

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY

Introduction

The Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 (the Act) received Royal Assent on 26 July 2004. It provided a new range of legal tools to enable local authorities and other agencies to tackle antisocial behaviour more effectively. The Act was part of a wider national strategy which aimed to bring about a step change in people's attitudes and behaviour. It was based on four themes: protecting and empowering communities; preventing antisocial behaviour by working with children and families; building safe, secure and attractive communities; and effective enforcement.

Some three years after key pieces of the Act came into force, the Scottish Government is committed to reviewing the antisocial behaviour strategy. There are no plans to repeal the Act but the Government's aim is to consider what is working well, and what could work better. Its priority is to reduce the antisocial behaviour which blights communities, and to increase the capacity of communities and local agencies to respond effectively.

Terms of Reference for the Review

Aim:

To review the operation of the national antisocial behaviour strategy, including key elements of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, to identify where it could be improved, and to enable stronger community involvement.

Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of the use and effectiveness of key measures in the 2004 Act;
- Consider the range of responses to tackling antisocial behaviour deployed by local agencies, including the use of community wardens;
- Consider whether the current balance between prevention and enforcement is appropriate;
- Determine ways in which communities could become more usefully involved in the process of tackling antisocial behaviour within their own communities;.
- Consider future needs for community safety communications designed to raise public awareness of national policy and local service delivery;
- Inform the development of performance frameworks for Community Safety Partnerships;
- Consult with and involve key stakeholders in determining future priorities; and
- Develop proposals for the improved operation of the ASB strategy.

Process and output

The review will be led by the Scottish Government's Community Safety Unit, reporting to the Minister for Community Safety. It will utilise existing evidence and commission ad hoc research as necessary, to inform the development of a strengthened national approach.

There will be consultation with a range of key stakeholders, including elected members, national bodies, practitioners, community groups, young people's organisations and the public.

The review's recommendations for how to improve the national strategy will be reported to the Scottish Parliament by the end of 2008 alongside a route-map setting out how we plan to deliver any changes.

The Terms of Reference for the review have been agreed in consultation with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS), the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE), the Chief Fire Officers' Association (Scotland) (CFOA(S)), and the Scottish Children's Reporters' Administration (SCRA).

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