



Adult Social Care & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Working Group on Anti-Social Behaviour

Final Report

**Councillor Chas Baily
Councillor Alan Browne
Councillor John Piasecki**

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The Working Group would like to thank the following people for their contributions to this report:

Daphne Obang	Director of Social Services & Housing
Ian Boswell	Safer Communities Manager
Jo Simpkins	ASB Co-ordinator
Jillian Hunt	DAAT Co-ordinator
Karen Roberts	YOT Manager
Jo Graves	YOT Operations Manager
C.I. Rob Povey	LPA Commander, TVP
Gill Biddle	CADIS Administrator
Paul Jacques	Community Safety, RBFRS
PC Phil Bissell	School's Liaison Officer, TVP
Gordon Cunningham	Head, Easthampstead Park School
Alison Bradshaw	Solutions Together UK

Please note that good examples of the type of anti-social behavioural problems considered by the working group can be found in a set of sample case notes at the end of the 'Partnership Working' section

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – Review of the ASB Strategy Implementation

Summary

This Working Group was set four objectives by the Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 1st December 2005. The first objective, comparing perceptions with reality, was too complex a task and has subsequently been addressed by an academic report commissioned by the Safer Communities Partnership. We did not directly review the factors motivating ASB, the second task, but focused on how we respond to ASB and deliver the Strategy. This work does give insights into the social, medical and educational factors which are the precursors to some types of ASB in the Community. We have met with many of the officers and partners involved in delivering the Council's ASB Strategy.

This report summarises our findings to date, highlights the key elements of the Strategy, notes the areas which need to be looked at in more detail in the future and makes recommendations which we trust the Executive will find useful in ensuring the Strategy is more effectively delivered.

We have concentrated on the areas which fall within the remit of the Adult Social Care and Housing O & S Panel. Anti-Social Behaviour covers environmental issues such as abandoned cars, litter and fly tipping and these should be addressed by the appropriate O & S Panel. This review focuses on the performance of the partnership arrangements of BFBC, YOT, PCT, DAAT, TVP and RBFRS, which invariably relate to adolescent ASB, and particularly how they support improvements in young offenders' behaviour.

It is likely that this will be an ongoing process as the Strategy has only recently been approved and will need to adapt to changing circumstances. It will be subject to internal modification as well as new Central Government initiatives.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The new Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy was conceived by the **Safer Communities Strategic Partnership**, (SCSP). It was subject to considerable public consultation during September 2005 before being agreed by the Executive in January 2006, and presented to the Council in February 2006. It defines the context of ASB, nationally and locally, offers a vision and objectives, proposes solutions, sets out an action plan with defined targets and outlines the available resources within BFBC and our partner organisations.
- 1.2 The area we have chosen to review is that of the solutions on offer. The methods for tackling ASB have been separated into three distinct areas – Prevention, Intervention and Enforcement. The emphasis within each area is noted below, but the full detail is available from the Strategy document itself.
- 1.3 **Prevention** encompasses Youth Services, Leisure Facilities, Licensing and Education. This takes us right back to the start of the cycle. If adolescents have nothing to occupy their time and energy then the possibility of unsocial activities will increase. The clarion call of “There is nothing to do” needs to be addressed (and is the subject of a separate review by the Lifelong Learning and Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel). BFBC and other agencies are trying to engage the Borough’s young people before they are drawn into anti-social activities. Prevention is better than cure, but it is difficult to monitor and assess.
- 1.4 **Intervention** includes Warnings, Mediation, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Fixed Penalty Notices, Penalty Notices for Disorder, and Parenting Contracts. These tools are used, as appropriate, at an early stage and necessarily involve mutual participation and voluntary responsiveness from the client. For intervention to function effectively both sides need to make commitments and then honour them. This mutuality needs to be studied at some point by a future Scrutiny working group.
- 1.5 **Enforcement** will be seen by some as a failure of the previous two responses, but by others as the first step in a ‘get tough’ regime. Actions include Parenting Orders, Injunctions, Anti-Social Behaviour Order’s (ASBO’s), Dispersal Powers and Demoted Tenancies (these terms are explained in the strategy document). It certainly indicates an element of unwillingness on the part of the perpetrator to have engaged in any modification of their behaviour, either unilaterally or through one of the intervention options. Again this scrutiny working group would have liked to interview families who have been subject to any of the enforcement orders to assess the outcomes. This was less practical as the families concerned are less willing to co-operate. Although this has not been possible at this stage it should still remain part of the ongoing aims of the scrutiny function.
- 1.6 Prevention is a very difficult area to assess as it is not generally possible to match measurable results to the good work being carried out. We know that we need to provide facilities and interests for the youngsters in the Borough through our Leisure and Youth Services, but it is unlikely that one can match statistical evidence to those activities in terms of the impact on ASB. However, statistical evidence, available through the Community Nuisance and Disorder Information System (CADIS) ([Appendix K](#)), can indicate a problem, e.g. minibikes, which we should be seen to be addressing, perhaps through provision of a dirt track for youngsters to use.

