The Safer Rotherham Partnership

Foreword

The Governments Respect Agenda sets out a clear message. Stable families and strong, cohesive communities are important for children, young people and adults. They are the essential foundation within which individual potential is realised, quality of life maximised and social and economic wellbeing secured. There have been some excellent successes in Rotherham that have contributed to it being a safe place to live and work compared to similar areas. But there are still problems with the behaviour of some individuals and families which can make life miserable for others.

Anti-social behaviour by both adults and young people creates havoc for the communities around them. Where this happens it will not be allowed to go unchallenged. We will take tough action so that the majority of law-abiding, decent people no longer have to tolerate the behaviour of the few individuals and families that think they do not have to show respect to others.

The action plan represents our commitment to addressing anti-social behaviour in Rotherham and recognises that, as well as enforcement, we need to focus on its causes. Our activity will address the six key themes of:

- **Supporting families**: increasing the circumstances, and organisations that can apply for a parenting order; and expanding parenting provision.
- **A new approach to the most challenging families**: tackling the behaviour of ‘problem families’ by challenging them to accept support to change their behaviour, backed up by enforcement measures.
- **Improving behaviour and attendance in schools**: fostering a positive environment where teachers can teach and children can learn. Tackling poor attendance and behaviour in schools.
- **Activities for children and young people**: expanding the role of sport, constructive activities and volunteering as positive routes to nurture a culture of respect amongst young people, particularly those from deprived backgrounds.
- **Strengthening communities**: empowering people to stand up and challenge unacceptable behaviour in their communities and make public services more accountable to local people and local priorities.
- **Effective enforcement and community justice**: strengthening the powers available for frontline agencies as well as streamlining the case management of Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBO’s) within the courts. Also broadening the range of people able to use existing powers.
**What We Have Done**

With our partners we have made good progress in tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in Rotherham. The following are some examples of what we have put in place and how we are continuing to work towards reducing incidents of anti-social behaviour.

** Introduced Area Assemblies**

The 7 Area Assemblies are providing the framework for Neighbourhood Management in Rotherham. Each Assembly co-ordinates local service delivery, oversees local initiatives and supports a range of consultation activities. They have a Co-ordinating Group that manages this process. The membership of this group includes elected members and representatives from partner agencies, Parish Councils and the local community. The key strategic documents that govern the Area Assemblies are the Area Assembly Plan and Neighbourhood Charter. The plan details the priorities and actions for each area and the charter provides the level of service standards for the area.

**Safer Neighbourhood Teams**

Our seven Safer Neighbourhood Teams are aligned to the Area Assemblies and address local issues of crime and anti-social behaviour. South Yorkshire Police, Rotherham Council and 2010 Rotherham Ltd have achieved major reductions in motorcycle nuisance through multi-agency working operations. ‘Operation Impact Days’ have also resulted in more enforcement actions such as increased drug warrants and fixed penalty fines being issued.

**Joint Action Group**

This is a multi-agency information sharing forum that addresses crime and disorder issues identified by all of the partner agencies. It decides priorities, agrees action plans, allocates resources and ensures a co-ordinated response across Rotherham.

**Neighbourhood Action Groups**

We have seven Neighbourhood Action Groups aligned to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. They co-ordinate services at a local level so that problem solving activity can take place and partners can support each other to achieve lasting, sustainable solutions to local issues.
**Enforcement Activity**

**Anti-Social Behaviour Orders** are issued by the Courts and are applied for by the Council, Police or other agreed agencies. To date there have been over 61 orders issued in Rotherham. **Acceptable Behaviour Contracts** can be made with anyone over the age of 10 years after a number of complaints have been received about their behaviour. After warnings, and if no improvement in behaviour is made, the individual enters into a contract outlining what behavioural changes they must make. Those who do not positively change their behaviour may be considered for **Anti-Social Behaviour Orders**. To date there have been over 1,221 contracts entered into in Rotherham. **Closure Orders** or Crack House Closures as they are more commonly known are applied to premises that have been used in connection with the unlawful use, production or supply of **Class A** controlled drugs such as heroin and cocaine and that the use of the premises is associated with occurrences of disorder or serious nuisance to members of the public. To date we have had 5 such closures in Rotherham. Between January 2006 and October 2007, 230 **Underage Sales** operations by the Police and Trading Standards were carried out at premises to challenge the illegal sale of alcohol, fireworks and restricted substances. During these operations those found to be serving in contravention of the licence were issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice and the premises made subject of an action plan, final warning letter or a formal review of the licence on 39 occasions. Between September 2006 and October 2007 we mounted 42 joint Police and Local Authority operations against the illegal use of off-road motor vehicles. During these operations 154 illegal off-road vehicles were seized, 592 formal warnings issued and 30 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts entered into. This has contributed to a reduction of 59% of complaints in relation to off-road motor vehicles compared to the same period last year.

