

**Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and Members
of the Operational Policing Panel
14th July 2009**

**Executive & Presenting Officer: Mr Dave Pickard, Assistant Chief Constable
(Crime & Operations)**

Status: For information

Anti-Social Behaviour Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Members with an overview of current anti-social behaviour (ASB) initiatives.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of this report.

3 Reasons

- 3.1 Anti-social behaviour is any activity that impacts on other people in a negative way. Anti-social behaviour includes a variety of behaviours covering a whole range of selfish and unacceptable activities that can blight the quality of life within communities.
- 3.2 Most types of anti-social behaviour fit into one of three categories; street problems, nuisance neighbours or environmental crime. The categories cover a wide range of conduct from youths behaving aggressively in shopping precincts to dog fouling and the misuse of fireworks.
- 3.3 Anti-social behaviour impacts on individuals, families and wider communities – preventing a peaceful existence and degradation of the environment.

- 3.4 There is no specific definition of what constitutes an anti-social behaviour act. For the purpose of the Force strategy, anti-social behaviour includes:

' Acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator' and / or 'conduct causing or likely to cause a nuisance or annoyance to a person residing, visiting or otherwise engaging in a lawful activity in the locality'.

- 3.5 Incident types recorded by the Force are assigned to categories including: abandoned vehicles; animal problems; hoax calls; rowdy and nuisance neighbours; environmental damage, and rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour.
- 3.6 In April 2009 6051 incidents of anti-social behaviour were recorded, compared to 5629 in April 2008. A summary of the main categories is shown below:

	April 2009	April 2008
Rowdy & inconsiderate behaviour	3777	3524
Vehicle nuisance / inconsiderate use of vehicles	787	757
Rowdy / nuisance neighbours	452	349
Malicious / nuisance communications	399	338

- 3.7 The trend fluctuates month by month and the April figures indicated a rise over March 2009, with 5672 incidents in March against 6051 in April. In comparison 4992 incidents were recorded by the Force in March 2008 and 5629 incidents were recorded in April 2008.
- 3.8 Twenty areas in England are to share £13 million to help set up intensive intervention projects under a Government initiative to challenge and support young people in trouble.
- 3.9 The intensive intervention projects, including one based in Middlesbrough, will be based on the Family Intervention Project model but will be aimed specifically at young people.
- 3.10 Evidence has shown that these types of projects are effective in turning around the lives of young people and their families through a highly targeted package that will both challenge young people and their parents if necessary, to do better, as well as support them in overcoming their problems.

4 Hartlepool

- 4.1 Force data shows that 1071 incidents (1056 in 2008) of anti-social behaviour were recorded in Hartlepool in April 2009. A breakdown of these incidents is summarised in the table overleaf:

	April 2009	April 2008
Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour	751	669
Vehicle nuisance	85	128
Rowdy / nuisance neighbours	71	78
Malicious / nuisance communication	65	73

- 4.2 In the period November 2008 to April 2009 Hartlepool Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) received 1181 Anti-Social Behaviour forms. This compare to 1140 forms in the preceding six months to November 2008.
- 4.3 During the period November 2008 to April 2009 the following interventions were recorded:
- 19 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts / Agreements
 - 580 warning letters, including 166 AS13 general warning letters; 66 Straightline warning letters; 122 AS13 warning letter 1; 46 ASB Advisory letter 1.
 - 2 Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (CRASBO)
 - 11 Anti-Social Behaviour orders (ASBO)
 - 11 interim ASBO
 - a further 2 CRASBO and 2 ASBO applications are pending.
- 4.4 The ASBU is working closely with the main shopping centre in Hartlepool (Middleton Grange) and now attends monthly CrimeNet meetings. A new CrimeNet manager has been appointed and has forged close links with partners. Town centre staff now complete incident diary sheets which are sent to the ASBU when relevant with the aim of progressing ABA, ABC and ASBO where appropriate.
- 4.5 In line with the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing principles five priority wards have been identified in terms of anti-social behaviour. Partnership arrangements are in place through multi-agency Joint Action Groups (JAG) in order to adopt a problem solving approach to local issues. Each NHP area now has a neighbourhood briefing on a monthly basis. This includes representatives from the ASBU and RSL with a focus on emerging issues.
- 4.6 The ASBU introduced an annual Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Day (ASBAD) aimed at Year 8 pupils. Scenarios are used to challenge various forms of anti-social behaviour in a safe environment. This is an ongoing initiative with the last event being held in January 2009.
- 4.7 The Straightline project works with young people aged 11 – 17 years to help them realise problems and impacts of underage drinking behaviour. In the period from 1/11/08 to 30/04/09 51 referrals have been made by the ASBU.
- 4.8 The Hartlepool Intervention Panel (HIP), formally known as the Family Support Panel seeks to prevent offending and anti-social behaviour through supportive interventions. Since October 2007 the HIP has supported in excess of 55 young people and their families.

