Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
Document Control

Document Title: Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

Summary

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Review of Strategy

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Document Approvals

This document requires the following approvals.

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Foreword

Welcome to the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership’s Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2010 – 2013. This strategy sets out our priorities for tackling and preventing anti-social behaviour for the next three years.

Since the last Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy was produced in 2004 the partnership has achieved a great deal in terms of reducing anti-social behaviour. In the last 12 months alone, anti-social behaviour has reduced by over 19%. Coupled with this, Criminal Damage has reduced by 24% in the same period.

However despite this progress, as a partnership we are conscious that anti-social behaviour remains an important issue and priority in many of our neighbourhoods. This is why we are focusing on providing a well rounded multi-agency approach to tackling the problem. This strategy seeks to build on the good work already in place to tackle anti-social behaviour in the Borough and focuses on prevention, intervention and carrying out strong enforcement action against persistent perpetrators. As well as this, we aim to make significant improvements in the exchange of information between agencies in the Safer Communities Partnership that will improve the response that resident receive. Victims, witnesses and the wider community are central to the strategy with an emphasis of improving confidence. If people are more confident that the partnership will deal with their problems then they are more likely to feel safer in their communities. Greater confidence in the partnership will also encourage more victims and witnesses to report anti-social behaviour which then in turn helps us deal with the problems that are affecting communities.

The overall aim of the partnership is to ensure that people are safe and feel safe. We are striving to achieve this in relation to anti-social behaviour by reducing the levels and making sure we communicate to residents what the partnership is doing to tackle the problem.
Introduction

The Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership aims to make the Borough a place where everyone is safe and feels safe. The partnership has seven strategic priorities which include:

- Feeling Safer
- Reducing Crime
- Reducing the harm caused by drugs and alcohol
- Preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour
- Preventing offending by children and young people
- Reducing adult re-offending
- Developing community cohesion

This strategy demonstrates the commitment of each agency within the partnership to build on the existing work carried out to prevent and tackle ASB.

At the heart of ASB lies a lack of respect for values and basic consideration for others. It may not necessarily be intentional, but it can intimidate, harass and distress. A small proportion of the population can have a major negative impact upon communities. It also has a detrimental effect upon local businesses and therefore investment within an area. This can then create an environment that increases the likelihood of crime and further ASB occurring, contributing to a communities’ decline.

There has been significant progress made by the partnership in tackling the incidence of ASB however there is still much more than can be done. This strategy will co-ordinate the approach taken to tackle ASB. The aim of the strategy is to prevent and tackle locally identified priorities for anti-social behaviour in the Borough of Rochdale by using a variety of methods that will improve the quality of life of residents in the borough.

The strategy is based around seven strategic themes which set out a multi-focused approach to tackling ASB and incorporate the Home Office’s Triple Track Approach of prevention, intervention and enforcement. Other key areas include victim and witness support, public reassurance, information sharing and non-negotiable support. These themes are the basis of a comprehensive programme of action, to which all partners are committed.
Mission Statement

To prevent and tackle locally identified priorities for anti-social behaviour in the Borough of Rochdale by using a variety of methods that will improve the quality of life for residents in communities across the Borough.
**Definition of Anti-Social Behaviour**

Anti-Social Behaviour is a problem that affects many people’s lives and can cause considerable alarm and distress to victims. However, defining the problem can be difficult. Anti-social behaviour is wide ranging and can vary from minor public nuisance such as playing music loudly, littering, and youths causing annoyance, to the more serious criminal acts such as graffiti, vandalism, harassment and drug use.

The subjective nature of anti-social behaviour means that what may be considered anti-social behaviour by one person or neighbourhood can be seen as acceptable behaviour to another. In light of this, and for the purpose of this strategy, the following definition that is contained within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 will be adopted:

‘**Behaviour that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as (the perpetrator).**’

Behaviours that are classed as anti-social behaviour by the British Crime Survey include:

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

Other anti-social behaviours include:

- Aggressive Begging
- Prostitution
- Setting of fireworks late at night
- Uncontrolled pets and animals
As is apparent from the above list, not all anti-social behaviour is criminal. That is not to play down the effect that actions such as the misuse of public spaces, disregarding the community or acts directed towards people have on people's lives but instead to create an awareness of this issue when trying to find solutions to the problem.

**Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour**

Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour can include fly-tipping, graffiti and littering and has a huge impact on our communities and on how satisfied we are in them. It can ruin public spaces and is expensive to clean up. With the exception of graffiti, these offences are dealt with by using Fixed Penalty Notices to prosecute offenders. Graffiti is criminal damage and as such is dealt with as a criminal offence by the police.

Fly tipping – is the dumping of household or commercial rubbish in private or communal areas. Littering – deliberately dropping litter on the streets. Graffiti – spray painting or otherwise marking private property or communal areas such as the sides of bus shelters. Dog Fouling – allowing a dog in your possession to foul on land without cleaning up after it.

**Minimum Standards**

The Partnership has developed a set of minimum standards that set out the service that victims or witnesses of anti-social behaviour can expect at the very least from the partner agencies that deal with their problems. If someone is a victim or witness of anti-social behaviour we will ensure that:

- They will receive a prompt response to their complaint.
- They will be treated fairly with dignity and respect.
- Complaints will be taken seriously.
- Information is kept confidential and we will only share it between agencies with permission in order to help with resolving the complaint.
- They are kept regularly informed about the progress of the case.
- The victim knows who to contact if they are not happy with the service received.

The standards set out what the response will be, and who is the most appropriate to deal with an incident of ASB in each individual case. These include:

- Police
- RMBC Contact Centre
- Local Housing Office
- Anti-Social Behaviour Team / Community Safety Team
- Legal Service and Enforcement Team
These standards form an underlying part of this strategy and focus on communicating to all residents how to get in contact with agencies to report ASB.

Aims and Objectives of the Strategy

The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy is intended to support and develop the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership’s (RSCP) approach to tackling ASB throughout the Borough whilst simultaneously contributing to the objectives set out in the Community Strategy Pride of Place:

- Improving Community Safety – The primary objective of the ASB Strategy is to co-ordinate the effort the Council makes to tackle ASB in our communities and therefore improving community safety. As fear of crime is a large problem within the Borough, the Strategy will also prioritise the reduction in the perception of ASB and improving the communication of what the partners are doing to tackle it to reduce public fear.

- Creating a Cleaner, Greener Environment – Environmental crimes such as fly tipping, litter and graffiti are ASB. The strategy will focus on trying to reduce the incidence of these offences and increase the use of enforcement action against them to improve and protect the natural environment.

- Making Sure Every Child Matters – the strategy will support young people who are in danger of becoming involved in ASB or Criminal Behaviour with early intervention, supportive programmes and diversionary activities. This will encourage children and young people to stay safe and make a positive contribution.

The Safer Communities Plan promotes a partnership approach to fulfilling the RSCP’s overall aim of making ‘the Borough a place where everyone is safe and feels safe.’ The ASB Strategy will aim to adopt this same approach to deliver the overarching objectives presented below:

- Reduce the incidence of ASB and criminal damage.

- To improve customer satisfaction / victim support.
To deliver these objectives, strategic themes have been generated which will be presented later in the strategy.

**National Context**

The profile of anti-social behaviour has risen dramatically in recent years. It is now at the forefront of Central Government policy, guidance and legislation and this is what guides the partnership in trying to prevent and tackle ASB.

**Key Legislation**

The Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 ensures that the police have the appropriate powers to deal with serious anti-social behaviour through dispersing intimidating groups and tackling drug dealing. It also gives Local Authorities the powers to deal with noise nuisance, clearing environmental offences and extending the powers of landlords to deal with ASB in social housing.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 sets out a wide range of measures to tackle ASB. These include legislating against nuisance parking and abandoned cars, extending the provisions against dropping litter and graffiti as well as enabling alleys to be gated to increase community safety.

**Policy**

Each policy has a slightly different focus ranging from preventative, victim centred and more punitive approaches.

