



The Safer Rotherham
PARTNERSHIP

**Strategy to Reduce
Anti-Social Behaviour
in Rotherham**

2011 to 2015

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INTERIM STRATEGY

The strategy will be a working document on which the SRP and its JAG ASB Priority Group will seek both reduced levels and improved public perception.

It has been agreed that this strategy will be an interim one dependant upon the findings and any new initiatives from the Government following the announcement by the Home Secretary as detailed below:

On Tuesday 5th October 2010 the Home Secretary announced that the term 'Crime and disorder' should be used rather than 'anti-social behaviour'.

Baroness Newlove – whose husband Garry was murdered after standing up to drunken vandals – has been appointed government champion for active, safer communities.

Baroness Newlove will spend six months travelling the country to find out what challenges communities face before making recommendations to government.

On Monday 7th February 2011 the Home Office published a consultation document *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.

Crime and disorder

The Home Secretary said that the term 'antisocial behaviour' doesn't adequately describe these sorts of offences and should instead be called 'crime and disorder'.

'Crime is crime, however it's categorised in the figures – and the public expect us to fight it,' she said.

Title:	Anti-social behaviour Strategy for Rotherham
Synopsis:	This document is a strategy common to organisations delivering crime and disorder; prevention, support and rehabilitation; youth justice; and anti-social behaviour services in Rotherham. The document focuses on the specific purposes underlying the preventing and reducing of anti-social behaviour within the safer and stronger community.
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**The Safer Rotherham Partnership is made up of
the following partners:**

- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Yorkshire Police
- South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
- South Yorkshire Probation Trust
- South Yorkshire Police Authority
- NHS Rotherham

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Aim of the strategy

This strategy sets out the shared vision, priorities and activities of all the key agencies working in Rotherham who have a responsibility to tackle anti-social behaviour and its root causes. The aim of this strategy is:

To reduce the impact of anti social behaviour and its root causes through close partnership working by identifying, promoting and implementing sustainable solutions in prevention, rehabilitation and enforcement.

Introduction

This strategy has been produced by Rotherham Community Safety Partnership and the family of wider partner organisations that have shared responsibilities at a local level for preventing and reducing anti-social behaviour - either directly or indirectly.

It is informed by the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment produced by the Community Information Unit and will set the direction in how the SRP addresses one of its key priority areas.

All organisations within this strategy are committed to building on existing successful work on anti-social behaviour and to developing new actions where necessary.

At the heart of this strategy is a multi-agency problem-solving approach to tackling all forms of anti-social behaviour as partners in Rotherham are committed to preventing and reducing anti-social behaviour in a balanced, co-ordinated and effective way.

The development of this strategy is evidence that partners share a concern to ensure that efforts to reduce anti-social behaviour are properly tailored to the unique needs of individual communities throughout Rotherham.

This strategy provides a Rotherham wide framework for anti-social behaviour work. As such, it will bridge the gap between the Government's National Strategy on anti-social behaviour and the local programmes of action being developed and implemented by all organisations and local partnerships that exist across Rotherham.

Each partner has helped develop this anti-social behaviour strategy to ensure it forms part of its general crime and disorder strategy.

Why have a strategy for anti-social behaviour?

The strategy aims to clarify how anti-social behaviour will be prevented and reduced in Rotherham. In so doing, it will also help to ensure that gaps in provision are filled, available resources are maximised and that duplication of effort in anti-social behaviour work is avoided. It will ensure that effective practice is passed on and replicated. Perhaps most importantly, the strategy will facilitate a co-ordinated approach to anti-social behaviour both within and between all Rotherham organizations and partners.

The goal of maintaining standards of civil behaviour runs like a thread through the work of all Rotherham public services and partners. Education, social services, leisure services, youth services, transport, housing, the police, probation, fire services and voluntary sector all play a part in minimising anti-social behaviour. The range of programmes in Rotherham

that impact on anti-social behaviour in some way – or promote socially acceptable behaviour – is vast.

