

# TONBRIDGE AND MALLING CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

## ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

### **Introduction**

The purpose of establishing an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) policy is to clearly identify, for the benefit of all Partners and other stakeholders, including the public, what the CDRP defines as ASB, the priorities it has identified to be tackled in the Borough, the methods, powers and measures that will be used to tackle the problems and the agencies who will be involved and their role within the process.

The Policy will form an Appendix to the CDRP's Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-2008.

### **Definition of ASB**

The overall definition which the CDRP will apply in addressing ASB is the definition contained in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 –

*‘Acting in a manner that caused or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household.’*

The CDRP acknowledges that other definitions have appeared in other documents and publications, which endeavour to provide greater detailed definitions of types of behaviour to be regarded as ASB. It notes the typology of ASB contained in the Home Office Development and Practice Report – “Defining and Measuring ASB” as a practical framework and guide to the main categories of ASB, but equally notes the advice that each CDRP should identify those categories which are

having a detrimental impact on the local population and therefore require tackling.  
A list of those categories is appended to this Policy at Appendix 1.

### **Agencies Involved in Tackling ASB and their Roles**

It is important to identify all the agencies involved in tackling ASB in the Borough. A list appears in Appendix 2 to this Policy.

### **Powers and Measures**

The principal legal powers available to the CDRP in tackling ASB are contained within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003. There is however numerous powers available to agencies within the CDRP to tackle many of the causes of ASB, which the relevant agencies will apply where appropriate in individual cases.

The principal measures which the CDRP will apply when and where it considers appropriate are –

Warning letters

Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABAs)

Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)

### **Methods of Tackling ASB**

The CDRP will agree and adopt Operating Procedures for tackling ASB. Such procedures will clearly identify in detail the procedures to be adopted by all agencies involved in the process of tackling cases of ASB. These procedures will be contained in a separate document to form an appendix to this Policy and will be

reviewed periodically by the CDRP in the light of operational experience and changes occurring.

The CDRP will tackle ASB and its root causes through the delivery of a range of initiatives and interventions which will include the following –

- Prevention – the provision of diversionary activities, education and behavioural guidance for young people and parents
- Interventions – such as multi-agency case conferencing, mediation services, family group conferencing, community consultation and involvement, ABAs, Parenting Contracts
- Enforcement – such as injunctions, possession proceedings, ASBOs

Details of initiatives and interventions will be included in the CDRP's annual Action Plans.

### **Protocol of Data Sharing and Information Exchange**

All agencies that participate in data sharing and exchange will have agreed and be signatories to the CDRP's adopted 'Protocol of Data Sharing and Information Exchange' in respect of personal information. In sharing and storing information they will also satisfy the requirements of all appropriate legislation, relating to Human Rights, Freedom of Information and Data Protection.

### **Confidentiality**

Where complaints are received relating to the behaviour of individuals or groups, the CDRP will operate within strict guidelines of confidentiality. We recognise that by disclosing the identity of complainants, even unintentionally, creates

difficulties and in serious cases even expose them to danger. Staff therefore adopt measures that, as far as possible, protect the anonymity of complainants. Where the legal process requires the identification of complainants, the prior consent of the complainant will be sought.

### **Witness Support**

Sometimes people are not prepared to act as witnesses to anti-social behaviour because they are concerned about possible reprisals. On some occasions therefore the services of professional third party witnesses may be engaged. The CDRP values the importance of witnesses in tackling anti-social behaviour and it will support them and keep them informed of progress in cases with which they are involved as far as possible. Where appropriate legal and court processes will be explained and reassurance provided to witnesses.

### **Central Database of ASB incidents**

The CDRP will establish and maintain a central database of ASB incidents to be accessed only by specifically authorised officers employed by the CDRP or its partner agencies. The database will be used to prepare documentation in order to process cases of ASB, to monitor individual cases or patterns and trends by location and/or category.

### **Methods of Data Collection**

There exist many sources and methods of data collection in relation to ASB particularly bearing in mind its diversity, complexity and inter-relationship with other criminal and social activities.

