



# Community Trigger Procedure Notes (ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014)



Issue No. 1

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### Amendment History

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## **1.0 Overview**

- 1.1** Section 104 of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides for the Community Trigger. The trigger is a mechanism for victims of anti-social behaviour to request a review of their case. A case review would involve the appropriate agencies sharing information and deciding whether any further action should be taken to resolve the anti-social behaviour. Relevant bodies include local authorities, the police, health providers and social housing providers.
- 1.2** The trigger process provides a route for victims of persistent anti-social behaviour to have their case reviewed and should not replace the complaints procedure.

## **2.0 Definition of Anti-social Behaviour**

- 2.1** Section 105(4) of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 defines anti-social behaviour as behaviour causing harassment, alarm or distress.

## **3.0 Threshold**

- 3.1** Any individual, community or business can request a trigger, and the relevant agencies must carry out a case review if the following threshold is met.
- 3.2** Where an application for a Community Trigger is made, and;
  - At least 3 reports of anti-social behaviour from one person within a six month period, or;
  - 5 reports of anti-social behaviour from different people within a six month period.
  - To either the local authority, police or a registered social housing provider.
- 3.3** Those triggers deemed malicious or vexatious should be rejected. The rationale for this decision needs to be documented in order to withstand scrutiny via any appeals.

## **4.0 Qualifying Community Triggers**

- 4.1** Section 104(11) of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 defines a qualifying request as one where each incident within the six month period is reported within one month of it occurring.
- 4.2** There is no minimum period prescribed for a trigger to be activated, however the latest activation point is 6 months after the third incident was reported.

## **5.0 Risk Assessment Process**

- 5.1** The anti-social behaviour risk assessment matrix (TVP) should be incorporated into the trigger process.

## **6.0 Roles**

### **6.1 Gatekeeper/designated officer**

A designated officer from the Community Safety Partnership and the Tasking Co-ordinator from Thames Valley Police will take on this role. They will be responsible for overseeing the trigger process, acknowledging requests, assessing against the threshold and qualifying complaints and arranging the review if they meet the criteria.

### **6.2 Panel**

Existing partnership arrangements and multi-agency meetings will be utilised where possible to conduct the reviews. Where agencies are not normally part of a specific meeting they will need to be invited or consulted with.

### **6.3 Recommendations made by the panel**

Section 104 of the Act states that the relevant bodies who carry out a review may make recommendations to a person who exercises public functions, and the agencies must have regard to the recommendations in exercising public functions. These recommendations will need to be communicated to those activating the trigger.

## **7.0 Process**

**7.1** An overall period of 30 days to complete the trigger process will be applied. This does not include any follow-up actions or recommendations identified by the review.

**7.2** An acknowledgement will be given within 2 working days and a response given within 28 working days from the receipt of a trigger request.

## **8.0 Appeals**

**8.1** An appeal can be made if the customer is a) unhappy with how the trigger application as dealt with or b) how the case review was carried out.

**8.2** Appeals will be reviewed by the Head of Community Safety and/or the Partnership Inspector (TVP).

**8.3** Appeals will be heard at the ASB Complex Cases Panel and a decision given within 8 weeks of the appeal application being made.

## **9.0 Publicity and Communications**

**9.1** It is possible to activate a Community Trigger by telephone, email, post, in person and via the internet.

**9.2** Information about the trigger process and options for activating are publicised on the council, Safer MK and TVP websites.

- 9.3** The trigger should be proactively offered to customers by front line staff.
- 9.4** A key message is that the trigger should not be used as a mechanism for making a complaint.
- 9.5** Information about the trigger will be published yearly including;
- The number of triggers received
  - The number of cases where the threshold was met/not met
  - The number of case reviews completed
  - The number of reviews that recommended further action

