

THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPECT PROGRAMME

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Summary

This report explains the work underway in Shropshire to implement the Government's Respect Programme, and seeks endorsement of the Shropshire Implementation document as the basis for future work in the County to tackle Anti-social Behaviour.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- A. Notes the ongoing work between the Safer Communities Team, Children and Young People's Services and partner agencies, to enhance joint working on the implementation of the Respect programme in Shropshire.
- B. Endorses the Shropshire Respect Implementation document.
- C. Notes that this will be a key area for consideration in future performance assessments.
- D. Refers the Respect Implementation document to full Council for further endorsement.

REPORT

Background

1. The Government's Respect programme has developed from a growing focus on anti-social behaviour, powers for which were first introduced in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequently strengthened and expanded through the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

2. Anti-social behaviour covers a number of categories from disorder to low level crime. The Home Office classification is as follows:
 - a. Misuse of public space, including drug/substance misuse and dealing; street drinking; begging; prostitution; kerb crawling; sexual acts; abandoned cars; and vehicle related nuisance and inappropriate vehicle use.
 - b. Disregard for community/personal well-being, including noise; rowdy behaviour; nuisance behaviour; hoax calls; and animal-related problems.
 - c. Acts directed at people, including intimidation/harassment.
 - d. Environmental damage, including criminal damage/vandalism; and litter/rubbish.
3. Anti-social behaviour is a very subjective issue, and individual experience and perception will vary dependent on a wide range of other environmental and personal factors. What one person considers anti-social behaviour may not be considered as anti-social behaviour by another. There is also an issue of tolerance, with some individuals prepared to tolerate more than others.
4. The Respect programme seeks to introduce a broad, cross-cutting approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour, focusing particularly on addressing its causes.

Key Elements of the Programme

5. The Respect programme highlights four key underlying factors linked to anti-social behaviour:
 - a. Parenting – including poor family relationships, poor parenting skills and parental involvement in anti-social behaviour
 - b. School – including exclusions and truancy and unchallenged poor behaviour
 - c. Community factors – including deprivation and high crime, disorder and neglect
 - d. Individual factors – including alcohol and substance misuse
6. The Government's Respect Task Force became the Youth Taskforce in October 2007 in light of the increased focus on parenting and family support to tackle the underlying causes of anti-social behaviour. The Youth Task Force is based in the Department for Children, Schools and Families to focus on delivering positive outcomes for young people – including steps to prevent them getting into trouble and encouraging them to have respect for their community. The policy lead however is still the Home Office.
7. The Youth Task Force will be publishing their own action plan, but no date has currently been given for this. The tools and powers introduced to tackle anti-social behaviour under Respect should still be used and the good work underpinned by the Respect programme should continue in local areas, and the changes introduced do not alter the recommended approaches to tackling anti-social behaviour

8. **The Respect Handbook: A Guide for Local Services** was published in January 2007. It outlines the key principles which underpin the Respect programme:
- a. Tackling anti-social behaviour
 - b. Services that face the people
 - c. Communicating with the public
 - d. Managing all types of housing stock
 - e. Support for parents
 - f. Dealing with the most challenging families
 - g. Engaging schools
 - h. Constructive activities for children and young people
 - i. Performance frameworks

A Copy of the Handbook, along with the Respect Action Plan, is available in the member's library. They are also available at www.respect.gov.uk

Progress to date in Shropshire

9. Shropshire County Council is leading work to develop a co-ordinated approach, which encompasses the work of all partner agencies in implementing the Respect programme. A copy of the draft implementation document is attached at Appendix A. Key areas covered by the document reflect those of the Respect Handbook and detail what is being undertaken in Shropshire to achieve them.
10. The Shropshire Together Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group was established in July 2005 with the aim of introducing a countywide, co-ordinated approach to anti-social behaviour, establish and share best practice and identify area and agency roles in tackling anti-social behaviour.
11. The Shropshire Together Group is leading the implementation of the Respect programme through the Shropshire Together Action Plan, which is attached at Annex C to the implementation document.
12. The group currently consists of representatives from West Mercia Constabulary, Youth Offending Service, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, Shropshire County Council Safer Communities Team, Drug and Alcohol Action Team, West Mercia Probation, Shropshire Children's Trust, Taking Part, Consortium of Shropshire Tenants, Shropshire Youth Inclusion Support Project and the District and Borough Councils. This group provides the strategic lead for tackling anti-social behaviour in Shropshire, ensuring consistent implementation of the Respect programme in the county.
13. An Anti-Social Behaviour Programme Delivery Officer was appointed to the Council's Safer Communities Team in January 2007 as part of Shropshire's Local Area Agreement (LAA). This appointment has given much greater focus and impetus to the Council's approach to tackling anti-social behaviour. Considerable progress has been made working with partner agencies to establish best practice and a joined-up response.