‘Every Child Matters’ concentrates on early intervention and prevention techniques. Multi-agency working is central, with early identification of issues and targeted support at the heart of the approach. The aim is to help all children and young people achieve the five essential outcomes in order to reach their potential:
In 2006, the Government launched its ‘Respect’ agenda with the aim creating and enforcing a ‘modern culture of respect’. It builds on the supporting nature of ‘Every Child Matters’ for young people and their parents but at the same time having clear expectations about their behaviour and responsibilities.

‘Justice Seen, Justice Done’ is a cross government programme that aims to address public concerns about crime and justice. A key part of the programme is about raising the public’s awareness and understanding of the services they are entitled to from the police and other agencies, and to ensure that those services are focused on the issues that matter locally. It also aims to encourage the reporting of incidents so that agencies are able to respond quickly as well as providing targeted action in priority neighbourhoods.

There is a shift in focus in recent guidance from Central Government towards a victim focused response in tackling ASB. The minimum standards identified earlier set out in detail the partnerships approach to dealing with victims of ASB.

National Scale of ASB

Anti-social behaviour costs public agencies over £3.4 billion a year to put right and it can also hold back the regeneration of our most disadvantaged areas, creating an environment in which crime can take hold.¹

Nationally, 15% of people think that they have a high level of anti-social behaviour in their local area. However, this figure is decreasing and is at the lowest level since the measure was first introduced in the British Crime Survey in 2001/2.

According to the British Crime Survey 2008/9 the most commonly perceived type of ASB is ‘Rubbish/Litter lying around’ (29%), closely followed by ‘Teenagers hanging around’ (28%). Drugs, drunken behaviour and vandalism/graffiti (26%, 25%, and 25% respectively) are also perceived to be serious problems nationally.²

Confidence in the police, local partners and the criminal justice system is still relatively low. Belief that they are dealing with ASB and crime issues in the local area was at 50% in 2008/09. This is increasing though, in 2007 the figure stood at 46%.³

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¹ Cutting Crime: A New Partnership 2008-2011, Home Office
² British Crime Survey 2008/09
³ British Crime Survey 2008/09
Local Context

The Borough of Rochdale

The Borough of Rochdale covers around 62 square miles and at 2007 had a population of around 206,500. We have the youngest population in Greater Manchester and residents in the 0-15 year old age range comprise 23% of the Borough compared with the national average of 20%.

The population is a fairly diverse mix of ethnic backgrounds and cultures. The majority of the borough’s residents, 86%, have a white ethnic background. People with a Pakistani background make up the largest ethnic minority group with nearly 7.7%.

Our borough is one of the most deprived in the country and is ranked 25th out of a total 354 using the indices of multiple deprivation. The economic down turn is hitting the Borough hard. Unemployment is a large problem in the Borough with 9.1% of economically active people over 16 years old unemployed.

The difficulties that the Borough faces are clear and represent a real challenge for the partnership in tackling anti-social behaviour.

Why Anti-Social Behaviour is a priority?

Compared to other incidents reported to the police, anti-social behaviour is by far the most prominent in the borough:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>April 09 – March 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serious Acquisitive Crime</td>
<td>4561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious Violent Crime</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>1706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Social Behaviour</td>
<td>15757</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It does have to be noted that the ASB incidents include perceived incidents, not just actual crimes like the other categories. This means that the number of incidents is dramatically inflated by duplicate reports of the same incidents. However, regardless of this point the negative affect it has on people’s lives makes it a priority for the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership to address.

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4 Pride of Place 2007-2010
5 ONS annual population survey Jun 2008 – Jun 2009
6 GMP Performance Bulletin Q4 2009/10
Criminal Damage cost agencies in Rochdale Borough over £4.1 million pounds to respond to last year\(^7\). This cost includes trying to prevention, costs incurred as a result of the crime and action taken to respond to it.