The Rotherham Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy is not intended to review or even chart the action that has a bearing on Anti-Social Behaviour. Nor does it intend to 'performance manage' work being carried out by Rotherham's crime and disorder partners that specifically focuses on anti-social behaviour. The strategy recognises that these local partnerships are best placed to identify local problems and concerns, and to design and implement responses.

The Rotherham Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy is intended to promote effective, co-ordinated action against anti-social behaviour across the borough. This entails providing various forms of practical assistance and support to local partnerships, and building capacity for communication and co-operation within and between agencies. The strategy will help to identify gaps in existing provision, and help to ensure the filling of these gaps in a way that brings benefits in terms of efficiency or general effectiveness.

A co-ordinated strategy will assist in the pursuing of Rotherham's overarching aim of promoting effective, co-ordinated action against anti-social behaviour. It will also support the work of the Home Office within Public Service and Local Area Agreement targets for the reassurance of the public, reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, and building confidence in the criminal justice system without compromising fairness.

What is anti-social behaviour?

The statutory definition of anti-social behaviour, as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 is, **'Any behaviour that has caused or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household (as the perpetrator).**

Individual acts that are not necessarily criminal; or, if they are criminal, they may in isolation constitute relatively minor offences. Very often the harm caused by anti-social behaviour is a consequence of the cumulative impact of repeated incidents.

Many people living in Rotherham encounter anti-social behaviour from time to time. It can take many forms – boisterous behaviour on public transport, rowdy drunks on the streets, litter and graffiti, abandoned cars, noisy neighbours and speeding vehicles.

For some of us, it is an occasional irritant. For others it is more intrusive, and relentless, as anti-social behaviour can blight some people's lives. In some cases individuals are singled out as targets, and this is particularly unsettling. The corrosive and debilitating effect of persistent exposure to anti-social behaviour – including the potential effect on the mental and physical health of victims – cannot be underestimated.

Anti-social behaviour can affect whole communities, not just individuals. Where it is frequent, it can amplify people's worries about crime, and lead to a sense that crime and disorder are spiralling out of control. If this sense becomes widespread in a neighbourhood, it has tangible consequences.

The main forms of Anti-Social Behaviour

Interpersonal/malicious Anti-Social Behaviour is behaviour directed against specific individuals or groups that causes harassment, alarm or distress.

Examples include:

- Intimidation / threats by neighbours
- Minor violence
- Hoax calls
- Vandalism directed at individuals or groups
- Verbal abuse

Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour is behaviour that – deliberately or through carelessness – degrades the local environment, such as:

- Dog-fouling
- Allowing animals to roam
- Noise nuisance
- Setting fire to rubbish
- Graffiti
- Abandoned vehicles
- Littering
- Fly-tipping

Anti-Social Behaviour restricting access to public space refers to threatening or physically obstructive behaviours that stop people using public spaces, such as:

- Speeding vehicles
- Intimidating behaviour by groups of individuals
- Drug abuse in public places
- Under-age drinking and rowdy behaviour
- Street drinking/drunkenness
- Night time alcohol-related disorder
- Aggressive begging
- Soliciting and kerb-crawling
- Obstructive use of vehicles
- Use of motorbikes on pavements/in parks

The list is by no means exhaustive but is indicative of the types of behaviour involved in Anti Social Behaviour.

How anti-social behaviour affects local communities

Anti-social behaviour often involves clashes of values and standards. Young people look for excitement and action; the elder community may prefer peace and quiet. People have different levels of tolerance for noise, for untidiness, for rowdiness.

Some anti-social behaviour is so grossly thoughtless, or so obviously malicious, that most people would want and expect the authorities to take firm action against it. But sometimes matters are less clear-cut. How intimidating do groups of young people have to be before action is needed? How loud can a neighbour play music before it becomes an unacceptable intrusion? What level of rowdiness at pub-closing time can just be put down to harmless high spirits?

Work to prevent and reduce anti-social behaviour should involve partnership working to consider what is order; and what levels of tolerance could be expected of those exposed to disorder.

Definitions of order, and levels of tolerance, differ widely within and between the various communities that make up Rotherham's population. Negotiating levels of acceptable behaviour has to be done in an even-handed and open way whilst dealing firmly with those whose behaviour is unacceptable.

