

To: Force Executive Board
From: Head of Safer Communities Directorate
Date: 6th May 2010

ASB: DEVELOPING MINIMUM STANDARDS

1. Intention:

1.1 The intention of this paper is to update FEB on the strategic development of ASB within the Force and to showcase the tactical actions taken to secure minimum service standards for police and partners.

2. Overview:

2.1 During 2009 there was a radical overhaul in the management of ASB across the Force. Strong victim service by many Divisional Neighbourhood Policing Teams was supported by new quality assurance processes for ASB managed through Force Performance regimes and the implementation of new systems and procedures within the FCR and on Divisions to identify and respond to the needs of vulnerable and repeat victims.

2.2 Changes to Force processes have continued to mature and develop in the light of local and national best practice, and the focus for the Safer Communities Directorate has been to provide leadership and direction on ASB response with an expectation for the Directorate ASB team to fill the GAPS by providing:

- **Governance** arrangements for ASB
- **Action** supporting Divisions
- **Policy/procedure** management
- **Showcase** results

2.3 The successes of effective joint agency working in the management of ASB have been well documented within the Constabulary, and requirements to work jointly to meet the performance targets sets through the Local Area Agreements are being keenly supported (NI17 Perceptions about ASB in their local area, NI21 Dealing with local concerns about crime and ASB, NI27 Understanding local concerns about crime and ASB, NI141 Perceptions drunk and rowdy behaviour as a problem, NI42 Perceptions about drug use and dealing as a problem). Requirements for the establishment of minimum service standards for ASB victims has given impetus to joint working and secured new working arrangements.

3. Minimum Standards

- 3.1 In October 2009 the Home Secretary required all Community Safety Partnerships to set and publicise their own minimum standards for responding to ASB and these were to include information on where members of the public can get help, what happens when they report a case of ASB and how they are supported through the process. The Home Office ASB Unit has provided a self assessment template to assist in the development of the minimum standards.
- 3.2 All District Partnerships have complied with the process and have worked collaboratively through a new NI17 Group which has included County and Unitary representation. Standards have been set for partnership responses to dog fouling, graffiti, fly-posting and fly tipping.

4. Summary of Actions:

4.1 Strategic Actions:

- a) NI17 Group formed to include County, District and Housing Association reps.
- b) ASB practitioners group refreshed to ensure learning/good practice shared between partners on ASBO management and enforcement action.
- c) Allocation of spend to the NI17 Group provided partnership incentive for ASB action on the ground.
- d) ASB Manual for the Constabulary developed and approved.
- e) Force Local Policing Plan 2010-2013 spearheading the development of ASB response for vulnerable and repeat victims.
- f) Minimum service standards set by all Community Partnerships in respect of dog fouling, graffiti, fly posting and fly tipping.
- g) Force quality assurance processes established for ASB.
- h) New definition of vulnerable victim of ASB approved.
- j) Safer Communities currently reviewing in partnership the ASB Risk Assessment Matrix proposed by ACPO ASB lead ACC Simon Edens to improve ASB casework management (letter dated 6th April 2010).
- k) Self Assessment template as provided by the Home Office ASB Unit is being used by police and partners to determine if structure and processes fit for purpose.

- l) Partnership ASB Delivery Plan 2010-2011 developed and agreed to ensure disciplined management of action

5. Tactical Action:

- a) Development of new Force Control Room processes to identify and respond to vulnerable victims.
- b) Processes established for the management of Cambs County Council ASB funds (£44K) and performance management set through N117 Delivery Group. Ongoing projects include:
 - Cambridge and District Community Mediation Service to provide mediation services to ASB victims.
 - Wisbech Community Alcohol Partnership, to develop joint up partnership in response to street drinking and under age sales.
 - Huntingdonshire Street Reps, providing street action in vulnerable areas to tackle graffiti, dog fouling and other neighbourhood concerns.
 - Petersfield Neighbourhood Improvements, providing ASB action to address street drinking, rowdy behaviour and drug taking. Will include the movement of street furniture and improved lighting.
 - East Cambs Mediation Project, providing conflict resolution service to ASB victims.
 - Oxmoor Gardening Project to engage young people at risk of ASB offending working with older residents to make neighbourhood improvements.
- c) Peterborough City Council is allocating £54K on targeted ASB Projects in Peterborough.

6. Recommendations:

- 6.1 FEB to note the contents of this paper
- 6.2 FEB to consider the referral of this paper to the Police Authority to showcase Force ASB action
- 6.3 FEB to consider the feedback opportunity on the Risk Matrix.