

# RESPECT

## ACTION PLAN

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## PRIME MINISTER'S FOREWORD



The Prime Minister  
Tony Blair

Tony Blair

**THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY WE SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITIES WE HAVE NOW. MOST PEOPLE TAKE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THEIR FAMILIES AND TO OTHER PEOPLE SERIOUSLY, TRY HARD AND RAISE THEIR CHILDREN WELL. MOST COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE AND SECURE AND ARE GOOD PLACES TO LIVE.**

Stable families and strong, cohesive communities are important for children, young people and adults. They are the essential foundation within which individual potential is realised, quality of life maximised and our social and economic wellbeing secured.

There have been many improvements in local areas – to public services and to physical environments – and we will continue to build strong communities by providing opportunities for all through Sure Start, by tackling child poverty, through tax credits for hard-working families as well as through enhanced youth and sport provision for young people. But there are still intractable problems with the behaviour of some individuals and families, behaviour which can make life a misery for others, particularly in the most disadvantaged communities.

What lies at the heart of this behaviour is a lack of respect for values that almost everyone in this country shares – consideration for others, a recognition that we all have responsibilities as well as rights, civility and good manners. Most of us learn respect from our parents and our families – they are later reinforced by good schools and by other people we know in our local communities.

But some individuals are not learning these values or choose to disregard them. Where that happens, their sense of what behaviour is acceptable or unacceptable disappears.

Worklessness, serious drug and alcohol misuse, even involvement in crime can become associated with problem behaviour. Where parents are involved, that can place their children at serious risk. Worst of all, it can transmit poor behaviour and disadvantage between generations and contribute to the involvement of children and young people in crime or anti-social behaviour.

Anti-social behaviour by both adults and young people creates havoc for the communities around them. Where that happens, we will not allow it to go unchallenged and unchecked. We will take tough action so that the majority of law-abiding, decent people no longer have to tolerate the behaviour of the few individuals and families that think they do not have to show respect to others.

It is not in my gift, or that of anyone in central Government, to guarantee good behaviour or to impose a set of common values about acceptable behaviour. But we will set out a framework of powers and approaches to promote respect positively; bear down uncompromisingly on anti-social behaviour; tackle its causes; and offer leadership and support to local people and local services.

Since we came to power, we have changed the culture of our public services and our communities so that the most visible signal of disrespect – serious anti-social behaviour and disorder – is tackled not tolerated, putting the responsible majority back in charge of their communities.

At the time, this was not easy either. I am pleased that an ASBO is now a household expression – synonymous with tackling anti-social behaviour. We needed a radical step change and we got one – ASBOs, dispersal orders, crack house closures. All radical, all getting the decisions taken on the front line, all fast and effective and all welcomed out there in communities.

There is good work being done by local communities to apply this approach to tackle unacceptable behaviour. 6,500 ASBOs, 13,000 acceptable behaviour contracts, 800 dispersal orders and over 500 crack house closure orders have been issued, while provisional figures show over 170,000 penalty notices for disorder have already been issued.

But there is a huge amount still to do. This Respect Action Plan is about taking a broader approach. It recognises that, as well as enforcement we have to focus on the causes of anti-social behaviour, which lie in families, in the classroom and in communities.

We need to tackle root causes with the same rigour and determination as we have taken with anti-social behaviour.

Everyone can change – if people who need help will not take it, we will make them.

If we are to achieve the vision of the Britain that we all want, then there is no room for cynicism.

We need to take responsibility for ourselves, our children and our families, support those who want to do the same – and challenge those who will not.

**THE ONLY  
PERSON WHO  
CAN START  
THE CYCLE  
OF RESPECT  
IS YOU**

**SUMMARY:  
A MODERN  
CULTURE OF  
RESPECT**

**THE RESPECT DRIVE IS NOT ABOUT RETURNING TO THE DAYS OF 'KNOWING YOUR PLACE'. INSTEAD THE CHALLENGE IS TO CREATE AND, WHERE NEEDED, ENFORCE A MODERN CULTURE OF RESPECT WHICH THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WANT.**

## **RESPECT**

**This cannot be achieved by Government alone and ultimately every citizen has a responsibility to behave in a respectful way and to support the community around them in doing the same.**

**We are not starting from scratch. Since 1997 over 700,000 fewer children live in poverty, over two million more people are in work, educational attainment has improved at all key stages, the number of people sleeping rough has fallen by 70%, there have been reductions in crime and fear of crime, hospital waiting times are down and there are signs that the gap is narrowing between our most deprived communities and the rest.**

**But people are still concerned that the values the majority hold dear are not shared by a selfish minority.**

**People do care when respect is disregarded – people find dropping litter and queue jumping irritating. But more serious anti-social behaviour like constant noise and harassment from neighbours ruins lives – particularly in the poorest communities. Too many people still suffer from the anti-social behaviour of a minority and feel powerless to stop it.**

**That is why the Respect drive is so important.**

**To truly tackle disadvantage and build a dynamic, prosperous and socially just society, we must offer the support and challenge needed to tackle anti-social behaviour, and its causes, and ensure that we all pass on decent values and standards of behaviour to our children.**

**Where people feel confident, safe and supported, they will be able to come together with others in their neighbourhood to build trust, share values and agree what is acceptable behaviour.**

## **ACTION PLAN**

This Action Plan represents the cross-Government commitment to embedding and delivering the Respect programme in the following key areas.

Constructive and purposeful activities promote mutual respect. They enable children and young people to contribute to their communities and help divert them from anti-social behaviour. To encourage this we will expand the Youth Opportunity Fund and pilot Youth Opportunity Cards in a number of areas. We will work with regional sports and arts bodies to ensure that within target areas current funding is more effectively channelled into activities which support Respect principles. We will expand mentoring projects as an effective way of developing positive role models and establish a Sports Champions mentoring programme. We will also implement Britain's first national youth voluntary service.

The values and behaviour which support respect form the basis of good teaching and children's experiences in schools. We will legislate to tackle poor behaviour, including a new measure to ensure parents take responsibility for their child's behaviour in the classroom and when they are excluded from school. We will take targeted action on persistent truants and place a new duty on local authorities to identify children missing from school rolls and support their re-entry into mainstream education or alternative provision. We will improve provision for those who are out of school through a new regime for suspended and excluded pupils.

Parents have a critical role in helping their children develop good values and behaviour. Conversely, poor parenting increases the risks of involvement in anti-social behaviour. We will develop parenting services nationally and focus help on those parents who need it most. We will expand national parenting provision and establish a new National Parenting Academy for front line staff. We will legislate to increase the circumstances, and organisations that can apply for a parenting order, where a child's behaviour requires it.

We will take a new approach to tackle the behaviour of 'problem families' by challenging them to accept support to change their behaviour, backed up by enforcement measures. In 2006, a network of intensive family support schemes will be launched that target these challenging families. We will make additional investment available for parenting programmes as part of a co-ordinated approach across children's and adult services in these areas. We will, across Government, improve the way public services respond to 'problem families' in the longer term.

The Respect programme cannot be delivered by Government or local organisations alone. Strong local leadership will be required and a consistent approach taken to tackle anti-social behaviour in all areas.

'Face the public' briefing sessions and a community call for action will give the public a way of holding services to account where they do not deliver on community safety. We will ensure that local services tackle bad and promote good behaviour. In addition, we will target programmes on the most deprived areas to make sure that help goes where it is needed most.

We must ensure that the justice system will be swift and proportionate in its responses and sanctions to anti-social behaviour. We will consider strengthening summary powers to bring about immediate protection for those suffering anti-social behaviour and focus on civil measures which can be used to bring rapid relief to communities while maintaining the necessary legal safeguards.

There are significant resources in programmes supporting the Respect drive, including £155 million neighbourhood element of the Safer Stronger Communities Fund; £45 million additional resources for the Youth Justice Board and £140 million resources for the Single Non-Emergency Number.

In addition we will invest up to £80 million of new resources over two years.

**GIVE**  
**RESPECT**  
**GET**  
**RESPECT**

**CHAPTER 1:**  
**RESPECT**  
**AND THE CASE**  
**FOR CHANGE**

## WHAT IS RESPECT?

Respect is an expression of something that people intuitively understand. It relies on a shared understanding and clear rules and is strengthened by people acting together to tackle problems and improve their lives. A key goal of action to tackle anti-social behaviour and promote respect is to empower individuals and communities, enabling them not just to feel secure but to be more able to act together to make their neighbourhoods safer and better.

The conditions for respect in society are not difficult to define. They depend ultimately on a shared commitment to a common set of values, expressed through behaviour that is considerate of others.

Almost everyone of any age and from any community understands what it is and thinks it is right. The values include respect for others, their property and their privacy, civility, good manners and a recognition that everyone has responsibilities as well as rights. The behaviour which expresses these values includes thinking about how our own actions affect others, acting unselfishly and helping others.

This understanding of what respect means is widely shared. When asked what respect meant to them, young people said:<sup>1</sup>

*'Treating others in the way that you would like to be treated.'*

*'Being able to be the way I am without being bullied or skitted. And vice versa.'*

*'Not offending or damaging someone else's feelings or property.'*

*'Appreciating someone, even though they're from another country and they're different.'*

*'Consideration for others.'*

## WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

For most people, the values and behaviour that support respect are automatic and part of the habits of everyday life. They form the basis both of effective parenting and of good teaching in schools. The majority of people are considerate of others and do their utmost to bring up their children to behave in a similar way. Our communities are safer than ever before.

But there is widespread unease that the values necessary to support respect are becoming less widely held – and that this change has led to an increase in disrespectful and anti-social behaviour.

Unacceptable behaviour can take many forms; from playing loud music in the early hours of the morning, graffiti, offensive and threatening remarks to dumping rubbish, harassment and intimidation. This more serious behaviour ruins lives and we cannot let it go unchallenged.

The causes of disrespectful behaviour are harder to pin down. Many people feel that broad economic and social trends have led to changes in family structures such as the extended family and 'good neighbourliness'. These may have in turn contributed to a decline in the social influence of the Church and other faith communities, trade unions and other community organisations.

Ethnic and cultural diversity is a source of strength and dynamism for our society both nationally and locally. But without a shared framework of respect and rules, people can be susceptible to the argument that differences in culture and lifestyle are undermining community cohesion.

