The vast majority of people in our communities go about their lives without causing concern to others. However, a small number of people cause real misery to others by their behaviour. Anti social behaviour can blight communities, make people feel unsafe and can hold back the regeneration of the most deprived areas. It is one of the biggest challenges facing our society.

Effective solutions to the problem of anti social behaviour are not the responsibility of a single agency or organisation. The overall aim of this strategy and action plan is to tackle anti social behaviour in the community by a robust process of prevention, intervention and enforcement. An essential feature of this strategy is the emphasis on joint working and close co-operation with a range of agencies and organisations.

As Chief Executive of Tameside MBC and Chair of the Tameside Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership I welcome and endorse the approaches set out in this strategy and action plan.

Janet Callender
Chief Executive
Tameside MBC

The blight of anti social behaviour is one of the biggest challenges facing our society and quite rightly an issue, which the public expects to be treated as a priority.

Every person should expect to be able to live and go about their business free from harassment, intimidation and the threat of violence. Sadly this expectation is not always met resulting in communities been de-stabilised and the fear of crime in general being magnified.

All agencies need not only to place priority on dealing with anti social behaviour but also formulate a joint strategy to address it at all levels.

I am therefore pleased to say that the Tameside Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships Strategy is just such a plan which not only recognises the importance of supporting communities but puts in place a structured and multi layered plan to deal with both the causes and symptoms of anti social behaviour.

This strategy should be integral to all our work as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and as such I welcome it and pledge the whole hearted support of Greater Manchester Police in ensuring that the initiatives therein succeed in making Tameside a safer Borough to live and work in.

Chief Superintendent Kevin Mulligan
Divisional Commander Tameside Police
INTRODUCTION
This strategy and action plan sets out the Tameside Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership’s response to the issue of nuisance and anti social behaviour and builds on the work of the Partnership to date. It is aimed at ensuring a peaceful and clean environment for residents and businesses of, and visitors to Tameside.

FOREWORD
Everyone has the right to live in peace, without harassment or intimidation or fear of crime.
Anti-social behaviour includes a variety of behaviour covering a whole complex of selfish and unacceptable activity that can blight the quality of community life.
Recent crime surveys have shown that reducing anti social behaviour is a key priority for all. This is also a key priority for Tameside Council and the Tameside Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
This strategy and action plan focuses on all agencies taking action, from prevention to enforcement, to protect and strengthen our communities from the corrosive effect of anti social behaviour, intimidation and harassment caused by a minority of people.
As Cabinet Deputy with responsibility for crime and disorder reduction I wholeheartedly support this strategy for tackling anti social behaviour in our communities.

Councillor Margaret Oldham
Cabinet Deputy - Crime & Disorder Reduction

STATEMENT OF INTENT
Tameside Crime and Disorder Reduction partnership believes that all residents of Tameside are entitled to live peaceably, without harassment or fear. It is the aim of this strategy to reduce nuisance, anti social behaviour and disorder, giving all residents the right to quiet enjoyment of their homes and to live peaceably within their communities. The strategy encompasses the community as a whole and includes residential areas, commercial and shopping areas, schools, public transport and recreational facilities throughout the borough.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY
The strategy seeks to:
1. Prevent or deter the incidence of anti social behaviour
2. Tackle the causes and deal with the consequences of anti social behaviour
3. Take appropriate action against the perpetrators of anti social behaviour
4. Support victims and witnesses of anti social behaviour
STRATEGICAIMS


Reducingantisocialbehaviourisoneofthe26‘keymeasures’withintheCommunityStrategy,reflectingthefactthatantisocialbehaviourdirectlycontributesatoincreasingpeople’sperceptionsofsafety,creatingposiverelationshipsbetweentherepeoplefromallbackgrounds,andhelpingtomakeTamesidea cleaner,greenerplacetolive.


NATIONALAIMS

THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM

Anti social behaviour is a national problem. On the 10th September 2003 the Home Office organised a ‘one day count’ of reports from over 1,500 agencies nationally. 66,107 reports of anti social behaviour were made which equates to more than one report every 2 seconds. Whilst this is a snapshot of the problem it is indicative of the large number of contacts concerning the issue on a typical weekday.

