



Title: Guidance on Antisocial Behaviour Strategies. Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004

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<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2003/07/17686/23196> (accessed July 11th 2010)

SCS topic headings: Partnership Working, Safety in Public Spaces (ASB), Evaluation and Monitoring

This document provides GUIDANCE for effective intervention approaches to meet 2004 statutory duties.

Summary of the intervention's aim

This guidance intends to assist local authorities and chief constables to meet the statutory duties under Part 1 of the 2004 Act that requires each local authority and relevant chief constable to prepare a strategy for dealing with antisocial behaviour in an authority's area. (The full text of the Act can be found at:

<http://www.scotlandlegislation.hms.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2004/20040008.htm>)

Part 1 of the Act places duties in relation to the following strategic areas:

- Content: essential information to be included in the strategy
- Process: who must be consulted in the preparation of the strategy
- Information sharing: how the local authority and chief constable will coordinate their functions and exchange information and what other agencies are required to do in respect of information-sharing
- Monitoring, review and reporting: how the strategy should be reviewed and reported on.

Outcomes

The document provides Scottish Executive guidance on addressing the following areas of the 2004 Act, Part 1.

- **Who should prepare strategies?**
Community Safety Partnerships and other

Community Planning structures
Proactive Antisocial Behaviour Units

- **Who should be consulted?**
 - Principal Reporter
 - Registered Social Landlords
 - Community bodies
 - Victims of antisocial behaviour
 - Consultation structures and processes
 - Consulting with other bodies
 - Consulting at local area/neighbourhood level

- **What information should strategies contain?**
 - Assessing extent and types of antisocial behaviour
 - Specifying arrangements for community consultation in high priority areas
 - Assessing range and availability of services
 - Information sharing

- **Setting aims and objectives**
- **Resources**
- **Monitoring, reviewing, evaluating and reporting on strategies**

- **Appendices that include information and detail regarding:**
 1. Types of behaviours that can be described as antisocial
 2. ASB measures and possible interventions/tactics
 3. Good practice guidance on services to support people suffering from anti-social behaviour
 - Services that allow people to report ASB incidents without fear of harassment and intimidation
 - Help-lines: A number of Scottish local authorities currently run help-lines, of which there are various models
 - Services that keep people informed of the progress and outcome of complains and that support victims and witnesses from initial complaints, through court processes and afterwards
 - Services that help people resolve neighbourhood disputes
 - Scale of provision: the scale of the service needs to match likely demand.

Summary of evaluation conclusions

The 2004 Act is of importance for community safety practitioners as it provides a range of legal tools in the areas of justice, the environment, housing and child welfare. Their introduction was intended to enable local authorities and other agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour more effectively. The Act was part of wider national strategy for tackling antisocial behaviour that aimed to introduce a change in people's attitudes and behaviour.

The strategy focuses on **four themes**:

- Protecting and empowering communities
- Preventing antisocial behaviour by working with children and families
- Building safe, secure and attractive communities
- Effective enforcement.

The strategy is underpinned by **five key principles**:

1. Everyone has a right to live without the scourge of antisocial behaviour, but everyone also has responsibilities- to respect themselves, their immediate neighbours and the community generally.
2. Building on work already undertaken by individuals, local authorities and agencies to address antisocial behaviour, its causes and effects.
3. Preventing antisocial behaviour and tackling it at the earliest possible stage continue to be essential. But enforcement is still needed and there have to be effective sanctions to deal with those who persistently fail to respond and for the most serious cases.
4. The small minority in communities whose behaviour undermines acceptable social behaviour need to be tackled yet without stigmatising particular groups of people
5. Joined up action at the local level within a national framework. Action to tackle antisocial behaviour must respond to local needs and priorities, and must take into account differences between communities in local authority areas.

**Further details about the SCS evaluation of this report are available on request.
Date added to the SCS website: July 2010 (RC)**