There is a range of factors which are strongly associated with anti-social behaviour by individuals. These factors tend to go together, so the chance that people will become drawn into anti-social behaviour increases as more are present. They include:

- **Parenting** – poor parenting skills, weak parent/child relationships and sometimes parental involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour.
- **School** – truancy and exclusion and schools where poor behaviour is not challenged enough.
- **Community factors** – living in deprived areas where there is disorder and neglect, peer involvement in anti-social behaviour.
- **Individual factors** – drug and alcohol misuse and early involvement in anti-social behaviour.

Contemporary lifestyles have brought us great freedoms and with these, significant challenges that we need to respond to.

It is neither desirable nor possible to turn back the clock, but instead we should build a culture of respect for the modern age, based on values of mutuality and shared responsibility rather than deference and hierarchy.

A loss of deference need not mean a loss of respect.

## WHY DOES RESPECT MATTER?

Since 1997, the Government has focused on reforms and investment in public services and strengthening the economy.

Over two million more people are employed compared with 1997<sup>2</sup> and almost three-quarters of a million who were dependent on benefits and of working age, are now independent, and contributing financially to the success of our economy. Waiting lists for hospital appointments are down and there are more police officers than at any time in postwar Britain.

Yet the public say that low level crime, anti-social behaviour and disrespect are the issues that are of most importance to communities locally.<sup>3</sup> Anti-social behaviour is also expensive – it is estimated to cost the public £3.4 billion a year.<sup>4</sup>

Anti-social behaviour, which is the most visible sign of disrespect, is a major social justice issue. One in three people living on a low income, in social housing or in inner cities perceive their area as suffering from high levels of anti-social behaviour. In contrast, in more wealthy areas only one in 20 people use this description.<sup>5</sup> If a group of local children were playing truant from school and hanging around on a street corner, people in deprived areas would be less likely to feel that people would do something about it than those in more affluent areas.<sup>6</sup>



It is unjust to allow the small minority of people who perpetrate the vast majority of bad behaviour to ruin homes, villages and towns with impunity.

Where parents' behaviour becomes problematic, children can be placed at serious risk. Worse, poor behaviour and a lack of respect can be transmitted between generations and can result in children and young people getting involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.

A poor physical environment – broken windows, litter, graffiti, and abandoned cars – is associated with fear of crime and neglect by authorities. They are strong signals of disorder which increase concern about neighbourhood safety, causing people to withdraw from public space. This in turn creates a spiral of decline, making people feel less able to confront and deal with anti-social behaviour. Public services need to respond quickly to such signals and counter the feeling that an area is neglected before problems multiply.

The public have to be able to take responsibility for their homes, environments and neighbourhoods. But we know that shared values and trust within communities is not always enough to enable people to do this. People need to know that others in their neighbourhood will act, that there is a shared willingness to do so and that they will be backed by effective public services.

## PROGRESS SO FAR ON TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Government launched the anti-social behaviour strategy – the Together campaign – in 2003. This has focused on the more serious end of anti-social behaviour and disorder; behaviour which is perpetrated by adults as much as young people.

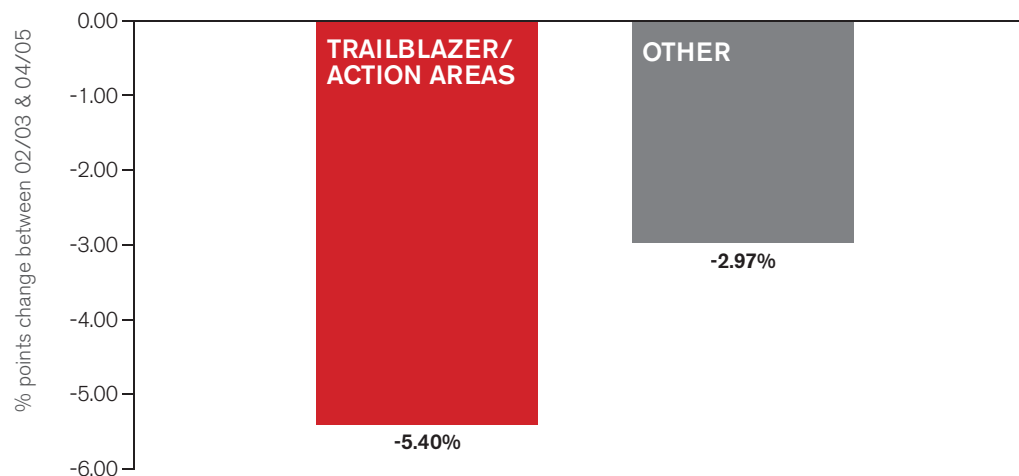
Nationally, there has been real progress. We have encouraged agencies to tackle and not tolerate anti-social behaviour by removing the barriers to taking action. We have provided resources for police community support officers and established neighbourhood wardens. We have introduced new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour and strengthened existing ones:

- **Acceptable behaviour contracts** – voluntary contracts made between the individual and the local agency (often the police, local authority or youth offending team), stopping problems and keeping people out of the courts. Over 13,000 have been issued in the last two years.<sup>7</sup>
- **Penalty notices for disorder** – pre-court powers for the police to crack down on unacceptable behaviour. They minimise bureaucracy and free up the time of police and the courts – over 170,000 have been issued in the last two years.<sup>8</sup>
- **Dispersal orders** – police and local authority power to break up groups of people causing problems in an area, claiming back public spaces for the community. Over 800 have been issued.<sup>9</sup>
- **Anti-social behaviour orders** – powers for the courts to prevent an individual engaging in specific forms of anti-social behaviour. Over 6,500 have been issued so far, over half on adults.<sup>10</sup>

The actions of central Government, local agencies and communities are working. This is particularly encouraging in the trailblazers and action areas – parts of the country where we have worked together intensively. We have learned a great deal from our partners in local authorities and the police in these areas over the last two years.

The British Crime Survey shows that between 2002/03 and 2004/05, the percentage of people perceiving there to be high levels of anti-social behaviour in their area fell at a greater rate in trailblazer and action areas (from 25% to 19%) than in other areas (from 19% to 16%) over the same period.

**FIG 1:** Change in % of people identifying high level of perceived anti-social behaviour in their local area between 2002/03 and 2004/05

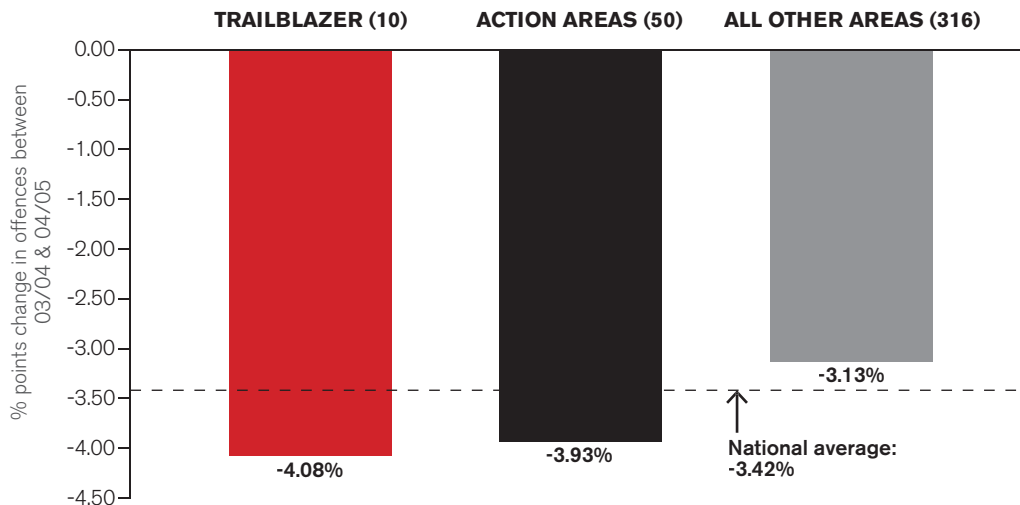


**SOURCE:** British Crime Survey 02/03; 04/05



Recorded criminal damage has also decreased at the national level. Between 2003/04 and 2004/05 there was a 3.4% decrease in the number of recorded offences nationally. Again, reduction in the anti-social behaviour-related forms of criminal damage (for example, graffiti) in the 10 trailblazer and 50 action areas was above the national average in 2004/05.<sup>11</sup>

**FIG 2:** % change between 2003/04 and 2004/05 in non-car/race-related criminal damage offences by CDRP area type (Recorded Crime data)



**SOURCE:** Recorded Crime Statistics, 03/04 and 04/05

This progress is very encouraging but we must ensure that this approach is taken nationally so that no matter where you live or who you are, you should not be on the receiving end of anti-social behaviour without the authorities knowing how and when to intervene.

To do this we need to broaden the approach to deal with both the causes of poor behaviour as well as the conditions and the physical space that enable it to take root – such as lack of authority figures and a neglected environment.

## RESPECT – A BROADER APPROACH

We will implement a strategy that sustains the momentum on anti-social behaviour but also delivers the Respect programme.

We will focus more explicitly on the causes of anti-social behaviour, recognising that children learn behaviour – good and bad – from the adults around them, and particularly from their parents and teachers. Parents can approve of or even encourage bad behaviour by their children.

Young people can also get drawn into trouble by adults – most groups of youths have an adult as the ringleader. It is important therefore that we intervene earlier in families, homes and schools to prevent children and young people who are showing signs of problems from getting any worse.

But we are clear that tackling disrespect is not a 'youth issue' any more than anti-social behaviour is. Over half of ASBOs are issued to adults.<sup>12</sup> The Respect drive will address anti-social adults and families, as well as anti-social young people.

We will maintain and build on the strong enforcement action that has aided the progress to date in reducing anti-social behaviour.

Underpinning this approach will be the police's role in maintaining law and order, peace and stability. Equally important is local government's role in providing leadership to our communities.

The Respect programme set out in this document will therefore go broader, deeper and further.

**Broader** means addressing anti-social behaviour in every walk of life; delivering on school discipline and attendance; challenging unacceptable behaviour of tenants and home owners alike; ensuring that public sector workers respect the people they serve – but that in turn communities respect those who serve them.

**Deeper** means tackling the causes of disrespectful behaviour; intervening in families with problems, making sure all parents get support in times of change; ensuring parenting classes are increasingly taken up in the same way as ante-natal classes; tackling drugs and alcohol problems; making sure that children and young people are active and learning how they can make their own contribution to our national life.

