

Meeting:	Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group
Date:	24 March 2011
Subject:	Home Office Consultation – “More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour”
Author:	Colin Newman, Head of Community Safety colin.newman@bromley.gov.uk

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an outline of the Government’s recently announced consultation process to identify changes in how Anti-Social Behaviour is tackled and what powers will be available to local Partnerships, Councils and communities in reducing the harm caused by Anti-Social Behaviour.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Strategic Group is asked to

- Comment on the Government’s consultation document “More Effective Response to Anti-Social Behaviour”, and
- Identify the key elements of the response from the Safer Bromley Partnership to the consultation document.

3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In February 2011, and following much media speculation, the Home Office published the consultation document relating to proposed changes to the management and reduction of Anti Social Behaviour. “More Effective Response to Anti-Social Behaviour” sets out the Government’s intention to adopt a new approach to tackling anti-social behaviour and offers proposals for the transformation of initiatives to address this priority issue.
- 3.2 The document attached at Appendix 1 includes all the full detail of the Government’s review and proposals for change. The document includes the findings of the Government review and sets out the key changes proposed in developing a new way of intervening to reduce the harm caused by anti-social behaviour. The findings of the review identified the following issues:
- some of the formal tools (particularly the ASBO) are bureaucratic, slow and expensive, which puts people off using them;

- the growing number of people who breach their ASBO suggests the potential consequences are not deterring a persistent minority from continuing their anti-social or criminal behaviour; and
- the tools that were designed to help perpetrators deal with underlying causes of their anti-social behaviour are rarely used.

3.3 The proposed changes included in the document are summarised below:

- Repeal the ASBO and other court orders for anti-social individuals, and replace them with two new tools that bring together restrictions on future behaviour and support to address underlying problems:
 - a Criminal Behaviour Order that can be attached to a criminal conviction, and
 - a Crime Prevention Injunction that can quickly stop anti-social behaviour before it escalates;
- Ensure there are powerful incentives on perpetrators to stop behaving antisocially – for example, by making breach of the new orders grounds for eviction from social housing;
- Bring together many of the existing tools for dealing with place-specific anti-social behaviour, from persistent litter or noisy neighbours, to street drinking and crack houses, into a Community Protection Order;
- Bring together existing police dispersal powers into a single police power to direct people away from an area for anti-social behaviour;
- Make the informal and out-of-court tools for dealing with anti-social behaviour more rehabilitative and restorative; and
- Introduce a Community Trigger that gives victims and communities the right to require agencies to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour.

3.4 The consultation period associated with the attached document closes on 3 May 2011. Members of the Strategic Group are invited to consider the contents of the consultation document and identify the key elements that should be included in a response on behalf of the Safer Bromley Partnership.