- 1.7 Intervention and Enforcement can be more easily measured, both in terms of the level of activity and the end result for the individuals involved. It is on these areas which we will focus. Members will have seen reports in the local press about the second ASBO (March 2006) which was granted against a youth from the Wildridings area. We were hoping that in instances such as this we would be able to interview the offender and immediate family. If our approach to ASB is to work, it would be useful to understand how the offenders engage. In this case it was reported in the press that the offender was disinterested but his mother was hopeful that the ASBO might be part of the solution. Regrettably neither was prepared to speak to us but we did interview the case officer from the Youth Offending Team (YOT) ([Appendix D](#)).
- 1.8 We have met with most of the partners involved in delivering the ASB Strategy. Since the interim report was presented at the end of the summer we have had meetings with Paul Jacques, Assistant Divisional Officer, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) ([Appendix G](#)), in his capacity as Community Safety Officer for East Berkshire, and PC Phil Bissell, Thames Valley Police (TVP) Schools Liaison Officer ([Appendix H](#)). RBFRS are actively involved in the early intervention initiatives and offer a practical scheme, Phoenix, for youngsters who are referred through the education system and YOT. The TVP schools liaison role is instrumental in providing early intervention and support for youngsters who are displaying signs of anti-social behaviour or have been involved in minor criminal activity either in or out of the school environment.
- 1.9 TVP ([Appendix F](#)) are also instrumental in running the Neighbourhood Forum initiative which supports the Neighbourhood Policing policy. The Forums draw residents into joining the overall partnership approach to ASB and community nuisance. Residents have the opportunity to prioritise their concerns and highlight the issues as they see them. These are then addressed at the appropriate Action Group which compiles an Action Plan for the relevant partners to follow. Although direct contact with residents confirms their views and perceptions there are two caveats which need to be considered. The Forums highlight a lot of low level ASB which is the most difficult to tackle as often it is unsocial rather than criminal, and therefore not necessarily subject to Police or Council action. Where criminal/anti-social behaviour is reported any inability to reconcile the problem can increase the perception that nothing is ever done. An example of this would be the illegal use of mini bikes and untaxed scrambler bikes on paths and roads. Whilst there has been some success as bikes have been seized and crushed, it remains a problem in the eyes of residents.
- 1.10 We have not reviewed the funding arrangements for implementing the Strategy and for maintaining the various bodies involved. This is quite a complex area and could easily keep a working group active for many months. At this stage funding, in the main from Central Government, is not an issue, but as many of the grants are time limited there is no guarantee that in future years this will still be the case.

