

Court order served to protect vulnerable adult

Friday 28 September 2018

A joint operation between council officers, police staff – including the Southend Operation Raptor team - and staff at South Essex Homes has led to a property in Southend being served with a court order.

On Thursday 27 September, the council obtained and served a Partial Closure Order to a property in Quantock, Chichester Road, Southend, to safeguard the resident - a vulnerable adult - from ongoing anti-social behaviour.

The court order, in place until Thursday 27 December 2018, prevents anyone other than the named tenant and anyone working on behalf of the council, South Essex Homes and Essex Police from entering the property during this timeframe.

Anyone else seen entering the property can be arrested and faces up to 51 weeks in prison, an unlimited fine or both.

The decision to serve the notice came after a spate of crime and anti-social behaviour had been reported at the property over the past six months, including violence and anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Mark Flewitt, cabinet member for public protection, said: "I am pleased that we have been able to help protect a vulnerable adult by serving this court order at a property renowned for anti-social behaviour. We do not tolerate any behaviour which puts residents' lives in danger and we have acted swiftly in partnership to ensure this will be prevented at this property from now on.

"We hope this shows that we will act on any information we receive from concerned residents and we will take all the necessary steps to ensure residents do not have to put up with violence and anti-social behaviour.

"This court order is another example of excellent partnership work on behalf of the council, South Essex Homes, and Essex Police, and it has provided a vulnerable adult a safer place to live."

Chief Supt Paul Wells of the South Local Policing Area said: "Protecting the vulnerable is at the heart of everything we do at Essex Police.

"This court order has enabled us to both protect a vulnerable member of the community and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour occurring at this property.

"We will continue to work alongside our partners at Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and South Essex Homes to ensure we do everything we can to keep our communities safe."

If you have any concerns about criminal exploitation, please contact Essex Police on 101.

Background

The partial closure orders were obtained under part 4 chapter 3 of the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014, states: (1) A police officer of at least the rank of inspector, or the local authority, may issue a closure notice if satisfied on reasonable grounds —

(a) that the use of particular premises has resulted, or (if the notice is not issued) is likely soon to result, in nuisance to members of the public, or

(b) that there has been, or (if the notice is not issued) is likely soon to be, disorder near those premises associated with the use of those premises, and that the notice is necessary to prevent the nuisance or disorder from continuing, recurring or occurring.