

# **Report**

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Report to:	<b>Housing and Technical Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>25 November 2009</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Anti-social Behaviour Annual Report 2009</b>
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## **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise the Committee of the publication of South Lanarkshire's Anti-social Behaviour Annual Report 2009

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the publication of the fifth Anti-social Behaviour Annual Report (2009) and summary of progress and arrangements for its distribution be noted.

## **3. Background**

3.1. The South Lanarkshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy emphasises our commitment to promoting service awareness and the actions we propose along with our partners to tackle anti-social behaviour. The Anti-social Behaviour Annual Report plays a key role in progressing this objective.

3.2. This is the fifth year in which we have produced an annual report with the first report being published in 2004.

3.3. The key purpose of the Anti-social Behaviour Annual Report is to:-

- Provide information on our approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour and the services we provide
- Advise the community and partners of the progress being made
- Set out our priorities for the year ahead.

## **4. The Anti-social Behaviour Annual Report 2009**

4.1. In previous reports we have emphasised that our approach to tackling anti-social behaviour has been fundamentally based around Problem Solving and Neighbourhood Management. In this report we have highlighted the new Community Policing Initiative which has been rolled out across Strathclyde Police South Lanarkshire Division. This new initiative provides a third pillar to our approach in tackling anti-social behaviour in South Lanarkshire.

- 4.2. The annual report sets out details of our approach to tackling anti-social behaviour. It includes information on the services we provide and a profile of the extent and nature of the problem. The report highlights the significant progress being made in relation to tackling street drinking with a reduction of 32% taking place in the year. It also provides a breakdown of the four top anti-social behaviour crimes by area and notes an overall reduction of 6% across South Lanarkshire.

#### **Progress and Achievement in 2008-2009**

- 4.3. The main focus of the Annual report however is on progress and it provides detail on a number of initiatives which were carried out during 2008-2009. These are summarised below and include:-

##### ***“Safer South Lanarkshire”***

The ‘Safer South Lanarkshire’ initiative promotes a safer environment for businesses, staff and customers using town centres over the festive period. While the initiative started in 2006 in Hamilton town centre it has now been rolled out into other town centres and for a longer period to benefit the night time economy and the safety of visitors using our town centres. Since 2006 there has been significant reductions relating to violent crimes; and perhaps more importantly that this reduction has been sustained over the three year period. Recorded crime during the festive period in Hamilton has been reduced from 147 incidents in 2005 to 29 incidents in 2008. The initiative was highly commended at the 2009 Scottish Policing Awards in recognition of policing performance in Public Reassurance & Community Safety.

##### ***“Move the Goal Posts”***

This multi-partnership initiative which was carried out in the Cambuslang area utilises football to educate and divert young people from gang participation, associated alcohol and drug misuse and acts of anti social behaviour. Over the last year a total of 166 young people have attended the initiative in Halfway, Westburn, the Circuit, areas within Cambuslang. To date 10 young people over the age of 16 have indicated that they would like to participate in formal SFA coaching qualifications with the intention of feeding their experience back into the community. Several young people have gone on to join football teams as a direct result of the initiative. Although it is difficult to establish cause and effect precisely it is worth noting that incidents and complaints of anti-social behaviour when compared to the same period the previous year were substantially reduced in all three areas:-

- Halfway                      18%
- Westburn                    40%
- Circuit                        56%

#### **Overall reduction of 34%**

Due to its success the initiative is being rolled out up until March 2010 to help tackle the issues of gang related violence and anti social behaviour in Fernhill, Greenhills, Blantyre and Lanark.

