

Meeting:	Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group
Date:	28 June 2012
Subject:	Putting Victims First – More Effective Responses to Anti Social Behaviour.
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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The attached White Paper “Putting Victims First – More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour” represents the response to the Home Office consultation launched in 2011. The document sets out proposals to change legislation and improve the range of tools that police and other agencies have to tackle anti-social behaviour.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Strategic Group is asked to read the attached White Paper and:
- Comment on the information contained within the White Paper and proposals for further action.
 - Agree that a review be undertaken by the Head of Community Safety to assess current delivery mechanisms for reducing the levels and impact of anti-social behaviour in the borough (to report to Strategic Group meeting on 13 December 2012).
 - Agree a formal sub-group of the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group to oversee the review.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

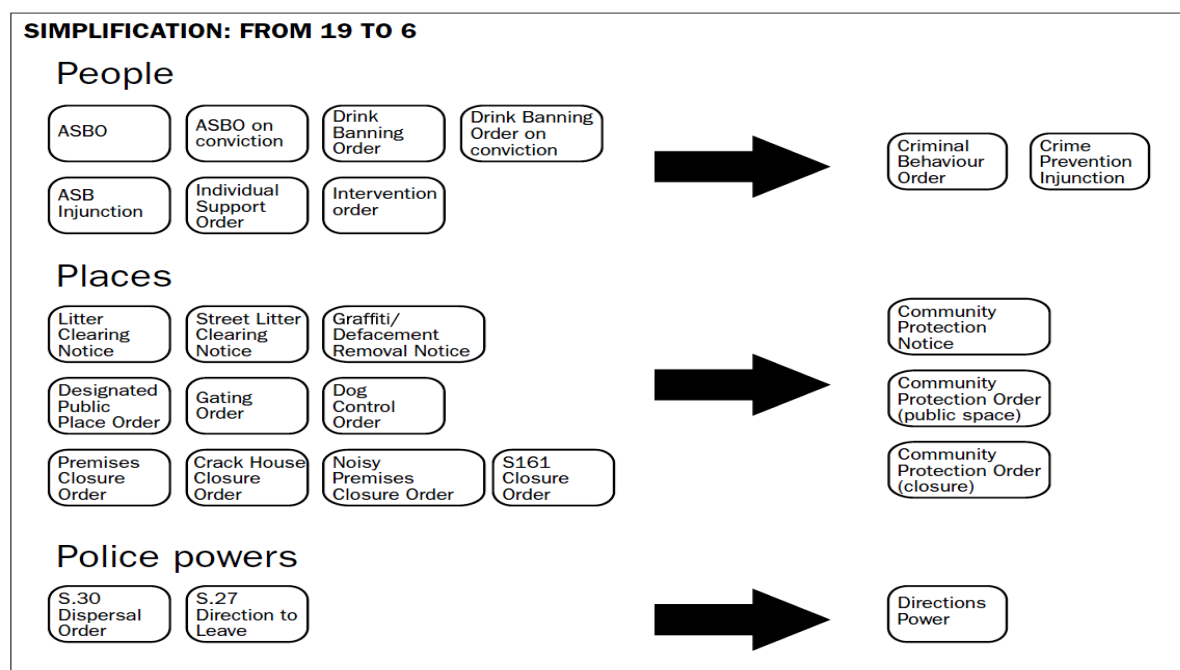
- 2.1 The attached document represents the Government’s proposals to improve responses to anti social behaviour. The introduction, from the Home Secretary, the Right Honourable Theresa May MP, states “*We know that the current powers do not work as well as they should. More than half of Anti Social Behaviour Orders are now breached at least once and those that get breached, are breached more than four times on average*”. The focus of the White Paper is on:
- improving the understanding of the needs of victims, including those at high risk;
 - giving frontline professionals more freedom to do what they know works;
 - empowering communities to get involved in tackling anti-social behaviour, including by giving victims and communities the power to ensure action is taken to deal with persistent antisocial behaviour through a new ‘community trigger’;
 - making it easier to demonstrate in court the harm victims are suffering;
 - providing professionals with faster formal powers, intended to be more effective; including a faster eviction process for the most antisocial tenants.

- tackling underlying issues that drive antisocial behaviour, such as drink and drugs, mental health issues, troubled family backgrounds and irresponsible dog ownership

2.2 The document asserts that “*We know what victims of anti-social behaviour want to happen. First and foremost they want the behaviour to stop, and the perpetrators to be punished for what they’ve done. They want the authorities to take their problem seriously, to understand the impact on their lives and to protect them from further harm. They want the issue dealt with swiftly and they want it to stop happening*”. The proposals within the White Paper are summarised below:

- Reducing the current six orders concerned with the behaviour of people, such as Anti Social Behaviour Orders to two: the Criminal Behaviour Order and a Crime Prevention Injunction. The proposed Crime Prevention Injunction would be similar to existing ASBOs but, it is stated, would be available earlier, and be easier to use. There would be a lower standard of proof than for current ASBOs in obtaining a Crime Prevention Injunction or Criminal Behaviour Order.
- The ten existing powers that deal with protecting places such as the Graffiti Defacement Removal Notice are replaced by two: the Community Protection Order and the Community Protection Notice.
- The two current Police powers to move people on will be replaced by one Directions Power. The Directions Power will not require the prior designation of a dispersal zone in order to move people on. The White Paper suggests that this will reduce bureaucracy for the Police and allow a quicker response.

2.3 These proposals are summarised in a chart format below (page 24 of the White Paper):



- 2.4 In an alternative way of looking at the key changes proposed, the six new powers contained within the White Paper are summarised below:
1. **The Crime Prevention Injunction** – this would be an injunction available to a wide range of agencies. Proposals are that such an injunction could be used quickly to protect victims by dealing with anti-social behaviour by private tenants and owner occupiers, as well as social tenants.
 2. **The Criminal Behaviour Order** – This order would be available on conviction for any criminal offence which will allow courts to attach positive requirements to ensure perpetrators deal with the underlying issues driving their behaviour as well as including prohibitions to immediately protect victims.
 3. **The Community Protection Notice** – Aimed at dealing with particular anti-social behaviour impacting on a community's quality of life (for example to deal with noise, litter or graffiti).
 4. **The Community Protection Order (public space)** - A locally determined order which could impose controls on behaviour in public places, for example controlling drinking in public as well as preventing other behaviour which has an impact on quality of life.
 5. **The Community Protection Order (closure)** - Simplifying the current number of powers available to close premises that are a magnet for trouble.
 6. **The Direction Power** - A simpler and less bureaucratic power to enable the police to disperse situations to protect victims without needing to go through a long and slow process to designate an area in advance.
- 2.5 The White Paper does also draw links to other strategies including the Alcohol Strategy, Drug Strategy and the Tackling Troubled Families initiative. Reference is also made to work to address mental health issues and to tackle anti-social behaviour caused by dog-related problems.
- 2.6 At present, it is recommended that the Safer Bromley Partnership notes the proposals contained within the White Paper. It is further proposed that a piece of work is commissioned to review current arrangements across the Partnership to identify and deal with concerns raised in relation to anti social behaviour and make proposals for future working.