



# **SOUTH AYRSHIRE ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY**

**2005 –2008**



# Contents

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Mission statement
- 1.2 South Ayrshire at a glance
- 1.3 Strategic background

## **2.0 Anti Social Behaviour in South Ayrshire**

- 2.1 What antisocial behaviour means
- 2.2 The extent & nature of antisocial behaviour in South Ayrshire

## **3.0 Tackling antisocial behaviour in South Ayrshire**

- 3.1 How we will tackle antisocial behaviour
- 3.2 Consultation
- 3.3 Information Sharing
- 3.4 Problem Solving
- 3.5 Antisocial Behaviour & Young People

## **4.0 Monitoring & Evaluation**

- 4.1 How we will know it is working
- 4.2 South Ayrshire Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan

## **5.0 Summary Procedures**

- 5.1 Procedures for Housing/Neighbour Complaints
- 5.2 Procedures for General Community/Environmental Complaints
- 5.3 Procedures for Non Housing Complaints – Juveniles & Young Offenders
- 5.4 Procedures for Non Housing Complaints – Adults
- 5.5 Procedures for ‘Looked After’ Children

## **Appendices \***

- 1 Area Profiles**
- 2 Extent & Nature of Antisocial Behaviour in South Ayrshire**
  - 2a Neighbour / Housing Complaints
  - 2b Police Statistics by Electoral Ward
  - 2c Local Survey Results (Over 18's)
  - 2d Local Survey Results (Under 18's)
- 3 Problem Solving**
- 4 Information Sharing**
- 5 Building Strong, Safe & Attractive Communities in South Ayrshire**
  - 5a The Community Safety Partnership & Community Safety
  - 5b Antisocial Behaviour & Community Safety Service Staffing Structure
  - 5c Ayrshire Antisocial Behaviour Strategy Group Membership
  - 5d BSACC Funding Table
- 6 Community Policing**
- 7 The 'Dundonald Youth Model'**
- 8 Links to other strategies**
- 9 Standard Operating Procedures - Dispersal of Groups**
- 10 Standard Operating Procedure - Closure of Premises**
- 11 Standard Operating Procedure - Anti Social Behaviour Orders**
- 12 Wallacetoun Neighbourhood Agreement**
- 13 Community Safety Partnership Problem Solving**

\* No Appendices included in this print version, however all appendices / individual appendices are available on request

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Mission Statement

South Ayrshire Community Safety Partnership and our community planning partners are fully committed to tackling antisocial behaviour to ensure that our communities are safe and attractive places where people want to live, work & play.

We will foster a sense of pride, self belief and community spirit throughout South Ayrshire. By working together to find local solutions to the local problems presented by antisocial behaviour, we will be able to achieve a long term, sustainable and positive impact in our communities.

In South Ayrshire we will work in partnership to achieve the following strategic outcomes :-

**Working in partnership to reduce the incidence of antisocial behaviour**

**Involving communities to ensure that they have an effective input into the development and implementation of initiatives to tackle antisocial behaviour**

**Taking action to ensure antisocial behaviour is dealt with quickly and effectively**

**Ensuring victims of antisocial behaviour are provided with the highest possible quality of advice, assistance & service**

**Working in partnership to promote the valuable contribution made by young people to our communities.**

**Working in partnership to identify antisocial behaviour**

**Working in partnership to ensure young people are involved in the planning, developing and evaluation of services directly affecting them**

These outcomes cannot be delivered by a single agency alone. All require integrated action from a range of agencies and services.

## 1.2 South Ayrshire at a Glance

South Ayrshire is one of the safest places to live and work in Scotland with an average of 658 recorded crimes per 10,000 population as against the national average of 835 per 10,000 population. However, some of our communities do suffer from long-term problems that require area - based action to tackle long-term patterns of antisocial behaviour.



## South Ayrshire at a Glance

South Ayrshire has 5000 people on the council housing waiting list with approx 9000 houses. Turnover is about 850 houses per year.

Homelessness has risen in South Ayrshire by almost 80% since 1990. There are over 1000 presentations per year, 30% of which are from young single people under the age of 24.

There are 453 houses in the private sector below tolerable standard. The average private sector house has a poor energy efficiency rating.

There are approximately 1874 tenants in rent arrears

Repeat homeless presentation remain comparatively high in comparison with other local authorities. In 2003/2004 there were 131 cases reassessed as homeless or potentially homeless within 12 months of the previous case being completed.

4800 people in South Ayrshire have a physical disability, 200-300 people have a learning disability, and by 2012 the number of people over the age of 65 will have risen by 9%.