- 4.9 The Family intervention Project (FIP) was launched in October 2007 as part of the respect agenda and is currently engaged with 7 families. The project is designed to work with the more problematic families.
- 4.10 Tenancy Information Exchange (TIES) was launched by the ASBU in July 2006. It offers a comprehensive tenancy referencing scheme to landlords. The Good Tenant Scheme is now in place in Hartlepool. The aim is to reduce disorder and promote good behaviour by recognising that landlords should be encouraged to rent properties to responsible tenants. Anyone can apply to join the scheme free of charge and may be issued with a membership card once accepted (following checks). Between 1/04/08 and 31/01/09, the ASBU received 415 applications to join the scheme.
- 4.11 LIFE and SAFE programmes, that continue to be run by the Fire and Rescue Service, are designed for young people at risk of social exclusion and / or involved in anti-social behaviour or criminal activity.
- 4.12 Robust links between the ASBU and Neighbourhood Policing teams will result in ASB officers being locally placed and accessible to both agencies and communities.
- 4.13 A Prevention Awareness Course (PAC) has been developed by the Youth Offending Service. The course, that includes members of the ASBU, delivers input on school behaviour, conflict management, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, bullying, self esteem and confidence building is held in schools across Hartlepool and targeted at specific individuals.
- 4.14 Hartlepool has recently initiated Designated Public Places Orders (DPPOs) aimed at tackling alcohol related incidents and associated anti-social behaviour. Publicity of the initiative is to follow.
- 4.15 Hartlepool has utilised the S27 Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 Direction to leave in the Church Street area, used to disperse individuals from the area who may affect the night time economy environment. The tactic is aimed at preventing incidents of disorder and anti-social behaviour with 173 notices being issued prior to May 2009.
- 4.16 Neighbourhood Policing Teams in conjunction with the ASBU, YOT and Straightline have worked under Operation Stay Safe, where young people found under the influence of alcohol are taken to a designated place of safety and parents are contacted to collect them. Multi-agency support is offered.
- 4.17 Officers have conducted Operation Ride N Hide, travelling on buses used by pupils to travel to and from school. The aim of the operation is to reduce the fear of crime and incidents of anti-social behaviour.

5 Middlesbrough

- 5.1 Force data shows that 1625 incidents (1471 in 2008) of anti-social behaviour were recorded in Middlesbrough in April 2009. The largest categories are summarised below:

Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour	995	933
Inconsiderate use of vehicles	217	205

