

# **BRIEFING NOTE**

**TO: NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**  
**DATE: 29 JULY 2008**

**RE: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR WORKING GROUP**

## **Purpose**

To consider and approve the terms of reference for the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group.

## **Report**

At its meeting on 10 June 2008 the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel (NSPP) resolved to appoint a working group to consider anti-social behaviour (ASB).

A meeting of the working group took place on 22 July 2008 to consider and draft its terms of reference. A copy of the draft terms of reference is attached at appendix 1 to this report for the approval of the full Panel.

ASB is not a problem that Walsall Council can solve in isolation. Due to the importance of partnership working in solving the wide and varied ASB problems in the borough that the working group is proposing to appoint a range of co-opted advisors from the Police, Walsall Housing Group, Children's Services and Health Services to provide them with expert advice throughout their considerations. Invitations to individuals will be sent from the working groups Lead Member shortly.

Due the appointment of a range of co-opted advisors the working group proposes appointing a core Councillor membership of 4 to the working group. Following last weeks working group meeting this is proposed to be: P. Bott, L. Beeley, D. Pitt and C. Towe.

The terms of reference contains details of the proposed range of individuals and organisations that the working group would like to engage with. It is expected that this list will be added to as the working group completes its investigations.

To commence the investigations the working group propose to host a training event on ASB that will open to all Members of the Council. This is to increase understanding and awareness of ASB and role of key agencies.

Following this event the working group will hold sessions with stakeholders to establish perception of anti-social behaviour on the ground and gain a better appreciation of what is happening on the ground policy and good practice to deal with ASB.

After these sessions, the working group will meet with their co-opted advisors to review the findings and prepare report to Cabinet/Council and the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership.

## **Recommendations**

**That:**

- (a) the terms of reference for the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group be approved;**
- (b) the Core Membership for the Anti-Social Working Group be approved;**
- (c) a Lead Member for the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group be appointed;**  
**and;**
- (d) the organisations to invite to appoint co-opted advisors to the Anti-Social Working Group be approved.**

### **Author**

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Chair, Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel

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<b>Work Group Name:</b>	Anti-Social Behaviour
<b>Panel:</b>	Neighbourhoods
<b>Municipal Year:</b>	2008/09
<b>Lead Member:</b>	TBC
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Nozmul Hussain
<b>Support Officer:</b>	Craig Goodall
<b>Membership:</b>	<p>Councillor Chris Towe Councillor Les Beeley Councillor Paul Bott Councillor Des Pitt</p> <p>Proposed Co-opted Advisors Safer Walsall Partnership Police Walsall Housing Group Children's Services Health Services</p>

<b>1. Context</b>	
	The working group has been established by the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel following Member concerns about the extent and levels of anti-social behaviour in the borough.
<b>2. Objectives</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To learn from residents, community groups and agencies what their experience/understanding is of anti-social behaviour in Walsall</li> <li>ii. To better understand policy and practice in addressing ASB in Walsall by individual agencies and collective working</li> <li>iii. To explore good practice in addressing ASB within the borough and other boroughs.</li> <li>iv. To highlight findings and report to Cabinet/Council and Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Scope</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. how anti-social behaviour is defined by residents and agencies</li> <li>2. to establish and consider where anti-social behaviour takes place and to what extent</li> <li>3. what is causing anti-social behaviour</li> <li>4. review of effectiveness of current anti-social behaviour strategies, policies and practices</li> </ul>
<b>6. Equalities Implications</b>	
	There is a legal and moral obligation to ensure that, when undertaking a scrutiny review, the impact of policies; procedures; strategies and activities is considered within the 6 strands of equality (Age,