The CDRP will therefore collect data from a variety of sources, including the following –

- Police crime reports (STORM reports)
- Reports to the Borough Council's Crime Reduction Unit
- The Borough Council's Streetline reporting service
- Databases held by individual agencies
- IQuanta/CADDIE databases
- Survey material
- Information from direct investigations
- Children's Consortia

### **Resourcing the Tackling of ASB**

The CDRP will consider the most effective, efficient and economic methods of resourcing the tackling of ASB in the Borough. This will include the staffing, equipping and funding of its efforts to successfully tackle ASB in the Borough to the benefit of residents, workers and visitors.

### **Training**

The CDRP recognises the importance of regular and specialist training for staff involved in countering anti-social behaviour and will commit the appropriate resources to ensure staff knowledge and skills remain up to date and adequate for the task.

### **Identified Prolific & Priority Offenders (IPPO)**

A close relationship will be developed and maintained between cases dealt with by the CDRP in relation to ASB and its IPPO Scheme as some individuals may be included within that Scheme from time to time.

### **Complaints**

Any complaints received relating to the content or application of this Policy or the adopted ASB operational procedures will be referred to the Chairman of the CDRP for investigation and response.

### **Monitoring**

The CDRP will regularly monitor the implementation, operation and effectiveness of this Policy and operational procedures and conduct an annual review, which may result in amendments being made.

## Definitions of Anti-Social Behaviour in Tonbridge & Malling

### **Misuse of public space**

- Taking drugs
- Discarding needles/drug paraphernalia
- Street drinking
- Abandoning cars
- Vehicle related nuisance & inappropriate vehicle use
- Inconvenient/illegal parking
- Car repairs on the street/in gardens
- Setting vehicles alight
- Joyriding
- Off road motorcycling

### **Disregard for community/personal well being**

- Noise
- Noisy neighbours
- Noisy cars/motorbikes
- Loud music
- Alarms (persistent ringing/malfunction)
- Noise from pubs/clubs
- Noise from business/industry
- Persistent rowdy behaviour
- Persistent shouting and swearing
- Fighting
- Drunken behaviour
- Hooliganism/loutish behaviour
- Nuisance behaviour –
  - urinating in public
  - Setting fires
  - Inappropriate use of fireworks
  - Throwing missiles
  - Climbing on buildings
  - Impeding access to communal areas
  - Games in restricted/inappropriate areas
  - Misuse of air guns
  - Letting down tyres
- Hoax calls
- Deliberate fires
- Persistent animal related problems
- Uncontrolled animals

## Acts directed at people

- Persistent intimidation/harassment - Groups or individuals making threats  
Verbal abuse  
Bullying  
Following people  
Pestering people  
Voyeurism

(Can be on the grounds of: Race, Sexual orientation, Gender, Religion, Disability, Age)

## Environmental damage

- Criminal damage/vandalism - Graffiti  
Damage to bus shelters  
Damage to phone kiosks  
Damage to street furniture  
Damage to buildings  
Damage to trees/plants/hedges
- Litter/rubbish
- Fly-tipping
- Fly posting

**AGENCIES INVOLVED IN TACKLING ASB IN TONBRIDGE AND MALLING**

Kent Police –

Maidstone & Malling BCU  
West Kent BCU

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council –

Crime Reduction Unit  
Health & Housing Services  
Leisure Services  
Planning & Engineering Services

Kent County Council –

Social Services  
Youth Offending Service  
Youth & Community  
Trading Standards  
Education

Social Housing Providers –

Tonbridge and Malling Housing Association  
Moat Housing Group  
Sanctuary Housing Association  
Hyde Housing Association  
Housing 21  
English Churches Housing Group  
London & Quadrant Housing Trust

Kent Fire & Rescue Service

Probation Service

Primary Health Care Trusts –

Maidstone Weald  
South West Kent

Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team

Neighbourhood Watch

Parish/Town Councils

Courts

Crown Prosecution Service

Voluntary Sector –

Neighbourhood Watch