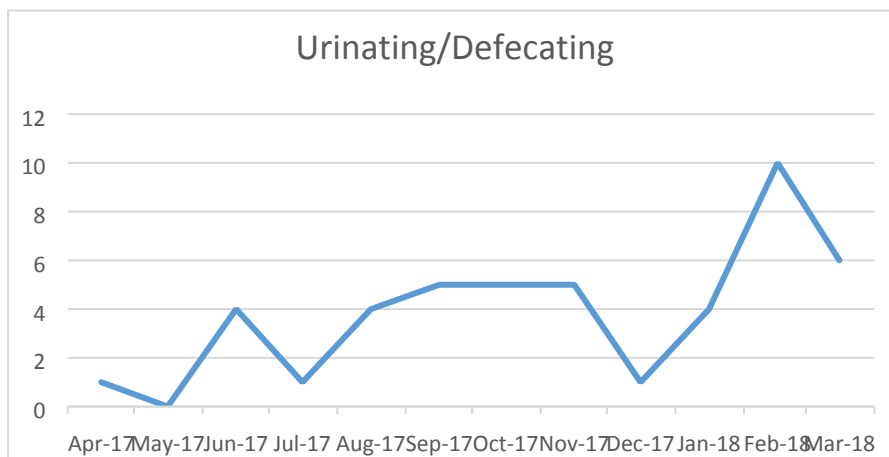
Datasets are collated monthly by the ‘Team Shrewsbury’ multi agency operational group, Shropshire Council Community Protection Team, and West Mercia Police. Please note, multiple categories may be selected in relation to a single incident.

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	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Urinating/Defecating	1	0	4	1	4	5	5	5	1	4	10	6

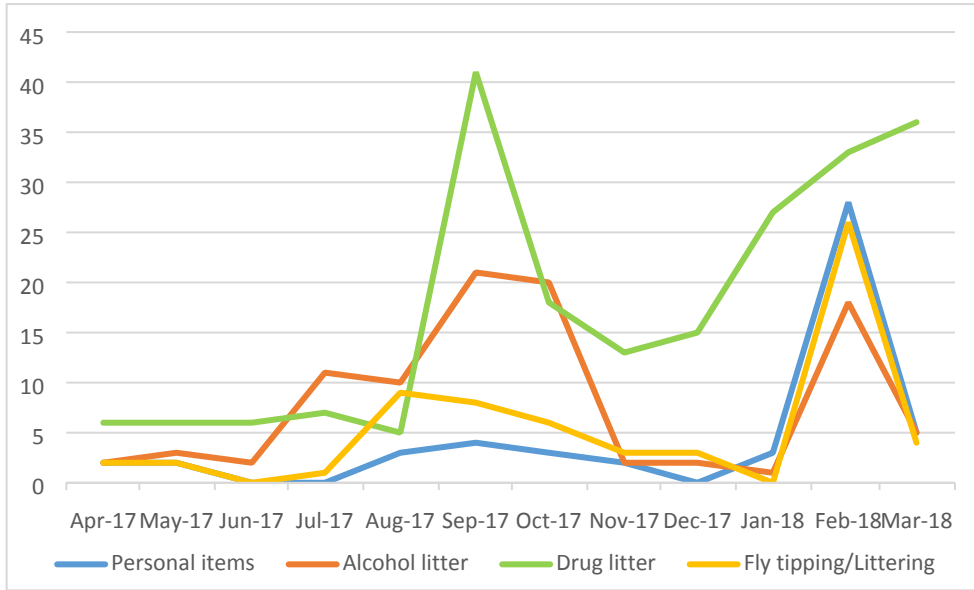


46 incidents in total have been recorded during the review period. As illustrated, a significant increase in volume is evident during February. The number of incidents recorded remained relatively consistent during the period August-November.

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.**

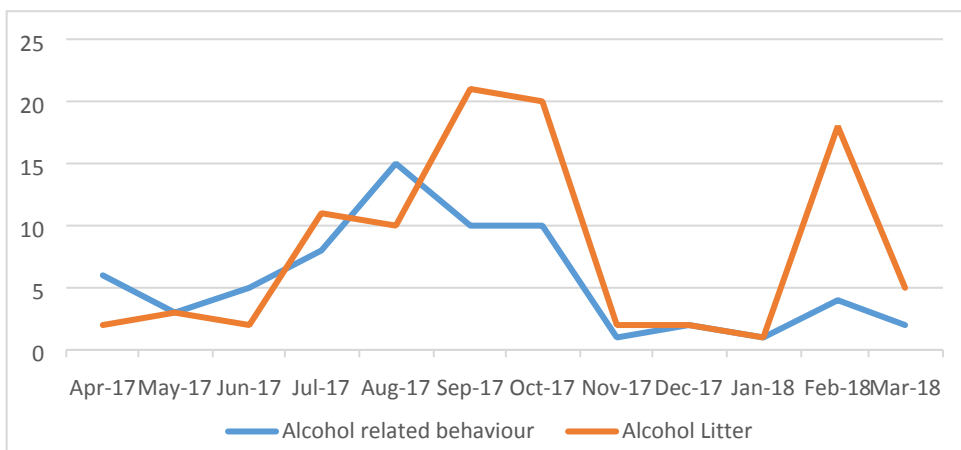
INCIDENT TYPE	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Personal Belongings	2	2	0	0	3	4	3	2	0	3	28	5
Alcohol Litter	2	3	2	11	10	21	20	2	2	1	18	5
Drug Litter	6	6	6	7	5	41	18	13	15	27	33	36
Fly Tipping/Littering	2	2	0	1	9	8	6	3	3	0	26	4
Total	12	13	8	19	27	74	47	20	20	31	105	50

As illustrated by the graph below, a significant increase in incidents involving drug litter is evident during September, with levels remaining higher during the latter half of the financial year. An increase in alcohol litter has also been recorded during September, with a second spike evident in February.