**Further** means introducing new powers and taking action to make a difference in the short term and embedding those changes into the mainstream to create cultural change so that everyone sees and expects a robust response to anti-social behaviour.

# THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON UNLOCKING THE POSITIVE **POTENTIAL** OF YOUNG PEOPLE

## CHAPTER 2: **ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Constructive and purposeful activities have enormous benefits for young people. They can encourage and enable children and young people to contribute to their communities and help divert them from anti-social behaviour.**

- **We will pilot Youth Opportunity Cards in a number of areas and expand the Youth Opportunity Fund.**
- **We will implement Britain's first national youth voluntary service.**
- **We will work with regional sports and arts bodies to target funding for activities in the most deprived communities.**
- **We will expand mentoring projects as an effective way of developing positive role models and establish a Sports Champions mentoring programme.**

**Children and young people are the future, our chance to make the country better, stronger and more able to meet the demands of the 21st century. Positive parenting and schooling help children and young people make the transition to adult life successfully.**

**Young people should be proud of themselves: for example 45% of 16–24 year olds participate at least once a month in informal volunteering – the highest level for any age group.<sup>13</sup>**

**We need to strike the right balance between rights and responsibilities, appreciating the enormous contribution that young people make while expecting them in return to appreciate and respect the opportunities available to them.**

## **WHAT IS THE ISSUE?**

A minority of young people, however, can face more serious problems. They may have differences with their parents, which may lead to them missing school. They may have health problems which can affect their ability to learn and to achieve. Difficulties at home or at school may lead to the development of bad behaviour and problems of drug or alcohol misuse.

In order to create a culture of respect, we need to provide opportunities and support to children and young people and to challenge bad behaviour as it occurs. Many of us have needed support and guidance to help turn our lives around – every child must have that and it is our duty to provide it.

We know that taking part in sport, constructive activities and volunteering has a long-term beneficial effect on young people's lives in helping them to develop as individuals, find new perspectives, interests and aspirations and to make a positive contribution to their communities and our national life.

At present the availability of these activities is patchy and of variable quality across the country – ranging from ground-breaking and innovative projects to poor quality schemes. Many young people feel there is nothing for them to do locally, or nothing they want to do. This is particularly the case for disadvantaged young people: for example participation in sport is around 25% lower among 16–19 year olds in the lowest socio-economic groups compared to 16–19 year olds in the highest socio-economic groups.<sup>14</sup>

In the Green Paper, *Youth Matters*, the Government set out its commitment to ensure that all young people have access to activities that they find interesting and exciting in their local area. This should include a full range of cultural, arts, sport, environmental and community-based activities.

To make this happen we put forward a series of proposals, including the introduction of a new Youth Opportunities Fund and Youth Opportunity Cards to empower young people and encourage them to engage in activities in their free time. It also proposed new legislation and national standards to support the increased provision of activities. The Government will be publishing its response to *Youth Matters* shortly.

## **ACTION: Implementing proposals from *Youth Matters***

We are already asking local authorities, working with their partners in Children's Trusts, to examine the provision available for young people in their areas and ensure that services are appropriate and accessible to teenagers. To facilitate this, we propose to devolve funding streams to local level and to provide additional funding.

We are also planning to pilot the Youth Opportunity Card. These cards provide discounts on activities and will be topped up with financial credits to encourage young people to take part in positive activities in their free time. Young people will be able to spend the money with accredited providers of sport, constructive activities and clubs and classes. All young people will have a right to such a card but if they behave anti-socially, the credits will be withdrawn.

We have also recently made available an additional £53 million to expand the Youth Opportunity Fund, enabling young people to establish their own projects to improve the activities available. This might involve renting space in a community centre to put on activities, establishing a neighbourhood council or youth cafe or running sports leagues and tournaments. An average local authority could receive £500,000 over the next two years to make a budget available for projects chosen by young people to improve things to do and places to go in their area.

We want to build on these proposals to give greater focus to engaging those young people who are most difficult to reach and from the most deprived areas of the country.

## **ACTION: Targeting disadvantaged young people through sport and art**

We will work with the regional tiers of Sport England, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Arts Council England to ensure that within the target areas current funding is more effectively channelled into community sport and cultural activities that target disadvantaged groups. This funding will provide a hook for engaging those young people most at risk of anti-social behaviour. Organisations receiving it will need to work closely with those who have the right skills and networks to engage young people at the margins. They will work to lever in further funding from other sources for that purpose. In particular, Sport England will build on the lessons learned from Sport Action Zones to ensure the sports opportunities offered appeal to disadvantaged young people.

Activities could include for example, sport (team sports, outdoor sports and adventure sports) or getting involved in music or volunteering. In particular, sports and cultural organisations will proactively work with Children's Trusts to make sure that the needs of disaffected young people are met through a range of tailored activities at a local level.

## **ACTION: Britain's first national youth volunteering service**

There is no better example of respect than voluntary activity. When individuals give their time to the wider community, it benefits both the recipients of that help and those who give it. However, the importance of voluntary activity goes wider than the impact on individuals – it brings people together, helping to create common values and strengthening our society.

There is a strong tradition of volunteering in this country. The Millennium Volunteers programme has been running successfully for five years, with 225,000 young people from a range of backgrounds participating.

The Government has already accepted the recommendations of the Russell Commission to boost the numbers of young people volunteering by one million over the next five years including:

- raising the numbers of full-time volunteers by 12,000 per year
- delivering 80,000 more part-time volunteering opportunities
- delivering 300,000 more short-term taster opportunities each year.

This will be Britain's first national youth volunteering service and will fund gap year volunteering – at home and abroad – for young people who would otherwise not be able to afford this. There will be voluntary community service opportunities in every area of the country.

In all of the Russell Commission work there will be a particular focus on involving volunteers from disadvantaged backgrounds.

We have already committed up to £100 million to make this happen, with a fundraising strategy in place to raise an additional £50 million from private sector supporters. We will establish an implementation body to take forward the Russell Commission recommendations on youth volunteering. £3.5 million has already been committed by seven corporate founding partners.

## **ACTION: Expanding mentoring**

Mentoring projects have been proved to change the expectations of many young people at crisis points in their lives.

Mentoring is usually combined with leisure activities which help young people to use services they would not normally be able to access. Mentoring can improve self-confidence and self-esteem, increase motivation and raise aspirations. The Government is already putting over £4 million into a mentoring and befriending programme which is focusing on the development of the National Mentoring and Befriending Foundation.

The Government will continue to support peer mentoring projects which are an effective way of developing positive role models for young people. We will be investing in a new pilot project to establish peer-mentoring schemes in 180 secondary schools over two years. This will deliver 3,600 matched mentor and mentee pairs. There will also be a further pilot of a mentoring scheme for 600 looked-after children aged 10 to 15.

We will also provide a new £1 million investment over the next three years to develop and expand the Sports Champions mentoring programme. This will build on the already successful programme, where our world class athletes, many of whom have faced difficult situations themselves, inspire and motivate disaffected young people.

We will extend this to other sectors, for example music, the arts, culture and creative industries. As a part of this, we will work with a range of employers in the creative industries such as ITV, BSkyB and the BBC.

## **ACTION: Review the impact of youth activities**

The proposals outlined here will increase access to constructive activities for young people. We will monitor progress by working with a number of areas to review how far the provision of youth activities meets demand from young people and how far this is preventing involvement in anti-social behaviour.

# THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FUTURE IS OUR YOUNG

## CHAPTER 3: SCHOOLS – IMPROVING BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

**Positive values and behaviour form the basis of good teaching and are a critical part of what children need to learn in school.**

- We will legislate to tackle poor behaviour, including new measures to ensure parents take responsibility for their child's behaviour in the classroom and when they are excluded from school.**
- We will take targeted action on persistent truants and place a new duty on local authorities to identify children missing school and support their re-entry into mainstream education or alternative provision.**
- We will improve provision for those who are out of school through a new regime for suspended and excluded pupils.**

**In October 2005, the Government set out a national strategy for improving behaviour in schools in the Schools White Paper *Higher Standards, Better Schools for All*. This took forward many of the recommendations put forward by the taskforce led by Sir Alan Steer. Key components of that White Paper underpin the Respect Action Plan.**

**Good discipline and behaviour in schools are vital if teachers are to teach and children are to learn. Behaviour was satisfactory or better in over 99% of the primary schools and 94% of the secondary schools inspected by Ofsted in 2004/05.<sup>15</sup> However, poor attendance and behaviour at school are often linked to anti-social behaviour. Tackling these is therefore an important part of the Respect programme.**

## **WHAT IS THE ISSUE?**

A child's failure to attend school is often a sign of deeper problems at home. Research in inner city secondary schools found that 2.7% of pupils, each with 20 days or more unauthorised absence, accounted for nearly 50% of all unauthorised absence in those schools.<sup>16</sup>

Overall, standards of behaviour were unsatisfactory in 6% of secondary schools and challenging behaviour can occur in any school.<sup>17</sup> Indiscipline – backchat, rudeness, calling out in class – makes teaching more difficult and saps the morale of teachers and other pupils in the school.



### **ACTION: New legislation to tackle poor behaviour**

The Education Bill, to be published early in 2006, will include a series of new measures to:

- give a clear and unambiguous legal right for school staff to discipline pupils, backed by an expectation that every school has a clear set of rules and sanctions
- require parents, schools and local authorities to arrange supervision for excluded pupils
- enable schools and local authorities to make earlier use of parenting contracts, enabling both contracts and orders to be used where the pupil has not been excluded; and empowering schools to apply for parenting orders.

### **ACTION: Roll out of secondary school behaviour and truancy partnerships**

By September 2007 all secondary schools will be part of a partnership to manage behaviour and tackle persistent truancy. They will work to target pupils in this group, assessing their needs and agreeing a plan based on clear attainment goals (academic or vocational).

The local authority will then devolve funds to schools to purchase whatever packages of educational support and provision they need from a range of public, private and voluntary sector providers. Early evidence suggests that these are highly effective and give schools significant freedoms.

### **ACTION: Targeted action on persistent truancy**

Targeted action began in September 2005 in the 146 secondary schools attended by 8,000 known persistent truants. These schools are responsible for almost one fifth of all unauthorised absence. From January 2006, the group of schools will be extended to around 200 with an estimated 13,000 persistent truants in total. There are new targets for these schools to detect and prevent truancy in its earliest stages. Key elements of the approach are:

- Putting truants and their parents on a *fast-track system*. They will be assigned a dedicated truancy officer to draw up an individual action plan to improve their school attendance.
- Truants and their parents will receive co-ordinated support from social and youth services to tackle wider issues such as drugs, mental health or parenting skills that might be contributing to their truancy.
- Non-co-operation or insufficient progress will lead to penalty notices or prosecution.

