

CALDERDALE SAFER  
COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR  
STRATEGY

2005 – 2008





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# Introduction

## Anti social behaviour

Anti social behaviour is defined as:

**“behaviour that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household”.**

Surveys of public opinion and consultation exercises often show various forms of anti social behaviour as having a higher profile with residents than what are traditionally regarded as more serious crimes (burglary, street robberies etc).

Clearly we cannot begin to tackle ‘anti-social behaviour’ until we have mapped its extent. The debate around what constitutes anti-social behaviour shows that the definition can be wide ranging and can include : -

Street Drinking	Drug Dealing	Soliciting	Abandoned Cars	Illegal Parking	Vandalism	Litter
Youth Nuisance	Off-road Motor-Cycling	Noisy Neighbours	Persistent Alarms	Graffiti	Fly-Tipping	High Hedges

Anti social behaviour covers a multitude of activity and may be broken down into more specific crime types, which often over-lap with the more general label of ‘anti social behaviour’.

In Calderdale a range of statistical information is gathered across the crime type headings, figures for criminal damage, for example, show 5799 recorded incidents a year (16 incidents a day). This compares with, say, street robbery, where the recorded incidents is nearer 1 a week. During a one-day count in 2003, 66 reports of anti social behaviour were noted. Complaints regarding litter and rubbish accounted for most of the reports (27%) followed by vehicle related nuisance, inappropriate vehicle use, abandoned vehicles and criminal damage/vandalism and noise, all which have a similar level of reporting (14%).

The results of the Council’s “Talkback” opinion survey have indicated that respondents perceived (rightly or wrongly) forms of anti social behaviour to have increased over the last 12 months.

This is in-line with the British crime survey findings that 1 in 3 people perceive some form of anti social behaviour to be a problem in their area. (Talkback is a resident's survey within Calderdale).

Police data analysed for Calderdale's Crime Audit indicates that the peak times for reporting anti social behaviour were at the weekend and from about 3.00 p.m. onwards. Youth nuisance and general annoyance were the main reasons for complaints.

Research has also shown that the focus for anti-social behaviour tends to be shops on estates and in Halifax Town Centre, schools and Halifax Bus Station.

Behaviour can often be linked to one or more of the following : -

- Substance misuse including alcohol
- No, or sporadic school attendance
- A background of domestic violence
- Siblings / cousins being involved in similar behaviour

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2005) found that when residents talked about anti-social behaviour they largely focused on issues relating to young people. Explanations were frequently rooted in broader conceptions of social and cultural change. Three main strands of thought emerged, although these were by no means mutually exclusive or discrete:

1. **Social and moral decline** – anti-social behaviour problems were seen as symptoms of wider social and cultural change and, more specifically a decline in moral standards and family values.
2. **Disengaged youths and families** – anti-social behaviour was thought to be rooted in the increasing disengagement from wider society of a significant minority of children and young people and (in many cases) their families.
3. **'Kids will be Kids'** – anti-social behaviour was seen as a reflection of the age-old tendency for young people to get into trouble, challenge boundaries and antagonise their elders

Ranges of factors exist that are strongly associated with anti-social behaviour by individuals. These factors tend to go together, so the chances that young people will become drawn into anti-social behaviour increases as more are present. They include

- **Parenting** – poor parenting skills, weak parent / child relationships and sometimes parental involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour
- **School** – truancy and exclusion and schools where poor behaviour is not challenged enough

- **Community factors** – living in deprived areas where there is disorder or neglect, peer involvement in anti-social behaviour
- **Individual factors** – drug and alcohol misuse and early involvement in anti-social behaviour

*(Taken from Respect Action Plan 2006)*

## Context

It is essential to recognise that tackling ASB effectively will require the input of a wide range of partner agencies, the voluntary sector and the general public. In particular it is important to incorporate:

- the work of the newly formed Children and Young People's Directorate in Calderdale. Essential elements of the Directorate's work will include:
  - delivery on its 'prevention' strategy targeting children likely to get involved in anti social behaviour
  - roll out of the 'extended schools' agenda including provision of broader family support
  - targeting of Youth Service work to combat anti social behaviour
- the role of schools generally as a key interface with young people and a venue for promoting good behaviour messages
- the critical role of the Youth Offending Team in preventing anti social behaviour and working with youngsters who have become involved with the criminal justice system
- the role of adult and community services dealing with enforcement activity across issues such as noise nuisance, graffiti, fly tipping and litter
- the role of community services in delivering constructive things to do including cultural and sports programmes
- the role of the police and the wider police family, police officers, PCSOs, street wardens and others in preventing, anti social behaviour, stopping on-going anti social behaviour and prosecuting perpetrators where appropriate
- the role of partner agencies such as probation and registered social landlords, particularly Pennine Housing 2000, in developing their own anti social behaviour activity
- most importantly, the role of community groups including community associations and representative groups for young people such as the youth parliament in working with statutory agencies to devise effective prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation programmes

There is much good work going on across the Calderdale Safer Communities Partnership to tackle the issue of anti-social behaviour : -

- There is a robust, nationally recognised, Multi Agency Anti-Social Behaviour Panel, which has been in existence since 2001.
- The Early Intervention Panel, which was formed in recognition of the need to co-ordinate the increasing amount of work on prevention, has seen some success in preventing young people from becoming subject to Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.

- The formation of Action Planning Teams, to address local community concerns over crime and disorder have seen a more cohesive approach to these issues.
- The re-focusing of Police resources into Neighbourhood Policing Teams, already an established feature of the Ward-based Calderdale approach, will see improvements in communications between Partners, which will lead to greater public reassurance.
- The formation of an Anti-Social Behaviour Team, including the appointment of a dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Anti-Social Behaviour Community Safety Officer, Co-located Police Officer, Specialist Solicitor (Based in the Legal Department ) and a Full Time ASB Caseworker.
- There are strong links with the Pennine Housing 2000, the Stock Transfer Housing Management Organisation, which hosts the Partnerships ASB Caseworker amongst their own professional team.
- A team of Community Development Workers, integrated within the Community Safety Team, who seek to resolve issues at the earliest opportunity.
- The holding of a Home Office sponsored 'TOGETHER' Action Day, which initiated several innovative Action Plans to address real issues affecting our communities.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy runs alongside a number of other key planning documents including the Children and Young People's Plan, the Prevention Strategy for Young People and so on. In particular the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy should be read in conjunction with the Calderdale Safer Communities Strategy 2005 – 2008, which was published in the spring of 2005.

The Safer Communities Strategy is based on nine key objectives : -

1. To reduce overall crime.
2. To reduce Anti Social Behaviour.
3. To create communities where people feel safer.
4. To reduce the harm caused by drugs.
5. To have safer and more attractive public spaces.
6. To help local communities contribute to, and influence, the work of the Safer Communities Partnership.
7. To reduce crime in high crime areas, helping all areas of the Borough share in prosperity.
8. To reduce the harm caused by alcohol.

9. To help young people stay safe, gain employment and make a positive contribution to their communities.

These objectives reflect both National frameworks and local priorities based on consultation and the Calderdale Crime and Disorder Audit 2004 : -

Key themes run across all nine priorities.