**Achievements So Far**

Levels of anti-social behaviour in the Rochdale Borough are following a downward trend. ASB has reduced 8.2% between December 2007 and December 2009. ASB incidents have reduced from 21,272 incidents (07/08) to 19,158 incidents (08/09)\(^8\). This equates to a reduction in real terms of 2114 incidents of ASB reported to Greater Manchester Police. The below graph shows the progress in reducing ASB each month over the last 2 years:

The proportion of residents that perceive high levels of anti-social behaviour in their local area is also reducing. In 2006 the BVPI survey recorded that 39% of people perceived there to be high levels of ASB. In the 2008 Place survey this had dropped to 36%\(^9\).

Compared to other Greater Manchester areas, Rochdale is performing the best in terms of tackling ASB and reducing the incidence of it. From 2008/09 to 2009/10 reported incidents of ASB reduced by 19.3%\(^10\).

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\(^7\) The economic and social costs of crime against individuals and households 2003/04, Home Office  
\(^8\) GMP Strategic Threat Assessment 2010  
\(^9\) 2008 Place Survey  
\(^10\) GMP Performance Bulletin Q4 2009/10
Anti-social behaviour – recorded incidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Borough</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>2008/09</th>
<th>Comparison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolton</td>
<td>20659</td>
<td>22860</td>
<td>-2201 -9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bury</td>
<td>10061</td>
<td>12125</td>
<td>-2064 -17.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>44315</td>
<td>50135</td>
<td>-5820 -11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldham</td>
<td>18131</td>
<td>19815</td>
<td>-1684 -8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rochdale</strong></td>
<td><strong>15757</strong></td>
<td><strong>19531</strong></td>
<td><strong>-3774</strong> -19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salford</td>
<td>16603</td>
<td>18202</td>
<td>-1599 -8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockport</td>
<td>16484</td>
<td>18394</td>
<td>-1910 -10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tameside</td>
<td>18230</td>
<td>18876</td>
<td>-646 -3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafford</td>
<td>11632</td>
<td>13201</td>
<td>-1569 -11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wigan</td>
<td>21338</td>
<td>24424</td>
<td>-3086 -12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Greater Manchester</strong></td>
<td><strong>193210</strong></td>
<td><strong>217563</strong></td>
<td><strong>-24353</strong> -11.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Criminal Damage and Arson are also on a downward trend, although, as can be seen in Figure 2, Rochdale Borough is above average for the levels of Criminal Damage and Arson per 1000 population in Quarter 3 2009/10 for similar authorities\(^\text{11}\).

Figure 3 shows the levels of each component of Criminal Damage for 2008/9 and 2009/10. As can be seen there have been significant reductions (24%) which must be built on. The major issues with criminal damage in the Borough are damage to property and vehicles\(^\text{12}\).

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\(^{11}\) iQuanta Policing Performance Analysis

\(^{12}\) North West Regional Crime Tracker
Looking Forward

Although significant progress is being made, anti-social behaviour remains a high priority for local communities across the Rochdale Borough.

- Even with the considerable reduction of ASB this year the number of incidents still stands at 15757 which displays the work still needed to be done to tackle the problem.

- High perceptions of ASB, although on a downward trend, were still around 13% at the end of Quarter 4 2009/10\textsuperscript{13}.

- When asked in the GMP neighbourhood survey the three priorities that the police should focus on, 56% of the responses were related to anti-social behaviour.\textsuperscript{14}

Clearly, despite the recent improvements there is still much more for all partners to do in tackling anti-social behaviour and enabling everyone in the Borough of Rochdale to feel safer.

Future comparisons of perception data will be difficult. The GMP Performance Bulletin is the best source for perception data but the way data is obtained has been changed as of Quarter 3 2009/10. The method has changed from postal surveys to face-to-face which will naturally have an effect on people’s responses to the questions. This accounts for the relatively low perception level of 13%. It will take several quarters for a reliable baseline to be established therefore enabling robust conclusions to be drawn from the perception data.