Along with tenants we have identified a number of priority areas where there is a need to do things differently.

A recent survey of the local community indicated that the majority of people were concerned about:

- Noisy Neighbours
- Drug misuse and dealing
- Young people causing disturbances
- Alcohol abuse

The incidence of domestic abuse and sexual assault are proportionately higher in rural areas.

High levels of interest shown by communities in initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour (over 100 people recently attended a meeting in one neighbourhood alone.)

### 1.3 Legislative & Strategic Background

The Antisocial Behaviour Etc (Scotland) Act 2004 requires every Local Authority, together with the relevant Chief Constable to prepare, publish and review a strategy for dealing with Antisocial Behaviour in their area. This Strategy sets out: -

- What Antisocial Behaviour means
- The Extent & Nature of Antisocial Behaviour in South Ayrshire
- How we will take action to tackle antisocial behaviour
- How we will involve communities
- How we will measure our success

South Ayrshire's Community Safety Partnership is working to tackle Antisocial Behaviour in order to make South Ayrshire a safe, secure and healthy place to live, work and play. In accordance with the guidance on Antisocial Behaviour strategies issued by the Scottish Executive, it is intended to build on existing frameworks and plans developed by the Partnership.

The main Community Safety Partners are: -

- South Ayrshire Council
- Strathclyde Police
- Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
- N.H.S. Ayrshire and Arran
- The Coast Guard
- The Ambulance Service
- Local Voluntary Organisations

In addition to the Community Safety Partners, a range of other agencies have been involved in the development and implementation of the strategy including: -

- Registered Social Landlords – Housing Associations
- Procurator Fiscal
- Sheriffs
- Children's Reporter
- Community Groups and Organisations
- Justices of the Peace
- Young People

## 2.0 Antisocial Behaviour in South Ayrshire

### 2.1 What 'Antisocial Behaviour' means

The Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 states that a person engages in antisocial behaviour if they :

- act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress; or
- pursue a course of conduct that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress to at least one person not of the same household as them.

However, antisocial behaviour can mean different things to different people and can cover a range of behaviour - e.g.

- Persistent troublesome behaviour by a small group of individuals in a local area, who perhaps dominate others and use minor damage to property, possibly at unsociable hours, as a means of intimidating other people
- Rubbish thrown into gardens and pushed through letter boxes
- Riding motorcycles on footpaths
- Persistent abusive behaviour towards neighbours causing them fear or distress
- Serious persistent bullying of children in public recreation grounds or on the way to school
- Persistent nuisance and threatening behaviour as a result of substance or alcohol abuse

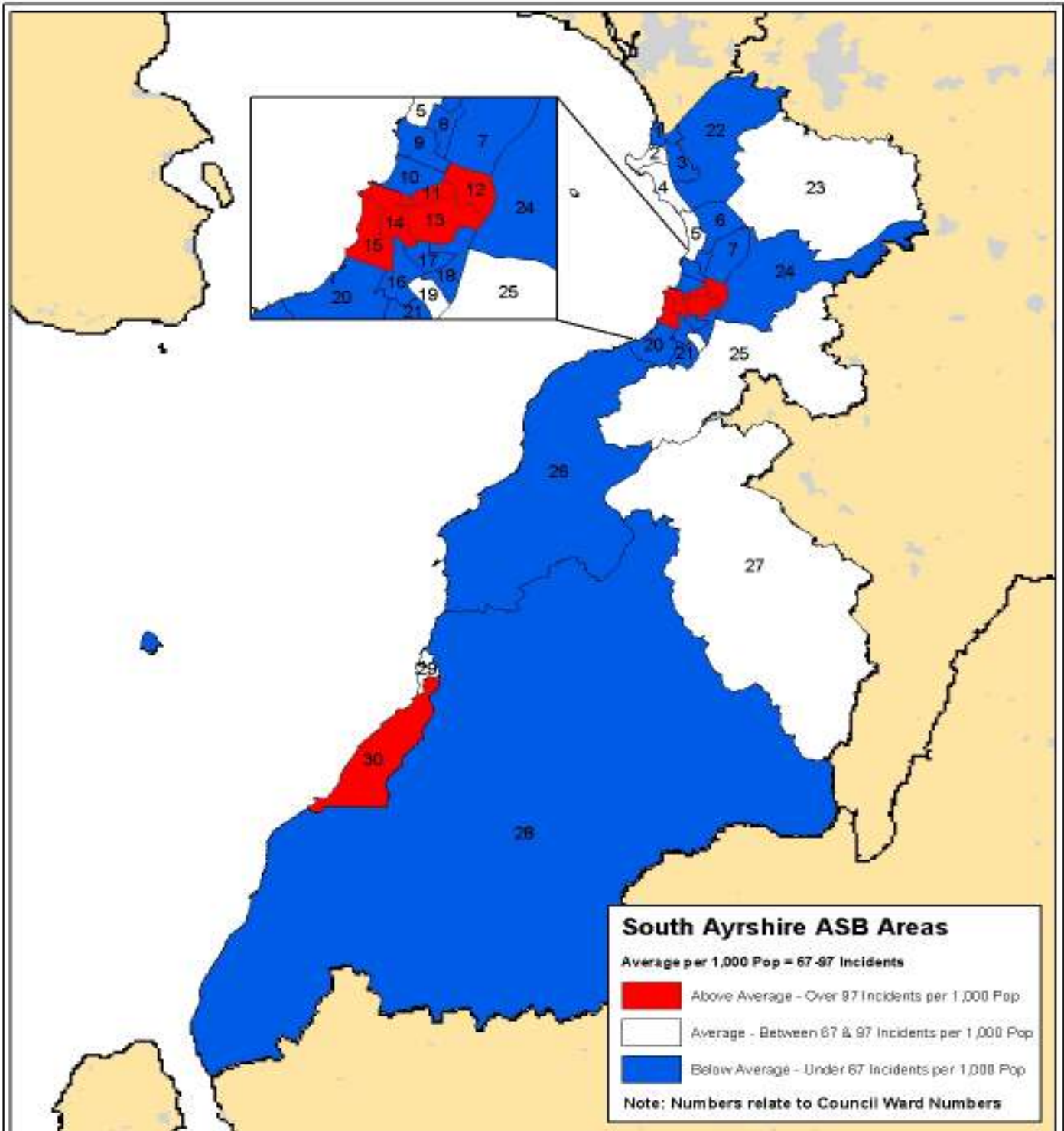
Behaviour regarded as acceptable by some can be seen as antisocial and unacceptable to others. Expectations of standards of behaviour can vary between communities, groups within communities and individuals.