2. Structure (See Structure Chart, Page 17)

- 2.1 Our Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy is just one part of our overall activity as part of our commitment to safer communities. Ian Boswell, Safer Communities Manager, is part of the **Safer Communities Strategic Partnership (SCSP)** (Appendix J), which includes statutory and non-statutory partners. The overall brief of the SCSP is to reduce crime and disorder under the auspices of the 1998 Act.
- 2.2 The **Perceptions & Strategic Working Group (PSWG)** reports to the SCSP and as suggested by the name it looks at how ASB is perceived in the Community and proposes strategic response on behalf of the SCSP. It is chaired by the RBFRS. This group looks at the overall strategy of the various partners rather than specific cases and incidents. It has three sub-groups reporting to it.
- 2.3 The **Safer Communities Team (SCT)** (Appendix A) co-ordinates the activity in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour and includes Jo Simpkins, the BFBC ASB Co-ordinator, representatives from DAAT (Appendix C) and Neighbourhood Watch. One aspect of this team's work is to review the statistical data available to the Police and the Council. This information is collated by the Police, Fire Service and Council departments through a system called CADIS (Community Nuisance and Disorder Information System). A CADIS analyst is a member of the team. The data allows the team to plan their work and monitor their progress. Reported incidents of ASB are categorised by type and area.
- 2.4 On a more operational level the **Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group (ASB Working Group)** (Appendix B) meets on a monthly basis to progress our activities in relationship to ASB. One specific task is to action the application for ASBO's at the court. The evidence to support an ASBO application will come from a number of different agencies - TVP, Housing, YOT (Appendix E) and needs to be collated for the court. One advantage of an ASBO application is that the Police can present evidence on behalf of the victims, as victims are often concerned about attending court. As with the SCSP and the SCT, the ASB Working Group is a multi-agency partnership.
- 2.5 There are other groups working to combat ASB which work in conjunction with the above groups and teams. These are:
- The **Priority Prolific Offenders (PPO)** group is another multi-agency partnership which, as its name suggests, monitors the high profile repeat offenders in the Borough. This group is of special significance to the DAAT as many of these offenders have drug or alcohol dependencies.
 - **Bracknell Business Against Crime (BBAC)** focuses on the impact of crime specifically in relation to how it affects our local businesses.
 - **SHOPWATCH** liaises with the Police with the aim of reducing theft from shops, harassment of staff and any ASB which impacts upon the profitability of the retail sector.
 - **Neighbourhood Watch** schemes also feed into the work of the Safer Communities Team.
 - **Neighbourhood Forums/Action Groups** involve public participation within each of the individual Neighbourhood areas. This allows the public to directly address their concerns to both the Police and Council and to assess the resulting actions.

3. Partnership Working

- 3.1 It cannot be overstated just how important and essential partnership working is to delivering effective solutions on behalf of our residents across all areas of the Council's responsibilities. The ASB Strategy recognises the need for a multi-agency approach and this is evident from the structures highlighted above. Each of the partners are able to contribute to the process by inputting information from their individual fields. This is particularly important with early intervention initiatives such as with "Peter" in the first case study (at the end of this section). The other case studies also show how various departments within the Council can add value to the process.
- 3.2 One of the successes of the work into combating ASB is how well these partnership arrangements are working. However, there is always the possibility of conflicting aims between the partners as individual agencies have to work to their own internal agendas. The Education, Children's Services and Libraries Department and a school may favour an exclusion order for a troublesome pupil, whereas the YOT may prefer that the pupil remains in full time education while the offending behaviour is addressed. Youth facilities can have a positive influence on the behaviour of local youths, but often local residents fight to ensure they are not provided in close proximity to their houses.
- 3.3 These conflicting interests are even formalised in the Key Performance Indices of the individual agencies and departments. The Police have ten areas of criminal behaviour against which they are assessed. Anti-social behaviour is not one of the ten targets areas against which they are measured, albeit that some of the consequences of ASB, car crime or assault for instance, are among their performance targets. Whilst residents may wish to see youths moved along if they are hanging about, this does not score against the Police's KPI's as it is impossible to measure such activity. However residents' concerns have been recognised with the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing and funding for PCSO's to ensure there is a greater Police presence on the residential estates.
- 3.4 Another partner in the SCSP is the local Primary Care Trust (PCT). They too have their own targets and performance indices. Their input into Safer Communities and ASB work will be constrained by their own budgets and targets. Many of the youngsters involved with ASB often have mental health/personality issues which must be addressed if the YOT and DAAT are to perform effectively. There is a very close working relationship between YOT, DAAT and the PCT and some of the funding for the programmes is channelled through the PCT. However there are gaps in the service and support for these youngsters in terms of the CAMHS eligibility criteria which need to be reconciled. There is an obvious gap in mental health service provision for 16 and 17 year olds who are not in full time education. As they are out of the education system they do not qualify for support within the CAMHS criteria. As they are under 18 years they do not qualify for adult support from Berkshire Healthcare Trust. There are also issues around the classification between mental health and personality disorder. Funding provision for support for offenders with personality disorders is inadequate and clients are not picked up by the provision which is targeted at mental health issues.

