

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

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| 1. | Meeting: | Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods |
| 2. | Date: | 21st March, 2011 |
| 3. | Title: | The Safer Rotherham Partnership ASB Strategy (Service Plan Priority 2.1 – Deliver an ASB Strategy) |
| 4. | Directorate: | Neighbourhoods and Adult Services |

5. Summary

The above service plan priority action to ensure a partnership plan is in place to tackle Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) is a key element in the Council's and Safer Rotherham Partnership's drive towards tackling anti-social behaviour, supporting victims and witnesses and delivering safer and attractive neighbourhoods.

Since the decision was taken to include this priority in the service plan there has been significant movement, as a result of the coalition government coming into power, in policy and approach in a number of crime and disorder areas. These have had a bearing on the outputs and outcomes of this priority action.

The development of the strategy has taken into account the recommendations within the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA).

6. Recommendations

That the refreshed Safer Rotherham Partnership Anti Social Behaviour Strategy be approved as an interim operating document pending further direction from central government.

7. Proposals and Details

It is recognised that anti-social behaviour damages individuals and communities, and that tackling anti-social behaviour is one of the key activities in regenerating and sustaining safe and attractive communities.

Since the election of the coalition government there have been a number of key drivers introduced that will have a bearing on how crime and disorder in general and anti-social behaviour in particular is addressed by the Police, Local Authorities and the wider Community Safety Partnership. Key drivers include:

The new Home Secretary's direction for anti-social behaviour reform, includes:

- The Home Office Structural Reform Plan enabling the police and local communities to tackle crime and ASB, including a full review of existing ASB tools and powers and an overhaul of alcohol licensing to give more power to the police and local authorities to meet the concerns of local communities.
- Communities blighted by anti-social behavior will be able to force the police and local authorities to take action. Under the proposal, victims who had been repeatedly ignored by police could compel officers to take action in their area.

Complementary to this locally South Yorkshire Police have initiated review and implementation of an enhanced ASB case management with the result of a joint piece of work with Community Protection, Community Safety and other partners. This work is progressing and will influence how ASB services, particularly the most vulnerable and repeat victim will be responded to and supported.

- The announcement by the Home Secretary that Baroness Newlove, the widow of murdered father-of-three Garry Newlove will travel the country as the Government's "champion for active, safer communities" and make recommendations early in the New Year on how anti-social behavior should be tackled and victims and witnesses supported.
- Home Office consultation document (Feb 2011) *More effective responses to anti-social behaviour*. This paper contains proposals to repeal the ASBO and other court orders and to replace them with a criminal behaviour order and a crime prevention order. It also brings together many of the existing tools for dealing with place specific anti-social behaviour and creates a new community protection order. The drive is to simplify and improve the process to make it easier for the Police and Local Authorities to protect victims and communities. It includes a community trigger that gives victims and communities the right to require agencies to take action. Consultation locally is currently taking place to provide a response to the Home Office.
- Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) publication, 'Stop the Rot' (Sept 2010) is the result of nationwide research into how ASB is tackled and makes recommendations about 'what works', 'what does not work' and 'what needs to be done' to improve response, case management and service

delivery. This has already been 'picked up' by the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

- Home Office consultation document, *Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting the police and the people*, that includes increasing democratic accountability and the governments aspiration for the reforms to enable and encourage greater public co-operation with the police and partners and increased involvement in tackling neighbourhood crime. A key theme is the drive to strengthen partnership working through 'stripping away' unnecessary prescription and bureaucracy in the partnership landscape. Again, this has already been 'picked up' by the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

A draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy has been completed and has been subject of early consultation. (Appendix 1)

Implementation and delivery of the strategy through a robust ASB Action Plan will make a significant contribution in sustaining communities where people feel safe, anti social behaviour and crime is reduced and their local environment is safe and well maintained. The strategy being a core tool on which the SRP and its ASB Priority Group will seek both reduced levels and improved public perception.

In light of the issues highlighted above and the changing landscape it is recommended that document does not go to the final adoption stage until the findings and forthcoming recommendations of the current review of ASB are known and we are in a better position to integrate them into our ways of working in respect of tackling ASB and delivering a quality service to victims, witnesses and communities. It can however be utilised in the current form as an interim operating guidance document.

8. Finance

Delivery of the interim strategy will be supported from the Council's General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, other partners revenue budgets and an element of the Area Based Grant allocation to the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Tackling anti-social behaviour is a key priority nationally and for the Safer Rotherham Partnership. Not having in a place an up to date and well focussed strategy would result in an uncoordinated and disjointed partnership approach.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The ASB Strategy impacts on all agendas around the Community Strategy's SAFE theme and is both a national and Safer Rotherham Partnership priority. There is clear linkage with the objectives of the Corporate Plan:-

- ***helping to create safe and healthy communities, and***
- ***ensuring people feel safe where they live, particularly that Anti-Social behaviour and crime is reduced and people from different backgrounds get on well together.***

The Policy has clear linkages to the seven outcomes of the Outcomes Framework for Social Care, and importantly includes:

- ***Improved Quality of Life***, by supporting independence of people to live a fulfilled life.
 - ***Freedom from Discrimination or Harassment***, by supporting those who need social care having equal access to services without hindrance from discrimination or prejudice; people feel safe and are safeguarded from harm
- ***Improved Health and Emotional Well-being***, by promoting and facilitating the health and emotional well-being of people who use the services.
- ***Personal Dignity and Respect***, by providing confidential and secure services, which respects the individual and preserves people's dignity.

The strategy takes close account of the developing Government policy drivers regarding crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and localism, but locally is built from the statutory analysis undertaken by the partnership Community Information Unit and reported in the latest Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy was prepared in consultation with the wider Community Safety Partnership.
- SRP – Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2010

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