Antisocial behaviour is not behaviour that is merely different, or that is the result of a medical or developmental condition. Therefore tolerance and awareness of other's needs is an important part of tackling antisocial behaviour. (Safer Scotland - Scottish Executive 2004)

For these reasons, the definition of antisocial behaviour has been left deliberately wide and flexible by the Act. In South Ayrshire the emphasis will be on prevention and will include developing local area profiles and consulting with local people to decide on the nature of problems in particular communities and the appropriate action to be taken (See Appendix 1 – Area Profiles\*).

## 2.2 Extent and Nature of Antisocial Behaviour in South Ayrshire.

In order to successfully identify the source and distribution of problems across South Ayrshire the Partnership has recognised the need for quality incident and crime analysis combined with an examination of local authority data. This is carried out geographically in order to highlight both historical and emerging trends and 'hotspots', to allow for the targeted allocation of effort and resources.



**STRATHCLYDE  
POLICE**

© Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved  
Strathclyde Police Authority, PA01041C, 2003

### South Ayrshire - Areas of Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

For reference only. No further copies may be made.  
Not to be used for Court purposes.

Produced by Tim Mitchell on 3/3/05

N



1:316,162

Statistical information relating to housing/neighbour complaints has also been gathered from South Ayrshire Council's Housing Department.

The charts in Appendix (2) show the extent and nature of neighbour complaints received in 2004 on a ward-by-ward basis in each of the Area Housing Offices.

## 3.0 Tackling Antisocial Behaviour in South Ayrshire

### 3.1 How We Will Take Action to Tackle Antisocial Behaviour

Preventing antisocial behaviour and tackling it at the earliest possible stage is the focus of South Ayrshire's Antisocial Behaviour Strategy. Prevention is better than cure and voluntary or negotiated solutions are usually better than sanctions. (Guidance on Antisocial Behaviour Strategies – Scottish Executive 2004) Therefore, all initiatives and actions taken to tackle antisocial behaviour will be progressed on this basis.