### ***“One Community”***

Statistical evidence showed that the level of racial incidents reported in Rutherglen and Cambuslang were approximately double of that in other areas of South Lanarkshire. The ‘One Community’ initiative consisted of many activities and events with local shopkeepers, residents, and primary schools, and as a result there is a greater understanding amongst local people of the cultural differences that exist within the Rutherglen/Cambuslang areas. Statistical information provided by Strathclyde Police shows a year on year reduction in the number of racial incidents in the Rutherglen/Cambuslang areas, with a 40% reduction between April and September 2009. The project was recognised at the South Lanarkshire Council Employee Excellence Awards in 2009 when it was awarded the ‘Excellence in Promoting Equality of Opportunity’ award.

### ***“No Messin”***

This summer the Network Rail event made its first stop in South Lanarkshire with the goal of getting the railway safety message across to young people using a positive, fun and inclusive style. Network Rail’s Community Safety Manager for Scotland commented that the event was a huge success and well attended with an estimated 2000 young people taking part on the day. Due to this success it is envisaged that another event may be organised for 2010, with the support and assistance of the council’s Joint Problem Solving Unit. As well as helping to coordinate the event representatives from the Joint Problem Solving Unit were available on the day promoting anti social behaviour services and Community Wardens were also on hand mixing with the young people.

### ***“Operation Wipeout”***

The Smyllum area of Lanark was blighted by vandalism, underage drinking and anti-social behaviour, not only by the young people from the Smyllum area but also incoming groups who were contributing to the disorder being suffered by local residents. As part of the initiative a number of measures were carried out and almost immediately there was a marked reduction in youth disorder and anti social behaviour in the area. One of the most effective measures was the introduction of Anti Social Behaviour Contracts. Parents of children found to be involved in anti-social behaviour were contacted and invited to discuss the issues and contracts were signed. A total of 11 contracts were signed, 5 warnings were given, and 2 Anti Social Behaviour Orders were issued. Local residents consider the area to be a good deal quieter and a safer community as a result of the initiative. Some of the measures used within the operation have the capacity to be rolled out to other areas of South Lanarkshire where similar problems exist. This possibility is being investigated.

### ***“Positive Communities”***

Engagement with local communities was augmented this year with the introduction of the ‘Positive Communities’ events which were held across South Lanarkshire. Key partners participated at the events including Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, and Youth Services. Over 300 residents attended the events which were fundamentally about community engagement on a locality level, and the consultation on the Draft Anti-social Behaviour Strategy. The outcomes from the events are helping to drive forward the problem solving agenda with resources being targeted at the issues identified by local residents.

### ***“Personal Digital Assistant”***

The PDA system is a method of using technology to improve how we deliver our services in a more efficient and effective way. The PDA is a small hand held computer which allows Community Wardens to instantly report details of anti social behaviour incidents as they come across them. The information can either be stored on the device or sent immediately back to the office by satellite technology. Since the introduction in October 2008 the wardens have reported 38,659 incidents until July 2009; the figure for the same period the previous year was 30,812; an increase of incident reporting by 25%. The reduction in reporting times have assisted in reducing the impact anti social behaviour has on people's lives; and contributes to alleviating the fear of crime and improving community safety. South Lanarkshire Council is the first Scottish local authority to introduce the use of mobile working technology and was awarded The Guardian's 2009 Good Communications Telecommunications Award for the introduction of the mobile working PDA system. The system also received the Chief Executive's Award for Innovation at the Council's Employee Awards '09.

- 4.4. The report also sets out the priorities and arrangements for the year ahead in continuing to tackle anti-social behaviour across South Lanarkshire, building on the success of the overall approach set out in 4.1 above.

### **5. Distribution of the Annual Report**

- 5.1. The Annual Report 2009 will be distributed to partners and local community groups and copies of the annual report will be placed in the members' areas. The report will also be available to local residents within Q&As and local housing offices and on the council web site.

### **6. Employee Implications**

- 6.1. None.

### **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. None.

### **8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. None.

### **9. Equalities Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

- 9.2. There is no requirement to undertake any consultation in relation to the content of this report.

**Jim Hayton**

**Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)**

25 November 2009

### **Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values**

- ◆ Improving Community Safety

### **Previous References**

- ◆ None

### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ None

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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