

REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY

4th PROGRESS REPORT – JUNE 2008

Welcome to the 4th progress report of the review of the national antisocial behaviour strategy. The review is progressing well and is now into its final six months. The Review Project Team is working towards the good practice day that will be held at COSLA Headquarters in Edinburgh on 28 July. We are expecting it to be an extremely valuable day with a wide range of people coming to present examples of good practice to the review sub-groups. Good practice presentation proposals have now been sifted and 12 sets of presenters for each sub-group have been invited to take part in the event. Those who will not be taking part on the day have been invited to submit written evidence to ensure their example of good practice is captured.

External Advisory Group

The External Expert Advisory Group met for the second time on 25 June at Victoria Quay in Edinburgh. The minutes of the meeting are available at www.antisocialbehaviourscotland.com/review. The four sub-groups reported the outcomes of their first meetings to the Advisory Group with the recommendations database being the main focus of discussion. The group considered the strategic and operational recommendations for the four key review themes and discussed how they could be consolidated, rationalised and re-drafted as appropriate. The group will meet for the final time on 17 September.

Sub-Groups

The **PIER Balance** sub-group, chaired by the newly appointed Chief Constable Norma Graham, met on 18 June. Strategic recommendations from the PIER Balance sub-group meeting are in the process of being redrafted and these will be circulated to members shortly.

All of the sub-groups have now met for the first time - bringing Advisory Group members, policy leads from across Government and a range of external stakeholders together. The next round of sub-group meetings will take place in August when members will have the opportunity to discuss the outcomes of the good practice workshop on 28 July as well as revised strategic and operational recommendations.

Workshops

As mentioned above, the good practice workshop will take place on Monday 28 July at COSLA Headquarters in Rosebery House, Edinburgh. The workshop event itself will cover four distinct themes – PIER (prevention, intervention, enforcement and rehabilitation) Balance; Integrated Services; Community Engagement and Media and Communications. Antisocial behaviour practitioners and other experts from across the UK have now been selected to present to the sub groups covering these themes and will participate as expert witnesses at the Committee-style event. An agenda for the day is available for members at www.antisocialbehaviourscotland.com/review/members.

Ministerial Meetings

The Minister for Community Safety, Fergus Ewing MSP, recently met with Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Kathleen Marshall, and the Chief Executive of the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, Jacqui Watt, to solicit their views on how we can tackle antisocial behaviour more effectively in the future.

Research and consultation

Focus groups with adult members of the public have been held in Highland, Midlothian, Glasgow, Clackmannanshire and Dundee. Thank you to the Expert Advisory Group members for their comments on the topic guide for these and the consultation with young people. Rather than conducting focus groups with young people, we agreed with Young Scot that they should undertake paired interviews in the same Local Authority areas. We agreed that young people would feel less inhibited discussing their experiences in an interview setting. These interviews have taken place in all areas except Dundee. The findings from this work will be presented at the workshop event on 28th.

Young Scot is also currently capturing views of a number of young people through video blogs. The video blogs will be screened at the good practice workshop on 28 July, presenting young people's perceptions and experiences of antisocial behaviour in their own words.

Principal researcher Liz Levy attended a workshop with the ACPOS joint co-ordinating group on 24 June to help pull out the recommendations from her interviews with the police on their use of the antisocial behaviour measures. These recommendations have been added to the Recommendations Database.

The interviews with Local Authority ASB co-ordinators are now complete and some key recommendations from this work were presented to the Expert Advisory Group on 25 June.

Key findings from published research on ASB have been added to the recommendations database.

Further work still needs to be done on the ASBO breach rate study to pull the findings from this work together with the comments about ASBOs that ASB co-ordinators made at interview. The final report of the evaluation of intensive family support projects is due in the autumn but the review will be given a preview of the findings at the workshop event on 28 July.

Timeline

June-August – Ministerial Summer Tours

Mid-Summer – 2nd wave of research findings

28 July – Advisory Group sub-group good practice event

12 August – final PIER Balance sub-group meeting

18 August – final Integrated Services sub-group meeting

22 August – final Media and Communications sub-group meeting

Mid-August – final Community Engagement sub-group meeting

17 September – final Advisory Group meeting

End-September/early October – Clearance process for draft review output begins

Autumn – final wave of research findings

By end 2008 – review output laid in Parliament

Contact Details

If you have any queries about the review, please telephone the Community Safety Unit on 0131 244 4946 or email christine.finnigan@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Scottish Government
Community Safety Unit
ASB Review Project Team
July 2008