### **ACTION: Preventing informal and unofficial exclusions**

Some children may not be in school because they have been unofficially or informally excluded. This is when a teacher sends a pupil home for disciplinary reasons, without following the procedures required for a legal exclusion. We are taking strong action to prevent this practice. Guidance on exclusions will be strengthened to include a full explanation of the legal implications for schools if they use unofficial exclusions. We will also produce good practice guidance in spring 2006 promoting stringent procedures to prevent unofficial exclusion and will agree a plan to work with our partners – particularly local authorities and headteachers – during 2006 to check progress.

## **ACTION: Taking action to identify children missing education**

We have signalled our intention to introduce in the forthcoming Education Bill a new statutory duty on all local authorities to make arrangements to identify children missing from school rolls.

All local authorities will have a named individual responsible for identifying children missing education and, once found, they will broker support for them through the most appropriate agencies so that suitable provision can be made for them. The support may be focused on facilitating re-entry into mainstream education or entry to alternative or vocational provision where appropriate.

## **ACTION: Improving provision for those who are out of school**

We will introduce a new regime for suspended and excluded pupils. Provisions requiring legislation will be included in the Education Bill. This new regime will include:

- A new expectation that parents/carers will be responsible for making arrangements to ensure their child is supervised during the first five days of an exclusion. This will be underpinned by a new offence for parents where an excluded pupil is found unsupervised in a public place during normal school hours without reasonable excuse.
- Local authorities will be required from September 2007 to provide permanently excluded pupils with a full-time education from the sixth day of their exclusion rather than the sixteenth.
- Schools will be required from September 2007 to provide pupils on fixed period exclusions with a full-time education from the sixth day of any exclusion. By this time, all secondary schools are expected to be working in partnership, with shared funding devolved from local authorities to enable them to develop off-site alternative provision. Funding will also be available for primary schools.

- Mandatory reintegration interviews after any exclusion of five days or more from secondary schools and special schools and after any exclusion from primary schools.
- Better professional development of staff in Pupil Referral Units and increased use of effective alternative provision as part of the drive to improve quality.

Taken together these measures will enable schools, local authorities and parents to respond quickly and effectively to poor behaviour and truancy, making a major contribution to the reduction of anti-social behaviour in their communities. They lay the foundations for ensuring that every child is able to learn in a safe and positive environment while ensuring that public services do not give up on those at risk of exclusion from wider society.

**THERE IS  
NO GREATER  
RESPONSIBILITY  
THAN RAISING  
THE NEXT  
GENERATION**

Parents have a critical role in helping their children to develop the values and behaviour that underpin respect. Many say they would value help with parenting – and some parents do not yet take their responsibilities seriously.

- We will improve parenting provision nationally through Children's Centres, Extended Schools, and measures to improve workforce capacity, including a National Parenting Academy.
- We will focus help on parents who need it most by establishing pathfinders to prevent anti-social behaviour among young people at risk.
- We will tackle irresponsible parents, legislating to widen the range of agencies which can apply for a parenting order where a child's behaviour requires it.

Parenting is one of the most important responsibilities in creating a strong society based on mutual respect. Parenting is primarily the business of parents and the Government does not want to interfere with that principle. But where parents are unwilling, or unable to meet their responsibilities we must ensure that they are challenged and supported to do so.

The public also believe that parents are a priority – 85% of people in the UK think that parents not bringing up their children properly is the biggest reason for the perceived rise in anti-social behaviour.<sup>18</sup> Better parenting is also valued by the public more highly than more police officers as a way of reducing crime.<sup>19</sup>

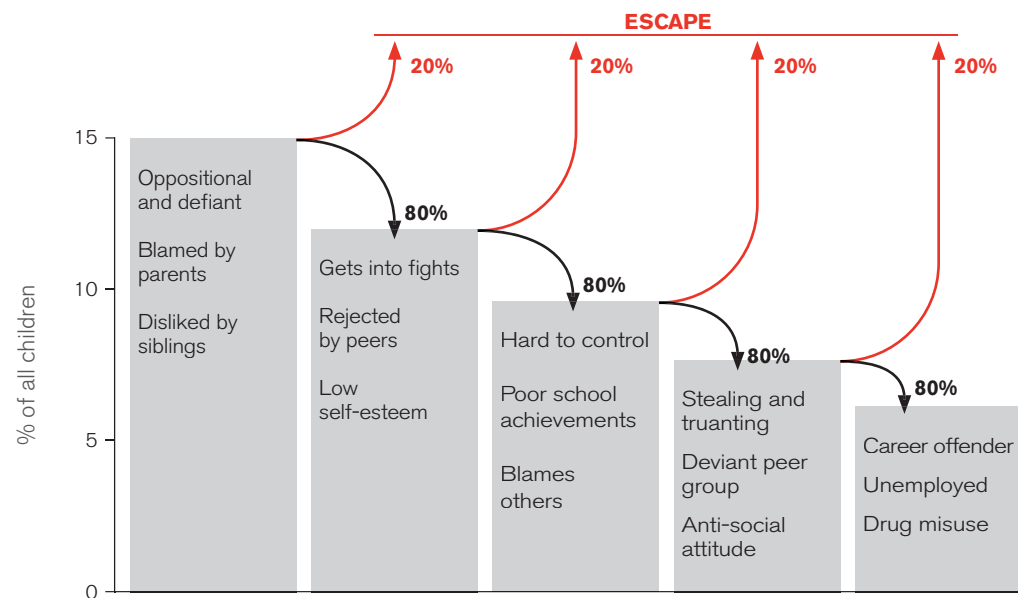
This chapter sets out a series of measures that will expand and improve services for parents as a central part of our strategy to promote and sustain respect.

## WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Poor parenting, lack of parental supervision and weak parent/child relationships all increase the risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour. While not all children who experience poor parenting will develop problems, the case for supporting parents of vulnerable children and teenagers earlier is strong: it improves outcomes for children and families; it improves outcomes for communities; and it represents good value for money.

By addressing poor parenting at the earliest opportunity, we will address one of the key causes of anti-social behaviour and reduce its long-term effects. Children who engage in anti-social behaviour from an early age are disproportionately likely to face a lifetime of social exclusion and offending, as the figure below shows. Anti-social behaviour and offending by men have their origins in early childhood in 90% of cases.

FIG 3: Continuity of anti-social behaviour from age 5 to 17



SOURCE: Research conducted by Dr Stephen Scott (Reader in Child Health and Behaviour & Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist) for the Home Office 2002

Despite this, early bad behaviour does not necessarily predict serious offending later in life. Research shows that many young people can drift into problem behaviour<sup>20</sup> but may not always come to the attention of mainstream services and may not offend persistently. Yet their life chances and the wellbeing of their communities are at risk.

We must ensure that public services are able to respond to this wider group of young people as well as those whose vulnerability is clear from an early age, including quicker intervention where poor parental supervision or parent-child relationships increase the risk of problem behaviour.

The demand for greater parenting support is high and continues to grow as society changes. However, gaps remain in both the availability and quality of local services to meet different needs.<sup>21</sup> Some parents know precisely what services they want, but find they are not available; others who are in difficult personal circumstances, such as teenage parents, may feel isolated and wary of existing services.

There are also a small minority of parents who refuse to take responsibility for their children's poor behaviour in their communities. Services do not always have a full range of sanctions open to them to act quickly in challenging these parents, resulting in a failure to check anti-social behaviour early.

We are determined to take action. Over the next two years we will invest an additional £52 million to start a national programme of change in the way public services respond to parents. Over 2006-08 this funding will contribute to a series of measures set out below to improve and expand parenting services as a key part of our strategy to promote respect and tackle anti-social behaviour.

## **IMPROVING PARENTING PROVISION NATIONALLY**

### **ACTION: Progress so far**

There is a clear role for central Government in supporting and enabling local public services to respond flexibly and quickly to the very different needs and problems faced by parents.

The foundations are already in place. We are already investing in universal access to parenting support through the roll out of Children's Centres and Extended Schools. This will include an increased focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable families and greatly improve parents' ability to get help and support.

- There will be approximately 1,000 Children's Centres operational by September 2006. We expect these centres to reach around one million children and their families.
- A further 2,500 Centres will be rolled out by 2010. Most will be providing parenting and family support, depending on the needs of their communities and local provision already available.
- All schools will offer services outside school hours by 2010; by 2008 we expect a third of all secondary schools and half of all primary schools to be offering these extended services including parenting support. This may involve sessions at key transition points, such as the move to secondary school or referral to more specialised support to tackle behavioural problems.
- In addition, £20 million will be invested in piloting a new school-based outreach role – Parent School Advisers – to intervene early in supporting children and families where there are signs of problems.

### **ACTION: Improving local authority delivery of parenting provision**

We will introduce new requirements and expectations on local authorities to improve planning, commissioning and funding of parenting services by:

- setting out clear expectations in guidance that Directors of Children's Services, working through Children's Trusts, will commission parent and family support services that respond to local needs
- developing a commissioner's toolkit which will be available online. This will be available in 2006/07 to help commissioners identify the most suitable parenting programmes
- taking action to ensure that every local authority has a senior 'parents champion' who will be the co-ordinating point for work across local agencies and ensure that all services for parents are a key part of Children and Young People's Plans
- monitoring progress through integrated inspection arrangements.

### **ACTION: Developing the workforce to meet the new challenge**

Evidence from Sure Start and youth offending programmes shows that the level of skill and training of the member of staff delivering a parenting intervention is crucial. Through new National Occupational Standards, we will raise the quality threshold for all members of the children's workforce working with parents. This will enable frontline workers to identify parents who are struggling and to refer them to appropriate services before problems escalate.

### **ACTION: Establishment of a National Parenting Academy**

We will establish a National Parenting Academy. This will deliver and support the training of staff from a range of relevant professions for example social workers, clinical psychologists, community safety officers and youth justice workers. It will ensure they have the skills necessary to deliver high quality parenting support and receive the ongoing supervision that is needed to maintain quality. An expert panel will be established to steer the Academy.

