

## IN DEPTH DISCUSSION – ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

1. This paper has been written to generate the in depth discussion topic for this session which is anti social behaviour. A draft ASB Strategy is attached at appendix A. A summary of the strategy is provided in this paper.
2. The Tackling Crime and Disorder consultation that was carried out between August and October 2007 told us that anti social behaviour was the main concern for 62% of respondents and the following were the key anti social behaviour issues that we should focus on:

	Priority	Net rank
1.	People using/dealing drugs	42.4
2.	Alcohol misuse/street drinking	38.4
3.	Diverting Young People from Offending	22.8
4.	Vandalism	15.4
5.	Poor parental responsibility	13.7
6.	People being drunk and rowdy	12.9

Clearly residents are concerned about anti social behaviour that is due to substance misuse. The Community Safety Plan provides full details of the work that we will be doing to address People using/dealing drugs. In summary we will focus our efforts on disrupting the drugs market, using ASBOs to restrict the activity of our most prolific offenders and we will continue to use Closure Orders to close down premises where we suspect that Class A drugs are being used or dealt.

We will tackle the alcohol issues under the Think B4U Drink banner making full use of the powers in the Licensing Act 2003, using enforcement in the 'No Alcohol in Public Places' sites, issuing section 27 Directions to Leave notices that require people to leave the area for a specified period up to 48 hours and Alcohol Disorder Zones where appropriate.

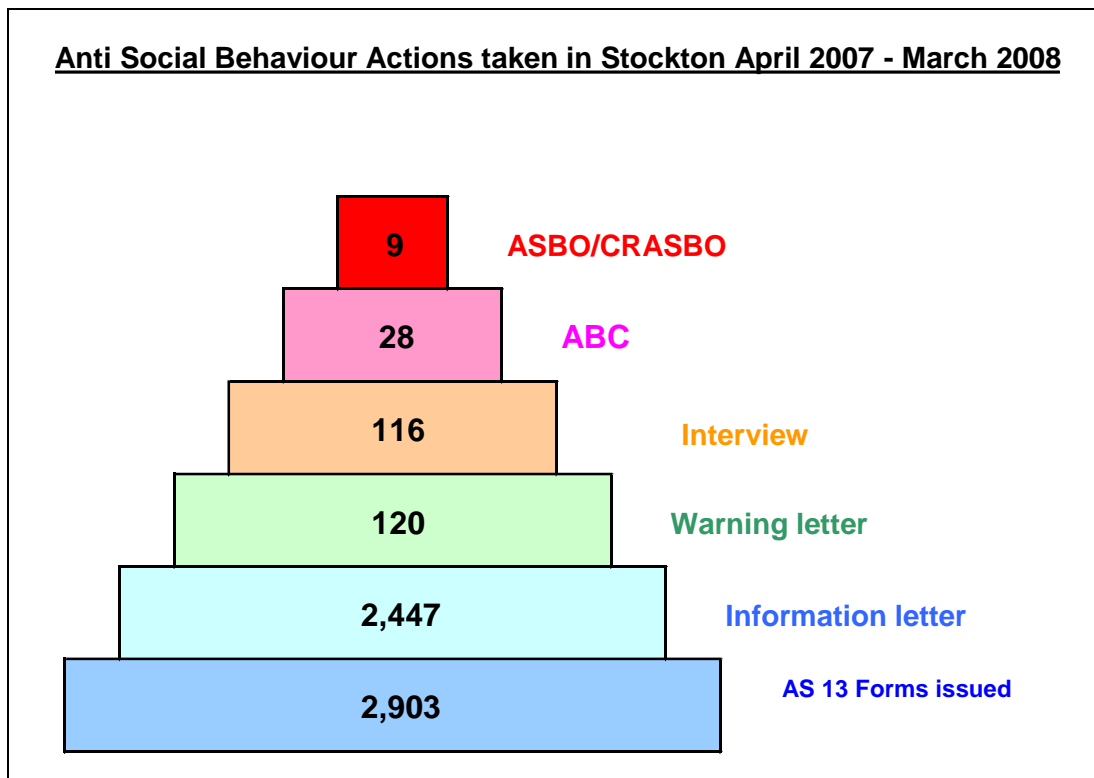
Diverting Young People is also a key objective in the Community Safety Plan, as discussed in Agenda item 8 the YOS Management Board will take the lead on this key priority. The ASB and Community Safety Team provide a range of work linked to this priority:

- Ongoing visits to schools and projects such as ROACH to raise awareness of the impact of anti social behaviour
- Think B4U Drink to raise awareness of how alcohol can affect behaviour
- Weekend and evening operations to provide a uniformed presence in hot spot areas
- Additional youth detached and outreach work provided by the Cornerhouse linked to the PODs.
- LIFE programme provided by the Fire Service to a targeted audience of young people to help them to develop team building, assertiveness, and discipline skills

- Be spoke campaigns such as the 'It's No Yolk' campaign that is used on the run up to mischief and bonfire night.

Whenever an AS 13 is issued to a young person an information letter is sent out to the parents and they are offered support services. Parenting Support is available via the Preventions Team on a voluntary and statutory basis and whenever we apply for an ASBO for a young person we always ask the Court for a Parenting Order to accompany it.

3. The ASB triangle below shows below shows the number and type of interventions that have been used during 2007/08.



4. As the triangle above shows to reduce anti social behaviour the Multi Agency ASB Team have continued to use an approach based on prevention, support and, enforcement when both of these measures have failed. We know that the main offenders who come to our attention are under 18 males with the key age band being 14 to 15 years. We also know that males are more likely to go on to have a more serious sanction imposed upon them and are less likely to respond to prevention and support interventions.
5. Cases come into the team from a range of sources:
  - a) Joint Action Group (JAG) identifying an individual or area that requires further investigation, prevention or support.
  - b) Neighbourhood Police Officers who have identified criminal damage, graffiti or been called to incidents of anti social behaviour.
  - c) AS 13 notices issued by the ASB Team, Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers and Police Officers to anyone seen behaving in an anti social manner.

- d) Section 27 Direction Leave notices that are issued by Police Officers to anyone who is causing a nuisance where alcohol is or it is thought it could be a factor.
  - e) Referrals of serious and persistent cases from Tristar Homes Ltd, Registered Social Landlords or private landlords.
  - f) Calls direct to the team from residents and councillors.
6. When an AS 13 or a section 27 notice is issued a copy is sent to the team and the details of the recipient are logged onto the database. The ASB Officer will assess the notice and an information letter may be sent out depending on the content of the notice. The incidents are assessed for seriousness and if the incident requires an immediate response or if further notices about the same person are received an information letter is sent out in the first instance followed by a warning letter and then a request for an interview. If the notice relates to a young person a Prevention leaflet is enclosed and a referral is made to the Prevention Team for that area. When the notices apply to those over 18 if it is thought that the person may be vulnerable a referral is made to the ASB Support Officer. If an Acceptable Behaviour Contract meeting is arranged for a young person a prevention officer will attend to help to ensure that the young person understands the process and the ASB Support Officer will attend for those thought to be vulnerable to ensure that they understand the detail of the contract that they are signing.
7. As a framework for our discussion members are asked to consider the following:
- a) Do members feel that the approach that is being used is effective?
  - b) On page 20 of the strategy we have provided a contacts page for ASB and Community Safety Officers: is this helpful? This page is also sent out to all council members, public access points and is on [www.saferstockton.com](http://www.saferstockton.com).
  - c) Pages 17 – 19 provide a summary of 'Who Can Help' is this comprehensive enough?
  - d) Pages 14 – 16 give details of the targets that we aim to achieve. Our aim is for them to be realistic but challenging - have we achieved this?
8. It is RECOMMENDED that the Partnership endorse the draft ASB Strategy, subject to final updating to ensure full consistency with the latest version of the Local Area Agreement.

Marilyn Davies  
30th May 2008