These include a particular focus on : -

- Preventing young people from getting involved in crime and directing them away from crime if they are involved.
- Embracing a 'Big Picture' approach, looking beyond crime at access to education, employment, training, housing and family support.

## **Our Approach to Anti Social Behaviour**

The Anti-social Behaviour Strategy is divided into Subject Areas such as Alcohol Related Disorder and Children and Young People.

Each Subject Area contains measures to address the three strands of our approach to tackling anti-social behaviour.

These Strands are listed below with illustrative examples : -

### *Prevention :*

- Changing the environment to reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour, for example through improved street lighting or CCTV
- Preventative services, for example family and youth services, drugs and alcohol services. Some of this work will be universal while some will be targeted work aimed at people most likely to become involved in committing anti social behaviour
- Targeted work in deprived areas, such as the deployment of Street Wardens.
- Schools and youth services activity to discourage anti-social behaviour

### *Enforcement :*

- Early intervention through the development of mediation, the use of warnings and tenancy clauses on anti-social behaviour
- Measures to tackle noise pollution, litter and dog fouling including use of spot fines
- Use of specific powers including Dispersal Authorisations, drinking in public places orders, and licensing legislation

- Use of injunctions and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and prosecution for specific offences.

*Resettlement :*

- Services directed at changing people's behaviour including placing ex-offenders in suitable accommodation, residential help for those needing closer support and use of case-conference approach to developing a package of services (e.g. mental health, drugs and alcohol)
- Monitoring of those excluded from social housing, private rented or owner occupied and measures to prevent re-offending once evicted.

**Other Policies, Plans and factors that have influenced this Strategy include :**

- Local Authority Corporate Priorities
- Partners Priorities
- Calderdale Futures Plan
- Legislation
- Government Department Imperatives

Summary of key proposals

1. Young People - introduction of a national youth volunteering service, a Sports Champion mentoring programme and pilot of Youth Opportunities Cards.
2. Schools - an extension of targeted action against truancy and a new duty on councils to identify truancy and support children back into education.
3. Support for parents and families - establishment of a National Parenting Academy and extension of parenting contracts.
4. Housing - consultation on new closure orders and proposals for a respect standard for housing management.
5. Neighbourhoods - proposals for neighbourhood charters, policing and warden schemes, and a national non emergency community safety number.
6. Enforcement against anti-social behaviour - extensions to Penalty Notices Disorder (PNDs), new models for conditional cautioning, and further measures on Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions (ASBI)

*Purpose*

The purpose of this Strategy then, is to respond to local issues and Government Policy by setting out clear measures for addressing anti-social behaviour in Calderdale. The Strategy is arranged around Key Topics : -

1. Reporting Procedures
2. Casework and Operational Procedures
3. Children and Young People
4. Housing and Neighbourhoods
5. Alcohol Related Disorder and other Substance Misuse
6. Consultation and Communication

The intention is that this Strategy will be a 'living document' which will have a formal review annually but will be able to respond to changing circumstances throughout the review cycle.

This will be achieved through a problem solving approach, closely linked to the National Intelligence Model, initially developed by the police but increasingly used by Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and others to achieve effective results.

## **Resources**

Calderdale Council and its 'Safer Communities' partnership maintain a small team of Officers, lead by the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, to take forward this Strategy. Effective implementation will however depend on a broad range of partners and a 'willingness' to embrace tackling anti social behaviour as the mainstream business of all public agencies.



# Chapter 1

## Reporting Procedures

- **Dealing With Complaints**
- **Process Mapping**
- **Database**
- **Information Sharing ( Protocols & Training )**

### 1.1 Dealing with Complaints

- 1.1.1 At present, procedures for dealing with complaints from the public are piecemeal and reflect inherited practices. For example, uncertainty exists in the public's mind (and with practitioners) over who to contact when they are experiencing the effects of anti-social behaviour. The Council has several Services who deal with these matters, including Environmental Health, Housing, and Community Safety.
- 1.1.2 The Police have a clearer, more centralised system of dealing with calls from the public but there can still be issues with public expectations. Similarly Pennine Housing 2000 has a dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour Team and dedicated telephone numbers for their residents.
- 1.1.3 The Council's aspiration is that all calls received on related subjects, will be dealt with at one Call Centre. This will mirror the existing Police approach and will need to consider communication between partners when dealing with referral of complaints and appropriate response. " 101 provides the public with access to advice, information and action on community safety issues through a new three-digit number, and helps to free up the 999 emergency service to handle emergency calls. 101 deals with community safety, including non-emergency crime, policing and anti-social behaviour issues. Callers to the 101 phone number are connected to the service covering their part of the country. When fully rolled out, customers will be able to access the service using multiple channels - phone, web, email and SMS.

Calls made within one area are routed to one or more contact centres and handled by trained advisers. These advisers will, for the majority of calls, be able to resolve the caller's query through giving advice or information, or will gather information from the caller and refer the caller's query to a service delivery partner to resolve the issue. Callers will be told what performance level to expect, for example if reporting an abandoned car, they will be told how quickly it will be removed.

For calls that are not within the scope of the service, the advisers will either transfer the caller to another part of the service provider's operation to progress the caller's query or signpost the caller to a more appropriate service, requiring the caller to dial another number."

- 1.1.4 As this Strategy develops, a clearer picture will emerge both of how practitioners will respond to complaints and what the public can expect from Partnership services.

## **1.2 Process Mapping**

- 1.2.1 Some work has already been carried out to map the processes involved when dealing with complaints. It is essential that this work be continued to establish a wider picture of how the Partners deal with these issues.
- 1.2.2 Work is planned to get Partners together to establish common ground and agree how best to streamline existing practices.

## **1.3 Database**

- 1.3.1 Research already carried out has shown that other districts have opted to develop a common database to record all anti-social behaviour issues.
- 1.3.2 There are obvious advantages to having a common database. Information sharing, performance management and accountability being just a few.
- 1.3.3 A database could record not only incidents but individual victims and perpetrators.
- 1.3.4 Work is in hand to hold 'User Requirement' exercises with all stakeholders to establish existing resources, best practice and actual need, before decisions are made about which system to choose.

## **1.4 Information Sharing**

- **Protocols**

- 1.4.1 Much work is undertaken in line with the existing Safer Communities Partnership Information Sharing Protocols, these will be reviewed and extended as necessary.

## **1.5 Conclusion**

In conclusion there is some way to go before Calderdale has a clear universal system for logging anti social behaviour complaints and co-ordinating different databases. This is important because it will assist in the development of good practice in responding to complaints, monitoring progress with issues, and developing systems which result in a higher level of resolution and satisfaction for those reporting complaints.

The Action Plan needs to focus on co-ordination of activity, publicity of reporting mechanisms, integration with the National 101 number being rolled out. A broad target needs to be developed to measure customer satisfaction with resolution of anti social behaviour complaints.



## Chapter 2

### Casework & Operational Procedures

- **Early Intervention Panel**
- **Anti-Social Behaviour Panel**
- **Action Planning Teams (APT)**
- **Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT)**
- **National Intelligence Model (NIM)**
- **Witness Care (No Witness No Justice)**

This chapter reviews casework and operational processes fundamental to effectively tackling anti social behaviour.