We have established an experienced and dedicated antisocial behaviour team

We have set up Community Support Schemes in Wallacetown, Ayr North and Girvan/Maybole

We will encourage people to report incidents and support them through the process

We will work with young people to increase the number of constructive and relevant activities available locally

We will work in partnership with agencies and local communities to deliver what local communities need to improve community safety and reduce antisocial behaviour

We will provide a help and advice line for victims of antisocial behaviour

We have established protocols to ensure information is shared effectively between partner agencies

We will target 'hot spot' areas for action

We will tackle behaviour that causes greatest public concern in our communities

We have restructured community policing areas and increased the number of community constables

We will establish a mediation service for everyone in South Ayrshire

We have Tenancy Support Services for tenants who may have difficulty sustaining a tenancy

We emphasise the importance of being a 'good neighbour' during the tenancy sign up process with new tenants

We have set up street working to support young people

We regularly raise awareness of tenancy obligations and being a good neighbour in our tenants' newsletters and in our tenants' handbook

## 3.2 Consultation

We believe it is important to ask people what their views are on community safety and antisocial behaviour issues in South Ayrshire. Throughout South Ayrshire, local people are actively involved in setting priorities and developing solutions to problems in their areas. Results of our consultation directly influences community safety priorities.

### COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDITS

Community safety audits have been carried out to establish how safe residents feel, in their own home, during the day when out locally and in the evening when going out locally.

### BUILDING STRONG, SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Local people are asked what the important community safety and antisocial behaviour issues are in their area.  
Young people are involved in the consultation process  
Three Community Support Schemes have been set up to help provide solutions to the community safety and antisocial behaviour concerns raised.

### LOCAL PROJECT TEAMS

Local project teams have been set up in the Community Support Scheme areas to ensure local involvement in community safety issues.

### PROJECTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Extensive consultation has taken place with young people to look at the role of diversionary activities. This consultation has played a crucial role in establishing successful diversionary provision for young people and models are being developed for projects in other areas.

### COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE

[www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/safety/partnership.htm](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/safety/partnership.htm)  
There is a Community Safety questionnaire on the Community Safety Partnership website

### SOUTH AYRSHIRE 1000

The South Ayrshire 1000 is a group of people representing a cross-section of the community who consider a variety of issues raised by the Community Planning Partnership.

### **3.3 Information Sharing**

A key component of South Ayrshire's antisocial behaviour strategy is the giving and receiving of information between the police and local authority. Registered Social Landlord's are also involved in the production and operation of the strategy and the information sharing process.

A Joint Protocol between Strathclyde Police and South Ayrshire Council has been agreed, and will now be extended to RSL's.

It sets out:-

- Relevant legislation
- Definition of antisocial behaviour
- Roles and Responsibilities of the Council, RSLs and Police
- The circumstances in which information can be shared
- What can be shared
- How it is to be shared

It includes explanatory information on the use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), Unacceptable Behaviour Notices (UBNs), and Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), and further provides pro-forma documents to be utilised as part of the exchange of information (See Appendix 4 – Information Sharing).

### **3.4 Problem Solving**

The core role of South Ayrshire's ASB Team will be to address patterns of antisocial behaviour using the principles of 'problem solving'.

Most instances of anti-social behaviour in South Ayrshire are recurring, resulting in a range of agencies continually being deployed to the same area in a reactive manner. There are frequently underlying reasons for these calls and it is only through partnership working that the potential exists to resolve the problem rather than deal continually with the symptoms (See Appendix 3 – Problem Solving).

### **3.5 Antisocial Behaviour and Young People**

The quiet, peaceful occupation of their community is a fundamental right belonging to everyone in South Ayrshire including young people.

Young people make a valuable contribution to their community although this is not always recognised.

Antisocial behaviour is not exclusively a youth issue. Many antisocial behaviour complaints concern adults and it is often young people who are the victims of antisocial behaviour.

However, the Community Safety Partnership acknowledges a minority of young people do repeatedly engage in antisocial behaviour such as vandalism, noise and aggressive behaviour- both verbal and physical. In many circumstances alcohol and/or drug abuse is the trigger to this behaviour.

We therefore recognise the importance of adhering to the protocols as set out in the procedural flow charts illustrated in section 5.0, when handling complaints of Antisocial Behaviour in relation to young people and young offenders.

## 4.0 Monitoring & Evaluation

### 4.1 How we will know it is working

We will keep the strategy under review and measure the effectiveness of our interventions using quantitative and qualitative data as outlined in the ASB measures table.

We will continue to measure the extent of ASB on an area basis. We will conduct local surveys to measure public perception within communities. This will be complemented by surveys conducted by the Scottish Executive.

### 4.2 South Ayrshire Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan

Our guiding principle is to deliver what local communities need to improve community safety by using a problem solving approach.

We will:-

- Work in partnership with agencies and communities
- Identify trends & patterns of antisocial behaviour (ASB)
- Share ownership of problems
- Use a dedicated ASB team to coordinate effective multi agency responses and implement appropriate action
- Develop the existing Community Support Officer Schemes to build strong safe and attractive communities
- Use community policing to promote strong and supportive relationships within communities and provide a basis for public reassurance
- Develop inclusive ways of working with young people