There is no commonly agreed definition of what is meant by the terms ‘neighbour nuisance’ and ‘anti-social behaviour’. Whilst there may be a lack of a definition residents know when they see or hear it. In practice, this is taken to mean a wide range of behaviours, from the mildly irritating to the life threatening. Activities that are criminal are defined by law. Defining other behaviour as anti social is more difficult. Behaviour acceptable by some can be completely unacceptable to others. Therefore, tolerance and awareness of other groups’ needs is an important part of tackling anti social behaviour.

Examples of anti social behaviour include:

- noise nuisance
- conflicts, including harassment, domestic violence and racist incidents
- litter and rubbish dumping
- aggressive and threatening language and behaviour
- violence against people and property
- graffiti and vandalism
- using and selling drugs
WHY IT MATTERS

Anti social behaviour can destroy lives and shatter communities. If left unchecked it can lead to neighbourhood decline with people and businesses moving away. It can contribute to high levels of fear of crime which can seriously damage quality of life.

Implementation of this strategy will achieve the following aims:

For Everyone

The strategy will directly or indirectly benefit everyone, enabling the community to work, live and play together encouraging respect and support for each other.

For Now And The Future

By minimising the impact of anti social behaviour and vandalism on the environment, public transport facilities and open spaces

For Prosperity

By addressing the problem of anti social behaviour as it affects local businesses, particularly in neighbourhood shopping areas and town centres where it has a direct impact on the local economy and on local job opportunities.

For Living

By enabling people to enjoy themselves, to lead full and safe lives and enjoy their homes, without suffering the effects of anti social behaviour and living in fear of crime.
WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Tackling anti social behaviour is a challenge for all public authorities. In many ways it is a 'new discipline' - it cuts across housing, education, social services, transport and environmental services, town centre management, the criminal justice system and policing. It is recognised that effective solutions to anti social behaviour are not the responsibility of a single agency or organisation. An essential feature of this strategy and action plan is the emphasis on joint working, uniformity of approach, close co-operation and involvement with a range of groups, including community groups, agencies and organisations. Key partners include:

• Police
• Youth Offending Team
• Probation
• Education
• Registered Social Landlords
• Victim and Witness Support
• District Assemblies

• Environmental Health
• Tameside Patrollers
• Fire Service
• GMPTE
• Magistrates Court
• Youth Services

In many instances, in order to pursue one (or more) of the available options, joint working will be an integral part of the approach taken. As well as providing evidence and additional information, it is recognised that other agencies will often be able to play important roles in helping to solve problems, particularly by the use of specialist skills and/or resources or powers at their disposal.

However, where several agencies are closely involved or the problem is of a very serious nature (either specific to an individual, or to a location) a multi agency approach involving all those with an interest will be pursued. Examples of this multi agency approach are the monthly Case Intervention Group and ad-hoc Problem Solving Task Force Groups.
This strategy includes a range of options, which may be pursued either individually or in combination, in order to achieve the desired outcome. The measures employed by the Tameside Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to resolve problems of anti social behaviour are detailed below. It is important to appreciate that these may be used in a variety of ways, either singly or collectively, rather than representing a step by step guide or an incremental approach. It is essential that each case is dealt with on an individual basis, so that the most appropriate remedy is employed having regard to the specific circumstances or seriousness of the case, rather than adopting a blanket approach.

Through a multi agency approach of prevention, intervention and enforcement we will tackle anti social behaviour in Tameside!

PREVENTION

Preventative measures are essential in tackling anti social behaviour and its root causes and can often obviate the need for any further action.

Prevention measures include:

- **CCTV**
  Tameside now has a fully digital state of the art surveillance system in place with over 60 cameras operating throughout the Borough. The system is complemented by an effective facial recognition system for targeting offenders.

- **Youth Service**
  Thousands of children and young people make use of the facilities provided by the Youth Service. Initiatives such as the PODs, which are mobile youth centres are instrumental in engaging young people and diverting them from nuisance and anti social behaviour. Youth projects in areas of Haughton Green and Droylsden, funded by the Partnership, involves detached work with young people that don’t ordinarily access mainstream youth provision.