#### 2.1 Early Intervention

##### Early Intervention Panel

###### 2.1.1 *Function*

The Early Intervention Panel aims to develop a co-ordinated approach to intervention work with individual perpetrators of anti-social behaviour. The multi-agency panel will identify and monitor existing intervention work with perpetrators and their families in terms of the impact on behaviour. Where appropriate the Panel will identify gaps in provision and be a mechanism for linking resources to individuals/families. The broad aim is to improve behaviour in order to prevent escalation and involvement with the ASBO Panel.

###### 2.1.2 *Criteria for Referral to the Early Intervention Panel*

The Panel will receive referrals either from the ASB team and partner agencies when all other measures have been taken to address the problem.

Agencies dealing with individual ASB complaints from the public will use the referral process to ensure all appropriate consultation and action is taken. If the case cannot be resolved by any one agency, the ASB Co-ordinator will review and refer to the Panel.

Referrals will not be restricted to particular geographic areas of Calderdale and will include adults as well as young people.

The main criteria will be the level of anti-social behaviour and the need to reduce the impact on the victim/community. Where perpetrators fit the criteria for referrals to the Access Support Group.

**ASB complaints which are related to location and groups of young people congregating will be referred to Action Planning Teams to develop a multi-agency response.**

#### *2.1.3 Membership*

Representatives from the following agencies are members of the Panel:

Calderdale Safer Communities Partnership

CMBC ASB caseworker

West Yorkshire Police

Pennine Housing 2k

Youth Offending Team

CMBC Youth Service

Children and Young People Directorate

CMBC (Behaviour Support Service)

CMBC Health and Social Care

#### *2.1.4 Meeting Schedule*

Initially, meetings will take place 3 weekly to synchronise with the Anti-Social Behaviour Panel.

#### *2.1.5 Responsibility*

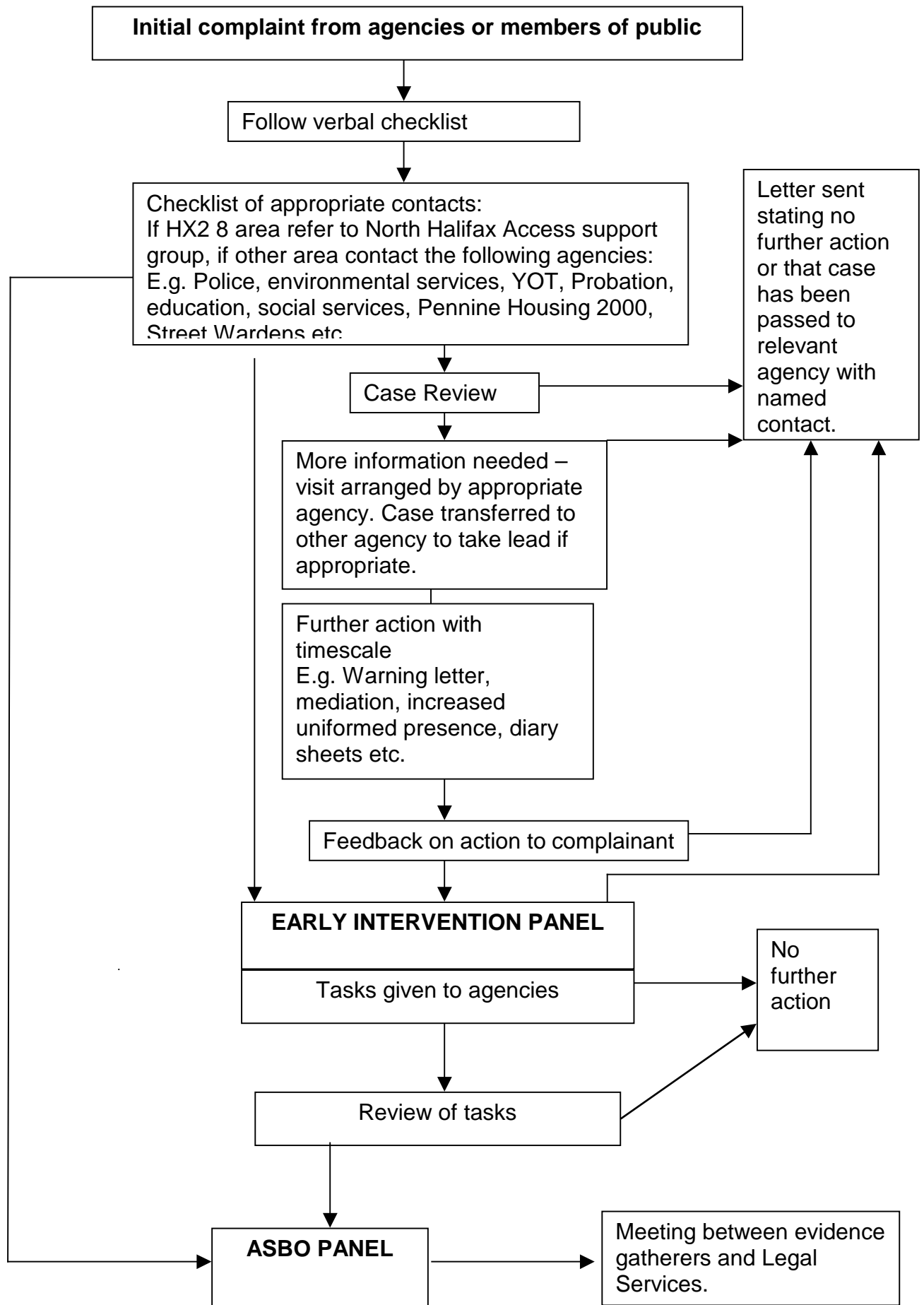
- The Early Intervention Panel will be co-ordinated by the ASB Co-ordinator / ASB Officer. Discussion of all cases will be recorded and follow up work monitored and recorded between meetings.
- The Panel will have a role in the ongoing review of intervention work with individuals and will determine when cases can be discharged or, on occasion, proceed to the ASBO panel.
- A lead individual to be the point of contact with the perpetrator / family and/ or complainant will be identified at the initial discussion of each case. The lead representative will ensure where possible the involvement of perpetrators to ensure provision is targeted appropriately.

- The ASB Co-ordinator will develop a performance management framework to measure the effectiveness of the panel and associated intervention work. Measures will include the level of available resources, the number of cases with additional intervention work (or improved co-ordination of this work) and the impact on the perpetrators behaviour.

## **2.2 Anti-Social Behaviour Panel**

2.2.1 This is a multi-agency panel working to agree Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs). The Panel consists of representatives from the Community Safety Partnership, West Yorkshire Police, Pennine Housing 2000, CMBC Legal Services, Youth Offending Team, Social Services, Environmental Services, West Yorkshire Probation, Schools and Children's Services, PCT, CMBC Housing.

2.2.2 A Flowchart, showing the process of dealing with anti-social behaviour, from initial complaint to possible imposition of an Anti-Social Behaviour Order, is shown below.



## **2.3 Witness Care ( No Witness No Justice )**

2.3.1 This is a full Government Programme of Witness Care which is for the use of all agencies ( particularly ASB and Domestic Violence ) and will be integrated into the ASB Strategy.