The respondents from the GMP Neighbourhood Survey Quarter 3 2009/10 cited the following ASB issues as priorities\textsuperscript{15}:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Description</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youths causing annoyance</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Damage</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noisy Neighbours or loud parties</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underage drinking</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbour disputes</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Road Bikes</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A significant proportion of the ASB related incidents reported to the Police and Council are those listed below. They account for 87.5% of all reported ASB incidents\textsuperscript{16}.

\textsuperscript{13} GMP Performance Bulletin Q4 2009/10
\textsuperscript{14} GMP Performance Bulletin Q3 2009/10
\textsuperscript{15} Extracted from GMP Strategic Threat Assessment 2010
\textsuperscript{16}
As can be seen in Figure 5, by far the most common aspect of ASB in the Rochdale Borough is ‘Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour’, accounting for 59% of all reports of ASB. This correlates with ‘youths causing annoyance’ being top of resident’s concerns in the perception survey (Figure 4). These incidents will form the priorities from which to direct the strategy and the actions resulting from it.

Historically, Rochdale Borough’s largest concentration of ASB is found within the Town Centre and is linked to the night-time economy. Over the last two years ‘Kirkholt’ and ‘Moorclose and Mills Hill’ police sub beats have had the highest levels of ASB, although they are on a downward trend. The partnership has in place an annual Strategic Threat Assessment which identifies emerging hotspots and priority areas in relation to all areas of crime and disorder, including ASB. There are numerous examples of targeted, multi-agency, flexible action in priority neighbourhoods such as Weeks of Action and Beat Sweeps. The ongoing analysis of this information allows the partnership to respond to any changes in these trends.

This strategy aims to improve satisfaction that the Council and Police are dealing with ASB & crime issues that matter to people in their local area. We are performing well against the target set with 60.5% people agreeing with the statement, however, this can be improved on with the right measures being put into place. This is especially important as the previously mentioned change in methodology to gather perception data may have influenced the 60.5% figure.

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**Figure 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Description</th>
<th>Count 0809</th>
<th>% of all reported ASB cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour</td>
<td>11,543</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance or inappropriate use (vehicles)</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbours Dispute</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandoned Vehicle</td>
<td>1185</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatening/Abusive/Annoying Phone Call / Text Msg</td>
<td>1048</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15 GMP Strategic Threat Assessment 2010
17 GMP Strategic Threat Assessment 2010
**Strategic Themes**

The Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership approach to tackling incidents and perceptions of anti-social behaviour will consist of seven strategic themes. Each theme will individually contribute to the objectives identified earlier as well as the wider mission statement:

‘To prevent and tackle locally identified priorities for anti-social behaviour in the Borough of Rochdale by using a variety of methods that will improve the quality of life for residents in communities across the Borough.’

The seven strategic themes are:

1. Prevention
2. Intervention
3. Non-negotiable Support
4. Enforcement
5. Victim Support
6. Information Sharing
7. Public Reassurance / Community Empowerment

It is intended that any future ASB Action Plan will identify which theme(s) each action comes under as part of the ASB Strategy.

**1. Prevention**

The emphasis of this theme is to stop ASB from occurring in the first place. There is a focus on the younger generation in the following actions as we intend to deter and educate young people from partaking in ASB as well as supporting parents to give their children the best chances in life. To do this we will:

- Provide a programme of activity sessions and interactive workshops in primary and secondary schools in the Borough. These will be carried out by a range of partners across a broad range of topics, including noise awareness, alcohol and drug misuse, car crime and the consequences of fire starting. This includes general and targeted sessions about the consequences of ASB and the effects upon the community.

- Increase the number of young people participating in positive activities through the production of a catalogue of activities across the borough.
1. Prevention

- Roll out the awareness raising ‘Prison Me, No Way’ to a further selection of secondary schools in the Borough.

- Maintain the range of Friday night and weekend diversionary activities with at least 20 sessions offered across the borough each week.
- Maintain regular deployments of the street based team and mobile youth facilities in youth nuisance hotspot areas.

- Increase the opportunities to communicate positive images of young people and foster positive relations and perceptions between generations.