## FOCUSING HELP ON PARENTS WHO MOST NEED IT

### **ACTION:** Increased support for the parents of children and young people at risk

*Every Child Matters* and *Youth Matters* highlighted that the existing system for supporting children and young people who are beginning to experience difficulties is often poorly co-ordinated and undermined by unclear accountability. We propose targeted interventions, so that children and young people at risk, and their parents, receive a quicker, more co-ordinated package of challenge and support.

From April 2006, a series of pathfinders will be funded to deliver integrated targeted support that will explore:

- how best to provide support for parents of children and young people at risk
- practical ways of intervening earlier with children and young people at risk
- developing effective practice on parenting that can be applied nationally.

### **ACTION: £45 million to prevent youth crime and anti-social behaviour**

This money, additional to the £52 million mentioned earlier in this chapter, is available to the Youth Justice Board over the next three years and will be channelled into prevention programmes, including new resources for parenting interventions. Youth offending teams are currently developing plans for how they will use this money. We will ensure that the planning and commissioning of parenting services by youth offending teams is co-ordinated with the expansion of the provision, which will be delivered through Children's Trusts and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs).

### **ACTION: We will further incentivise teenage parents to attend parenting classes**

Children born to teenage parents are particularly likely to experience a range of poor outcomes in later life, including low educational attainment. They are also more likely to become teenage parents themselves, helping to perpetuate problems across generations.

There is therefore a particularly strong case for taking action to improve the parenting skills of teenagers who become pregnant. Support for learning by teenage parents will be increasingly more accessible through Children's Centres and other aspects of local children's services. But we will go further.

- We will make available Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) to teenage parents taking part in parenting classes if they are not already covered by EMAs.
- We will ensure that the Activity Agreement Allowances being piloted from April 2006, (£60 million over two years) include teenage parents.
- We will extend eligibility for the Care to Learn scheme, which contributes to childcare costs while young parents learn, to 19 year olds.
- We will reinforce existing sanctions on Income Support (IS) for 16 and 17 year olds – 20% reduction in IS if they do not attend a learning focused interview with Connexions in Jobcentre Plus areas.

## TACKLING IRRESPONSIBLE PARENTS

### **ACTION: Legislate to expand the use of parenting orders**

Most parents accept help when offered or will take it when they have good information. But where parents are not willing to engage, we will expand the use of parenting contracts and orders to secure their engagement.

Parenting contracts are voluntary written agreements that are used by a range of agencies to gain the co-operation of parents in relation to the supervision of their child. Parenting orders are court orders and are currently available to local education authorities and youth offending teams. The courts also have powers in certain circumstances to impose parenting orders. They are used to gain compliance from parents and will often contain specific requirements to help curb the anti-social behaviour of children in their care or guardianship and to help them become better parents.

We have outlined our intention to extend parenting orders in the following ways:

- A new trigger of 'serious misbehaviour' will be added to the existing trigger of exclusion from school, so that a parenting order can be made before a child is excluded.
- Schools will also be able to seek parenting orders.
- Local authorities will be given new powers to extend the range of agencies that can enter into parenting contracts and orders where anti-social behaviour occurs in the community. This may include community safety officers and housing officers.

### **ACTION: Including parenting in Youth Court pre-sentence reports for all young offenders**

The courts and youth offending teams should always actively consider whether the parents of a young person would benefit from any form of parenting support when sentencing a young offender. We will work with the Youth Justice Board and other partners to ensure that recommendations on parenting are built into pre-sentence reports and national standards for young offenders.

# EVERYONE IS PART OF EVERYONE ELSE

## CHAPTER 5: A NEW APPROACH TO THE MOST CHALLENGING FAMILIES



**Problem families can disrupt the quality of life of whole communities and make the lives of residents around them miserable.<sup>22</sup>**

**It is in the interest of all of us to ensure that the small minority of families who are responsible for a high proportion of problems, radically change their behaviour. It is also in the interest of the households themselves to be helped or forced to take help so that they, and especially their children, can take up opportunities that others enjoy.**

- We will launch in 2006 a national network of intensive family support schemes.**
- We will develop a long-term cross-Government strategy on problem families to improve the way public services deal with them.**
- We will make additional investment available for parenting programmes as part of a co-ordinated approach to the most challenging families across children's and adult services.**

**A small number of households are often responsible for a high proportion of anti-social behaviour. In the media they are often referred to as 'neighbours from hell'.**

**The way public services intervene with these families is not always adequate. We will roll out schemes which 'grip' problem households and the array of services involved with them and change their behaviour.**

**Not all of these households will contain children, although a large proportion of them do. Where there are children present it is more likely that they will get involved in anti-social behaviour from a young age as well as experiencing poor outcomes ranging from underachievement to serious abuse. This reinforces the need for adult and children's services to work together in addressing the influence of these households on communities, particularly the impact of poor parenting described in Chapter 4.**

## **WHAT IS THE ISSUE?**

We must deal effectively with these families and individuals if we are to tackle both anti-social behaviour and its long-term causes. Tackling their behaviour will require a different response from local services. Many individuals have multiple problems in addition to their anti-social behaviour. Mental health, alcohol, and drug problems, poor basic and life skills, domestic violence, poor school attendance, poverty and worklessness are recurrent issues that cannot be solved through short-lived actions from single local agencies. A recurring theme from research is that action needs to be concerted across local services and sustained for as long as necessary.

Typically, at various times, such families require the involvement of housing services, the police, and education services. However, substance misuse services, Job Centre Plus, youth services, health services (for example GPs, A&E, child or adult mental health services), Environmental Services, Connexions, Sure Start, and voluntary and community sector providers all are involved with these families to a lesser or greater extent.

Yet, despite this level of services, the net effect is disappointing and can ultimately be expensive. The response of services can be inadequate for several reasons:

- Lack of leadership and coordination – no one is in charge across agencies and crucial information is not shared that could lead to earlier action.
- The lack of clear accountability results in there being no incentives for services to intervene earlier with these families or sustain their involvement once the immediate crisis has passed.

- The right agencies are either not involved or do not prioritise resources – there are gaps in mental health and drug addiction treatment – which undermine the impact of the other interventions.
- Staff are insufficiently trained in dealing with problem families and/or do not have access to programmes that have been shown to work.

These households must desist from their engagement in anti-social behaviour and not slide back into it. They should not receive a fragmented response from a range of agencies – or no response – because they are difficult to deal with. Their problems should be comprehensively and systematically addressed through a planned and sustained mix of challenge and support across the family.

## WHAT WORKS WITH PROBLEM FAMILIES?

The problems described are not insoluble. We know that intensive, tailored action, with supervision and clear sanctions can be effective in improving the behaviour of the most problematic households. A small number of projects that use these approaches are currently operating, providing a more effective response to persistent anti-social behaviour.

What makes the projects distinctive and different is that a lead person 'grips' the household and the range of services and professionals that are involved. This provides co-ordination and consistency for the household and a consistent message on the consequences of disengagement.

Key features of the approach are:

- Assessment of the underlying problems driving the family's behaviour before identifying which services need to be involved.
- Great persistence and assertiveness by project workers to ensure families stick to agreements and changes in behaviour.
- A single person in charge and responsible for ensuring the delivery of a multi-agency action plan that balances support and sanctions.
- Brokering and ensuring the adherence to a 'contract' between the household and agencies involved in their case which is kept under constant review.

There is good evidence that programmes sharing all these characteristics have lasting impact.

The Dundee Families Project has achieved an 84% success rate.<sup>23</sup> Without the project in 2004–05: adults of 13 families would have been subjected to ASBOs; 10 families would have been evicted; and 19 children may have been received into local authority foster or residential care.<sup>24</sup>

Preliminary findings from Sheffield Hallam University's evaluation of six similar projects found that, in 82% of cases studied, there was a reduction in the level of complaints, and that 95% of families, where data is available, achieved housing stability.<sup>25</sup>

There is some promising evidence from the first quarter of 2005–06 for eight of the anti-social behaviour trailblazer projects. 74% of families involved with trailblazer projects were reported to be experiencing at least one positive outcome.<sup>26</sup>

We want to build on these successful approaches and roll out these projects in areas where anti-social behaviour is most acute as part of a long-term cross-Government strategy for dealing with problem families. The projects will vary, covering a spectrum from key workers who carry out outreach with families in their own homes, to those that work with families in a residential setting. They will be delivered by both voluntary and statutory agencies by workers with a range of professional backgrounds.

## ACTION: Establish a national network of intensive family support schemes

- By April 2007 all local authorities will have Local Area Agreements as the main method for the receipt of funding against their own local priorities with a total annual expenditure of £81 billion. We will include a mandatory outcome that will require them to ensure that intensive family support projects are in place where they are needed.
- Although mainstream funding will be reprioritised as above, we will make available new funding of up to £28 million to get schemes off the ground and provide parenting support. To support this we will produce comprehensive guidance and assist areas directly. Through the projects we will test ways of strengthening the commitments of key agencies working with problem families.
- All of these projects will be guaranteed employment-related services. Jobcentre Plus will assign a dedicated officer in each district to work with the Intervention Projects. All the individuals in the household will be assessed and receive Jobcentre Plus intensive services that currently exist for disadvantaged people. This includes New Deals and other special projects such as progress2work.
- The Care Services Improvement Partnership (who work on behalf of the Department of Health) will provide guidance to providers and commissioners of health services on dealing effectively with problem families and specifically what services the national intervention projects need. Assessment to determine individual need for services will also look at the needs of the wider family and community.
- In areas where family support projects are operating, a nominated health professional will be provided who will act as a contact for project workers.

## **ACTION: Develop a cross-Government strategy on the most challenging families**

We need to deal with problem families now through the dedicated projects already described, but the aim must be over the long term to mainstream these approaches.

Key departments will work together to develop a cross-Government strategy to drive an improved service response to problem households. These departments, and their local service partners, have important roles to play in ensuring that mainstream adult and children's services respond more quickly and effectively to these families and address gaps in provision. The aim is to mainstream intensive intervention with problem households where they are the cause of anti-social behaviour.

Over the coming months we will consider the implementation of this strategy, including:

- Creating a multi-agency response to problem households which is led strategically by a clearly accountable local body, for example CDRPs.
- Deciding how to address the gaps in services and improve responsiveness – particularly in terms of parenting provision, mental health and drug treatment services and job-related services.
- Ensuring that integrated working between local services is not hampered by over-complicated funding streams and performance management arrangements.
- Making sure that the overall approaches are evaluated to see if cost savings can be made. Recommendations will feed into the next Government Spending Review.

