

REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY

3rd PROGRESS REPORT – MAY 2008

Welcome to the 3rd progress report of the review of the national antisocial behaviour strategy. The review continues to progress well with three of the four sub-groups holding their first meetings and the fourth sub-group meeting scheduled for mid June.

In addition to this, the Advisory Group Members' area is now up and running and accessible at www.antisocialbehavioursotland.com/review/members. Members are invited to log on and familiarise themselves with the area, post messages, leave comments and download/upload documents that are relevant to the review. The minutes from sub-group meetings, the review recommendations database and other review documents can all be accessed here. We encourage any feedback you may have and look forward to seeing you interacting via the members' area.

External Advisory Group

Throughout May and early June, members of the Expert Advisory Group have had the opportunity to participate in the review through the sub-group meetings focusing on the following four key themes: the balance between prevention, intervention, enforcement and rehabilitation; community engagement; integrated service provision and media and communications. The External Advisory Group will hold their second meeting on the 25 June at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh - providing an opportunity for the sub-groups to report back on their findings and for the main group to agree strategic recommendations and a long-list of operational recommendations.

Sub-Groups

The following sub-groups met for the first time in May, bringing Advisory Group members, policy leads from across Government and a range of external stakeholders together:

- **Integrated Services**, chaired by David Hume;
- **Media and Communications**, chaired by Jim Sweeney;
- **Community Engagement**, chaired by Councillor Harry McGuigan.

The **PIER Balance** sub-group will meet on the 18 June and will be chaired by Acting Chief Constable, Norma Graham.

At these meetings, both the Integrated Services and the Media and Communications sub-groups agreed on a number of strategic recommendations - accessible via the recommendations database available on the password protected Advisory Group members' area at www.antisocialbehavioursotland.com/review/members. Strategic recommendations from the Community Engagement sub-group meeting are in the process of being drafted and these will be circulated to members shortly.

Workshops

The good practice workshop is set to take place on Monday 28 July at COSLA's offices in Rosebery House, Edinburgh. Antisocial behaviour practitioners and other experts from across the UK have been invited to participate as expert witnesses at a Committee-style event. Presentation proposals are currently being submitted to the Review Project Team and will be sifted and chosen in consultation with the sub-group chairs in early June. An agenda for the day is available at www.antisocialbehavioursotland.com/review/members.

Consultation Events

Throughout April and May, we have been out and about consulting with practitioners through their national officer associations. The Antisocial Behaviour Lawyers Forum (ASBLF) held their consultation event on 28 April and the Antisocial Behaviour Officers Forum (ASBOF) on 30 April. In addition to this, the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) discussed the review at their AGM on 7 May. ASBOF, ASBLF and SCSN are set to report back to the Review Project Team with the findings from these events by early June. All recommendations will be added to the recommendations database for further consideration.

The Minister for Community Safety, Fergus Ewing, has recently written to both 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 by focusing more on prevention and early intervention. The Minister also intends to speak at a future COSLA Leaders' meeting.

A number of focus groups and public forums are set to be held across Scotland, including one specifically for young people. In addition to this, we have commissioned Young Scot to capture views of a wider range of young people through video blogs. The overall aim of the video blogging work is to interact with young people on their own terms, in an innovative way; to hear about their perceptions and experiences of antisocial behaviour in their own words.

Visits

On the 28 April, the Minister for Community Safety visited South Ayrshire to look at good practice examples of partnership working and how local agencies are tackling antisocial behaviour in their area. He was very impressed with their approach and South Ayrshire has been invited to submit a presentation proposal for the good practice event on 28 July. In addition to this, the Minister for Children and Early Years, Adam Ingram MSP, visited the Dundee Families Project to find out first hand about NCH Scotland's successful model for intensive family support.

We are currently in the process of developing a programme for the upcoming Ministerial summer tours.

Research Update

The contract for the focus groups with adult members of the public, on their views and experiences of ASB, has been let to Hayton Consulting working in partnership with Research Resource. Draft topic guides for focus groups with adults and young people have been sent to all sub-group members and will be posted on the website. We would be very grateful for suggested questions but are aware that the list of questions is already very long. Even if you can't suggest additional questions it would be helpful if you could flag up any questions which you are particularly keen to have answered. This will help us to rationalise the topic guides.

Liz Levy presented findings from her interviews with the police to the ACPOS joint co-ordinating group on Friday 2nd May. On the back of this, she has been invited to discuss some of the findings with ACPOS in more detail at a workshop planned for 24th June.

Timeline

Early-Mid May – 1st Advisory Group sub-group meetings
Late-Spring – Focus group exercise
Late-Spring – 1st wave of research findings
25 June – 2nd Advisory Group meeting
June-August – Ministerial Summer Tours
Mid-Summer – 2nd wave of research findings
End July – Advisory Group sub-group workshop event
Mid-August – Final set of Advisory Group sub-group meetings
17 September – Final Advisory Group meeting
End-September – Draft review output submitted to Cabinet
Autumn – Final wave of research findings
December – 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
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