Performance

14. Shropshire's LAA has two outcomes and six indicators which relate to anti-social behaviour, including the Respect mandatory indicator. Performance for the current year is detailed in the table below:

LAA	Indicator	Target 07/08	Actual 07/08 (Qtr 2)	On target?
LAA 12 To improve the quality of life of the people of Shropshire by reducing the fear of crime and reassuring the public.	(i) The proportion of adults who feel safe in their home area after dark. (Bigger is better)	62%	80%	✓
	(ii) Reducing the level of criminal damage. (Smaller is better)	2136	2095	✓
LAA 13 To build respect in communities by reducing the level of anti-social behaviour.	(i) A percentage reduction in people's perception of Anti-Social Behaviour. (Smaller is better)	57%	49%	✓
	(iii) Percentage of people who feel informed about what is being done to tackle ASB in their local area (User Satisfaction Survey) (Bigger is better)	20%	26%	✓
	(iv) Percentage of people who feel that parents in their local area are made to take responsibility for the behaviour of their children. (User Satisfaction Survey – identifying the percentage who feel that the negative of this is a problem) (Smaller is better)	53%	44%	✓
	(v) Percentage of people who feel that people in their area treat them with respect and consideration. (User Satisfaction Survey – identifying the percentage who feel that the negative of this is a problem) (Smaller is better)	41%	37%	✓
	(ii) Reducing the level of criminal damage. (Smaller is better)	2136	2095	✓

15. Targets are therefore currently being exceeded for all indicators.

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and Key Lines Of Enquiry (KLOE)

16. The key question asked within the CPA assessment relating to community safety is "What has the council, with its partners, achieved in its ambitions for building safer and stronger communities?"

17. The inspection focus seeks evidence that the Council contributes to successful outcomes through effective partnership working to

- reduce and prevent crime and fear of crime
- reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- reduce the impact of drug and alcohol misuse on communities, individuals and their families
- reduce accidents and make people feel safer
- be well prepared for internal or external emergency situations
- build stronger communities

18. The criteria for judgement in respect of outcomes relating to anti-social behaviour are as follows:

- The Council has a clear vision for defining aspirations and objectives for preventing and tackling ASB, supports equality and diversity through addressing the vulnerability of minority groups. It has an effective communications strategy to inform residents of services dedicated to preventing and tackling ASB and case outcomes.
- The Council can show that it is proactively capturing and recording reports and evidence of ASB and using this on a day to day basis to prioritise the activities of frontline workers. Local people are asked regularly about ASB in their neighbourhood, their views are used to prioritise use of resources and they are given feedback about how problems are being addressed to meet customer and community needs.
- The Council can demonstrate that it supports victims and witnesses of ASB, helping them to report incidents early and give evidence in court. It evaluates outcomes. Performance data and feedback from local people show that ASB incidents and perceptions are reducing and that performance targets are being achieved.
- The Council and partners can show that they share information effectively and have agreed the local priorities. They have an integrated approach to prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation as part of a planned and strategic approach.
- The Council can demonstrate improvements in the quality of life of local residents as part of a corporate approach to safer, stronger communities.

19. Anti-social behaviour is an extremely complex area of work. Responses to ASB can therefore come from a wide range of agencies. To achieve reductions in actual and perceived levels of ASB, we are dependent on the co-operation and sustained focus on common objectives by a number of key partners, including the Police, Probation Service, Primary Care Trust, Youth Offending Service, Fire and Rescue Service, etc. Adoption and implementation of the Respect Strategy in Shropshire will provide clarity of focus in dealing with ASB, and make a significant contribution to achievement of these outcomes.

Conclusion

20. The Respect programme is of key importance to Central Government and to central government policy. Anti-social behaviour is also the most frequently expressed concern when consulting with local communities in Shropshire.
21. Good progress has been made in meeting the Respect indicators in Shropshire.
22. Endorsement and implementation of the draft Shropshire Respect Implementation document, attached at Appendix A, will help the Council deliver effective outcomes when tackling anti-social behaviour in the County.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Human Rights Act Appraisal This report is consistent with the Human Rights Act
Environmental Appraisal There are considerable environmental advantages in relation to tackling incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour which may impact on the environment.
Risk Management Appraisal Progress on the Shropshire Together Action Plan is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis by the Safer Communities Team, and the Shropshire Safer Stronger Communities Board
Community / Consultations Appraisal West Mercia Crime and Safety Survey PACT meetings Local Joint Committees
Cabinet Member Gerald Dakin and Ann Hartley
Local Member All
Appendices Appendix A – Draft Implementing the Respect Programme in Shropshire