

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	21st April, 2011
3.	Title:	Review and Refresh of the RMBC Anti-Social Behaviour Policy & Procedures
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the adoption of the refreshed statutorily required Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy and associated Summary of the ASB Policy and Procedures. This review takes into consideration recent changes in government thinking and recognises that this may influence future policy development but captures existing development in policy since the last review.

6. Recommendations

That the refreshed Anti Social Behaviour Policy and required Summary of Policy and Procedures be noted.

7. Proposals and Details

All local housing authorities (Council function) are required to have in place and published a policy and procedure for dealing with occurrences of anti social behaviour. This duty was introduced by Section 12 of The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and accordingly in Rotherham a policy and related procedures has been adopted by the Council since December 2004, with an update being made in 2008. The policy and procedures must be kept under review in order to ensure that changes in legislation and working practices are current.

This current refresh was an action in this years Neighbourhood and Adult Services Service Plan and the outcome documents are attached in Appendix 1 and 2.

7.1. Changes to Policy

Although there are small “cosmetic” changes to the policy (eg job titles), more significant changes are documented below. These changes have been made to reflect the shift in focus in how we deal with victims across all the different strands of ASB. The document has been broken into 15 sections rather than the previous 11. This makes it easier to locate information and easier to read.

- **Section 2.** This now states a clear commitment to tackling ASB in line with other area’s policies.
- **Section 4.** Whilst the definition of ASB remains the same a list of examples of the different types of ASB has been added.
- **Section 5.** A brief explanation of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act has been added as well as Safeguarding and the Domestic Violence crime and Victims Act 2004
- **Section 6.** The Policy Objectives and Standards have been strengthened with detailed and current information about the Respect Standard for Housing Management Performance Improvement toolkit for landlords. This gives an explanation of the service a customer can expect and identifies the six core commitments which drive service delivery for our communities.
- **Section 7.** Supporting and Caring for Victims and Witnesses of ASB is a new section. This now identifies who provides the support, from providing evidence at court to the practical help which can be given.
- **Section 8.1.** This section has been re-written to include current preventative measures including the Family Intervention Project and Reparation and Community Payback.
- **Section 8.2.** This is the area that has been most developed to reflect current changes in policy and practice. It contains more updated information about the work of the partners involved in Safer Neighbourhood team working to address ASB. This has been written in conjunction with the Community Protection Manager and the 2010 Operations Manager. The role of the Community Protection Unit and the new legislative powers that are at its disposal working alongside SYP are detailed. These include new closure orders, ‘Crack House’ closure orders and Dispersal Orders. The focus of 2010 Housing Champions

involvement in dealing with ASB and their links to other agencies has been clarified in this section.

- **Section 10.** This has been re-written in conjunction with the Hate Crime Officer. A new section has been developed 'Hate Incidents' which encompasses the previous Racial incidents and explains more clearly the policy and the way that hate crimes of all types are dealt with.
- **Section 11.** This section has been re-written to reflect the understanding of the wide range of abuse that comes under the new accepted definition of 'Domestic Abuse' and the way that abuse must be dealt with. It explains how the council fits into the larger remit of MARAC for high risk victims.

The changes to the ASB Summary of Policy and Procedures reflects the changes detailed above.

8. Finance

Delivery will be sustained by existing funding from both the Council's General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

This is a statutory requirement. If we do not accept this as an interim measure, customers will not be aware of the developments since the last publication.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The ASB policy and procedures impact on all agendas around the SAFE theme, and including the role of social landlord, and takes into consideration issues that impact on all members of the community.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Both papers were refreshed in consultation with 2010 Rotherham Ltd, Community Protection, Domestic Violence Co-ordinator, and the Community Cohesion officer.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and informed the review.

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