

Briefing Note

Subject:	Blyth Town Council Briefing Note - Safer Communities Officer (SCO) Funding Post Project Shield (2026–27)
Date:	26 Feb 2026

Executive Summary

This addendum provides a concise overview of Project Shield activity and outcomes specific to Ashington since April 2025. It highlights key performance improvements, partnership activity, and case-based impact delivered by the dedicated Safer Communities Officer (SCO) resource. The summary also sets out the implications of the Hotspot Action Fund ending on 31 March 2026, with detailed evidence and analysis presented in the sections that follow.

Purpose

This briefing provides Blyth-specific performance information following the town's inclusion in Project Shield, summarising measurable reductions, partnership interventions, qualitative case studies, and associated risks.

Summary of Impact (Blyth Only)

- ASB reduced by 37% (387 in 2024 to 243 reports in 2025).
- 761 hours of SCO patrols delivered since April 2025.
- 327.5 hours of transport-linked patrols.
- Visible reductions in motorcycle disorder and improved hotspot management.

Problem Solving & Early Intervention

- Business banning agreements in place
- Drone capability used for surveillance and evidence gathering
- Back on Track sessions for Year 5–6 pupils
- Weekly joint tasking with police targeting ASB hotspots

Positive Action

- 3 Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABAs)
- 7 tenancy warnings
- 36 home visits
- 2 motorbike/quad seizures
- 13 drone deployments
- 1 court conviction
- Regular safeguarding referrals and active attendance at Child Protection meetings

Diversion & Prevention

- 4 YOT Turnaround referrals
- 2 Fire & Rescue “Extinguish” sessions
- 7 Early Help referrals
- 3 Project Horizon referrals
- 85 illegal-motorbike intelligence surveys
- Back on Track programme delivered at Newsham Primary School
- Support to community and operational initiatives including:
 - Safe Summer campaign
 - Operation Sceptre
 - Hate Crime Awareness Week
 - Blyth Celebrates

Case Studies

Case Study 1 – Parsons Street Scaffolding: A long-running safety and ASB issue involving youths climbing dangerous scaffolding.

Key actions:

- Contacted and engaged overseas landlord
- Worked with Building Control, HSE and contractor
- Anti-climb measures and improved boarding installed
- Home visits to youths involved and parents

Outcome:

- Significant reduction in incidents
- Positive feedback from local businesses

Case Study 2 – Persistent Youth ASB Across Cramlington & Blyth: A single high-risk young person responsible for repeated ASB across both towns.

Key actions:

- Three home visits
- Permanent ban from Newsham Youth Club
- ABA and tenancy warning issued
- Close work with Youth Justice Service

Outcome:

- Improved behaviour
- No further ASB reports linked to the individual

Key Risk

The Home Office Hotspot Action Fund ends 31 March 2026. Without alternative funding, the dedicated SCO resource cannot be sustained.

Background Papers and Information

NCC Town & Parish Council Briefing (31 January 2026)

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