

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 29th March 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Health & Community

SUBJECT: Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present to the Executive Board a new Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) Promoting Positive Behaviour – Halton’s Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy be endorsed.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Anti-social behaviour, or its perception, has been a concern that has received wide ranging publicity both Nationally and locally. With this in mind it was felt timely to review Halton’s approach to anti-social behaviour, and to develop a revised strategy and action plan to address these concerns.

4.0 PROCESS TO DEVELOP THE REVISED STRATEGY

4.1 Attached at Appendix 1 Halton’s Strategy: Promoting Positive Behaviour has a 3-pronged approach, Prevent & deter, Protect and Punish and Rehabilitation. Central to the strategy are the principles of prevention, education and community building, enabling communities to take action, supporting victims and taking quick and robust action against those who behave inappropriately. The Strategy advocates a holistic approach to achieving safer communities where people are not only safe but also feel safe, and where they are confident those who do not contribute positively to their community and behave inappropriately are dealt with quickly and effectively.

4.2 Prevent & Deter

The aim of Prevent & Deter is to encourage (or if necessary deter) those who might otherwise commit acts of anti-social behaviour not to do so, by identifying the causes and putting in place positive, joined-up solutions that will prevent incidents from arising in the first instance or tackle it as soon as it arises. The main aspects to the strand are:

- Identifying those engaged in, or at risk of engagement in anti social behaviour
- Intervening at an early stage to encourage behavioural change.
- Identifying positive activity to engage or divert the focus of groups and individuals
- Minimising anti-social behaviour by addressing the physical factors that affect it.
- Using data to target interventions within the community.

Protect & Punish

The aim of Protect & Punish is once anti-social behaviour has occurred, the focus must move to the victim, who needs confidence that they will be protected from further harm and the offenders punished. The intention is to deliver a rapid, robust and effective response using current legislative powers, targeted towards the more serious incidents of anti-social behaviour. The main aspects of protect & punish are:

- Enable the individual to recognise the consequences of their behaviour
- Ensure that they change their behaviour
- Protect victims, witnesses and the community
- A multi agency approach to help have an impact on underlying issues and problems

Rehabilitate

The aim of rehabilitate is to ensure there is concerted action to ensure that offenders do not continue to offend. This can be done by tackling the causes of offending behaviour with the offenders and their families to break the cycle of anti-social behaviour. The main aspects of rehabilitate are:

- Work to develop services to change perpetrator's behaviour. This is particularly aimed at those who have already been subject to legal action (and their families)
- Try and break the cycle and re-occurrence of anti-social behaviour and to avoid further pervasive outcomes and exclusion.
- Some interventions may not be successful in changing behaviour first time round.

Action plans have been developed for each of the areas to make sure that delivery and targets are achieved. There is a performance-monitoring framework that has been in place and will be reviewed on a quarterly basis this information will be fed back to the Safer Halton Partnership and on a six monthly basis to the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board. A revised action plan would be published in 12 months time.

4.3 The strategy has been developed with partners, stakeholders and elected members via the topic group of the Safer Halton PPB. A consultation event took place in February with approximately 170 attendees including partners, Elected Members, young people and members of the community where the people could comment and ask questions in relation to the document.

4.4 If endorsed, the strategy will have a wide distribution both electronically and hard copies. Summary versions will also be produced for the general community and young people. A high profile launch is envisaged.

5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The new strategy, if endorsed, will become Council policy.

6.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Council has recently invested additional funding in this area, for example, contributing to the employment of additional Police Community Support Officers. However, the Council will need to closely monitor the Strategy to ensure that the service achieves its outcomes and delivers an efficient and effective service.

7.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The implications of the Action Plan will need to be included in Directorate and other agencies business and service plans.

8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 The Strategy aims to reduce the risks associated with anti-social behaviour.

9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 The strategy is an all inclusive approach.

10.0 **REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

The strategy is in response to an issue that is high on the public agenda as voiced through community engagement.

11.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

All options were considered in producing the final strategy.

12.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

If endorsed the strategy would be launched in April 2007.

13.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the act.