  In addition, youth services are involved with the Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) scheme. This aims to target hard to reach and vulnerable young people. The scheme provides activities during school holidays and for these young people who are most at risk, a key worker can be assigned for one-to-one work.
• Alleygating
  Gating of alleyways has been a major success in the borough in terms of environmental improvement, and a decrease of youth nuisance and burglary in gated blocks. A survey, carried out in 2003, revealed that 94% of residents said that gates made them feel safer. To date, over 2,000 households in Tameside have benefited from the scheme.

• Truancy Sweeps
  These are carried out by Education Welfare and the Police on a rolling programme with a minimum of 10 sweeps a year throughout the borough. The sweeps are instrumental in addressing school attendance issues with parents and identifying vulnerable young people.

• Respect Programme
  This is a police led Partnership initiative aimed at primary schoolchildren which addresses, through a variety of interventions, health, behaviour, accountability and community awareness. Following an allocation of funding by the Partnership the Programme will now target all young people through local schools and youth and community centres.

• Increased street lighting and environmental improvements
  Dark areas and street corners can be a haven for crime and disorder. The Council’s Engineering Section will, subject to feasibility constraints, improve street lighting where it is identified that this will reduce nuisance and/or anti social behaviour. Anti social behaviour can also be effectively tackled and reduced by the effective management and operation of parks and open spaces.

• Patrons of police/Patrollers
  The presence of uniformed officers on the streets can significantly increase public confidence and reduce fear of crime as well as having an impact on crime and disorder itself.

• Test Purchasing Initiatives
  These are being carried out across the borough on a rolling Programme and can result in Court action being taken against Shop owners and their assistants.
INTERVENTION

Measures need to be in place for a significant number of people who are more at risk of being involved in anti social behaviour and such measures can have a significant impact in reducing the personal cost to individuals and the effect on the community.

Intervention measures include:

- **Mediation**
  Some disputes can be dealt with through involvement of the parties concerned facilitated by an independent mediator rather than as a result of formal action. The Partnership has formally supported the formation of Tameside Mediates, a free and impartial community mediation service.

- **Acceptable Behaviour Contracts**
  These are voluntary agreements between young people and the Council, Police and sometimes the housing provider whereby the young person agrees not to behave in a certain way. Sometimes the parents of the young person also sign the contract and agree to support their child in keeping out of trouble. The Partnership actively promotes the use of ABCs, a number of which are in operation.

- **Youth Inclusion Programme**
  This is a Government backed initiative which is run locally by the YOT and Groundwork and specifically targets disaffected and challenging young people and engages them in a whole range of activities with the aim of challenging and diverting their behaviour. It has recently been run in Dukinfield and has been a major success. There is another junior Youth Inclusion Programme led by the Youth Service to work in the Holy Trinity area of Ashton aimed at 9-12 year olds, due to commence August 2004 for a 2 year period.

- **Work of the Youth Offending Team**
  The YOT offers a robust final warning scheme for young people at risk of offending and provides intervention for 100% of young people which involves sessions tailored towards their individual needs e.g. drugs and alcohol misuse.
• Dispersal of Groups
  This new power came into force in February 2004 and Tameside police were the first in
  the country to use it. With consultation and agreement with the Local Authority an area
  can be designated for the dispersal of groups of 2 or more individuals who are causing
  harassment, alarm or distress. This power is particularly useful in those geographical
  nuisance hot spot areas.

• Warning interviews
  These involve inviting an individual (and parents where necessary) to their local police
  station with representatives from the ASB team and/or RSL to address their anti social
  behaviour and issue a warning regarding future conduct. So far, 60 of these have been
  carried out with a success rate of over 60%

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement has to be seen to be a real and effective option. It may only be necessary in
relation to a minority of people but taking timely, appropriate and effective action can stop
anti social behaviour, act as a deterrent to others and empower the community generally,
especially victims and witnesses involved to take a stand.

Enforcement measures include:

• Fixed Penalty Notices
  FPNs are available for a variety of offences such as litter, dog fouling, truancy, disorder
  and graffiti and are an alternative to a Court prosecution.