## **ACTION: Consider sanctions for households evicted for anti-social behaviour who refuse help**

We are also considering how to encourage those involved in persistent anti-social behaviour to engage with intensive family support. One option would be to introduce sanctions for those people who have been evicted for anti-social behaviour and then refuse to take up offers of help. Sanctions could include financial penalties or housing benefit measures. This would provide a very strong incentive to encourage these households to undertake rehabilitation when they have refused other offers of help.

**THE WHOLE  
IS GREATER  
THAN THE  
SUM OF  
ITS PARTS**

**CHAPTER 6:  
STRENGTHENING  
COMMUNITIES**

**The Respect programme is about giving people power over the public services they receive as individuals or communities, giving people a greater sense of ownership over their services and public spaces. We will support families and community organisations and by so doing, nurture the values of co-operation and reciprocity that are the lifeblood of successful societies.**

- We will use the funding, good practice and inspection regimes for local government and social housing providers to ensure a consistent response to anti-social behaviour nationally.**
- We will improve accountability between service providers and the public by giving more power to local people.**
- We will target programmes on the most deprived areas to ensure that help goes where it is needed most.**

**We want to make changes to the way that public services are organised so that they respond to the problems that communities face today – issues like anti-social behaviour do not only occur during office hours and services need to be available when and where communities need them.**

**That is why the Government's mission is not just decent homes but decent communities. Most people care deeply about the area they live in – whether they feel safe walking the streets, what the area looks like, how good the local schools are.<sup>27</sup>**

**In many areas, local government is providing community leadership, prioritising and acting on the concerns of the community, tackling anti-social behaviour and promoting positive behaviour.**

## **WHAT IS THE ISSUE?**

Although progress has been made in developing the way local areas are organised to tackle anti-social behaviour – with over half of all CDRPs operating a dedicated anti-social behaviour team,<sup>28</sup> this is simply not enough and we must take further action to bolster the capacity of local government and ensure that the Respect drive is given the priority it needs.

There is already a Neighbourhood Policing Pathfinder in every police force area in the country. Provisional figures show that over 170,000 PNDs have been issued for disorder offences.<sup>29</sup> This is a good start but more needs to be done. This is evidenced by the Home Office/Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary *Police Performance Assessments 2004/05* that showed improvements had been made but more is needed.

Sometimes the public do not see any point in reporting or taking a stand against anti-social behaviour because they do not think anything will be done about it. Sometimes too, they hear nothing after the report has been made or the problem does not go away.

The evidence that people in deprived areas suffer disproportionately is still of major concern. There is no doubt that the quality of life in many areas has improved under Neighbourhood Renewal and other regeneration programmes but nevertheless we are determined to close the gap between the experience of those in poorer and more affluent areas.

To address this we will ensure that the Respect drive prioritises these areas. For example – parenting programmes, family support projects, youth facilities, neighbourhood wardens and neighbourhood managers, all working together, need to be established where they do not currently exist or are not effective.

## CONSISTENCY OF APPROACH

### **ACTION: A mandatory respect and anti-social behaviour outcome in all Local Area Agreements (LAAs) by April 2007**

Local government spends £81.7 billion per year.<sup>30</sup> Together we are introducing Local Area Agreements (LAAs are contracts between central and local government) to deliver on local priorities. They will change the way central and local government work together so that funding is linked to delivery of jointly agreed outcomes.

We are committed to putting in place these agreements across England over the next two years. There are 20 in place already and a further 66 will be agreed by April 2006. By 2007, all upper tier local authorities will have an LAA, including a mandatory outcome on Respect and anti-social behaviour.

These will include commitments to deliver family support work, neighbourhood management and warden teams and anti-social behaviour work. This will ensure that local agencies take the lead on the Respect programme and that key local services and funding streams are focused on delivering Respect outcomes for the communities they serve.

### **ACTION: Developing Neighbourhood Policing across the country**

International evidence shows that neighbourhood policing works in reducing crime, increasing feelings of safety and increasing public confidence in the police. A Home Office evaluation of the National Reassurance Policing Programme, to be published in January 2006, will show that neighbourhood policing can lead to positive change in a range of key outcomes including crime, perceptions of anti-social behaviour, feelings of safety after dark and public confidence in the police.<sup>31</sup>

We have committed that, by 2008, every area will benefit from its own neighbourhood policing team. Neighbourhood policing teams will forge a new relationship with local people based on active co-operation rather than simple consent, providing communities with:

- **Access** – to policing services through a named point of contact.
- **Influence** – over policing priorities in their neighbourhood.
- **Interventions** – joint action with partners and communities.
- **Answers** – sustainable solutions and feedback.

We will work with Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and other partners to ensure that neighbourhood policing is effectively linked to other local services such as neighbourhood management.

Police community support officers (PCSOs) are absolutely vital to the modern police force. There are already 6,000 officers now in post and this will rise to over 24,000 by 2008. Numbers on this scale will revolutionise policing in our communities.

Over the course of 2006 the majority of PCSO powers will be standardised, leaving only a small number to be designated at the discretion of the Chief Constable. This will also ensure that PCSOs in all areas have the powers they need to deal with anti-social behaviour and low-level crime as part of neighbourhood policing teams and therefore free up police officer time.

We will also strengthen PCSOs' authority by giving them a new power to enable them to take part in 'truancy sweeps' with police officers. At present, PCSOs have no powers to take part in these 'truancy sweeps', although they are well placed to do so due to their local knowledge of the children in their areas.

### **ACTION: Introduce a nationwide single non-emergency number**

We want to make it much easier for the public to access services that will help them tackle anti-social behaviour and non-emergency crime. The majority of people know that the 999 service is there for emergencies: but up to 70% of 999 calls to the police do not require an emergency response.<sup>32</sup>

We are introducing a new national non-emergency number so that people can easily gain access to community safety advice, information and action. This will improve the delivery of non-emergency services through active co-operation between police and local authority service providers and by giving them better intelligence on community safety issues.

Partnerships to deliver these have been established between local authorities and the police in initially five areas (South Wales, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Leicestershire and Rutland, South Yorkshire and Northumbria). These will go live to the public in summer 2006. The service will expand in scope and geographical coverage over 2006/07 and be available across England and Wales during 2008. This is backed by a fund of £140 million.

This development is a key part of the Respect drive to match services with people's responsibility to report problems and their right to effective action.



## **ACTION: Develop a Respect Standard for housing management**

In 2004 there were 3,784,000 households renting from social landlords, 18% of all households, including over eight million people.<sup>33</sup> We know that these people are more likely than others to be affected by high levels of anti-social behaviour.<sup>34</sup>

Strong housing management can make a real difference to both the quality of lives of tenants and those living in the wider community. In terms of tackling anti-social behaviour, housing managers will often be the first to identify problems and the first agency that victims approach. We have made a good start – over half of social landlords have a specialist officer or multi-disciplinary team in place to co-ordinate action on anti-social behaviour.<sup>35</sup>

We want every tenant – including tenants of social landlords – to know their landlord will act quickly and decisively to tackle anti-social behaviour. We will seek to make a direct link between housing enforcement powers (for example, anti-social behaviour injunctions (ASBIs), demotion and possession orders) and provision of support and rehabilitation programmes.

For example, when a tenant is 'demoted', we will expect their landlord to work with key local agencies who will deliver a programme to help stop anti-social behaviour and sustain the tenancy.

We want social landlords to be accountable to tenants, working in partnership with them to define and uphold standards of behaviour. We will develop a Respect Standard to action this.

### **The Respect Standard will include commitments on the part of the landlord and partners to:**

- involve the community in setting standards and enforcing them
- reward responsibility by providing incentives for those who respect their neighbourhoods and community
- handle complaints quickly and with sensitivity
- protect complainants and witnesses from first complaint to resolution
- deliver early interventions to stop problems escalating
- take swift enforcement action where appropriate selecting the most effective tool from a range of powers such as ASBIs or demotion orders
- enforce any breaches where they occur as quickly as possible
- publicise action taken to tackle anti-social behaviour to empower and reassure
- deliver a spectrum of support provision to tackle causes of anti-social behaviour and help people get their lives back on track – tenancy support, floating support and rehabilitation
- deliver preventative approaches – for example diversionary activities for young people and designing out crime.

The Audit Commission's Housing Inspection regime is our main way of driving up improvements. The Key Lines of Enquiry (the self-assessment tools for local authorities) enable all social landlords to examine their performance on anti-social behaviour. We will review these with the Audit Commission to make sure they meet the demands of the Respect programme. We will also consider introducing 'Respect diagnostics'. 'Diagnostics' are short, focused inspections which will identify strengths and weaknesses in performance against the Respect Standard and on tenant satisfaction.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY TO LOCAL PEOPLE**

### **ACTION: Give every area the chance to have a Neighbourhood Charter**

Neighbourhood Charters will set clear service standards and are an important way of empowering communities to trigger a response if delivery does not meet those standards. They will be an important way of driving up those standards. The Government envisages that these charters or agreements could set out priorities for what people in a neighbourhood should expect from each other and from service providers.

Agreements might include an acknowledgement of basic principles, including a commitment that people will recognise and respect the diverse views and culture of their neighbours; and could reflect the community's priorities for action on Respect. Charters will form part of the Government's civil renewal strategy and we will publish a draft National Neighbourhoods Agreement for consultation in the spring.



## **ACTION: Introduce a ‘community call for action’**

In the police reform White Paper, *Building Communities, Beating Crime*, we committed to introducing a power that will give local communities a formal way to request and ensure that action is taken by the police, local authorities and others in response to persistent anti-social behaviour or community safety problems. Or if that action is not taken – they will know why not publicly.

We will place a duty on district level ward councillors to consider issues, and respond within a prescribed timescale. The majority of problems should be resolved at this stage.

However, for particularly difficult problems the councillor will have a new power to refer them to the scrutiny committee of the local authority. The committee would have a duty to consider any referred issue and respond within a prescribed timescale. We will also place a duty on responsible authorities, co-operating bodies and registered social landlords to respond to the committee's report again within a prescribed timescale.

At every stage local agencies will have to make public the action they will take or the reason they will not take action.