- 3.5 The Healthcare Commission published a strategic audit on 1st November 2006, "A Review of Healthcare in the Community for Young People who Offend." It highlights the shortcomings across the country in this area of health provision. PCT's have a statutory duty to provide at least one health worker to the local YOT. The audit found that around one in six did not fulfil this obligation and one in three did not provide a mental health worker. In many cases the protocols and service level agreements (SLA) between the PCT's and YOT's were not formally written down. The CAMHS were also criticised for their inconsistent service provision. However a new review is due to be published soon which will provide a "model of good practice" which will hopefully improve access for young offenders to CAMHS provisions.
- 3.6 In Bracknell Forest the PCT provide a part time health worker plus some additional funding to the YOT. The mental health provision is through the Education, Children's Services and Libraries Department, a post which is part funded by the PCT. Although there is a protocol covering the provision of the part time health worker the SLA's are still being written.
- 3.7 The RBFRS is also active in tackling ASB and chairs the Perceptions and Strategic Working Group which reports to the SCSP. Locally they offer participative initiatives such as "Phoenix" and in Reading there is a new prototype scheme called "Evolution". Phoenix is a five day course at the Bracknell Fire Station. It is run about ten times a year with about ten participants per course. It stresses the need for a sense of responsibility, teamwork, self-esteem, authority within the workplace, as well as practical work experience. The youngsters on the course are early intervention referrals from schools, the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and YOT and are aged from 12 to 15 years. It offers places to girls as well as boys and is a Berkshire wide initiative. Evolution is a more in depth, analytical experience, which also involves the parents. It is currently being trialled in Reading. At this stage it appears that Phoenix is proving to be very successful in getting youngsters to examine and modify their behaviour and attitudes.
- 3.8 The role of TVP Schools Liaison Officer (SLO) is vital to the partnerships which are working to combat ASB. The current officer has only been in post for a couple of months but has already developed good working relationships with Easthampstead Park and Brakenhale Schools in particular. The role is dependent on the sharing of information. The SLO has access to information systems such as ARTEMIS within the TVP and the schools do of course have day to day contact with the pupils. Together there is an opportunity to enact effective early intervention measures. Much of the work is being handled within the schools with the SLO providing guidance, support, conflict resolution and restorative justice initiatives. There is also the scope to use other partners, such as the YOT and DAAT, to provide additional support through the schemes and programmes available to those agencies. Although the SLO has regular contact with the partner agencies he has no formal position on the various groups and committees. There is a real prospect that this role can be developed into a very effective mechanism for tackling ASB at an early stage and as such prevent more serious consequences in the future.

4. Example Case Studies

Peter

A 12 year old boy had been permanently excluded from his school following repeated absences and temporary exclusions. However, he continued to come on to site and loiter about, disrupting lessons, being abusive to teachers and pupils, making threats and so on. He was a suspect for a couple of incidents that have happened around the school.

The school had liaised with the police over the behaviour of the boy, and the Police Schools Liaison Officer got involved. However, this had not prevented the boy from returning to the school premises.

The Deputy Head Teacher attended the Working Group along with the Schools Liaison Officer and the local Neighbourhood Officer. They presented the case to the group who had been given the opportunity to check records on the individual in advance.

A number of agencies have had involvement with the boy and family, but the main problem was around his education. It was agreed that his Education Welfare Officer should attend the next meeting.

The boy was not committing any known crimes in the area except for those involving the school. The parents were supportive of the police involvement and were happy to attend a parenting course through the YOT.

After some discussion the group agreed the best course of action would be to write up an Acceptable Behaviour Contract with his parents present. The ABC would be done through the Restorative Justice Department of the Police in order to give the boy more opportunity to understand his behaviour and how it was affecting those in and around the school.

The ABC would be monitored over the coming months. If he continued in failing to attend school when he has been placed at a new one, or breached the behavioural conditions of the ABC, an ASBO would be sought.

The Restorative Justice Advisor and TVP Schools Liaison Officer had made contact with the young person expelled from his school and his family. This contact, along with meetings with his Education Welfare Officer showed that most of the ASB was probably a result of boredom and not being in school. He has now been placed at a new school, and the unacceptable behaviour around his previous school has stopped. Therefore, no ABC was completed, but he has been warned that he will get one if the behaviour starts up again. His parents are engaging well with parenting classes.