- Minimise the sale of alcohol to underage people. This will be done by maintaining and developing the ‘Responsible Retailer Scheme’ as well as continuing to roll out the ‘Validate’ proof of age cards throughout secondary schools.

- Increase the number of businesses signing up to the Tidy Business Standards Charter to maintain the quality of the environment.

- Raise awareness of universal parenting support through the use of the Rochdale Parenting Handbook.

2. Intervention

Intervention measures are put in place for when preventative action has failed and someone has got involved in committing anti-social behaviour. Whether an offender and their family get involved with these interventions is entirely voluntary. The purpose of these interventions is to identify perpetrators of ASB as early as possible with a view to providing support and rehabilitation to divert such individuals from further acts of ASB. To do this we will:

- Encourage mediation between those households making low level noise complaints.

- Provide support for families at risk of eviction for low level breaches of tenancy from the Shelter Inclusion Programme.

- Continue to provide sessions to young people engaged with the Youth Offending Team (YOT) regarding the consequences of ASB and the effects on the community.

- Continue to utilise Targeted Youth Support which delivers co-ordinated packages of early intervention support to vulnerable young people, many of whom are at risk of becoming involved in ASB.

- Support the Safer Schools Partnership and the school-based Police Officer Team in delivering their early interventions to tackle ASB.
- Increase the opportunities to communicate positive images of young people and foster positive relations and perceptions between generations. This will be done by providing tenants groups with community cohesion grants to encourage intergenerational activities in ASB hotspot areas.

- Continue to offer a wide range of parenting courses across the Borough.

- Increase provision of intensive one-to-one support for identified families.

- Increase the number of referrals of private rented tenants to Shelter support services.

- Carry out additional maintenance work in the areas with unacceptable levels of litter and detritus.

3. Non-negotiable support

Non-negotiable support is an intervention that is mandatory i.e. the offender and their family cannot opt out without risk of enforcement. The purpose of these interventions is to identify perpetrators of ASB as early as possible with a view to providing support and rehabilitation to divert such individuals from further acts of ASB. To do this we will:

- Promote parenting courses and provide parenting information to every parent attending an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) or Multi-Agency Warning Interview.

- Undertake ABCs with private tenants causing trouble and liaise with the private rented sector regarding outcomes.

- Provide intensive support to families with high support needs at risk of significant ASB sanctions, i.e. being at the point of eviction.

- Develop the Family Intervention Project Model in the Borough to expand upon the current ASB Family Intervention Project.

4. Enforcement

Enforcement is used to protect the community, victims and witnesses as well as punishing offenders for their actions and deterring other individuals from committing ASB. These actions are used when early intervention techniques have failed to have the desired effect. To do this we will:

- Continue to operate the stop and account scheme to inform parents at the earliest opportunity of any young person involved in either ASB or alcohol-related ASB.

- Continue to utilise all tools available to combat ASB in partnership with Legal Services and Enforcement Team.
- Use powers detailed in the Housing Act 2004 to apply for management orders for offender’s properties where appropriate.

- Implement the use of family intervention tenancies. These set out guidelines that a family must follow if they wish to remain in a certain residence.

- Continue the utilisation of the banning orders through the Acceptable Behaviour Scheme.

- Continue to carry out test purchasing activity to assess compliance against Challenge 21. Licensing review activity will result for any traders not complying.

- Increase the usage of Fixed Penalty Notice's for environmental offences by Council officers, Police and Community Safety Officers and Police Constables.

5. Victim Support

This theme is focused on providing direct support to the victims of anti-social behaviour. To do this we will:

- Improve the treatment of victims and witnesses of ASB by implementing an ASB Risk Assessment Matrix which agencies will complete to assess each individual case of ASB.

- Use the recently recruited ASB Victim’s Champion to build confidence and trust to encourage witnesses to fully engage in the resolution process.

- Continue to provide training to all front line staff in understanding their wider role in contributing to reducing crime and disorder.

- Publicise the minimum standards people can expect if they become a victim of ASB.

