



**Title:** Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (Report by the Controller and Auditor General | HC 99 Session 2006-2007)

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[http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0607/tackling\\_anti-social\\_behaviour.aspx](http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0607/tackling_anti-social_behaviour.aspx)  
(accessed July 8<sup>th</sup> 2010)

**SCS topic headings:** Safety in Public Spaces (ASB), Offending Management

**The document is a REVIEW of selected effective intervention projects.**

## **Summary of the intervention's aim**

This report examines the work of the Home Office's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit set up in 2003 and measures introduced by the Home Office since 1997 to enable the police, local authorities and others to tackle anti-social behaviour. This document's analysis considers the progress within the review timescale.

## **Outcomes**

### ***Funding and Costs***

- There are many funding streams which impact on anti-social behaviour (page 12)
- There is significant variation in the cost of the different interventions (page 23)
- Spending on interventions can result in savings elsewhere (page 24)
- Preventive programmes are cost effective (page 27)

### ***Understanding anti-social behaviour***

- There has been a fall in perceived levels of anti-social behaviour (page 15)
- There is wide variation in levels of perceived anti-social behaviour (page 16)
- Local areas are increasingly being measured on their effectiveness at tackling anti-social behaviour (page 15)
- Many complex factors lie behind people's involvement in anti-social behaviour (page 26)

### ***Tackling anti-social behaviour***

- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts are the most frequently used intervention for which data is available. 65% of the people in the sample who received an Acceptable Behaviour Contract did not re-engage in anti-social behaviour. However, Contracts were less effective with people aged under-18 where just

over 60% of cases displayed further anti-social behaviour. This outcome could be due to a failure to engage the young person sufficiently in forming a contract and to support them, for example in disengaging from the society of certain of their peers (page 6).

- For the majority of cases reviewed anti-social behaviour interventions contributed to deterring further engagement in anti-social behaviour (page 18)
- Local areas were making increasing use of the new interventions to tackle anti-social behaviour (page 18)
- The majority of people [in this report] who received an anti-social behaviour intervention did not re-engage in anti-social behaviour (page 19)

### ***Challenges and barriers to intervention effectiveness***

- Local areas are not communicating their strategies effectively (page 16)
- Local areas do not have sufficient evidence on the effectiveness of interventions (page 22)
- Delays in the legal process and a lack of support for victims hampers the success of interventions in some cases and areas (page 24)
- There is variation in the extent to which supportive interventions are used in conjunction with enforcement (page 27)
- Further support is required to ensure that mental health and social services are fully engaged with anti-social behaviour teams (page 27)

### **Summary of evaluation conclusions**

- The majority of people in the sample who received an anti-social behaviour intervention did not re-engage in antisocial behaviour. There was, however, a hard core of perpetrators for whom interventions had limited impact.
- International research suggests preventive programmes, including education, counselling and training are cost effective methods of addressing anti-social behaviour.
- The absence of formal evaluation by the Home Office of the success of different interventions and of the impact of providing support services in conjunction with interventions prevents local areas targeting interventions in the most efficient way to achieve the best outcome for the least cost.

NB. The document presents summary key findings on page 5.

### **How the evaluation gathered information for findings and conclusions**

The review and its conclusions are based on almost 900 case studies, and additional information from interviews with practitioners. Interviews with people who are under ASBO restrictions together with the experiences of their families too were also undertaken. By using a variety of methods to collect information and data from different sources, this provides a robust and thorough approach to deliver assured conclusions.

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