Paul, Chris & Jamie

Three males were discussed, all from the same neighbourhood. They are in their late teens and have been violent and disruptive around their homes and local shops. The behaviour is mostly fuelled by alcohol. This issue was raised by the police as all three had been arrested a number of times, and all three were facing court appearances. The police wanted to apply for Post-conviction ASBOs for them as they had clearly been causing harassment, alarm and distress to the community.

The names of the individuals had been circulated in advance of the meeting with notification of the fact that the police were hoping to apply for post-conviction ASBOs. The members of the group were invited to offer any extra information or opinions before the meeting, which a number of people did.

At the meeting, the decision to apply for ASBOs was unanimous. Opinions differed as to what should be contained in the ASBOs. There was a discussion around the need to balance the protection of the community and the needs of the individuals. However, the group agreed that, due to the nature of the behaviour being presented, the protection of the community was of highest priority.

It was decided that the local neighbourhood officer and the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator should draft some conditions to be circulated to the group for comment.

It was also suggested that the individuals should be required to attend CASCADE for help with alcohol problems as part of the ASBO.

The group had agreed to apply for post-conviction ASBOs on all three men. However, since the last meeting it has emerged that two of them are likely to get very long sentences for the crimes they have been involved in, therefore there is no point applying for ASBOs at this stage. The third has not been involved in problems recently, so the Police will monitor his behaviour before applying for an ASBO.

David

A case that had been raised by housing some months ago was once again brought to the meeting. It involves a middle aged man (a Council tenant) who has been causing noise, nuisance and so on to the other residents around about him. Most of this is because he allows young people to congregate at his home. They often have loud parties and congregate outside, drinking, swearing and fighting. This intimidates the other residents, many of whom are elderly.

Both the housing officer and the neighbourhood police officer for the area gave a summary of events over the last 6 months. Housing has taken action against him in the past on a number of occasions, all to no avail. They are currently in the process of taking legal action against him, but this is likely to take quite a long time.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that an ASBO was necessary and was proportionate action to take in this case. His own constant anti-social behaviour, along with that of his visitors has caused long term disruption to neighbours and has meant many complaints have been made both to the Council and the Police. Due to the fact that he has failed to comply with his tenancy agreement and continues to be anti-social, the group agreed that he should not be given the option to sign an ABC before an ASBO. He has had many chances given to him in the past.

Legal processes were to be set in motion to secure an ASBO.

The ASBO file is currently with BFBC legal team. The Working Group agreed that an ABC should be drawn up with the man in the meantime so that at least something is in place to help curb his behaviour. If the ABC is breached it will also give more evidence for the ASBO application.

Steve

The police have had 3 reports of an 11 year old boy causing harassment to neighbours, as well as reports of him throwing stones and eggs at houses. The Housing Department have also had complaints about him. Housing and the police wanted to raise the case at the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group as it was felt that if positive intervention could be carried out with the boy while his anti-social behaviour is fairly low level and he is very young, then it would hopefully have positive effects on him for the future. He is at risk of becoming a frequent offender as his older brother is well-known to the police, and the younger boy looks up to him and can often be found 'hanging around' with him. The Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group would like to catch young children who are beginning to behave in an anti-social manner early on so as to positively intervene in their situations, and hopefully reduce the risk of them going on to be persistent offenders.

Due to the fact the boy was arrested, the YOT were due to come into contact with him. The group agreed to monitor the work that the YOT were doing, and to consider an ABC if his anti-social behaviour does not stop. It was agreed monthly updates should be given to the group on the work that is being carried out with him.

The YOT will also look towards giving a parenting contract to his parents. Non-compliance would be used to apply to the court for a parenting order.