## **ACTION: Ensure senior representatives of all CDRPs hold regular ‘face the people’ sessions**

We want to make sure that we build on good practice and promote a dialogue between local people and local services by ensuring regular and systematic ‘face the people’ briefings – question and answer sessions open to the public, the local media and community groups.

The sessions must, if they are to be effective, involve a senior representative from the police and the local authority taking responsibility for the actions of their services.

There should also be opportunities for those senior staff to raise with the public any action that they can do to help tackle anti-social behaviour in their areas. This is not just about helping the CDRP be accountable, but giving them the chance to enlist the support and help of the local community. We will place a duty on CDRPs to achieve this, backed by advice and training.

## **DELIVERING IN DEPRIVED AREAS**

### **ACTION: Neighbourhood management and neighbourhood warden schemes in 100 new areas**

We are committed to neighbourhood management where the manager is accountable to local people – engaging them in setting priorities for their area and championing those priorities to service providers to ensure that they deliver on the issues that matter to residents. Making one person visibly accountable to local people and responsible for delivery has had an impact, focusing key local services on the real needs and priorities of local communities for relatively little cost.<sup>36</sup>

Neighbourhood wardens have also been successful. There has been a 27.6% drop in crime in neighbourhood warden areas compared with a 4.7% increase in comparator areas. Even if only 10% of this reduction was due to wardens' evaluation shows that they represented an overall saving. When benefits such as improvements in quality of life are considered, Neighbourhood warden schemes have been shown to represent value for money.<sup>37</sup>

We announced in 2005 the £155 million neighbourhood element of the Safer Stronger Communities Fund. This funding will help ensure that in the next year we deliver neighbourhood management and warden schemes in 100 areas where they do not currently exist.

## **ACTION: Within the next year we will ensure that all Government-funded regeneration schemes are accompanied by measures to manage behaviour**

Our £38 billion Sustainable Communities Plan demonstrates our commitment, across Government, to create better places to live – renewing existing towns and cities and creating new places to live that will stand the test of time. One of the priorities is to focus on deprived communities where we know that people experience more anti-social behaviour.

But regenerating buildings alone will not deliver the Respect programme. To ensure that we improve quality of life and get value for money from the considerable investment we are making, we must make sure that anti-social behaviour does not undermine it.

Over the next 12 months we will ensure that all Government-funded regeneration schemes are accompanied by approaches that promote good and tackle bad behaviour. For example neighbourhood wardens, neighbourhood managers, assertive housing management and parenting programmes.

**ACTION: Ensure that all housing market renewal pathfinders' funding is dependent on putting in place plans to deliver the Respect drive**

The Government is seeking to improve the way that housing markets work and has established a series of housing market renewal pathfinders. Funding is largely directed at physical interventions to help rebuild communities in places that have become disconnected from the rest of the housing market. But pathfinders must also tackle issues such as skills, education, poor landlords, crime and anti-social behaviour which contribute to, and feed on, the unpopularity of these places. Some pathfinders and their local authorities are already at the forefront of tackling anti-social behaviour.

The nine pathfinders are areas where housing markets are weak. Anti-social behaviour is both a cause and effect of that decline. We are investing £1.2 billion up to March 2008 to improve the quality of the housing stock in these areas but we know that we will not transform these areas into places and communities where people want to live without tackling the behaviour that contributed to their decline.

That is why we will ensure that there is a commitment to deliver the Respect programme into pathfinders' funding agreements for 2006–08. This commitment will be underpinned by a protocol, which we will agree with pathfinders, setting out the approaches that they will take to managing behaviour – and which we know work – such as neighbourhood wardens, neighbourhood managers, assertive housing management and swift use of enforcement action to offer quick visible protection to communities. Pathfinder funding will depend on plans being in place to tackle anti-social behaviour.

**RESPECT**  
CANNOT BE  
LEARNED,  
PURCHASED  
OR ACQUIRED  
IT CAN ONLY  
BE EARNED

**CHAPTER 7:  
EFFECTIVE  
ENFORCEMENT  
AND COMMUNITY  
JUSTICE**

**Anti-social behaviour is the most visible sign of disrespect. While action is being taken and attitudes are beginning to shift, the public's concern is not yet adequately reflected in the priorities of all our services.**

- **We will consider strengthening summary powers to bring about immediate protection for those suffering anti-social behaviour.**
- **We will focus on civil measures which can be used to bring rapid relief to communities while maintaining the necessary legal safeguards.**
- **We will continue to improve the justice system to make it swift and proportionate in its responses and sanctions to anti-social behaviour.**

## **WHAT IS THE ISSUE?**

We face new challenges and as problems and nuisance evolve so too must our responses. We need to maintain the momentum we have built up to tackle anti-social behaviour by using the tiered, incremental approach to enforcement alongside support and diversion, and go further by strengthening and introducing new powers.

We need speedy, visible and reparative justice and a justice system which is connected to the communities it serves. We also need to support people whose anti-social behaviour is fuelled by drug and alcohol problems.

We are committed to reforming the justice system. The Strategic Plan for Criminal Justice 2004–08 sets out our vision of how the justice system will look in 2008 and sets out the steps that will be taken to achieve it. Key priorities are to:

- continue the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 which reforms the criminal justice system in favour of victim and witnesses
- provide victims and witnesses with a consistently high standard of service throughout the criminal justice process

- detect and bring more offences to justice by making the different parts of the system work better together
- rigorously enforce sentences and orders of the court
- make the criminal justice system a modern, well-run service which is an excellent place to work for people from all backgrounds
- drive up levels of public confidence in the effectiveness and fairness of the criminal justice system.

To support this vision there are already specific programmes of work to improve the enforcement of orders of the courts; improve case management in the justice system and the care of victims and witnesses; establish community justice initiatives and dedicated courts where appropriate; and to provide dedicated anti-social behaviour specialists in the Crown Prosecution Service.

The Government will continue this drive to ensure we have a justice system which responds to the needs of local communities and is fit for the 21st century.

## SUMMARY POWERS – RAPID RESPONSES

### **ACTION:** Consider how we strengthen summary powers

We will work with the police and other agencies to ensure that they have sufficient pre-court summary powers to bring about immediate protection for those suffering anti-social behaviour. We will also consider the full range of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) to ensure that the regime works as effectively as possible, including the levels of fines now operational.

### **ACTION:** Raise the level of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs)

Penalty notices for disorder are a form of FPN and are an effective tool. They minimise bureaucracy and free up the time of police and the courts. Lancashire Police alone estimate that they will make efficiency savings of £500,000 in 2005/06.<sup>38</sup> PNDs also send a strong signal by delivering an immediate and visible penalty. We are making more use of PNDs as a swift response to anti-social behaviour, particularly in town centres. We will be issuing revised guidance and expect further increases in levels of take up.

We will increase the penalty fine for a range of serious PND offences from £80 to £100 – sending a strong signal that the boundaries and consequences of unacceptable behaviour have shifted.

We are also piloting PNDs for those under-16s. These are paid by their parents. It is important that this is used as an opportunity to intervene early with a young person and their family to nip problems in the bud. We will consider a national roll out of this scheme.

We will make it easier for trading standards officers to issue PNDs to people who sell age-restricted products, such as alcohol or fireworks, to young people.

### **ACTION:** Establish new models for conditional cautioning

To tackle crime and improve community safety we need tools which tackle an individual's offending, while also giving clear signals about behaviour that is unacceptable. Conditional cautioning, which is set to be implemented across the country after a successful evaluation, can provide an effective and appropriate summary response to low-level offending, without a potentially lengthy court process.

Currently the conditions which can be attached to a conditional caution are limited to direct compensation. While these conditions have given good results for victims and offenders, and local communities have also derived indirect benefit, we want to go further.

Conditional cautions could involve the offender undertaking work – to make good the damage they have caused to the local community that has suffered. In this way, offenders would be giving something back to the community to repair the harm they have caused; and more quickly than if they had gone to court. It would also send a visible message that anti-social behaviour is unacceptable and has serious repercussions for the perpetrator.

We will provide £250,000 to establish schemes in seven criminal justice areas by the end of 2006. These will test out the different models before consideration is given to expanding the schemes more widely.

## EXPANDING THE CIVIL POWERS AVAILABLE

### **ACTION:** Consultation on introducing a house closure order

In some communities, we know that there are premises which are a constant focus for anti-social behaviour, making the lives of those living nearby a misery. To bring relief to those suffering from the nuisance and disorder around these premises – noise, constant visitors at all hours, rubbish, vandalism – it may be necessary to close down and seal the properties on a temporary basis.

The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 introduced powers for the police to close down premises where nuisance is associated with the use of class A drugs (such as crack cocaine) as part of a range of powers to deal with drug-related nuisance. The power has been widely welcomed and used across the country to bring rapid relief to communities.

However, severe nuisance and anti-social behaviour centred on a property is not always related to the use of class A drugs, but current powers limit the closure powers to those circumstances. We will be consulting on a new power to allow the closure of any residential or licensed premises for a set period, regardless of tenure, which is causing significant, persistent and serious nuisance to local communities.

We envisage that the new order would be used only as a last resort and would be enforced as a court order with all the necessary safeguards. Agencies would have to have regard to their responsibilities when children and vulnerable people are involved.

This power is already proving to be highly successful in Scotland where closures have been implemented on ten occasions since the power came into force in October 2004.

### **ACTION: Improving Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions (ASBIs)**

ASBIs are civil orders available to social landlords including housing associations for use in tackling disorder and nuisance on estates and in surrounding areas. ASBIs were overhauled in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 and have become a very useful and flexible tool for social landlords to protect their residents. However, the courts have sometimes interpreted the legislation more narrowly than was intended and have been reluctant to make injunctions to protect unnamed individuals and the wider community. We need to ensure that witnesses and victims are given the maximum protection so that they come forward.

We will therefore legislate to ensure that it is clear that ASBIs can be used to protect whole communities and also protect witnesses from being named in applications.

### **ACTION: Improving Local Government Injunctions**

Local authorities can also use the Local Government Act 1972 to bring injunctions to stop behaviour that is a public nuisance. They have been successfully used to break up major drug activity and the disorder associated with it.

Currently, when these injunctions are breached, there can be a delay before a court hearing. We will legislate so that those suspected of breaching an injunction can be brought before the courts within 24 hours of arrest. This will ensure swift action to bring perpetrators to justice and a person suspected of a breach can be held in custody until the hearing if necessary.

