



PARTNERSHIP ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY **2010-2013**

Strategic Aim

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) has been highlighted as a key priority for all agencies within Ashfield. It has been recognised that the levels of reported ASB within Ashfield are high, whilst the community's perception of how partners are dealing with it are low. The approach to tackling ASB issues is in need of improvement and the aim of this strategy is to ensure that all organisations working to tackle anti-social behaviour, are aligned behind the common overarching goal of;

Reducing anti-social behaviour throughout Ashfield and making our communities feel safer.

This will be achieved by meeting the following objectives:

- Showing leadership by making a **continuous and visible commitment** to tackling anti-social behaviour to improve confidence in how we respond
- Significantly improving public confidence around ASB by **communicating** more effectively with our local communities.
- **Empowering and supporting** local communities to take a stand against anti-social behaviour through collectively working together with residents
- Providing an excellent, tailored level of service to all victims of ASB by adhering to a unified set of agreed **minimum service standards** for victims and witnesses.
- Work together to deal robustly with all cases of ASB, adopting a **zero tolerance** approach where necessary.
- Actively seeking ways of preventing ASB within our communities by **intervening swiftly** to prevent low level issues escalating
- Adopting a **challenge and support** model of intervention to those individuals or families identified as causing ASB.

Definition of Anti-Social Behaviour:

This strategy has encompassed the definition of anti-social behaviour (ASB) defined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as;

'behaviour which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator'

This strategy has been agreed and adopted by partner agencies tackling ASB in Ashfield. It will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

Authorised Signatories:

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Date

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Date

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Date

Supporting Tactical Information

The Current Picture:

The 2008 Place Survey identified 34.8% of Ashfield residents felt ASB to be a 'very or fairly big problem'. For this, Ashfield was the 8th worst district nationwide out of a total of 353 local authorities. Only 16% of Ashfield residents felt that the Police and other local services were successfully dealing with crime and ASB. Additionally crime levels have until recently been rising, although during 2009/10 there has been a reduction. The challenge is now to sustain and enhance this reduction.

As a result ASB has been prioritised by all partners within the CDRP and an Improvement Plan has been developed to implement a number of positive changes by April 2010 and beyond. Partners have placed a great deal of emphasis onto the prevention, early intervention and enforcement agendas, with specific attention paid to the following issues which need to be addressed:

- Ashfield residents do not feel confident that agencies will deal with the ASB they are experiencing.
- Partners need to utilise enforcement tools and powers in cases at appropriate times.
- Training is lacking around procedures for taking forward tools and powers.
- Partners need to adopt a consistent multi-agency approach in dealing with hot-spot locations.
- There needs to be a greater consultation between all partners before prevention or enforcement tools are used.
- Partners need to adopt the prevention and early intervention principles and refer to appropriate agencies and support services on a quicker time scale.
- Victims and witnesses need to receive more information as to what actions are being taken by partners.
- Partners need to be able to respond more speedily to incidents of ASB and the possible need for emergency enforcement action.
- Partners need to communicate with residents, in a format that suits them, about all aspects of ASB (e.g. reporting ASB, enforcement, interventions, getting involved).

What is Working Well in Ashfield?

A new Community Protection Service was introduced in 2009, which has provided residents with a single and direct means of reporting ASB to the Council. This service has become the 'eyes and ears' of Ashfield and as such has had a positive impact on the number of low level enforcement tools being used to tackle anti-social behaviour.

The Family Intervention Project is working well with a number of families across the district to reduce and prevent ASB. Alongside the FIP, a range of

voluntary parenting and family programmes are being undertaken, with over 100 families participating in 2009/10 alone.

Fortnightly partnership Local Area Tasking meetings have been established which allow for a quicker response to ASB data and the identification of hot-spot locations. These have resulted in the quicker flow of information between agencies and also the creation of partnership patrol plans to target hotspot locations at all key times. The response to anti-social behaviour hotspots, the identification of key individuals and of hate crime victims is now more co-ordinated and increasingly becoming balanced between enforcement and support.

A clear process has been established for the use of covert CCTV equipment in ASB hot-spot locations. The cameras have been deployed in both rapid response and as a final stage of intervention across the district. They have helped to provide evidence of breaches of enforcement tools as well as providing reassurance for the residents involved.

A clear and easy to follow protocol has been developed for the breaching of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts which is now universal across all partners in Ashfield. This has been implemented and followed in several cases and has proven to be a useful tool for partners. The partnership are now looking to develop similar protocols for other tools and powers to provide an overarching guidance for all agencies.

Our Plan of Action:

Outlined below are a number of targets that have been included on our Improvement Plan. These will successfully be in place by April 2010 so that partners can be delivering a uniform service across Ashfield. The effectiveness and success of this action plan will be measured through public confidence surveys and the Ipsos Mori Place Survey due to take place in late 2010. Following the outcome of these surveys, this action plan will be updated and amended as necessary to ensure our work around ASB is continually improving.

Target 1
Establish multi-agency response to dealing with perpetrators and repeat victims of ASB
Actions
Establish a 'Marac' style ASB meeting to support vulnerable people and also take action against high risk perpetrators.
Develop existing Local Area Tasking (LAT) meetings to incorporate lower level perpetrators and enforcement tools.
Develop existing LAT meetings to identify victims of ASB and offer suitable support packages at an earlier stage.

Target 2
Maximise effective use of ASB tools and powers to ensure maximum impact on ASB

Actions
Develop a localised training package for all officers to ensure all agencies are adopting the same approach to using tools and powers.
Create and develop working protocols for tools and powers.
Support new officers in taking cases forward on a mentoring basis

Target 3
Improve communication to local communities around ASB
Actions
Produce a set of minimum service standards for victims and witnesses of ASB
Promote the 'Respect Ashfield' branding on all partnership ASB work
Greater level of partnership information being given through SNCs
Increased use of perception surveys
Increased localised communications campaigns e.g. 'you said we did'
Develop a partnership communications strategy
Promote orders to the local community to reinforce actions taken to curb ASB

Target 4
Provide a greater level of service to victims and witnesses of ASB
Actions
Produce a set of minimum service standards for victims and witnesses of ASB
Improve methods of identifying repeat victims of ASB at an earlier stage
Identify and promote local services and agencies for victims and witnesses
Introduce a 'marac style' multi-agency meeting to target repeat and vulnerable victims of ASB.