

ASB and Hate Crime Minimum Standards

1. A comprehensive set of minimum standards have been proposed by the Regional Community Cohesion Learning Network who will provide support to local areas to help them to achieve the standards. The document provides local information of where we currently are from a multi agency perspective.
2. The standards relate to:
 - Third party reporting
 - Hate incident case management
 - Prevention activity
3. It is proposed by the RCCLN that the CDRP will play a key role in ensuring that the standards are met, however ownership of the operational activity will sit within each partner agency. Appendix A shows the proposed standards with an added column showing current local activity areas for improvement are shown underlined and in italics. It is suggested that we monitor performance on areas where we are not fully compliant and a further paper will be brought to a future meeting showing progress.
4. Alongside of this the Home Office have announced a package of support to help partners tackle anti social behaviour and keep neighbourhoods safe and confident. As part of the package we are expected to set and publicise minimum standards.
5. The standards can vary from area to area but we are encouraged to set as a minimum the following:
 - a) Reduce perceptions of ASB year on year;
 - b) Take reported cases of ASB seriously; recording, investigating and keeping victims informed of action taken;
 - c) Provide regular information to residents on what action is being taken to tackle ASB;
 - d) Offer support and practical help to victims of ASB;
 - e) Ensure an effective link between neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management;
 - f) Provide residents with a right of complaint to the CDRP if effective action is not taken by local agencies through existing channels.

6. Additional funding has been offered to Stockton of £44,000 it is not clear at the moment what the time scales are for the funding but indications are that it does not have to be spent in this financial year.
7. It is suggested by the Home Office that this funding should be used for:
 - a) Training for frontline staff;
 - b) Environmental clean up campaigns, in selected neighbourhoods to demonstrate quick, visible difference to residents;
 - c) Support for community led projects to engage young people; and
 - d) Offering support to victims of ASB.
8. Within Stockton we have robust reporting, recording and investigation procedures for ASB cases and a scrutiny process in place for any unresolved issues. We currently engage Community Payback for area clean ups and we have a successful YCAP campaign to engage young people. We are able to use Victim Support for cases of ASB however an area of improvement for us would be enhanced victim/witness liaison within the multi agency ASB team to increase our involvement, communication and feedback to residents. Within the ASB Team we have one ASB Support Officer, this role would benefit by having an assistant with a focus on providing feedback, support and reassurance.
9. Members are asked to consider proposed standards and to endorse the proposals:
 - a) That we will have a monitoring role for the Hate Crime standards.
 - b) That our capacity is increased to provide feedback and reassurance to victims and witnesses.

Community Safety Manager
2nd December 2009.