



**Public Policy Exchange:  
Community Safety and Policing Conference**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

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# Anti-social Behaviour: Changing the language?

- “Policing” – Who does it and how? From Section 17 to community engagement and empowerment
- “Preventative” – What does it mean to agencies and to harmed communities? Are we speaking the same language?
- Tackling anti-social behaviour today. Optimism about resources or pessimism about practice?

# Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour: The development of roles and responsibilities

- From 1996 onwards, establishment of facilitating statutes
- 1998 Crime and Disorder Act established service vision and statutory duties for agencies other than the police to actively tackle anti-social behaviour
- Confirmed and strengthened by provisions of the 2003 Anti-Social Behaviour Act
- Statutes reflect Government recognition of injunctive action as signature tool of effective management of anti-social behaviour
- The need for urgent and effective delivery of respite for communities suffering harm is repeatedly emphasised
- 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 – Introduction of Premises Closure Orders, section 118, Criminal Justice and Immigration Act, 2008

# **Together, Respect and the Youth Task Force**

- The twin track approach
- Balance and proportionality
- The engagement and empowerment of communities damaged by anti-social behaviour
- The need for the earliest intervention

**The neighbourhood policing model as a model for other service providers**

# Clear message that every agencies' action can deliver an effective and authoritative contribution to community safety

- Action which respects the served community's demands
- Action which partners and develops community aspiration
- Action which is proportionate to the needs of individuals and communities harmed by anti-social behaviour
- It **is** about using the law (not only but also)
- That effectiveness is grounded in **reputation** earned through
  - Action which is relevant to the witness/community
  - Action driven by community need
  - Action which quickly and effectively stops the ASB and prevents repetition
  - Action which is reported back to the community
  - Action which is seen by agencies as **a new start** in the active and determined management of a particular case and not a tick-list "solution"
  - Action which keeps the safety of witnesses as its core concern

# Support, Diversion and Rehabilitation

- Is not an alternative to the use of enforcement measures to protect communities
- Is a necessary follow through to deliver the most effective outcomes
- Makes sense to communities after they have been protected
- Makes no sense to communities if they continue to suffer harm without any action which is directly concerned with their needs

# **Testing the service vision - the professional list (How we judge our performance)**

- Policies and procedures
- Multi-agency working/tasking groups
- Targets
- Protocols
- Benchmarking
- Public perception surveys
- “Star” status at inspection

## **Testing the deliverers – the client list (How they judge us!)**

- Outcomes are the deciders
- They are about the needs of the harmed community (and not just about the vulnerabilities of the perpetrator)
- They begin with early, effective action to stop the harm quickly
- They continue with credible standards to prevent repetition of the harm and the effective engagement of the appropriate specialist agencies to sustain this prevention
- These standards are tested by the effectiveness of the “policing” of the standards and the exercise of sanctions for breach
- Breach isn't declared a failure but a point of progress which requires action in the management of the standard

## **The Bridge:**

### **Efficient and effective case management**

- Experience of success and belief that it's repeatable
- Facilitating procedures which establish a solid evidential base for choice of appropriate action which is then taken
- A stakeholder to champion the community
- Distinct and respected roles and responsibilities
- Recognition that progress is not achieved by repetition of the unsuccessful
- Sustaining communities' engagement through information and respect
- Whole organization and partnership commitment to follow through

# Summary

Communities suffering anti-social behaviour are protected, strengthened and made viable only if agencies take appropriate and proportionate action which recognises and stops the harm which vulnerable individuals are experiencing and which authoritatively and credibly prevents repetition of this harm.

Agency access to such action has been repeatedly facilitated by statute. Injunctive action in particular is demonstrably successful in stopping anti-social behaviour without creating unnecessary social exclusion.

Every test of public perception suggests that such action works to increase public confidence in agencies' concern, competence and will to act.



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