- The police and the CPS will work together, in all criminal justice areas, to provide an effective service that cares for victims and witnesses throughout the criminal justice process;
- No Witness, No Justice projects, designed locally by criminal justice staff, will be delivered to reflect the specific needs of local communities, placing victim and witness care needs at the heart of service delivery;
- Witness needs will become a key aspect of case management from the start and will no longer be an “add-on” service, late in the process;
- All front line staff involved in supporting victims and witnesses will receive training to help them to offer national standards of care;
- Extensive community consultation will take place in criminal justice areas on what victims and witnesses want by way of support and services.

## **2.4 National Intelligence Model**

2.4.1 Our intention is to integrate all Partnership proactive work on Crime and Disorder into a standardised format, based on sound intelligence data and robust performance management systems.

In the context of the Police Reform Agenda, the NIM is 'A Model for Policing' that ensures information is fully researched, developed and analysed to provide intelligence which enables senior managers to:

1. Provide strategic direction
2. Make tactical resourcing decisions about operational policing and manage risk
3. It is important to note that the NIM is NOT just about crime and NOT just about intelligence - it is a model that can be used for most areas of policing.

It offers, for the first time, the realisable goal of integrated intelligence in which ALL forces and law enforcement agencies play a part in a system bigger than themselves.

The NIM can be applied to:

1. Crime at all levels
2. Non crime including antisocial behaviour and community cohesion
3. Offenders

#### 4. Reassurance agendas, including working with partners

## 2.5 Neighbourhood Policing Teams

2.5.1 The Government has pledged to provide every community in the country with its own dedicated neighbourhood policing team by 2008. Calderdale Police Division has completed this Programme, and now has 4 Neighbourhood Policing Teams ( NPTs ) in place, each headed by an Inspector, with Community Beat Officers and Community Support Officers in every Ward in the Borough.

2.5.2 The 5 key elements of reassurance policing are:

- **Public confidence in choices and solutions:** relevant research indicates that the public's feelings about anti social behaviour, policing and neighbourhood are determined by level of perceived involvement in choosing problems to address and designing remedies. Public consultation is not a cosmetic option; it is critical to success.
- **Visible control:** the public are reassured when they receive clear visible proof that problems they define as important are being controlled in ways they support.
- **A targeted, intelligence-led approach:** the only way the public's priority problems can be tackled is by focusing scarce resources on root causes. Identifying root causes depends on using all available sources of relevant intelligence in a problem-solving cycle within the National Intelligence Model. On every occasion the emphasis must be to find a solution that has a real impact.
- **Joint action:** tackling root causes of problems inevitably involves co-operation between two or more agencies. Unless agreements on providing such co-operation are in place before agencies collaborate on designing solutions, there is unlikely to be sustained and effective remedial action. Moreover any critical assessment of remedial actions taken will only be effective in generating improvement if all the parties necessary for the improvement have been collaborators.
- **Dedicated resources:** police and others agencies must be committed, as much of the solution is about doing work that would not otherwise be done, not about tweaking current practices. The ultimate aim is for the public to take ownership of results, therefore in place must be:
  - Visible, accessible, locally known and knowledgeable (including some competence with intelligence and problem solving methodologies) local officers / Police Community Support Officers / wardens.
  - Actively committed and capable Divisional Commanders, local managers and analytical support.

## Home Office National Reassurance Programme

- 2.5.3 A key innovation of reassurance policing is its focus upon targeting those 'signal' examples of anti-social behaviour that are especially influential in shaping public perceptions and behaviour. As such, if agencies want to help to generate an improved sense of security, not only must they prevent and detect anti social behaviour, they must also find ways to act against those people and places that communities believe pose a danger to them.
- 2.5.4 A 'signal disorder' is defined as a criminal incident, or a physical or social disorder, that is interpreted by members of the public as a warning signal about their level of security. In effect, exposure to the signal causes the person to reconfigure their beliefs or actions in some way, as a reflection of the increased risk that they perceive themselves to be subject to. Thus, these types of incidents have a disproportionate impact upon public perceptions of 'the crime problem' and may shape peoples' everyday routines.
- 2.5.5 In addition, there are 'signal events', which although they do not involve criminality or anti-social behaviour, may have an important impact upon individual or collective attitudes about the levels of crime related risk. For example, a signal event may be positive in its effects. Inward economic investment by a large corporation and the creation of local jobs in an area with high unemployment rates may function as a signal event for members of the community that things are getting better.
- 2.5.6 Finally, there are 'control signals', which relate to the actions taken in response to anti-social behaviours.

## 2.6 Action Planning Teams

- 2.6.1 **Action Planning Teams** – Area based teams who are working to tackle local anti-social behaviour problems through a range of measures, e.g. outreach youth work with environmental projects. The Teams have a core membership of West Yorkshire Police, Local Authority, PCT, Pennine Housing, Probation and the Fire Service. Teams cover Hebden Bridge & Todmorden, Sowerby Bridge & Elland, Halifax Outer, Halifax Town Centre and Brighouse & Rastrick.
- 2.6.2 The Safer Communities Partnership works on a local area basis so that the intelligence of a number of local agencies and local communities can be brought together to counter this sort of difficulty. The Action Planning Teams seek to combat anti social behaviour on a local basis.

## **2.7 Conclusion**

Calderdale has established some good systems for case work and operational procedures. In particular its Early Intervention Panel has the basis for being a model of good practice and its Action Planning Teams provide an infrastructure on which to build with regard to addressing more localised problems. Further development needs to focus on streamlining of procedures, witness care, roll out of general good practice in reassurance and neighbourhood policing together with a focus on the most prolific anti social behaviour offenders for targeted action. A broad target needs to be included with respect to the perception of anti social behaviour and local residents. This should link to national targets in the field.

## Chapter 3

### Children and Young People

- **Background**
- **Every Child Matters – Reshaping Services**
- **The Prevention Agenda**
- **Common Assessment Framework**
- **Diversionary and Preventative Programmes**
- **The Role of Schools**
- **Including Young People**

#### 3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 A number of recent policy agendas have come together to put a spotlight on the relationship between young people and anti social behaviour. In particular the national reshaping of children and young people services is influential. In Calderdale this has seen the creation of a new Children and Young People's Directorate. Its work is shaped by the new national approach to children's services outlined in 'Every Child Matters: Change for children'. The new Directorate has produced a new Children's Plan and is now working on sub strategies including a Prevention Strategy for Young People. This will need to support Calderdale's Anti Social Behaviour Strategy in providing universal and targeted services to shape pathways into good behaviour for young people..
- 3.1.2 At the same time, guidance and legislation, including work by the Youth Justice Board, and Crime Concern, alongside publication of a Green Paper on youth matters, is also part of the context.
- 3.1.3 In order to make progress there will need to be strong partnership between all those who are, or could be, involved in work with young people. This will include the YOT alongside the Children and Young People's Directorate, Health Services and the voluntary sector, but will also need to include those parts of the Community Services Directorate that provide sports and cultural activities. Schools may also be involved, particularly through the extended schools initiative. There will need to be a strong strategic development, as well as good local partnerships, in order to carry out all aspects of this work.
- 3.1.4 Most crucially, 'Youth Matters' directs providers towards strong partnership with young people themselves, and seeks to give them a voice in determining what provision they want.

