

### **Policy on Under 10's**

- 1.1. Over the last ten years the Anti-Social Behaviour Team has dealt with many incidents and reports of young people involved in anti-social behaviour. We deal with these reports by investigation, prevention, enforcement and support which involves collating evidence, sending out various types of letters (advice, support and warning letters), conducting interviews, putting in place Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's) and when all other interventions are unsuccessful taking court action such as Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's).
- 1.2. The majority of ABC's implemented by the team are on under 18's, however less than a third of ASBO's granted by the court for Stockton are for under 18's. This suggests that although we are receiving reports of anti-social behaviour involving under 18's this behaviour is being dealt with successfully using preventative work such as advice, support and warning letters or ABC's.
- 1.3. An Anti-Social Behaviour Order is only available for those aged 10 years and over and in Stockton we have followed this guideline for our prevention work with young people. However, it has been noted that some incidents do involve young people under the age of 10 and there is also evidence of some younger siblings being involved in the behaviour of older brothers and sisters. This has led to a situation where the Community Safety team monitor these individuals and no action is taken until they are over 10 years old. It has been agreed that this can lead to the victims of ASB perpetrated by those under 10 feeling as though no sanctions or consequences have occurred which could reduce confidence in the Community Safety team and deter future reports. In addition to this there is also a risk of the perpetrators behaviour escalating.
- 1.4. To address this, the attached under 10's procedure has been developed to make parents of young people under 10 aware of their child's behaviour and try to offer support at a young age to prevent their behaviour escalating. This process will be dealt with in a sensitive way to ensure we are mindful of their understanding and referrals to support services will be made for vulnerable young people and their families. It is proposed that this procedure will link in with the Family Intervention Project (FIP) as well as other areas of Children Education and Social Care (CESC) Colleagues from CESC have been sent a copy of the procedure and we are in the process of arranging a meeting to discuss the procedure further. We have also consulted with Cleveland Police who support this policy.
- 1.5. While it is anticipated that this policy would be used rarely it is recommended that the Partnership support its implementation and recognise how effective it could be in preventing a young person from being involved in further anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.
- 1.6. A full copy of the procedure can be found at Appendix A.