

### **Anti-Social Behaviour Progress**

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC)**

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour has been a priority across the pan-Lancashire area over the last year with many new initiatives being adopted to improve partnership working and improve outcomes for victims and communities. Identifying and supporting the most vulnerable victims has been central to this work following a number of high-profile tragic cases nationally, and partners in Lancashire have made an early and well developed response to tackling the problem. The Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC) framework was developed in Blackpool and has been adopted over the last few months by Community Safety Partnerships pan-Lancashire.

Similar to the established MARAC process for domestic abuse, ASBRAC brings together local agencies to address the harm caused to ASB victims, and prioritise interventions. The process identifies low, medium and high risk victims of ASB and identifies support from the point of referral. It provides multi-agency meetings to consider and address the most complex and high risk cases and identify interventions. ASBRAC facilitates better information sharing and provides a transparent record of action taken to support the vulnerable in our communities. This coordinated response recognises that joint working can help partners to make the best use of their resources. ASBRAC offers a focal point for multi-agency activity to assist in the reduction of anti-social behaviour, thereby reducing the number of victims, the harm caused to them and the damage such activity does to our communities. The impact of ASB and the harm caused can be dependent on factors such as the resilience of an individual/family, the support already in place and the level of repeat victimisation. This needs to be considered when risk assessing a victim to ensure that harm identified and reduced. This is a clear message from the Home Office who have recognised the ASBRAC process as good practice alongside effective case management. However there is no central provision of training or resource to ensure that partners are best able to adopt and utilise the tool.

Whilst reports of ASB are made to a range of organisations such as environmental health, neighbourhood teams, ASB officers and housing providers, referrals to ASBRAC are predominately made by neighbourhood policing teams although there is some local variance dependent on initial training on the process already delivered. The purpose of ASBRAC is to join up ASB reports and consider support for victims across a range of agencies. In addition to understanding the process it is important to equip wider participants in ASBRAC with the skills to identify risk and harm to the most vulnerable and ensure that referrals are made as necessary. The ASB Officer working group has identified this as a development need.

#### **Next Steps**

The ASB Officer Working Group has been tasked by the Board to pursue the process of identifying a provider and package of training that will not only develop the skills of front-line staff working with ASB victims, but will also provide a sustainable pool of expert practitioners. The aim is to continue to roll out the main features of the ASBRAC process and maintain local flexibility whilst improving the identification and reduction of risk and harm to victims in our communities.

The development and delivery of multi-agency training to support the ASBRAC process will:

- Reduce the harm caused to victims by anti-social behaviour
- Improve the identification of vulnerable victims
- Enable better assessment of the level of harm and potential risk
- Provide improved understanding of how being a repeat victim of ASB amplifies the level of harm a victim experiences (Signal Disorder Theory)
- Increase referrals from partner agencies
- Improve the local response to local problems – better use of problem solving to reduce harm
- Support ASB perpetrators to change their behaviour or face the consequences
- Assist better use of existing resources/programmes with a more coordinated approach
- Improve understanding and commitment of the ASBRAC process amongst partners
- Improve information sharing with regard to ASB
- Provide a sustainable pool of expert practitioners to continue to support ASBRAC

### **Safer Lancashire ASB Pledge**

At the meeting on 12 November 2009, the Board were informed of the then Home Secretary's request that all Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) formulate an agreed set of minimum standards for tackling anti-social behaviour by 31 March 2010. The minimum standards were to address:

- Reducing perceptions of ASB year on year
- Taking reported cases of ASB seriously
- Providing regular information to residents on action taken
- Offering practical support and help to victims
- Ensuring an effective link between neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management
- Providing residents with a right to complain to CDRP/CSP chairs where effective action has not been taken

The Board determined that the minimum standards should be set at a pan-Lancashire level to ensure equity of access to service delivery for residents regardless of where they lived in the county. It was also resolved that a multi-

agency officer group would be established in order to progress the project followed by consultation with wider partners to determine the service elements for inclusion in the minimum standards.

The partnership consultation process illustrated the range of service provision across the pan-Lancashire area. Whilst no single set of minimum standards could be identified that would accurately reflect local variation there were a range of clear principles which were commonly supported. As such, it was determined that a pledge detailing those key principles be produced which would be underpinned by local service standards on a borough footprint reflective of local arrangements and resources.

In keeping with the original requirement the pledge was published on 31 March 2010 on a range of websites including those of the Safer Lancashire Board, Lancashire Constabulary and local authorities. The Pledge was produced with the Safer Lancashire Board logo and also provided to CSPs with their logo for local use. The Pledge was then promoted further over the summer period during the multi-agency Confidence Operation. The operation aimed to promote activity and public satisfaction on issues such as anti-social behaviour, road safety, and protecting vulnerable people.

Lancashire Constabulary has produced an ASB Strategy which incorporates a number of actions to be delivered by the ASB Officer Working Group which are summarised as:

- ASB Minimum Standards
- Consistency of Case Management
- Improved information sharing