

Reducing and preventing Anti-Social Behaviour

Co-ordinating the partnership response to incidents of anti-social behaviour became more robust following the appointment of a dedicated Anti-Social Co-ordinator in 2003. Since the appointment the Co-ordinator has worked with partners to secure the following enforcement measures:

- ▶ 6 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO)

This is a civil order that is obtained through the courts. An order is for a minimum of two years and prohibits the perpetrator from specific anti-social acts and from entering defined areas. An order can be issued to anyone aged over ten, and breaching the order is a criminal offence and can result in a term in prison.

- ▶ 30 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's)

This is a voluntary contract, which is primarily used as a means to curb a young person acting in an anti-social manner. The contract is issued for six months and details conditions that the young person agrees to adhere to. Due to the contract being voluntary, no formal sanctions can be imposed for breaching, but a breach provides a useful measure of evidence if an ASBO was the next course of action.

- ▶ 2 Exclusion Zones

Within the designated area, the police can direct individuals to leave the locality and may be excluded from the area for up to 24 hours. An order can last for up to six months. The zone could be as small as a cash point or shopping arcade where groups often gather.

- ▶ 2 Closure Orders

These enable the swift closure of properties taken over by drug dealers and users of Class A drugs, which cause disorder or serious nuisance to the local community.

- ▶ 5 Repossession of tenancy orders

This enables the registered social landlord to seek the repossession of the property where there is evidence of the tenants or members of the same household acting in an anti-social manner.

From a preventative perspective, leaflets have been produced to inform members of the public who to contact if they are experiencing anti-social behaviour. Further measures have included diversionary schemes for young people to divert them away from anti-social behaviour.

For more information contact John Newton, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, on 01909 533140.