- Provide residents with a right of complaint if they feel they have been failed by the partnership in dealing with a problem by promoting the Council’s and Greater Manchester Police’s complaints system.

- Ensure all housing providers are signed up to ASB minimum standards thus providing an equal service to all victims of ASB regardless of tenure.

6. Information Sharing

Effective information sharing between partner agencies enables the partnership to deliver the most effective action against anti-social behaviour. This theme seeks to improve the
Information sharing between agencies to enhance the measures taken against ASB. To do this we will:

- Implement the partnership’s information exchange protocol.

- Develop formal arrangements between the Environmental Protection Team and ASB Team to forward information when the issue at a property is more than just noise.

- Encourage housing associations to feedback intelligence regarding off-licences selling alcohol to underage people.

- Share graffiti tag data with the police to enable perpetrators to be brought to justice and improve the environmental quality.

- Continue to improve the information exchange links between the Fire Service and the Environmental Management Service to identify and prioritise potential fire hazards.

- Improve the communication between the Local Authority and the Crown Prosecution Service to create a more effective approach to dealing with ASBO breaches.

- Improve the communication between the Local Authority and housing providers regarding enforcement action taken against their tenants.

7. Public Reassurance / Community Empowerment

This theme is intended to address the perceptions of the whole of the community relating to anti-social behaviour, not just the direct victims. By building confidence within the community, witnesses will be more likely to fully engage in the resolution process therefore increasing the probability that perpetrators will be brought to justice. To do this we will:

- Increase the opportunities to communicate positive images of young people to help foster positive relations between generations. Rochdale Boroughwide Housing’s (RBH) newsletters along with youth pages in all local papers will be utilised to achieve this.

- Raise awareness of partnership successes in tackling ASB. This will be done by ensuring that all ASB success stories are fully publicised in the local media as well as implementing a ‘You said, We did’ campaign across the partnership.

- Ensure that people know how and where to report anti-social behaviour.

- Inform residents of the tools and powers used to tackle ASB including ASBOs, Parenting Support orders and Fixed Penalty Notices for environmental offences.

- Carry out perception surveys in priority neighbourhoods as part of the Police’s Beat Sweep / Week of Action campaigns to assess their effectiveness.
- Continue to provide township-specific updates of ASB through Communities Matter within the Council’s quarterly magazine Local Matters.

- Publish all outcomes from off licence test purchases.

- Publish all outcomes on a regular basis regarding environmental enforcement action taken.

- Publish convictions as appropriate.

- Publish ASBOs as appropriate.
Implementing the ASB Strategy

The seven strategic themes set out a well-rounded approach to tackling anti-social behaviour. The actions set out within each theme will be delivered through an annual action plan. This plan will be reviewed quarterly by the ‘Preventing and Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Priority Group’ and monitored by the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership board. As this strategy is a living document it is intended that these actions will be updated over time as priorities change.

The Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership has overall responsibility for the strategy and will be provided with regular updates to enable it to assess the adherence to the strategic aims and mission statement.

The effectiveness of the strategy will be measured against the aims and milestones detailed in the action plan. As well as this, the GMP Quarterly Neighbourhood survey and the annual Strategic Threat Assessment will enable the effect that the strategy has had on the key objectives to be monitored.

It is essential that this strategy, and the progress of its delivery, is shared with the residents in the borough through all appropriate means and forums.

This delivery plan for the strategy should enable the most effective actions to be taken to tackle and prevent ASB.

Contact Information

If you experience anti-social behaviour please contact:

- In an emergency call the police on 999.
- Other police enquiries contact Greater Manchester Police on 0161 872 5050.
- Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council 0845 121 2978 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-1pm)
- Rochdale Boroughwide Housing 0845 123 5628
Further Reading

**Policy, Strategy and Guidance**

ACPO (2008) Strategy for Children and Young People – It’s never too early…it’s never too late

Cabinet Office (2008) Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime – A review by Louise Casey


Justice Seen, Justice Done,
http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/communitycrimefighters/ccf007.htm

Rochdale Local Strategic Partnership (2008) Pride of Place – the Community Strategy