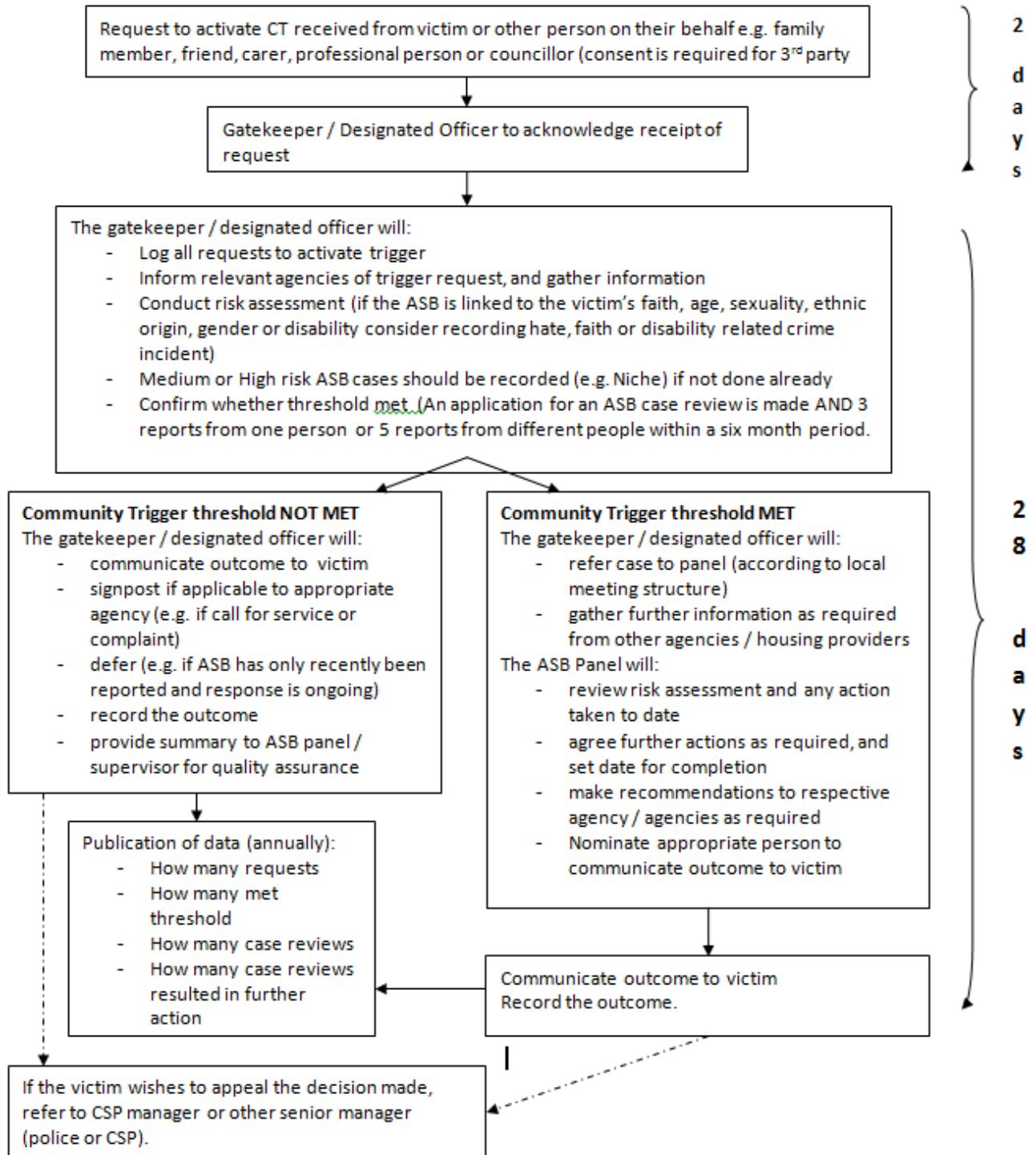
## **10.0 Information Sharing**

- 10.1** The effective operation of the trigger requires agencies to share appropriate information for the purposes of carrying out a case review. As a result all agencies involved in a case review must be signed up to the information sharing protocol.
- 10.2** When a trigger application is made, the customer should be advised at that time that by way of the application they consent to the sharing of their information with relevant agencies as part of the process.
- 10.3** Where an application is being made by a third party acting on behalf of a victim of anti-social behaviour, consent must be sought from the victim directly, and this must be clearly evidenced before any information sharing goes ahead.

# Appendix A

## Community Trigger Process Map

### Community Trigger in Thames Valley area – process map





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