This aspect will be particularly important in the link to diversion from anti-social behaviour; the engagement of hard-to-reach young people will be crucial if the work is to seriously complement the anti-social behaviour strategy, by providing activities which are relevant and appropriate for them.

- 3.1.5 There are certainly perceptions that young people and anti social behaviour are closely linked. There is also a view from professionals in the field across a number of agencies that this is often unjustified.
- 3.1.6 Differences in lifestyle and limited contact across age groups can produce an unreasonable fear of younger people. A number of commentators have pointed out, for example, that young people often gather together around shops, bus shelters, etc because young people themselves feel relatively safe when in groups in these locations.
- 3.1.7 Nevertheless, statistics also show that when anti social behaviour does occur, then there is often an association with young people as perpetrators.
- 3.1.8 Statistical evidence in Calderdale shows that 15 – 17 years of age is the peak age for perpetrators of criminal damage offences. Examination of the work of the Anti Social Behaviour Panel also reveals the following:
- 43.5% of all clients reviewed over the past 24 months by the Panel were under 18.
  - 47% of the 66 Anti Social Behaviour Orders issued to date have involved young people under 18.

## **3.2 Every Child Matters – Re-shaping Services**

- 3.2.1 Lying at the heart of our approach to the issues around what has come to be known as ‘Youth Nuisance’ is the doctrine that ‘Every Child Matters’.
- 3.2.2 In November 2004, the new ‘Children Act’ became Law. The new Act gives Councils lead responsibility for making sure that all children and young people are safe and that the quality of their lives is improved.
- 3.2.3 The Government's aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:
- Stay Safe
  - Be Healthy
  - Enjoy and achieving
  - Achieve economic well being
  - Make a positive contribution

- 3.2.4 This means that the organisations involved with providing services to children - from hospitals and schools, to police and voluntary groups - will be teaming up in new ways, sharing information and working together, to protect children and young people from harm and help them achieve what they want in life. Children and young people will have far more say about issues that affect them as individuals and collectively.
- 3.2.5 Over the next few years, every local authority will be working with its partners, though children's trusts, to find out what works best for children and young people in its area and act on it. They will need to involve children and young people in this process, and when inspectors assess how local areas are doing, they will listen especially to the views of children and young people themselves.
- 3.2.6 In March 2005 the first Children's Commissioner for England was appointed to give children and young people a voice in government and in public life. The Commissioner will pay particular attention to gathering and putting forward the views of the most vulnerable children and young people in society, and will promote their involvement in the work of organisations whose decisions and actions affect them.
- 3.2.7 In addition, the Children's Fund was launched in November 2000 to tackle disadvantage among children and young people. The programme aims to identify at an early stage children and young people at risk of social exclusion, and make sure they receive the help and support they need to achieve their potential.
- 3.2.8 In Calderdale, the Council has responded to these new agendas by putting in place a number of new mechanisms to review and commission services for children and young people. A Children and Young People's Management Board is accompanied by a new joint commissioning group for services for children and young people. This group provides a vehicle to review, reshape, and recommission services for children and young people where this is needed and can be helpful.
- 3.2.9 It is anticipated that a number of the actions set out in this part of the Strategy will be taken forward through discussion and joint commissioning of appropriate services at the Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning Group, working closely with the Safer Communities Partnership.
- 3.2.10 As set out earlier in this document, many preventative services for children and young people have developed incrementally and there is now a need to commission a more coherent service regime, pooling resources where necessary, integrating mainstream Children and Young People Services with specific initiatives as appropriate.
- 3.2.11 Preventing Anti Social Behaviour by Young People can be seen as one part of a broader agenda of preventing young people getting into difficulties.

The Children and Young People's Directorate will be pulling together a wide ranging Prevention Strategy which will compliment this Anti Social Behaviour Strategy. It will include specific thought of the role of the variety of services including: family support, learning services, inclusion services, youth service, schools, looked after children and so on.

### **3.3 The Prevention Agenda**

Family support services, located within the new Children and Young Peoples Directorate will have lead responsibility for the development and implementation of the Local Authority's broader preventative strategy. This will encompass work in the following areas:

- Early years provision - This will include work with the early years development and child care partnership to ensure high quality of provision of child care and early years education across Calderdale. The future of the Family Support Service will generally be reviewed. The Family Support Service will have strategic lead responsibility for the further development of children centres and will take a lead on the role out of the Council's Extended Schools programme.
- Young People's Support Services - This encompasses the work of the Youth Service and liaison with the Youth Offending Team and Drug and Alcohol Action Team and Connexions. The current priorities and focus of the Youth Service will be reviewed as part of a broader review of all out of school provision and support for Calderdale's children and young people. Work will be strategically managed to reduce anti social behaviour and youth offending and re-offending.
- Inclusion Services – The review here will focus on the key role that Family Support Services have to play in supporting individual children and young people to learn and achieve their potential. This applies in particular to vulnerable children and young people. Work will include behaviour and attendance support.
- Other work under this umbrella will include review of the priorities of the education psychology service.

Support Group (resident in the HX2 8\*\* postcode area, aged 8 –16 years inclusive), the ASB Co-ordinator / Officer will refer to the Access Support Group.

### **3.4 Common Assessment Framework**

- 3.4.1 The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) for Children and Young People is a key part of the strategy to shift the focus from dealing with the consequences of difficulties in children's lives to preventing things from going wrong in the first place. It is a nationally standardised approach to conducting an assessment of the needs of a child or young person and deciding how those needs should be met.

- 3.4.2 The CAF will promote more effective, earlier identification of children's additional needs and improve multi-agency working. It is intended to provide a simple, non-bureaucratic process for a holistic assessment of a child's needs, taking account of the individual, family and community.
- 3.4.3 The CAF has been developed for use by practitioners in all agencies so that they can communicate and work more effectively together. Information will follow the child and build up a picture over time.
- 3.4.4 The CAF will encourage greater sharing of information between practitioners, where consent is given. It will : -
- Promote earlier intervention where additional needs are observed
  - Reduce the number and duration of different assessment processes that children and young people need to undergo
  - Improve the quality and consistency of referrals between agencies by making them more evidence-based
  - Help embed a common language about the needs of children
  - Enable information to follow the child
  - Promote the appropriate sharing of information

The new CAF system can be complemented by increased use of Universal Management Information System (UMIS). This will provide a case management system for young people at risk. This also incorporates an assessment tool **outset** and a measure of progress.

### **3.5 Diversionary and Preventative Programmes**

- 3.5.1 There is general agreement that a good way to prevent and deter anti-social behaviour is to direct people at risk into more positive activities. This can include sport, art, drama, visits to different parts of the country, training or other fun activity.
- 3.5.2 Calderdale already has a good range of work in this area. The Youth Offending Team (YOT) has a national reputation for involving youngsters in drama and art work. The Pit Stop Programme is very well regarded and the Youth Service has long established programmes of summer activities and other work.
- 3.5.3 In addition there are a number of quite specific Government Programmes. These include the Youth Inclusion Programme for 13 to 16 year olds, the Children's Fund for 5 to 12 year olds, the Arrest Referral Programme for 10 to 17 year olds with more work planned through Youth Justice Board monies directed towards Youth Offending Teams.