The strategy will help to enable local communities take local action to strengthen community safety within their local area thus improving the quality of life for people living in those communities.

The Local Picture

Rotherham has seen year on year decreasing rates of recorded crime – even so, concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour are widespread across Rotherham as in other parts of the country. Public surveys show that residents consistently rate 'a low level of crime' in first or second position when asked what makes somewhere a good place to live. The misuse of alcohol and drugs is also a cause of disquiet – local people recognise the harm that this can cause to individuals, families and communities.

The work of the Neighbourhood Action Groups and Safer Neighbourhood Teams has a focus on addressing Anti Social Behaviour in their identified Safer Neighbourhood Areas.

The schedule of detailed activity in the form of an action plan for Rotherham will be drawn up by the Anti Social Behaviour priority Group which will work to the commitments set out in this strategy, setting targets and objectives, and identifying key actions to address Anti Social Behaviour across Rotherham.

The recorded incidents from South Yorkshire Police database show a decrease for the years 2009 and 2010.

Anti-Social Behaviour in Rotherham

	From	To	From	To
	Apr-08	Mar-09	Apr-09	Mar-10
	BCU:	Rotherham		
	SNA:	All		
	SNT:	All		
		Earlier	Later	% change
Abandoned Vehicles		714	604	-15.4%
Animal Problems		660	665	0.8%
Begging / Vagrancy		34	24	-29.4%
Hate Incident		0	0	No Calc
Fireworks		89	101	13.5%
Noise		506	810	60.1%

Prostitution Related Activity		8	49	512.5%
Littering/Drugs paraphernalia		117	137	17.1%
Nuisance Neighbours		1,245	1,410	13.3%
Rowdy Inconsiderate Behaviour		17,041	15,405	-9.6%
Total Rowdy / Nuisance Behaviour		18,403	16,952	-7.9%
Street Drinking		412	200	-51.5%
Vehicle Nuisance		3,107	2,835	-8.8%
Other Anti Social Behaviours		1,746	1,655	-5.2%
Total Anti Social Behaviour		25,718	23,895	-7.1%

Priorities of the Strategy

This strategy for preventing and reducing anti-social behaviour needs to be clear about what it is trying to do. Whilst accepting that whether or not behaviours are anti-social depends to some extent on the vulnerability of the victim and the degree of upset they experience.

As the definition of anti-social behaviour is broad we need to set partnership priorities so that all organisations are clear and the different agencies involved know that they are using the same language and have the same objectives.

The strategy will broadly focus all Rotherham organisations and local partners to coordinate service delivery around the following priorities and give the following commitments:

1. We will energise and support local action by the Community Safety Partnership.

Objective 1 - Anti-social behaviour must be prevented and reduced effectively.

Most work to prevent and reduce anti-social behaviour is carried out at a local level, as it should be through the work of the Neighbourhood Action Groups and Safer Neighbourhood Teams which have a focus on addressing Anti Social Behaviour in their identified Safer Neighbourhood Areas.

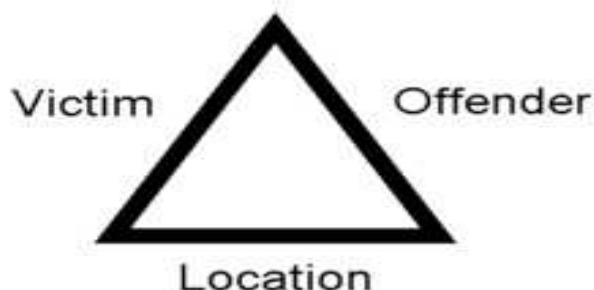
The strategy supports this work in a wide variety of ways: through the provision of funding, training and the use of tools and powers at the disposal of a range of organisations and agencies.

2. We will improve co-ordination and co-operation between local agencies within the partnership. Effective action against anti-social behaviour depends on co-operation between local agencies and between partnerships. The strategy focuses on the encouragement of partnership working at a local level and promotes and facilitates co-ordination across all boundaries.

Objective 2 - Effective action on anti-social behaviour demands a balance between rigorous enforcement, prevention, support and rehabilitation.