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.**

INCIDENT TYPE	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Alcohol Related Incidents	6	3	5	8	15	10	10	1	2	1	4	2
Alcohol Litter	2	3	2	11	10	21	20	2	2	1	18	5
Total	8	6	7	19	25	31	30	3	4	2	22	7



Trends regarding alcohol related incidents indicate consistent monthly increases from May through to a peak in volume during August. Recorded levels remain comparatively higher through to October, followed by a significant decrease during November with lower levels continuing through to March.

OFFICIAL

The table below displays all alcohol related crimes and incidents recorded by West Mercia Police during the review period, and committed within the Shrewsbury Urban section. This data will be monitored in order to identify any potential displacement as a result of the PSPO;

INCIDENT TYPE	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Alcohol Related Crime	115	92	75	43	47	44	18	6	10	11		
Alcohol Related Police Incidents	141	133	160	64	76	52	37	41	62	45	44	47
Total	256	225	235	107	123	96	55	47	72	56		

*Please note, the system used to record crime data changed during Q3 which could potentially have an impact on the information extracted.

- 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.

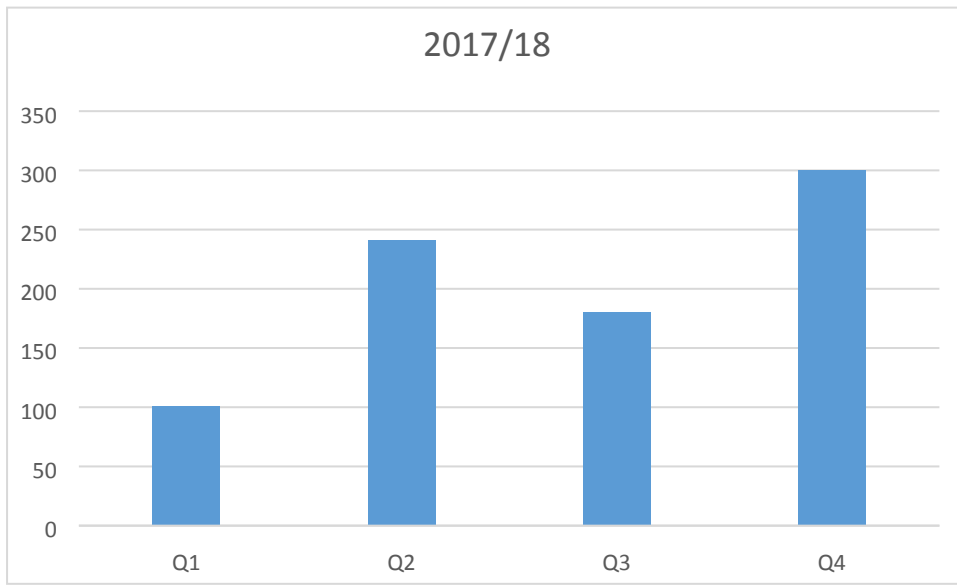
INCIDENT TYPE	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
Alcohol litter	2	3	2	11	10	21	20	2	2	1	18	5	97
Alcohol related	6	3	5	8	15	10	10	1	2	1	4	2	67
Aggressive begging	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	5
Begging	2	1	0	2	8	4	3	2	0	0	10	2	34
Nuisance busking	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
Congregation	2	1	3	0	9	4	6	0	1	0	3	2	31
Damage/Arson	2	3	5	13	3	3	8	4	2	3	4	9	59
Dog control	2	1	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	9
Dog fouling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug litter	6	6	6	7	5	41	18	13	15	27	33	36	213
Drug misuse	5	1	4	4	8	10	10	9	5	8	12	11	87
Drug dealing	3	3	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	3	0	15
Urinating/Defecating	1	0	4	1	4	5	5	5	1	4	10	6	46
Fly tipping/Littering	2	2	0	1	9	8	6	3	3	0	26	4	64
Personal items left	2	2	0	0	3	4	3	2	0	3	28	5	52
Graffiti	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	6	1	13
Suspicious behaviour	3	1	1	2	0	1	6	2	0	1	6	3	26
Grand Total	40	28	33	50	76	115	99	46	35	49	164	87	822

Drug litter generated the highest number of incidents during the review period, accounting for 26% of the total. The highest number of incidents were recorded during September, March and February. Alcohol litter and drug misuse also featured within the top 3 most problematic incident types.

Of note, no incidents of dog fouling have been recorded during the last 12 months, indicating that this issue does not create a significant public nuisance in Shrewsbury Town Centre, or is reported via alternative routes. Consideration should be given to the removal of the incident category specifically in relation to the PSPO reporting framework, as this issue can be dealt with via alternative legislation.

- SEASONAL TRENDS

The graph below displays the number of incidents reported during each quarterly period;



The highest number of incidents have occurred during quarter 4 (January-March), primarily due to an increase in volume recorded during February. 164 incidents were recorded during February, accounting for 20% of the total; the most problematic incident types were drug litter, personal items left in an area, and fly tipping/littering.

A significant increase in volume has also been recorded during September; 115 incidents in total were recorded, representing a 51% increase on the month previous. Drug litter and alcohol litter proved the most problematic incidents during September, and accounted for just over half of the total volume (54%).

The lowest number of incidents were recorded during quarter one (April-June), however an element of under-reporting during the initial baseline period must also be recognised as agencies familiarised themselves with the new categories and revised reporting format.