**Diversionary Projects**

As well as our policy of robust enforcement, we also understand the importance of engaging with our young people and offering alternative routes to nurture a culture of respect. In addition to existing youth and play resources we have delivered diversionary projects within the Borough including: **Crucial Crew**, which address with young people numerous issues including drugs, alcohol abuse, anti-social behaviour, personal safety and good citizenship. **Steer Clear**, which involves young people and the issues of auto-related crime and off-road motorcycles. **Fire Service Safe Project** in respect of arson and fire safety. The **Big Bang** Project held at the Magna Centre on Mischief Night that was attended by over 800 young people. We also have **mobile youth shelters** that can be sited at various locations around the Borough at the request of local communities. There are currently three dedicated **Children and Young People Police Officers**, in the borough with plans to increase this to seven. Their role is to work closely with Schools and other education departments to co-ordinate and support activity relating to children and young people.
Rotherham Youth Cabinet

The Rotherham Youth Cabinet has representation from 15 Secondary Schools, a Special School and also a local College. 30 to 50 young people attend the formal meetings 6 times a year. Four members also represent Rotherham on the UK Youth Parliament. When first initiated the Youth Cabinet agenda was adult led but has now moved to self determination with Young People chairing, co-chairing and planning all meetings and activity. As part of our commitment to engage young people in tackling issues within our communities, the Youth Cabinet has been allocated £35,000.00 to pump-prime projects and activity to address anti-social behaviour in Rotherham.

Communication Campaigns

Numerous communication campaigns have been conducted in response to problem issues including the sale of fireworks to underage persons in the lead up to bonfire night, alcohol awareness and the inappropriate use of off-road and mini-motorcycles. An anti-social behaviour communication group has been formed by partners to ensure that all activity to address the problem is quickly communicated to the community.

Appointed Key, Specialised Staff

We have employed a Parenting Officer and Assistant Psychologist to deliver a nationally recognised parenting programme to those families identified in the area who are experiencing difficulties contributing to anti-social behaviour. These core members of staff have worked with, or are currently working with in excess of 25 families that have been referred to them by various agencies including the Police, Social Services, Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and 2010 Rotherham Ltd. We have also put in a place a Neighbourhoods Initiatives Manager who will develop and implement short, medium and long term plans to ensure the sustainability of identified neighbourhoods.
Our Priority for 2007 – 2010

‘To reduce the incidence and impact of anti-social behaviour in our communities’

Our Targets

To reduce the percentage of residents who feel that anti-social behaviour is either a very big problem or a fairly big problem in their neighbourhood from 48% in 2006 to at least 43% by 2008. *(Derived from responses to the following types of Anti-Social Behaviour - Rotherham Quality of Life Survey 2006/07)*

- Teenagers hanging around on the streets
- Vandalism, graffiti or other deliberate damage to property or vehicles
- People using or dealing drugs
- Rubbish and litter lying around
- People being drunk or rowdy in public spaces
- Abandoned or burnt out cars
- Noisy neighbours or loud parties

To reduce the percentage of residents who feel parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children is either a very big problem or a fairly big problem in their neighbourhood from 70% in 2006 to at least 65% by 2008. *(Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07)*

To reduce the percentage of residents who feel people not treating one another with respect and consideration is a very big problem or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood from 56% in 2006 to at least 51% by 2008. *(Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07)*

To reduce the number of reports of off-road motor vehicle nuisance from 3,260 in 2004/05, to below 2,934 by 2008. *(Community Safety Strategy 2005/08)*

To increase the percentage of residents who feel very well informed or fairly well informed about what the council is doing to tackle anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood from 19% in 2006 to at least 29% by 2008. *(Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07)*
What We Are Going To Do

In order to meet and exceed our targets, with our partners, we have made the following Key Commitments under each of the six Respect themes that, through a dedicated delivery plan, will drive our activity in tackling anti-social behaviour in the borough. These Key Commitments and progress of activity within the delivery plan will be subject of regular monitoring by the Safer Rotherham Partnership and the full plan will be refreshed annually.

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<th>SUPPORTING FAMILIES</th>
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<td><strong>Key Commitments:</strong></td>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>1. We will work to improve behaviour and reduce bullying &amp; harassment of children and young people by providing effective training for staff, implementing robust protocols and through the sharing of best practice.</td>
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<td>2. We will reduce the number of cases referred to the Local Authority Non-School Attendance Panel by introducing school attendance panels and greater focus on early intervention and prevention.</td>
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<td>3. We will carry out truancy patrols and make full, appropriate use of Fixed Penalty Notices for non-school attendance.</td>
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**SUPPORTING FAMILIES**

Key Commitments:

1. We will ensure the early identification of difficulties and problems faced by some families and with parents, provide appropriate interventions and support.

2. We will provide early access to family services in Rotherham to address the needs of children, young people and families.

**A NEW APPROACH TO THE MOST CHALLENGING FAMILIES**

Key Commitments:

1. We will support families and improve parenting provision to tackle anti-social behaviour.

2. We will make available effective Parenting Programmes across Rotherham and where appropriate require families to take part.
**ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Key Commitments:**

1. We will increase engagement in positive activities for children and young people.

2. We will ensure the full delivery of Rotherham’s Play Strategy.

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**EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE**

**Key Commitments:**

1. We will use the full range of tools and powers available for tackling and reducing anti-social behaviour carry out targeted operations in identified priority areas.

2. We will keep our communities informed of the results of our targeted enforcement actions and in appropriate cases positively publicise the identity of individual persistent offenders.

3. We will increase customer satisfaction and confidence with the services provided to tackle anti-social behaviour.

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**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES**

**Key Commitments:**

1. We will listen to our communities and put their priorities and concerns at the heart of all we do to tackle anti-social behaviour and promote positive citizenship.

2. We will engage with children, young people, and hard to reach and vulnerable groups in developing our plans to reduce antisocial behaviour.

3. We are committed to the Respect Standard for Housing Management and will reduce the level of anti-social behaviour in our Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

4. We will deliver intensive neighbourhood management in identified communities to develop involvement, increase respect, opportunity and cohesion and support resident involvement in decision making.