

¹Report for Councillors Chas Baily, Alan Browne and John Piasecki Working Group Actions July 2005- May 2006

The ASB Working Group was established in June 2005 and has met 9 times since then. The joint TVP and BFBC ASB Protocol required such a group to be set up because multi-agency working is crucial to the effective tackling of anti-social behaviour. The group allows a number of agencies and Council departments (those who are signed up to the Information Sharing Protocol) to meet together to exchange information around cases and to develop multi-agency action plans to deal with each case. This has proved to be very effective. Any agency can refer a case that they feel needs a multi-agency response or where information exchange is necessary.

It has become very clear that individuals are often known by a number of agencies and therefore communication between those agencies is important. Without communication between agencies we run the risk that work will be overlapping and at times conflicting. For example the YOT may be doing some work with an individual and the Council might decide to give the person an ABC. The ABC could potentially conflict with the work that the YOT are doing and maybe even prevent them from doing something / going somewhere that the YOT are encouraging them to go to. This could have detrimental effects on the offender and may lead to further problems rather than positive results.

A typical meeting of the Working Group is as follows:

Updates on previous cases: updates are given on cases discussed at the previous meeting and how the actions are coming along. Sometimes the case can be closed as all actions have happened and the situation has been resolved, sometimes we decide that we must continue monitoring a case each month and other times we allocate further actions. Even when a case no longer goes onto the agenda for an update, it is always monitored by the individual agencies dealing with the case.

Cases: New cases are then discussed. Any agency that is a member of the Working Group can refer a case for discussion. A case should be one that clearly requires a multi-agency response. Matters of anti-social behaviour that can be solved or worked on by an individual department or agency are not discussed at the working group (although are sometimes mentioned for information reasons only).

The referrer of a case will share what they know and give ideas as to the action that they would like to use to tackle the problem. There is then an opportunity for the other members of the group to share information that they have on the case and work that they may be doing / have done. In the majority of cases, a number of agencies claim knowledge of the case, and

¹ Appendix B

therefore the multi-agency meeting ensures that all information is discussed and disclosed. All relevant information is taken into account when individuals are discussed, such as their housing situation, employment status or any mental health issues.

With most cases, the possibility of an ABC or ASBO is discussed, although in a typical case we will discuss which alternative sources of action could be carried out first, such as restorative justice or mediation. ASBOs are used as a last resort or in extreme cases where nothing else is likely to be suitable.

Below is a list of actions that have been taken as a result of discussions at the ASB Working Group, and the number of times they have happened. It should be noted that agencies within the Safer Communities Partnership are carrying out such actions on a daily basis – e.g. housing serve many notices for nuisance, and PCSOs patrol ASB hotspots on a daily basis. The figures below are purely actions that have arisen from discussions at the Working Group, and do not reflect the scale of work that is being carried out to tackle ASB as a whole across the Borough.

Restorative Justice Conferences	3	
Cars seized	1	
Diary Sheets issued	1	
Noise monitoring kit installed	1	
YOT work	3	
Seizures of noise equipment	1	possible
Notice for nuisance	3	
Housing legal action	2	
ABCs	9	
EH Prosecution case	1	
Actions by licensing	2	
Alcohol exclusion zones	1	investigated but dropped
Shop Watch Actions	2	
PCSOs tasked to patrol	5	times
ABCs drawn up for future use	3	
Monitoring/evidence collation	8	
Hotspot monitoring	1	
ASBOs	2	
ASBOs in pipeline	6/7	(although alternatives are being considered)
Targeted youth work	1	
Parenting contracts	1	
Informal discussions with clients around behaviour		2
Mediation	1	

The total number of cases that have been discussed and reviewed in total since the working group was set up is **39**.

Example meeting – 2nd March 2006

21 people present, representatives from:

**Youth services
Housing Management Services
Safer Communities
Environmental Health
Children's Services
Youth Offending Team
Education
TVP Officers
TVP Restorative Justice
TVP Neighbourhood Watch**

Apologies from:

**Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Southern Housing Group
Guinness Trust
TVP Crime Reduction**

Example meeting – 5th April 2006

15 people present, representatives from:

**Housing Management Services
Environmental Health
Youth Offending Team
Education
Safer Communities
REAP Resettlement Agency
Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
TVP Officers
TVP Neighbourhood Watch
TVP PPU
TVP Restorative Justice**

Apologies from:

**Children's Services
Youth Services
TVP Crime Reduction**

New Cases

Case 1 A 10 year old has been arrested for ABH and therefore the YOT will be working with him. As with the 11 year old above, the ASB Working Group would like to get him engaged with interventions at an early age in an attempt to prevent further offending as he gets older.

He will be given a final warning for what he has done and this means he will now be in the criminal system, and will be engaged with the Youth Offending Team's final warning programme. The YOT agreed they would put him on the extended programme so that he can have more intensive intervention.

This work will be monitored by the working group.

He has also been identified as one of the ring leaders in anti-social behaviour around one of the local parades of shops. However, the shops are not coming forward yet with the information that they have been asked to provide. In situations like this it is essential that shops do all they can to help the police with the problems they are experiencing. The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator will continue to encourage them to engage fully in the Shop Watch initiative and the local beat officers will continue to patrol the shops on a regular basis.

Case 2 A 16 year old male youth. Well known to various agencies for persistent anti-social behaviour around Bracknell Forest. He has been on a supervision order to the YOT on a number of occasions and has usually failed to comply. The group discussed the possibility ASBO, and agreed that it would be very unlikely that he would comply. However, everyone agreed that we are left with very little alternative action. The YOT have been working with him for a number of years with little success. He persistently causes harassment, alarm and distress to the community and therefore the group feel that an ASBO is the appropriate course of action in this case. The youth is currently on bail for a recent offence, so the YOT will be working with the police officer in charge of the case to obtain an ASBO post-conviction.

Case 3 A 16 year old male who was given an ABC in February 2005 has again been coming to the attention of the police. His ABC expired in September 2005. His name is sometimes mentioned by shops and residents, but it is unclear how much anti-social behaviour he has recently been involved in as there is little evidence surrounding his activities. There would not be sufficient evidence for an ASBO. However, the group agreed that any information from all relevant agencies should be pooled and discussed at the next meeting. At this stage it appears there may not be much to look at, but because he has been warned about his behaviour in the past through the ABC process, we may well consider giving him a second ABC even if the evidence is sparse.

End of examples.

Jo Simpkins

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ASB Working Group Report