Some of these projects run across Calderdale and others are concentrated in certain areas, particularly North Halifax. In addition other monies have come down through the Drugs Action Team route via Positive Futures programmes whilst the Connexions service has also sponsored positive activities for young people's work. In addition the Sure Start initiatives can be seen to be part of this wider family of early intervention.

- 3.5.4 While a great deal of good work goes on here, it can be difficult to co-ordinate so many different initiatives aimed at slightly different age groups in different places! There is a real challenge to simplify and co-ordinate this work so that it is understandable both to professionals involved and to clients and their families. This will help to ensure that some children and young people do not fall through the gap and that duplication of services is avoided.

### **3.6 The Roles of Schools and Further Education**

- 3.6.1 Schools and further education establishments particularly Calderdale College, have a very important role to play in taking forward the prevention of anti-social behaviour. They provide a universal setting in which anti-social behaviour can be addressed and positive behaviour encouraged. The Citizenship Curriculum has potential as a vehicle for explaining the damage that anti-social behaviour can do, encouraging a more positive contribution to society through good behaviour, volunteering and other work in the community.
- 3.6.2 There is also scope to develop better co-ordination between schools and other agencies dealing with anti-social behaviour. For example the Youth Offending Team has particular targets for ensuring that young offenders are in education, training or employment and schools and colleges have a vital role to play here.

### **3.7 Involving Young People**

- 3.7.1 There is a significant danger that the issue of anti-social behaviour is used as a stick to beat and alienate young people. In fact most young people behave well most of the time and are indeed all too often victims of anti-social behaviour rather than perpetrators.
- 3.7.2 Young people often have sensible solutions to local anti-social behaviour problems and it is a key part of this Strategy that they are involved in helping to solve problems, rather than simply being seen as the cause. Calderdale's Youth Parliament and other consultation mechanisms will be used to present positive images of young people and to fully involve them as part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

### **3.8 Conclusion**

Calderdale has some innovative schemes in place for positive activity and diverting youngsters away from anti social behaviour. The impetus behind the new children's agenda and the formation of a new Children and Young People's Directorate provides a means to build on this base. The Action Plan needs to link to the development of a broader preventative strategy by the Children and Young People's Directorate. It needs to pick up one or two of the key themes of the broader, national children's agenda. It will be assisted by a roll out of the Common Assessment Framework and closer working with schools, starting with schools in areas where the higher incidents of anti social behaviour. There is a particular need to review the broad range of preventative services aimed at young people to consider issues of mainstreaming, rationalisation, and balance between universal and targeted provision. A number of indicators already monitored by the Youth Offending Team can be used as headline measures in this area.



## Chapter 4

### Housing & Neighbourhoods

- **Housing Strategy**
- **Registered Social Landlords**
- **Private Sector**
- **Mediation**
- **Safer Cleaner Greener**

#### 4. Calderdale Housing Strategy

4.1 The Calderdale Council Housing Strategy, approved in 2006 is aimed at achieving “Decent and Affordable Homes in Safe and Sustainable Neighbourhoods”. It contains 6 Strategic Objectives, all of which are relevant to this Strategy.

4.1.1 Objective 5 is particularly pertinent – “To help residents feel safe and free from fear in their homes and neighbourhoods”. The Strategy sets out clear measures to achieve this aim.

#### 4.2 The Role of Registered Social Landlords

4.2.1 Between them, Registered Social Landlords (RSL) operating in Calderdale own over 15,000 homes. They therefore have a key role to play in tackling anti-social behaviour to ensure that the many estates and neighbourhoods they manage are safe and pleasant places for their tenants and other residents to live.

4.2.2 It is vital that social landlords do not tolerate anti social behaviour either perpetrated by or against their tenants and take a firm stance against even low-level nuisance. When left unchecked, anti-social behaviour can ruin the lives of individuals, neighbourhoods and whole communities. Estates can quickly become unsustainable with tenants seeking to move away and in some instances abandoning their homes.

4.2.3 All Registered Social Landlords in Calderdale have published an anti-social behaviour policy statement and have procedures in place to ensure that tenants and residents are able to report incidents easily; complaints are recorded and investigated; witnesses are supported and appropriate enforcement or remedial action is instigated.

4.2.4 RSL policies generally embrace the three- strand approach of prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation.  
**Prevention.**

- 4.2.5 RSLs are ensuring that any new social housing developments incorporate Secured By Design Principles and avoid creating areas that invite anti-social behaviour. They have also ensured that the tenancy agreements in use clearly set out the type of behaviour that may result in the RSL taking action and advise new tenants of their rights and responsibilities in relation to anti-social behaviour.
- 4.2.6 Before offering a tenancy to an applicant on their waiting list, Registered Social Landlords routinely make enquiries into the conduct of any previous tenancies. If the applicant has been the perpetrator of anti-social behaviour in a former tenancy in the previous two years and the RSL is not satisfied that this behaviour has been rectified, they may suspend the application and decline to make an offer.
- 4.2.7 Pennine Housing 2000 is actively involved in a number of diversionary projects and activities, which involve young people. One such project is the 'Tackling it together' project, which aims to promote positive citizenship and healthy lifestyles and making a positive contribution. Nearly all of the participants on this pilot scheme are living in Ph2K homes. Other preventative measures are met through direct referrals to external partners such as the pit stop project and the midnight league, Social Services, Y.O.T. Connections and YPS to name but a few. The forthcoming 'Youth inclusion Tour' planned for mid July to early August will collate the views of youngsters living directly on our estates bringing us into line with the Respect agenda's Five core strands.
- Being Healthy
  - Making a positive contribution
  - Achieving economic well being
  - Enjoying and achieving
  - Staying Safe
- 4.2.8 Other preventative tools are to directly seek the inclusion of tenants by establishing Neighbourhood watch schemes wherever possible reducing the 'Fear of Crime' or the perception of crime.

### **Enforcement**

- 4.2.9 RSLs have a number of tools available to address anti-social behaviour when it does occur and where enforcement action is considered to be necessary. These include the use of Notice of Seeking Possession (NoSP), injunctions and Demoted Tenancies as well as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC) and Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs).

- 4.2.10 Pennine Housing 2000 has a dedicated Anti Social Behaviour Team and is represented on all Action Planning Teams, the Anti Social Behaviour Panel and a number of other working groups concerned with the crime and disorder agenda

“In a very serious case of nuisance an 18 year old youth was terrorising the residents of a tower block in North Halifax so much so that all occupants on the same floor as his flat had abandoned their homes leaving the youth “in charge” of the 15<sup>th</sup> floor. Ph2K’s ASB Team acted quickly in instigating Possession Proceedings and an ex-parte “Ouster” Injunction with Power of Arrest Attached which instantly removed him from the area whilst proceedings were progressing. This gave the residents instant relief.”