No further action had been taken by police on 3 of the crimes that the 11 year old boy had committed. However, he is currently on bail for 1 incident. The YOT are continuing to work with him and have told him and his parents that they are considering an ABC if his behaviour does not improve.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 This Scrutiny Working Group set out to assess the implementation of the recently approved ASB Strategy. It is common currency that ASB is a major concern on our estates and residents feel not enough is being done to get to grips with a perceived worsening situation. The reality is that there are many keen and conscientious people in various agencies doing very good work, which is rarely appreciated. The reason for the gap between perception and reality is not addressed here but is the subject of a recently commissioned report “Fear and Safety in Bracknell Forest” (see bibliography).
- 5.2 Whilst it is unlikely that we will ever satisfy all demands of all people in relation to ASB we believe that the good work being done needs to be recognised by Members and the Public. This is not to say that more could not be done, if funding was available, or that there are some shortfalls in our current procedures and practices.
- 5.3 It is immediately apparent that partnership working is essential in combating ASB. The offenders are invariably known to many of the agencies involved in the partnership arrangements. This pooling of knowledge and resources has provided many benefits and the case studies above bear testimony to this joint working. There are however constraints and shortfalls which need further work and scrutiny from this or a future Working Group.
- 5.4 Partnership working is a key aspect of the Council’s implementation of the ASB Strategy, but it brings with it some potential conflicts and difficulties. Each agency works to its own performance indices and this colours their judgments when working with their partners. We have not detected any fault lines in the working relationships, so hopefully the current mature approach and consensus will ensure that partnership wins over partisanship.
- 5.5 Much of the work within this area involves working with individuals and necessarily demands suitable confidentiality measures. This has resulted in many of the arrangements being restricted to officers of BFBC or our partners. Member input is generally limited to Executive Members. We believe there is scope for Overview & Scrutiny representation on some of the partnerships, which in due course will themselves come under formal scrutiny by the Local Authority. The Crime and Disorder Act review includes a provision for a “Scrutiny Plus” by Overview & Scrutiny Committees so hopefully back bench Councillors will have a greater involvement in the Council’s partnership working. Members have first hand experience of the issues in their Wards and can best represent the views of residents.
- 5.6 Naturally the Police will have a major input into any ASB Strategy. Apart from any partnership working they have their own operational strategies. The Police do not have any targets relating to ASB because it is not in itself a criminal activity. The Working Group consider there would be merit in having such a target in this particularly important area of addressing the fear of crime. The efforts made by TVP and the PCSO’s in countering ASB should be recognised in their published outputs; and this is an important crime prevention activity. Neighbourhood Policing has been generally welcomed by residents with one caveat – **Abstraction**. Residents do not welcome regular loss of the neighbourhood officer to other duties. This needs to be closely monitored to ensure public confidence in local Policing at Neighbourhood level remains high.

- 5.7 Partnership working and early intervention have proved to be of great value, and this is seen in the case studies above. The role of Police SLO has only recently been filled following the loss of the previous incumbent. This role provides a vital link between the schools, who are often the best source of indicators for early intervention, and the Police who can act before criminal activity commences. The SLO has already established good working relationships with some of the schools and this area of partnership working has encouraging prospects for the future.
- 5.8 It is not surprising that many of the offenders caught up in ASB have personality or mental health issues. The criteria for referral by YOT and DAAT to CAMHS have limitations, specifically for 16 and 17 year old offenders who are no longer in full time education. They no longer qualify as children as far as CAMHS are concerned nor do they qualify as adults for services from Berkshire Healthcare Trust. This will hopefully be reconciled as part of the Children's and Young People's Plan as it is a stated aim within the Plan. Also when the national report in to CAMHS is published it will include good practice criteria which will hopefully inform the relevant partners of BFBC. There is also an issue over funding and service provision for young people with personality disorders as opposed to mental health issues.
- 5.9 To date the PCT partnership has been with the Bracknell Forest PCT. This has been consolidated within the East Berkshire PCT. Whilst there is no reason to assume that this will disrupt this working relationship, any change needs to be carefully managed and this aspect is referred to in the Healthcare Commission Report. Indeed the DAAT's from the three East Berkshire local authorities have been working in combination with the PCT's so the change is already being managed.
- 5.10 The Supporting People programme has a responsibility to assist ex-offenders in finding suitable accommodation. The consequence of any shortfall is that offenders "sofa surf" with previous associates on release from prison. This puts an additional burden on DAAT and the offender in ensuring a successful rehabilitation. As there is a working group looking at Supporting People, this Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny Working Group will not progress this issue. It is however worth noting that although much of the ASB experienced by our residents tends to be associated with adolescents this problem will exacerbate the level of ASB and other criminal behaviour perpetrated by more mature ex-offenders.
- 5.11 Much of the anti-social behaviour we have to address is alcohol fuelled. There is a need for a more robust policy in this area as all indications are that underage drinking and binge drinking continues to present challenges for the Police and local authorities. However at this early stage of the new licensing regime it appears that the new opening hours in use by pubs and bars have generally had a beneficial effect. Where there have been concerns the new regime has facilitated a more robust response to premises which are not fulfilling their obligations. An Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy is currently being progressed by DAAT and the PCT. The O & S Panel should be involved at an early stage and prior to finalisation.
- 5.12 Many of the issues around ASB appear to stem from poor parenting. This has been recognised and parenting contracts and mediation are provided by Solutions Together UK ([Appendix I](#)) through a one year contract with the YOT. Most of the cases, 16 currently, are voluntary contracts with one case as part of a statutory order. A Scrutiny Working Group should look at this area in more detail as the implementation of the ASB Strategy progresses.