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	<p>Disability, Gender, Race, Religion or Belief, and Sexual Orientation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration will be given to equalities issues in current strategies, policies and practices.</li> <li>• Any recommendations that the working group make will be tested to ensure they are compliant with equality requirements</li> <li>• An Equality Impact Assessment of this work by the group will undertake during the course of the review</li> </ul>		
<b>4.</b>	<b>Who else will you want to take part?</b>		
	<p>Due to the cross cutting nature of the issues that are related to anti-social behaviour the working group anticipates engaging with a wide range of individuals and organisations to assist in its investigations.</p> <p>This includes representatives of the remaining Walsall Council Scrutiny and Performance Panels as required.</p> <p>To assist the working group with professional expertise a number of agencies will be approached to be co-opted as advisers to the group from the following agencies:</p> <p>Safer Walsall Partnership Police Walsall Housing Group Children's Services Health Services</p> <p>In order to ensure a holistic view is taken of ASB, covering prevention, education, enforcement and rehabilitation, the Working Group seeks to engage with the following stakeholders:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Residents (Young People, Elderly, BME &amp; Faith groups, Women &amp; Parents)</li> <li>• Local Businesses</li> <li>• Community &amp; Voluntary Groups</li> <li>• Teachers &amp; Governors</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Watch Groups</li> <li>• Drug/Alcohol Treatment Agencies</li> <li>• Parks and Leisure</li> <li>• Walsall Primary Care Trust</li> <li>• Pub Watch</li> <li>• Registered Social Landlords</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courts</li> <li>• Probation service</li> <li>• Police (senior officers &amp; PCSOs)</li> <li>• Youth Service</li> <li>• Youth Offending Team</li> <li>• Safer Walsall Partnership Teams</li> <li>• Parenting officers</li> <li>• Public Protection/Licensing Team</li> <li>• Education Walsall (Serco)</li> <li>• Legal Services</li> <li>• WHG Community Safety Team</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Residents (Young People, Elderly, BME &amp; Faith groups, Women &amp; Parents)</li> <li>• Local Businesses</li> <li>• Community &amp; Voluntary Groups</li> <li>• Teachers &amp; Governors</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Watch Groups</li> <li>• Drug/Alcohol Treatment Agencies</li> <li>• Parks and Leisure</li> <li>• Walsall Primary Care Trust</li> <li>• Pub Watch</li> <li>• Registered Social Landlords</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courts</li> <li>• Probation service</li> <li>• Police (senior officers &amp; PCSOs)</li> <li>• Youth Service</li> <li>• Youth Offending Team</li> <li>• Safer Walsall Partnership Teams</li> <li>• Parenting officers</li> <li>• Public Protection/Licensing Team</li> <li>• Education Walsall (Serco)</li> <li>• Legal Services</li> <li>• WHG Community Safety Team</li> </ul>
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<b>5.</b>	<b>Timescales &amp; Reporting Schedule</b>
	TBC – see timetable
<b>6.</b>	<b>Risk factors</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Difficulty in recruiting proposed co-opted advisors onto to the working group</li> <li>2. Delays in securing witnesses to attend meetings</li> </ol> <p>These factors will be mitigated by future planning. One proposal is to complete the investigations in themes. This should enable greater co-ordination with co-opted advisors and witnesses.</p>

Date Agreed:		Date Updated:	
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**Timetable:**

DATE	ISSUE
<b>22 July</b>	Working Group agree draft terms of reference and outline programme
<b>29 July</b>	Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel consider draft terms of reference
<b>August</b>	Host Anti-Social Behaviour Training event open to all Members to learn about anti-social behaviour in Walsall and role of agencies.
<b>August</b>	Identify and invite co-opted advisors to join working group.
<b>September</b>	Meet with a range of community based representatives to establish the perception of anti-social behaviour on the ground.
<b>September-November</b>	Meet with a range of stakeholders to establish the perception of anti-social behaviour, and policy and practice.
<b>November/December</b>	Working Group meeting with advisors to review findings and agree direction of travel.

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<b>Jan/Feb</b>	Report to Cabinet/Council & SSCP Board
<b>Further meetings as required</b>	