### **Rehabilitation.**

- 4.2.11 RSLs in Calderdale work closely with agencies such as Foundation Housing Horton Housing and other agencies to support former perpetrators of anti-social behaviour to successfully maintain a new tenancy.

“During 2004 Ph2K took out an ASBO against an individual who was making the lives of residents on a Hebden Bridge estate a misery. During the course of the ASBO he approached Ph2K for assistance with re-housing. Rather than dismissing this application owing to his past conduct the ASB Team entered into an undertaking with him regarding his future conduct before he would be considered for rehousing. The under taking was accepted and he is now being actively considered for rehousing.

## **4.3 Private Sector Housing**

- 4.3.1 The local authority often becomes aware of antisocial behaviour in the private rented sector from complaints made about alleged perpetrators to the Housing Advice Centre. The Housing Advisory Service has strong links with the Council’s Anti-Social Behaviour Team and referrals are made when issues are raised in order to try and assist landlords to deal with these issues.
- 4.3.2 Secondly, the Council has a Landlord Accreditation Scheme, which monitors not only the condition of properties but also the management of tenancies in the private sector. Landlords, who are accredited or who are seeking to be accredited, are always encouraged to include in their tenancy agreements an anti-social behaviour condition. This, in effect, allows landlords to take legal action and potentially evict tenants whose behaviour is constantly causing a nuisance to those living in the surrounding area.
- 4.3.3 Calderdale’s Anti-Social Behaviour Team has also had the opportunity to speak to Calderdale’s Landlords Association particularly in relation to anti-social behaviour and how it should be dealt with.

4.3.4 New legislation recently introduced will also allow the Council to insist on all private rented accommodation in an area being licensed, if it is felt that that area in particular suffers from serious ASB problems.

#### **4.4 Mediation**

4.4.1 Mediation is a way of informally resolving disputes between neighbours through empowering the neighbours themselves to negotiate an amicable solution to their individual problem with the assistance of a trained mediator.

4.4.2 CALM allocates two mediators to each case where mediation can progress and their role is simply to empower and encourage solutions. CALM doesn't impose anything on their clients and nor does it have any formal authority, but instead, works with clients in an informal setting and the mediation is usually carried out in the clients' homes unless there is an identified risk which suggests this should not be the case.

#### **4.5 Safer Cleaner Greener**

Objective 5 of the Safer Communities Strategy is:

'To have safer and more attractive public spaces'

4.5.1 Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, there is a Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse and a duty on certain bodies to keep their land clear of litter and refuse where practicable.

4.5.2 The Street Cleansing Service is responsible for the cleaning of footpaths and roads, emptying of gullies, litter picking and weed control. The service also undertakes the emptying of litter bins, removal of graffiti, and dumping on land for which the authority has direct control. The service operates a 24 hour 7 day week service including an emergency response team for clearing up after spillage's and road traffic accidents.

4.5.3 Since 2003, local authorities in England have been required by central government to measure the cleanliness of land for which they are responsible (BV199). Sites are selected at random and then surveyed for the presence of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting. Each site is allocated a grade A to D by the surveyor, with a grade A indicating that virtually no litter is present and a grade D being heavily littered. BV199 measures the percentage of sites that fall below a grade B and therefore have an unacceptable level of cleanliness.

4.5.4 The last User Satisfaction Survey (2003/2004) reported that 47% of the public were satisfied with the way that Calderdale Council has fulfilled its duty to keep relevant land and highways clear of litter and refuse (BV89).

The national market research organisation MORI has evidence of a clear link between public satisfaction with the cleanliness of streets and overall satisfaction with the local council. The next User Satisfaction Survey will be carried out at the end of 2006.

- 4.5.5 The average time taken to remove a reported incident of graffiti is just over 1 day (2005/2006 actual). This means that overall levels of graffiti across Calderdale are kept relatively low.
- 4.5.6 The average time taken to remove a reported incident of fly tipping is less than half a day (2005/2006 actual). Incidents have become more concentrated in certain areas and this has enabled the service to respond quickly. In many cases, mobile teams are removing fly tipping before they are reported to the council. A more local approach to working through 'Neighbourhood Cleaning' has reduced the time taken to react to each incident. Street Cleansing routes and frequencies are continually being reviewed to improve efficiency and productivity. New ways of working have seen a shift away from a frequency led operation to a more area-based service.
- 4.5.7 The removal of certain wastes such as tyres and asbestos requires specialist contractors with disposal licences and therefore this type of fly tipping takes longer to remove.
- 4.5.8 In March 2003, the Street Cleansing Service entered into a Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) regarding the cleanliness of streets and open spaces. As part of this agreement, a pump priming grant was awarded to help concentrate efforts on publicity and education, tipping and productivity.
- 4.5.9 As a result of the grant, a programme of proactive initiatives such as educational work in schools to help increase awareness in caring for the local environment have been devised. The service has also been initiating promotional campaigns and positive media coverage to help improve public satisfaction.
- 4.5.10 There are many local community groups such as In-Bloom who are active in helping to clean up their local environment and undertake landscaping improvement works through planting schemes.
- 4.5.11 There is a need for a longer-term education and enforcement programme. There are enforcement issues to be addressed over land for which the authority is not directly responsible. Irrespective of ownership, land that is strewn with litter will have a direct influence over levels of public satisfaction with cleanliness.
- 4.5.12 In terms of the national agenda, the introduction of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act in 2005 has given local authorities additional legislative powers to enforce against litter and fly tipping. The Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities agenda led by Defra looks at improving the quality of the local environment particularly in terms of cleanliness.

4.5.13 The inclusion of graffiti under Fixed Penalty Notices and a new power for local authorities to enforce the ban on the sale of spray paints to under 18 year olds (under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003), will hopefully help to reduce the number of incidences.

## **4.6 Conclusion**

Clearly Calderdale has a strong track record in managing housing and environmental issues to sustain attractive neighbourhoods. Action Planning Teams can be strengthened to continue some of the good work already in place. In particular there is a need to respond quickly and in a co-ordinated way to localised, hopefully short-term, surges in anti social behaviour. A useful headline target for this area of work would be a link to the criminal damage target for the Borough.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Alcohol And Substance Misuse Related Disorder**

- **Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy**
- **Town Centre Control Measures**
- **Pubwatch**
- **CCTV**
- **Drinking in Public Places Order**
- **Young People and Alcohol**
- **Other Substance Misuse**

#### **5.1 Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy**

5.1.1 The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England, published by the Prime Ministers Strategy Unit of the Cabinet Office, lists 4 'Harms' caused by the misuse of alcohol.

1. Harms to the health of the individual
2. Crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, drink driving and it's impact on victims
3. Loss of productivity and profitability
4. Social harms, including problems with families

5.1.2 The link between alcohol use and anti-social behaviour has been well rehearsed nationally and can be evidenced in Calderdale. Locations and times of anti social behaviour do correspond with the availability of alcohol – for example on town centres or from particular retail outlets in more suburban areas.

5.1.3 Calderdale's Safer Communities Partnership is developing an Alcohol Strategy. The document has an emphasis on prevention through education and on the need to develop better treatment services for people who are developing a problem with alcohol dependency.

