

**Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and Members
of the Operational Policing Panel
18th March 2010**

**Executive & Presenting Officer: Mr Sean White, Assistant Chief Constable
(Territorial 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 Incidents reported to the Force are assigned to categories including: abandoned vehicles; animal problems; hoax calls; rowdy and nuisance neighbours; environmental damage, and rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour. The full list of categories is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.6 For the current financial year to date there have been 54,896 reported incidents of anti-social behaviour. This compares to 54,099 incidents reported during the same period last year, an increase of 1.5%. There are four main categories of incidents as shown below:

	Apr 09 - Jan 10
Rowdy & inconsiderate behaviour	34,085
Vehicle nuisance / inappropriate vehicle use	5,591
Rowdy / nuisance behaviour - neighbours	4,214
Malicious / nuisance communications	3,898

- 3.7 The figures vary across the four districts as shown in the table below:

	H	M	R&C	S
Rowdy & inconsiderate behaviour	6,148	10,134	7,836	9,908
Vehicle nuisance / inappropriate vehicle use	627	1,528	1,696	1,721
Rowdy / nuisance behaviour - neighbours	753	1,139	1,039	1,279
Malicious / nuisance communications	645	1,108	859	1,248

- 3.8 The strategic approach across the Force is for District and Council staff to share information to help identify a problem individual or group. Acting together they then involve other agencies, for example, Children's Services, Education Youth Service providers, such as the Youth Inclusion Project or Connexions, and where appropriate Registered Social Landlords.
- 3.9 Our key approach is the Acceptable Behaviour Campaign. Developed in 2001 by Cleveland Police the idea behind the campaign is to intervene at an early stage to stop anti-social behaviour from escalating and to prevent young people from entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily. The Acceptable Behaviour Campaign (ABC) 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.

- 3.10 Districts are utilising the powers under Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, by issuing 'directions to leave', to disperse individuals from an area who may affect the night time economy environment. Districts are also currently looking at appropriate applications for Drinking Banning Orders. This is recent legislation, effective from 31st August 2009, allowing the courts to make orders prohibiting a persons behaviour linked to alcohol disorder.
- 3.11 Cleveland Police now places photographs of individuals subject to Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) the new Cleveland Police website. The objectives for placing orders on the website are primarily to inform our community and to help our partner agencies to assist police officers in effectively enforcing the terms of the order. Other police forces such as Devon & Cornwall and Humberside have requested information on how we developed the system and what procedures we have used. Devon & Cornwall have now implemented these procedures also show ASBOs online.
- 3.12 The Force response to the policing of anti-social behaviour within districts takes account of local arrangements and issues. Some examples of good practice at district are outlined below.
- 3.13 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. This initiative is regularly reviewed and ongoing and is likely to continue into the year 2010/11.
- 3.14 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. It is part of our co-ordinated Youth Crime Action Plan activities.
- 3.15 The Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Safety Bulletin was produced in November 2009, compiled in conjunction with Middlesbrough Borough Council and Middlesbrough Safer Partnership. The bulletin was delivered to all homes in Middlesbrough (approx 62,000), and contained information on support for victims, highlighted the further reduction in crime, stories from each Neighbourhood Safety Team Area, and showed pictures of 12 ASB perpetrators who currently have ASBOs. The bulletin also included articles on Community Payback, Neighbourhood Watch and residents on patrol. Subject to funding, it is planned to produce 4th Edition towards the end of 2010.
- 3.16 Following a successful event at the Middlesbrough Teaching & Learning Centre (MTLC) to raise awareness on anti-social behaviour, closer links with IIP (Intensive Intervention Project) have been forged. Intensive work has been carried out with a number of prolific individuals some with ASBOs others on the verge of receiving an order. As a result of this all juveniles in

- 3.17 Redcar and Cleveland's response to the problems associated with the run up to Bonfire night was **Operation Equinox**. This involved intense partnership working and received national recognition and a Tilley award.
- 3.18 Redcar & Cleveland district took part in a successful 'meet the magistrate' initiative where members of the public visited 'hot spot' areas on a bus with magistrates and court staff to discuss ASB issues together.
- 3.19 In a well structured programme the ASB Teams visits schools 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.
- 3.20 The preventative message is also reinforced in Personal, Social & Health Education / 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.
- 3.21 A Prevention Awareness Course (PAC) has also 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 and targeted at specific individuals.
- 3.22 Results from the British Crime Survey show that overall perceptions of ASB have improved. The latest figures¹ show that 19.7% of local residents perceive ASB to be a problem, however, the Local Public Confidence Survey results suggest a lowers level of perceived ASB, the latest figure being 7.7%². The full results of this survey are the subject of a separate report on today's agenda.

8. Implications

8.1 Financial

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

¹ Based on the latest BCS data release which reports on interviews conducted between October 2008 and September 2009.

² Calculation includes 'don't know' responses.

8.2 Diversity and Equal Opportunities

There are no diversity or equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

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 continues to be 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 will be maintained.

9.2 Data suggests that the largest problem across the Force 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.

Sean Price
Chief Constable

Appendix 1 – List of Anti-Social Behaviour Categories

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	AS1	Abandoned vehicle (not stolen/causing obstruction)
	AS2	Animal problems
	AS3	Begging/vagrancy
	AS4	Hoax calls to emergency services
	AS5	Inappropriate sale/use/possession of fireworks
	AS6	Malicious/nuisance communication
	AS7	Noise (not neighbours)
	AS8	Prostitution related activity
	AS9	Littering/Drugs paraphernalia
	AS10	Rowdy/nuisance behaviour - Neighbours
	AS11	Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour (inc solvent misuse)
	AS13	Street Drinking
	AS14	Trespass
	AS15	Vehicle nuisance/inappropriate vehicle use