

STRENGTHENING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ASB

1. We have a well developed procedure for dealing with anti social behaviour, it is updated regularly to encompass new guidance and processes. Each partner agency involved in dealing with anti social behaviour has signed up to follow the procedure and their named representative has a copy of the document.
2. Members may recall a report was brought to our 15th December meeting 'ASB and Hate Crime Minimum Standards' this was followed by a paper to our March 23rd meeting providing a summary of how we comply to the Governments proposed minimum standards for ASB. Since then a number of letters, standards and guidance documents have been issued, this report provides a summary of these documents and a draft of the update of the **ASB Self Assessment Tool** (Appendix 1) first completed as a pilot in December 2008.
3. **Victim/Witness Risk Assessment Tool** (Appendix 2) this tool is designed to identify whether victims and/witnesses are vulnerable. We have adopted this form and it will be used from 1st May for all callers to the ASB Team. When the score is above 12 for a victim a referral will be made to the ASB Support Officer who will then assist with the case.
4. **CLG Letter from John Denham and Alan Johnson** (Appendix 3) this letter is mainly about providing public confidence in dealing with anti social behaviour and crime. It outlines the Government's commitment for partnerships to adopt and publicise ASB minimum standards. (The paper brought to SSP on March 23rd is published on www.saferstockton.com). The letter sets out some criteria that we are encouraged to adopt but does state "partnerships have the flexibility to decide how to meet these locally"

a) 24 Hour response

Within the letter there is an expectation that we will respond 'to all anti social behaviour reports within 24 hours'. Our agreed procedure is that we respond within one working day to calls received. We have a 24 hour reporting line that is covered by the Security Centre outside of office hours however the ASB Team do not work weekends as a rule so we would not be able to comply with this part of the standards within our current resources. This also applies to housing associations in the area THL part fund the ASB hotline and calls are passed to them with a copy to the ASB Team. Police call takers will receive calls at all times however response to the call will depend on the seriousness of the incident.

b) Victim and case worker review

Cases are reviewed weekly with contact between the ASB Officer and the victim at least once a week. We have recently employed an ASB Victim/Witness Support Officer whose role is to provide daily contact with victims and witnesses, this complements the newly established Police Public Confidence Unit who provide daily call backs in response to calls to the police for crime and ASB.

c) Monthly anti social behaviour community meetings

ASB Officers currently attend resident meetings in the neighbourhoods they cover and will call a meeting in a hot spot area to keep residents up to date where there is an ongoing case involving the community but we do not hold monthly ASB community meetings and we do not have the capacity to do so.

5. **Letter from ACPO and CPS** (Appendix 4). This letter covers responses to breaches of ASBOs, Annex A provides a checklist for good practice.
- a) **Applying for an ASBO** Our procedure is fully compliant with each point raised
 - b) **Getting an ASBO** Again our procedure complies with each requirement except we have a caveat that we will not automatically use publicity for those under 16
 - c) **Breach** We could be more robust in our response to breach. There are two areas that need attention; Notify victims of breaches and having a Victim Personal Statement on the breach file. The ASB Manager is meeting with Police colleagues to agree a process that will be added to our procedure.
 - d) **Prosecuting breach** A copy of the order and a summary sheet is provided to the CPS however it is not always used. The ASB Manager will flag this up again with the CPS.
 - e) **Sentencing** A victim personal statement nor a community impact statement are on the case file as a matter of course. It would be relevant to include this for some breaches but some are quite minor therefore it may be more appropriate for the arresting officer to discuss this with the ASB Officer to reach a decision on the appropriateness of this action. The ASB Manager will speak to Police colleagues to ensure that officers are aware of this.
 - f) **Post sentencing** The ASB Victim/Witness Support Officer will ensure that all victims are notified of the outcomes of breach trials and we can publicise the breach on www.saferstockton.com and issue a press release where

publicity is agreed. We conduct a yearly review on youth cases at the Problem Solving Group meeting.

6. Members are asked to review the ASB Assessment Tool and following discussion agree the scoring for each assessed element. Members are also asked to consider and endorse our response to the recent guidance issued.

Community Safety Manager
27th April 2010