5.1.4 With respect to anti-social behaviour particular areas for focus are:

- Town Centre control measures
- Pubwatch
- CCTV
- Drinking in Public Places Order
- Young People and Alcohol

#### **5.2 Town Centre Control Measures**

5.2.1 Calderdale's attractive towns generate a lively night time economy. Pubs and clubs are popular and attract substantial numbers of people. In a number of locations this can give rise to difficulties due to excessive consumption of alcohol. In particular Halifax has a concentration of clubs and pubs whilst other towns including: Todmorden, Hebden Bridge and Brighouse can also generate alcohol related problems.

5.2.2 In response to this the following measures have been developed and are planned: The National Intelligence Model outlines control measures taken by partners these include:

- Dedicated patrols at relevant times in hot spot areas in the public order corridor.
- Early enforcement of alcohol related disorder offences by means of a fixed penalty ticket.
- Enforcement of the existing public drinking bye law and other alcohol related offences.
- The Home Office funded Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign (AMEC).

### **5.3 Pubwatch**

5.3.1 The quality of existing self-help groups in the licensed trade is mixed. They range from Halifax Town Centre, where systems are supported by Partnership initiatives and employed staff, to the smaller conurbations, some of which have thriving systems, some less so. The more rural areas either have moribund systems and less formal contacts and some areas have never been involved in these initiatives

5.3.2 Happily, the picture has changed radically over recent months. Calderdale now has a burgeoning Pubwatch Network, which is aiming to bring together the newly formed or invigorated local Pubwatch initiatives which are forming throughout the Borough.

5.3.3 This initiative is being co-ordinated by the Chief Inspector – Operations at Calderdale Police Headquarters, with comprehensive support from the Council's Safer Communities Team.

5.3.4 There are a combination of factors that have brought about an improvement in the picture.

1. The need to establish new practices and procedures brought about by the Licensing Act 2003, in preparation for the Council taking over responsibility for liquor licensing from the Magistrates Brewster Committee.
2. There is a clear need for the Community Safety Team to be involved in assisting and supporting the development of local schemes to ensure their

long term sustainability. The intent is to allow schemes to develop to a point where that are self-sustaining but with a watching brief being held by the Police through the Pubwatch Network.

3. The Partnership has targets to reduce violent crime, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour. There is also a clear intention to reduce the harm caused by the misuse of alcohol and this Pubwatch Network concept is seen as a viable method of achieving these aims.

## **5.4 CCTV**

- 5.4.1 Calderdale has developed use of CCTV incrementally over a number of years. More recently a comprehensive system has been installed in Brighouse. In the spring of 2006 the Calderdale Safer Communities Partnership commission a review of CCTV use in the Borough. It is planned to use the results of this review to more efficiently provide and monitor CCTV use so as to combat crime and anti social behaviour across Calderdale. Work will include assessment of the level of moveable CCTV equipment to respond to localised short-term hot spots and anti social behaviour. It will also be used to improve monitoring of known, more persistent locations through anti social behaviour.

## **5.5 Drinking in Public Places Order**

- 5.5.1 Another mechanism to combat inappropriate drinking and anti social behaviour on a wider basis is Calderdale's Drinking in Public Places Order. This was approved in the summer of 2006 and covers most of the built-up areas of the Borough. It gives the police powers to arrest persons who do not comply with a request to cease drinking alcohol in public. It is not a blanket ban on alcohol consumption in public areas but rather a useful and versatile tool for the police and others to deal in a practical fashion within inappropriate drinking leading to anti social behaviour in appropriate areas of the Borough.

## **5.6 Young People and Alcohol**

- 5.6.1 The Safer Communities Partnership will be engaging with young people on the dangers of excessive alcohol use in a number of ways. In particular

*Gaynor Scholefield to add.*

- 5.6.2 On a practical basis, Calderdale works with West Yorkshire Trading Standards to deliver a proof of age scheme in the Borough. Commissioned by the Safer Communities Partnership the scheme is promoted by West Yorkshire Trading Standards. *The scheme involves ..... (Andy Fox to add).*

## **5.7 Other Substance Misuse**

5.7.1 The link between substance misuse and anti-social behaviour in all its forms is well recognised. The DAAT is focussed on the four Aims of the National Drugs Strategy. These link closely with the aims of the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy.

- Helping young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society
- Protecting communities from drug related anti-social and criminal behaviour
- Enabling people with drug problems to overcome them and live healthy and crime-free lives
- Preventing the availability of illegal drugs on our streets

5.7.2 Calderdale has a particular well developed service to address drug related issues. It runs across prevention, universal and targeted treatment and enforcement activity. When drug dealing and youth becomes concentrated in particular areas it quickly creates an environment where anti social behaviour more generally can thrive. People are intimidated from making reports and a general decline can quickly set in.

5.7.3 Calderdale will continue to vigorously promote a prevention and education programme, and deliver its highly regarded drug treatment programmes including links between arrest and referral to drug treatment programmes. More recent developments which will continue to assist with these issues are the establishment of a dedicated drugs treatment within Calderdale police force which has delivered a number of high profile arrests. Through Calderdale's Health and Social Care Directorate there is an efficient programme of removal of drugs paraphernalia which are an all too visible signal of localised drug taking.

## **5.8 Conclusion**

Calderdale has an extremely strong track record in developing services to counter abuse of drugs. It is now using similar methodologies to develop a strategy to tackle alcohol related abuse. Some very good pioneering schemes are already in place. The developing Alcohol Strategy together with new initiatives such as drinking in public places order and review of CCTV can build on this base.

## **Chapter 6**

### **Consultation**

#### **6.1 The Day to Count**

The Home Office led Day Count of anti-social behaviour took place on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2003. Agencies involved in Calderdale were Environmental Services, Youth Link, Safer Communities Partnership, Calderdale Street Wardens, Calderdale Housing, West Yorkshire Probation Service and Town Centre Ambassadors. All agencies recorded the number of complaints they received in the one day period regarding anti-social behaviour. Environmental Services and Town Centre Ambassadors received the majority of complaints, followed by street wardens and youth link.

#### **6.2 Calderdale Crime and Disorder Audit**

A Crime and Disorder Audit was completed in the summer of 2004. This has formed the basis for public consultation to determine the future priorities for the Safer Communities Strategy 2005/2008. Feedback from this consultation exercise has been incorporated into this Strategy.

#### **6.3 Safer Communities Partnership Action Planning Teams**

Calderdale's Safer Communities Partnership has developed Action Planning Teams across Calderdale. These teams bring together interested parties from various organisations and communities and consider how to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. There is a continuous dialogue with these teams on the measures to be adopted to tackle anti-social behaviour.

#### **6.4 Calderdale Talkback**

"Talkback" is the name of Calderdale Council's Citizens Panel, which has now been in existence for about eight years. The Panel is made up of 1000 people selected at random from the Electoral Register who have agreed to respond to a postal survey three times per year, and participate in other consultation exercises such as focus groups, workshops, and phone surveys. Panel are consulted about anti-social behaviour issues and their views taken into account when formulating this Strategy.

#### **6.5 Community Groups**

Numerous support groups and voluntary organisations exist in Calderdale; many are concerned about anti-social behaviour issues. The concerns and priorities of a range of groups feed into several plans and strategies including the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.