• Prosecutions for school non-attendance
  Where a child or young person repeatedly misses school and where intervention measures
  have tried and failed the Education Welfare Service may issue Court proceedings against
  their parent(s). This may result in a fine or a term of imprisonment and is designed to
  address the young persons schooling.
• **Anti Social Behaviour Orders**
  These are Court imposed orders akin to injunctions and are designed to protect the community from acts of anti social behaviour. They are available against anyone over the age of 10 and last for a minimum of 2 years. The terms of the order can prohibit a person from specific acts and from entering certain geographical areas. Breach of an order is a criminal offence.

• **Noise Act prosecutions**
  When a noise level, such as dogs barking or loud music reaches a certain level where it is deemed to be a statutory nuisance, the Pollution Control section can serve an Abatement Notice on the persons responsible. If this Notice is breached then Court proceedings can be issued. The Pollution Control section also has the power to seize noise making equipment.

• **Possession/Injunctions Housing Act**
  These remedies are available in enforcing tenancy conditions and are vital tools for Landlords tackling nuisance and anti social behaviour, not just by their tenants but family and visitors to the properties.

• **Prosecution of Licensed Premises**
  Trading Standards have power to prosecute licensees and sellers of age restricted products such as fireworks, alcohol and cigarettes.

The attached action plan builds on the work that is already being done to combat the problem of anti social behaviour and includes new powers introduced by the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003.
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Members of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership agree to regularly review their own policies and procedures in order to:

- Assess what has and has not been effective
- Identify any gaps in service provision
- Include any new initiatives, good practice or legislation

REVIEW OF STRATEGY

This strategy will be reviewed at one yearly intervals, or in the light of significant changes in legislation or best practice, whichever occurs first.

The review process will include consultation with partner agencies and community groups.

PUBLICITY

It is intended that this strategy will be publicised via:

- press release
- article in The Citizen
- the Council’s website
- provision of copies to partner agencies, community groups, Citizens Advice Bureaus, Victim Support, libraries and District Assemblies.
- The Tameside Local Strategic Partnership
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<tr>
<th>ENVIRONMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OBJECTIVE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. To target premises causing disorder and public nuisance within the Licensing Act 2003</td>
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<td>2. Licensed premises to be closed for 24 hours in cases of excessive noise pollution</td>
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<td>3. Take action against perpetrators of noise nuisance and seize equipment where necessary</td>
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<td>4. To deter licensees from selling alcohol to young people and adults buying alcohol for young people</td>
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<td>5. Prohibit sale of aerosol paints to under 18s</td>
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<td>6. Maximize use of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)</td>
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<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Ensure that all schools maximise their contribution to reducing anti social behaviour</td>
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<td>8. Increase the number of young people attending school regularly</td>
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<td>9. Ensure schools, LEAs and Youth Offending Team use their powers to enter into parenting contracts and apply for parenting orders and issue FPNs for truancy</td>
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<td>10. Increase tenants awareness of RSLs procedures for dealing with anti social behaviour</td>
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<td>11. To develop consistent and participative working arrangements with private landlords operating in Tameside</td>
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<td>12. Improved response in dealing with housing and tenancy related anti social behaviour</td>
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<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
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<td>13. Improve provision of children and young people services to better tackle anti social behaviour</td>
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<td>14. Reduce incidents of youth nuisance in geographical hot spot areas thereby making communities feel safer and build on young peoples’ awareness of the consequences of their behaviour</td>
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<td>15. Target perpetrators of persistent anti social behaviour through the joint referral process - Case Intervention Group and Early Intervention Group</td>
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<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
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<td>16. To ensure that anti social behaviour is taken fully into account in discharging S.17 responsibilities</td>
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<td>17. Develop and refine the work of the Case Intervention Group and develop an Early Intervention Group</td>
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<td>18. Increase public confidence in reporting asb and support victims and witnesses of asb</td>
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<td>19. Prevent escalation of neighbour disputes</td>
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<td>20. Close premises used for sale, manufacturing of Class A drugs where they are causing disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>21. Reduce incidents of nuisance in hot spot areas</td>
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If you are suffering from Anti Social behaviour you can report it to:

Greater Manchester Police
0161 872 5050

Tameside Council
0161 342 8355

New Charter Housing
0161 331 2000
or 0800 371830

Tameside Patrollers
0161 342 3010

This document can be made available in large print or other languages on request.