6. Recommendations

- 1. There is a need for greater input and involvement from non-Executive Councillors with the various partnerships dealing with ASB.**
- 2. Abstraction rates need to be carefully monitored to ensure maximum presence of Neighbourhood Officers on the residential estates they have been assigned to serve. The O & S Panel should request a presentation from TVP to ensure Members are fully appraised of how this impacts on the policy of Neighbourhood Policing.**
- 3. Early intervention is a key element in the strategy of combating ASB and the role of Schools and the TVP through the SLO needs to be reviewed to ensure we are capitalising on the potential of intervention in this area.**
- 4. The CAMHS criteria needs to be reviewed to ensure those 16 and 17 year old offenders, no longer in full time education, and excluded from the services provided by CAMHS are guaranteed the support they need.**
- 5. The Supporting People programme should address the shortage of suitable accommodation for ex-prisoners on their return to the community to ensure they are less likely to be drawn into another cycle of re-offending.**
- 6. The current and proposed policies to tackle alcohol abuse, particularly by young people, should be brought to the O & S Panel so that Members can be fully involved in progressing useful initiatives in this area.**
- 7. The Health O & S Panel should review the performance of the local health providers in relation to the recently published Healthcare Commission Report and the soon to be published report on CAMHS, to ensure they are fulfilling their statutory responsibilities.**
- 8. There is evidence that agencies working within partnerships continue to follow their own agendas which leads to confusion. This issue should be fully explored to produce a workable solution.**
- 9. The Council should ask TVP to adopt a target for their ASB work in Bracknell Forest, based on CADIS and their other information.**
- 10. The Adult Social Care and Housing O & S Panel should review and update this report in November 2007.**

7. Glossary

ABC	Acceptable Behaviour Contract
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
ASBO	Anti-Social Behaviour Order
BBAC	Bracknell Business Against Crime
BFBC	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
CADIS	Community Nuisance and Disorder Information System
CAMHS	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service
DAAT	Drug and Alcohol Action Team
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
LPA	Local Police Area
O & S	Overview & Scrutiny
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PPO	Priority Prolific Offenders
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
PSWG	Perceptions and Strategy Working Group
RBFRS	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
SCSP	Safer Communities Strategic Partnership
SCT	Safer Communities Team
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SLO	Schools Liaison Officer
SS	Social Services
TVP	Thames Valley Police
YOT	Youth Offending Team

8. Structure Chart

9. Appendices

- A. Meeting with Safer Communities Team, 23.02.06
- B. ASB Working Group meeting notes by Jo Simpkins
- C. Meeting with DAAT, 08.05.06
- D. Meeting with YOT case worker, 03.04.06
- E. Meeting with YOT, 21.04.06
- F. Meeting with C.I. Rob Povey, TVP, 19.05.06
- G. Meeting with Paul Jacques, RBFRS, 04.10.06
- H. Meeting with PC Bissell, SLO, 07.11.06
- I. Meeting with Alison Bradshaw, Solutions Together UK, 14.11.06
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Produced by:

Prof. Kevin Stenson, Crime and Conflict Research Centre, Middlesex University.

Dr. Nadia Wager, Dept. of Human Sciences, Buckinghamshire University College.

for Bracknell Forest Safer Communities Partnership.

An electronic copy of the bibliography is available from Lin Timperley, ext 3066