### **ACTION: Improving Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)**

We are making a number of improvements to ASBOs including introducing new rules to give magistrates and Crown Courts clear power to case manage ASBOs and ensure they are handled efficiently and quickly.

We have recently indicated our intention to allow ASBOs given to young people to be reviewed after one year to allow changes in behaviour to be taken into account. We will also be updating guidance on the effective use of ASBOs. The Environment Agency will be able to apply for ASBOs, to enhance their powers to tackle enviro-crime such as vandalism, noise nuisance and fly-tipping.

We are currently consulting on proposals to delegate local authority ASBO powers to those bodies who manage their housing, including Arms Length Management Organisations, Tenant Management Organisations and those managing housing as part of a Private Finance Initiative Scheme. The consultation process is due to close in February 2006.

### **ACTION: Giving Rights of Audience in court for community safety staff**

At present, a lay person's Right of Audience to appear in court is limited, although judges do have discretion to allow persons who do not have a Right of Audience to appear before them.

Legal costs are sometimes given as reasons why no action is taken to tackle anti-social behaviour – this is particularly the case with smaller housing associations who may lack the budgets. It can also be used as an excuse for inaction. We are committed to removing the excuses and giving rights of audience in the civil courts to anti-social behaviour practitioners.

Therefore, subject to having the right training and expertise, we will give community safety practitioners rights of audience in the civil courts, particularly for injunction and possession cases. We are not considering this for ASBOs because the legal position is more complicated.

## **ACTION: Consultation on lowering the financial threshold for the seizure of the proceeds of crime**

Under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 police and customs officers are able to seize cash suspected to be the profit of crime or intended for use in crime. Around £1 million a week in suspect cash is currently being seized by law enforcement officers. In total £126 million has been seized since the legislation was introduced in 2002. Much of the money already being confiscated is being used to support victims and crime reduction projects across the country.

The cash seizure threshold is currently set at £5,000 but we know that street corner drug dealers and other small-time criminals who continue to destroy lives and blight communities are carrying smaller amounts.

We are now consulting on lowering that minimum threshold to £1,000. This would enable the police to widen their net to tackle this lower level criminality which causes such destruction in some of our neighbourhoods.

## **ACTION: Increasing protection for public service workers and the public**

Two-way respect between workers serving the public and the individuals and communities to whom they provide a service is an important area of concern.

Attacks on public sector workers are already an aggravating factor that make a crime more serious but we are currently looking at creating a new offence of obstructing the progress of ambulance workers, when they are responding to emergencies. This would complement existing offences that deal with the obstruction of police and fire officers.

We will also be working with the Sentencing Guidelines Council to ensure that the courts have guidance to deal robustly with assaults on those serving the public. We will also work with the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that prosecutors highlight to the court the guidelines in those cases where these considerations might apply.

A forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding between the NHS Security Management Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers will strengthen working relationships at a local level between NHS Trusts and the police.

We will also consider whether NHS Trusts need additional powers to remove individuals from areas, such as A&E departments, in circumstances where they are not at medical risk but where their anti-social behaviour is affecting the ability of staff to deliver healthcare or is causing distress to staff and other patients. This will include consideration of how we can make best use of fixed penalty notices.

These measures will be complemented by a campaign to counter disrespect such as physical violence, threats, intimidation, verbal abuse by the public towards public sector workers.

## **IMPROVING COMMUNITY JUSTICE**

### **ACTION: Building a responsive justice system**

Much good work is already underway. The Community Justice Centre in Liverpool is up and running and anti-social behaviour response courts have been identified in 31 criminal justice areas bringing the criminal justice system closer to the communities it serves. We are exploring ways to mainstream the community justice approach across the justice system nationally.

Prosecutors play a vital role in delivering swifter justice, engaging closely with communities to listen and respond effectively to their concerns. Specialist prosecutors are already working closely in partnership with other agencies in all 42 criminal justice areas. Extensive training is being provided so that prosecutors across the country are fully equipped to use the tools available to address anti-social behaviour.

## **ACTION: Extending anti-social behaviour co-ordinators to civil courts**

The anti-social behaviour response court initiative in the magistrates courts has made good use of anti-social behaviour champions to improve liaison between court users and the courts themselves.

We intend to develop a similar programme in the civil courts. Civil courts hear the majority of nuisance-related housing cases, such as injunctions, demotions and possession cases. They also have the power to issue ASBOs.

We will introduce co-ordinators into areas with high levels of anti-social behaviour cases first. Co-ordinators will be nominated from court staff and will act as advocates and promote better understanding of anti-social behaviour cases, paying particular attention to the needs of victims and witnesses. If this proves to be effective we will spread this to other areas.



## **ACTION: Delivering Community Payback**

It is important that the public have confidence in community sentences.

One way that public credibility can be gained is for any unpaid work ordered by the court to be visible, and for the public to understand what work is carried out in their communities as part of a sentence.

'Community Payback' was launched throughout the country in November 2005. It is a national project that makes unpaid work by offenders visible and promotes the engagement of local communities in selecting the work to be done by offenders.

## **ACTION: Directing people to support**

We will support those who need help and will promote the take up of support orders such as Intervention Orders (IOs) and Individual Support Orders (ISOs).

The Drugs Act 2005 introduced the Intervention Order; a support order that can be attached to an ASBO for an adult where the underlying causes of their anti-social behaviour is drug related. The IO will be able to direct the individual to services, treatment and support and will be available from April 2006.

ISOs were introduced in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and have been available since May 2004. They are court orders and can be issued alongside an ASBO on a 10–17 year old and can direct the young person to activities that will address the underlying causes of their anti-social behaviour, such as anger management or alcohol. An ISO may last up to six months and can require a young person to attend up to two sessions a week.

We made £500,000 available in June 2005 to increase the take up of ISOs.

# RESPECT BROADER DEEPER FURTHER

## CHAPTER 8: RESPECT – WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER

The Respect programme builds on the progress made by the anti-social behaviour strategy.

As we have set out elsewhere, the Respect programme will go broader – positively supporting respectful behaviour in schools, in sport and leisure activities and in the community. It will go deeper – tackling the causes of lack of respect and anti-social behaviour, embedding the principle of early intervention. And it will go further – taking action to make a difference in the short term but embedding those changes into the mainstream to create cultural change.

The whole of Government needs to contribute to delivering the Respect programme and this Action Plan represents that cross-Government commitment.



**The Rt Hon John Prescott MP,  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
First Secretary of State**

The Government's £38 billion Sustainable Communities Plan is investing in homes, jobs and infrastructure so that more people can share in the country's prosperity. It is also improving the quality of people's lives through safer streets and more welcoming parks and open spaces. Encouraging well run local services like housing and family support which respond to residents' needs. Giving people more say over what happens in their neighbourhood. And ensuring that nobody is seriously disadvantaged by where they live.

So this Action Plan is an important step forward. It will help create cleaner, safer, greener places where people feel confident and proud to live and work.



**The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP,  
Chancellor of the Exchequer**

A responsible society requires strict measures to combat vandalism and violence. It also requires that society fulfils its responsibilities to encourage what is best in young people. And we have to do far more where in the past too little has been done – investing in youth and community facilities that are modern, relevant and welcoming for teenagers up and down the country.



**The Rt Hon Charles Clarke MP,  
Secretary of State for the  
Home Office**

We have made real progress in tackling anti-social behaviour by responding swiftly to the calls from local agencies for the tools to tackle anti-social behaviour effectively and have provided resources to roll out police community support officers and neighbourhood wardens. We are committed to providing modern, community-focused policing that works alongside local agencies to meet local priorities.



**The Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP,  
Minister for Respect**

For millions of people life has got better over the last eight years. But for too many, life is still a real struggle. I want the decent majority to be able to take control of their neighbourhoods and communities. I want to return public streets, parks and shopping centres to the families, pensioners and young people who want to go about their lives free from intimidation. That is what the Respect programme is all about: helping people to change their lives and their communities and making neighbourliness, kindness and decency an everyday experience for all of us.



**The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP,  
Secretary of State for Health**

Health workers and others who serve the public are too often the victims of anti-social behaviour. The plan outlines proposals for measures to reduce the incidence of this behaviour. And we are committed to providing community-focused health services to address those health problems which cause anti-social behaviour.



**The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP,  
Secretary of State for Culture,  
Media and Sport**

This is a programme of tough action for people whose anti-social behaviour adversely impacts on the lives of others. But it also shows potential for opening up to these young people the possibility of discovering constructive enthusiasms or even hidden talents. We will reach out to those young people at risk with programmes of arts, creativity and sport, providing them with the challenge of an alternative.



**The Rt Hon Lord Falconer  
of Thoroton QC, Secretary of  
State for Constitutional Affairs  
and Lord Chancellor**

It is vital that courts are connected to their local communities, and that they deal quickly and fairly with the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour. It is just as important that court orders are enforced – fines paid on time, and anti-social behaviour orders obeyed. Respect for the courts means that what the court says should happen, does happen.



**The Rt Hon Ruth Kelly MP,  
Secretary of State for Education  
and Skills**

Parents and schools both have a critical influence on the values we grow up with and on how we behave in later life. The proposals in the Respect Action Plan provide a balance of sanctions and support, setting out how we will tackle poor behaviour in school and help parents to challenge it at home. Both are a critical part of the new approach we need to address the root causes of anti-social behaviour.



**The Rt Hon John Hutton MP,  
Secretary of State for Work  
and Pensions**

Anti-social behaviour often has the greatest impact on those from the poorest neighbourhoods but over time has an insidious impact across the whole community. This plan outlines proposals to make sure that we are not supporting families whose behaviour destroys the quality of life of those around them and that we challenge them to change their behaviour.



**The Rt Hon Des Browne MP,  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury**

Still too many children of disadvantaged parents themselves grow up poor. By taking action to intervene early and strongly where families are in crisis, we will be taking further decisive action to break the cycle of child poverty.



**The Rt Hon David Miliband MP,  
Minister of Communities and  
Local Government**

The values of mutual responsibility and mutual respect have not changed, but they need to be nurtured in new ways. Communities are at the heart of this Plan which outlines a demanding agenda for central and local government calling for greater accountability in public services. Respect is about upholding and reinvigorating the civic values and shared activities that are the foundation of strong communities.



**The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith  
of Allerton QC, Attorney General**

The Crown Prosecution Service is there to serve and protect our communities. I am committed to putting justice at the heart of the Respect drive, making sure that rules and standards of behaviour are upheld.

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