- 5.2 Amalgamation of the AS13 content into the street encounter form has been held pending the implementation of the CUPID device. Discussions have taken place regarding the inclusion of AS13 information into CUPID and it is anticipated that this should be in operation later this year.
- 5.3 The following interventions were recorded:
- 977 AS13 forms have been issued in 2009 to date
 - 78 ABCs have been processed in 2009 (26 currently live).
 - 94 ASBO / CRASBO / ASBI exist in Middlesbrough.
 - The youngest holder of an ASBO is 13 years old and the oldest is 62 years of age.
- 5.4 Middlesbrough has explored the possibility of publicising individuals with current ASBOs on the Force website which replicates the similar initiative in the Warwickshire Police area. Details of the restrictions are highlighted along with a photograph of the offender and Warwickshire Police have successfully utilised this process for a number of years. With agreement from each of the four districts in Cleveland this initiative is to be adopted and incorporated within the web site arrangements for Cleveland Police from May 2009.
- 5.5 The introduction of 'ASBO cards', providing officers and partner enforcement staff with details of current individuals with ASBO, have been utilised throughout the town centre area of Middlesbrough. The cards provide details of ASBO restrictions and a photograph of the individual as a guide to operation officers and staff who might otherwise be unaware of possible perpetrators. The scheme is expected to be extended to other areas of the town due to the success of the initiative.
- 5.6 During April and May 2009 a series of multi-agency events have been held, bringing together NPT officers and partnership enforcement officers in an attempt to highlight the resources and procedures available to address anti-social behaviour. Using a variety of methods (presentations; The Wall) the events provided a 'market place' for partners to raise awareness of the roles and functions of respective agencies.

6 Redcar and Cleveland

- 6.1 Force data shows that 1430 incidents (1309 in 2008) of anti-social behaviour were recorded in Redcar and Cleveland in April 2008. A summary of the largest categories is detailed below:

Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour	861	851
Vehicle nuisance	224	154

- 6.2 The Acceptable Behaviour Campaign is well established and uses intelligence led responses in line with the National Intelligence Model (NIM). The data collated is used to drive the policing needs in respect of anti-social behaviour within the district. Each ward is supplied with target individuals from the ABC and proactive responses are utilised at team level. The intelligence is incorporated within the ward profile.
- 6.3 The Acceptable behaviour Campaign is always evolving and a new trigger has been introduced at the 'second letter' stage to allow the Youth inclusion programme (YIP) to engage with young people. An annual review of ASBO now takes place. Following the 'letter 2' stage in circumstances where behaviour does not improve, a second visit is undertaken and the person and his / her family is informed that their circumstances will be discussed at a problem solving group meeting.
- 6.4 The Targeted Integrated Prevention group provides information to all ASB diversionary agencies to identify areas of concern and also on an individual basis so that early intervention can take place with known individuals. The group is also the lead body on a youth village initiative to be held in Loftus and will pilot a crime and anti-social behaviour toolkit. It will oversee an innovative project in relation to inter generational work.
- 6.5 Work with CREST has seen the formation of a referral process where young people with alcohol related issues are supported within a group setting. After agreement from YIP, they will when appropriate, fill in a Child Assessment Framework report at 'letter 2' stage as a lever towards early intervention and preventative measures.
- 6.6 The Acceptable Behaviour Campaign will be used as the process to intervene at an early stage with a restorative justice programme in an attempt to divert young people away from the criminal justice system.
- 6.7 The mobile service continues to deliver outreach services in identified hot spot areas. The buses are a product of good partnership working arrangements and include facilities such as nurse practitioners, public health information, mobile skateboarding and sports equipment.

- 6.8 The introduction of CCTV cameras into bus shelters deemed to vulnerable from attack is expected to have a significant impact on anti-social behaviour.
- 6.9 A number of multi-agency operations with the ethos of 'weeks of action' have been undertaken. A holistic approach to local problems is taken and communities have been fully engaged.
- 6.10 Operation Nightsafe continues to deliver reductions in disorder within the night time economy environment.
- 6.11 A well structured programme for education in primary schools is being delivered across the district by the Schools Liaison Officer. The district has invested in the development of its own version of 'The Wall' that focuses on local issues. The ASB team has increased the amount of time spent in schools delivering structured messages through the 'Stepping Stones' and panel based 'Just Ask' initiatives.
- 6.12 Education engages with the ABC process through the work of the Behaviour Attendance and Truancy Team (BAT). The team works with an Educational Social Worker to confront poor behaviour within school environments. A new 'Wall' has been constructed and will be used within school environments.
- 6.13 Ryogens, a web based information sharing system has been renamed. Now known as the 'Child Wellbeing System' this early intervention initiative addresses the five outcomes identified in the Government paper Every Child Matters. The system is intended to be used as a tool to deliver the Child Wellbeing Model and be the 'home' of the Common Assessment Framework for early interventions.
- 6.14 Operation Unity involved police and partners working closely to identify ASB perpetrators and deal with issues raised.
- 6.15 The introduction of a Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Coordinator has seen the rise of Community Crime Fighters who will act as advocates for their community. The initiative will be launched in May 2009.
- 6.16 Redcar and Cleveland Community Safety department took part in an awareness raising event in which magistrates met members of the public and jointly visited hotspot areas to discuss anti-social behaviour issues and responses. The event was productive.
- 6.17 The district currently has 24 Acceptable Behaviour Agreements in existence though 162 have been issued in total to date. There are currently 62 ASBOs. The number of 'first stage' letters has now reached 17612, with a total of 856 second stage letters being issued. A total of 26 dispersal areas have been authorised.