It is essential that all partner agencies give their support to the various partnership activity at all levels. Particularly to ensure that relevant members of staff provide attendance and commitment to the partnership process.

The full range of problem solving solutions should be utilised based around the problem-solving approach. Use of the problem-solving triangle may be a useful tool in ensuring all options are considered.



It should be remembered that swift legal action in serious cases could provide an effective respite for victims whilst other preventative and intervention action is put in place.

3. It is important for partners to combine local community area action with Rotherham wide activity, where needed.

Objective 3 - Remedies for anti-social behaviour must promote long-term social inclusion.

The strategy supports, encourages and initiates a range of initiatives that will directly address anti-social behaviour by using the problem-solving approach. The delivery of some programmes on a Rotherham wide rather than a local basis can bring benefits in terms of efficiency or effectiveness.

Initiatives are being undertaken in the areas of:

Neighbourhood Policing	Children & Young People Services
Community & Voluntary Organisations	Community Involvement
Fire & Public Safety	Prolific & Priority Offenders
Housing and Planning	Alcohol & Drug Services
Environment & Transport	Education & Support Services

Building Community Involvement, Challenge and Delivery

The Government has come together with a driving ambition: to put more power and opportunity into people’s hands.

The intention is to give citizens, communities and local government the power and information they need to come together, solve the problems they face and build the Britain they want. They want society – the families, networks, neighbourhoods and communities that form the fabric of so much of our everyday lives – to be bigger and stronger than ever

before. Only when people and communities are given more power and take more responsibility can we achieve fairness and opportunity for all.

Building this Big Society isn't just the responsibility of just one or two departments. It is the responsibility of every department of Government, and the responsibility of every citizen too. Government on its own cannot fix every problem. We are all in this together. We need to draw on the skills and expertise of people across the country as we respond to the social, political and economic challenges Britain faces.

In line with this policy we will encourage the involvement of our Communities across Rotherham through the Neighbourhood Action Group Structure in tackling Anti Social Behaviour.

4. We will ensure that local solutions to local problems are at the heart of our policies on tackling anti-social behaviour. We will also ensure we build in flexibility, consistency and sustainability in policy responses to Anti-Social Behaviour across Rotherham.

Objective 4 - Measures to prevent and reduce anti-social behaviour must be consistent with human rights and Crime and disorder legislation.

Different strands of social policy can pull against each other, as can different approaches to preventing and reducing anti-social behaviour.

We aim to ensure that:

- a) The Rotherham Anti-Social behaviour Strategy is internally consistent;
- b) Other work and strategic initiatives undertaken by the cross-Rotherham agencies are in harmony with this strategy and
- c) All actions are communicated to local people to increase public confidence and reduce concerns about anti-social behaviour.

The Partnership recognises the need to develop further and strengthen the way it tackles anti-social behaviour within Rotherham.

Many of the strategies around prevention, intervention and enforcement have evolved over time and are based on either a perceived need or in direct response to new legislation. Whilst these have proved effective in the past, improvements in partnership working and co-operation, together with the need to work more efficiently and effectively, has identified a need to be more focused in where we place our limited resources.

Many partnerships and in particular the Safer Rotherham Partnership have, and continue to move towards a victim focused and preventative agenda. It acknowledges that the steps forward it has made in recent years have been focused on putting the building blocks in place to tackle existing issues in a reactive way.

This, along with improvements in performance management, has focused the Partnership and contributed to achieving real successes in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

In the past year or so we have seen this focus move towards centring the approach on the victim, especially in the area of hidden and hate crime. There is also a reinforced focus is to look towards longer-term prevention in terms of both re-offending and preventing people from offending in the first place and the development of a 'Integrated Offender Management' process will be an important part of this. This approach is set out by the Home Secretary in the publication 'Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting Police and the People.'

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

There will be one overarching measure of performance and this will be in the form of using the South Yorkshire Police statistics as shown in this document and will provide a consistent and accurate picture.

The target is to reduce incidents of Anti Social Behaviour year on year throughout the life of this strategy.

The Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment for Rotherham (JSIA) will provide the performance information and highlight areas for attention across Rotherham.

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