7 Stockton

- 7.1 Force data shows that 1892 anti-social behaviour incidents (1769 in 2008) were recorded in Stockton in April 2009. a summary of the highest categories is shown below:

	April 2009	April 2008
Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour	1165	1071
Inconsiderate use of motor vehicles	259	269
Rowdy / nuisance neighbours	161	122

- 7.2 Two police officers are seconded to the Local Authority Anti-Social Behaviour Team and co-located in Stockton Police Office. An intelligence led approach is adopted in response to anti-social behaviour and action is disseminated through problem solving groups and Joint Action Groups (JAG). The response is driven by the Tasking and Coordination process.
- 7.3 Between November 2008 and March 2009 1047 AS13 / Alcohol Confiscation forms have been issued. This has resulted in 13 individuals being subject of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. There are currently 16 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and 21 Criminal Anti- Social Behaviour Orders in place.
- 7.4 S27 Directions to leave powers have been used on 228 occasions in the period November 2008 to March 2009 and in the same period, 1034 information notices and 41 warning letters have been distributed to perpetrators.
- 7.5 In a well structured programme the ASB Team visits schools in the borough to talk to young people about the impact of anti-social behaviour in the community and school environment. Building on the success of previous years there is an increasingly effective partnership with schools developing.
- 7.6 The preventative message is also reinforced in PSHE / Citizenship lessons for year 7 to 11 pupils where young people are engaged in thinking about wider crime and disorder matters. This is supported using the 'Roach' initiative, using cockroach characters to engage young people into looking at anti-social behaviour in all its forms. This is a Crimestoppers campaign that uses a range of teaching aides to raise awareness.
- 7.7 Each ASB officer works closely with NPT officers to address anti-social behaviour in a targeted way in local communities. The use of ASBO information cards provides officers and partnership enforcement staff with a means of alerting them to offenders who may breach the conditions of their orders.
- 7.8 ASB officers continue to collaborate with the LIFE and SAFE programmes that are designed for young people at risk of social exclusion and / or involved in anti-social behaviour. The schemes are led by the Fire and Rescue Service.

8 Implications

8.1 Financial

The Force response operates within existing funding arrangements and therefore there are no major financial implications.

8.2 Diversity and Equal Opportunities

There are no adverse community, diversity or equal opportunities implications.

8.3 Human Rights Act

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

8.4 Sustainability

The issue of anti-social behaviour is one of the Force's current policing priorities and is a problem that calls for continued attention and collaborative working between partners.

8.5 Risk

Due to the public nature and widespread community impact it is important the Cleveland Police is responsive to the community and local needs.

9 Conclusions

9.1 Anti-Social Behaviour is a key concern for our local communities and a continued focus should be maintained.

9.2 Data suggests that the largest problem in all four policing districts is rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour by young people. The response to such problems requires a balanced and proportionate approach to enforcement combined with education and diversionary activities.

9.3 Vehicle nuisance is an increasingly significant category, followed by rowdy / nuisance neighbours and malicious / nuisance communication.

9.4 A holistic and partnership approach is required to ensure long term solutions are found to local problems.

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