

Falkirk Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2005-2008



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Introduction

1 Statement of Intent:

We believe that everyone has the right to live in peace and safety, in a clean, friendly environment, free from the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.

In partnership, we continue to work together to improve the quality of life for those who live, work and visit the Falkirk area. We will achieve this by making best use of resources, individually and collectively and targeting them appropriately to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

In Falkirk, Community Planning is the ethos underpinning our partnership work. This Strategy will be monitored through the Community Planning structure, which will ensure that we provide communities with better quality services.

Leader, Falkirk Council

Chief Constable, Central Scotland Police

Context of the Strategy within the Antisocial Behaviour etc.(Scotland) 2004 Act:

The preparation of this Strategy is in response to the implementation on 28 October 2004 of Part 1 of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, ("the Act"), which requires Falkirk Council and the Chief Constable of Central Scotland Police, acting together, to develop a strategy for dealing with antisocial behaviour in the Falkirk Council area.

An Outcome Agreement approach has been adopted to ensure Antisocial Behaviour funding is linked to the achievement of specific outcomes in Antisocial Behaviour strategies. Together the ASB Strategy and Outcome Agreement provide the strategic and operational framework for Community Planning partnerships and individual partners to deliver the national ASB Strategy. Neither the ASB Strategy nor the Outcome Agreement are an end in itself. They are intended to set the course for the ongoing planning and delivery of services that will ultimately achieve the national objective of having safer communities in Scotland where fewer people suffer from problems caused by Antisocial Behaviour.

This is our first Antisocial Behaviour Strategy and associated Outcome Agreement. The Outcome Agreement has realistic and measurable outcomes with annual milestones and targets which we will report on annually. This will ensure that we continue to act in the best interests of our communities.



Provisions of the Act:

New powers and duties have been introduced under the Act to support communities in dealing with antisocial behaviour. These include:

Powers

- ⊗ *The extension of antisocial behaviour orders to young persons between 12 and 16 years of age*
- ⊗ *The introduction of criminal antisocial behaviour orders on sentencing*
- ⊗ *The attachment of a power of arrest for those breaching antisocial behaviour orders*
- ⊗ *The seizure of vehicles used in an antisocial manner*
- ⊗ *The dispersal of groups*
- ⊗ *The closure of premises*
- ⊗ *The availability of provisions for the control of noise nuisance*
- ⊗ *The use of Fixed Penalty Notices for particular environmental and criminal offences*
- ⊗ *The introduction of Parenting Orders*
- ⊗ *The availability of Community Reparation Orders*
- ⊗ *The extension of Restriction of Liberty Orders to young persons between 12 and 16 years of age*
- ⊗ *The ban on the sale of spray paints to those under 16 years of age; and*
- ⊗ *The availability of Antisocial Behaviour Notices for landlords*

These are important new tools that will be used, as required, to complement rather than conflict with existing powers and duties. It is particularly important that responses to alleged antisocial behaviour by young people reflect the principles of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and the duties on the local authority under that Act to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are looked after by them (Section 17), and to promote the welfare of children in need (Section 22). In this respect, the Children's Hearing System will continue as the primary forum for dealing with antisocial behaviour by young persons between 12 and 16 years of age.

Duties

- ⊗ *On the local authority and police to produce an Antisocial Behaviour Strategy in consultation with other agencies and the community*
- ⊗ *On the local authority to provide education for excluded pupils*
- ⊗ *On the local authority to carry out the decisions of children's hearings contained in supervision requirements*
- ⊗ *On the local authority to prepare and maintain a register of all private landlords in the authority area*
- ⊗ *On agencies to share relevant information on antisocial behaviour*

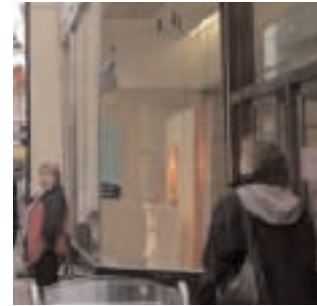
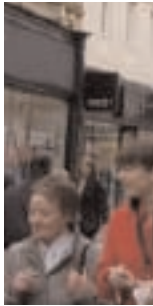
Equal Opportunities Statement:

In implementing the provisions of the Act, we shall act in a manner that encourages equal opportunities. This means that we will act to prevent, eliminate or control discrimination between persons on the grounds of sex or marital status, on racial grounds, or on the grounds of disability, age, sexual orientation, language or social origin, or of other personal attributes, including beliefs or opinions, and this shall include religious beliefs and political opinions.

While dealing with antisocial behaviour we will be cognisant of other relevant legislation that may impact on an individuals rights.







2 Falkirk Local Authority Area Profile

Geography

Falkirk council area is located in the heart of Scotland midway between Edinburgh and Glasgow. It covers 114 sq. miles in area on the south side of the River Forth comprising low carseland along the river, rising to the Slamannan plateau in the south and the foothills of the Campsie Fells in the west.

The main town is Falkirk, which serves as the administrative as well as retail centre of the area. Other main centres of population are located in Grangemouth, Bo'ness, Stenhousemuir, Denny, Larbert, Polmont and Bonnybridge with smaller villages in the Braes area.

Socio-economic

The estimated population of the Falkirk Council Area in 2005 was 149,150. The population is increasing, with projections predicting a growth of 2% by 2011 to 152,300. In comparison, the general trend in Scotland is of a much smaller increase in population levels. The age structure of the population is changing with an increasing number of older people and a decrease in the number of children and young people.

The rise in population can be attributed to the increase in new house building in the area. The latest housing estimates show that there were 68,295 houses in the area in September 2005. The largest percentage of houses is owner occupied – 66% - while 26% are local authority owned, which is one of the highest levels in Scotland. The remaining houses are either housing association stock or privately rented.

The area has a diverse economy ranging from the petrochemical industries and docks of Grangemouth, through the retail centre of Falkirk to the rural areas to the south and west. The Falkirk area has an unemployment rate slightly below the Scottish average at 2.7%(June 2006). However, youth unemployment (18-24 age group) is particularly high.

3 Defining Antisocial Behaviour

The Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 has defined antisocial behaviour as:

- ⊗ *Acting in a manner, or*
- ⊗ *Pursuing a course of conduct,*
- ⊗ *That causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress*
- ⊗ *To at least one person not of the same household.*

There is a wide range of factors that can lead to antisocial behaviour, which may include the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

Antisocial behaviour may include, but is not limited to, acts or conduct such as:

- ⊗ *vandalism*
- ⊗ *disorder*
- ⊗ *fighting*
- ⊗ *neighbour disputes*
- ⊗ *noise nuisance*
- ⊗ *graffiti and littering*
- ⊗ *fly-tipping and fly-posting*
- ⊗ *fireraising*
- ⊗ *verbal abuse*
- ⊗ *abandonment of vehicles*
- ⊗ *substance misuse and dealing*
- ⊗ *vehicle nuisance*
- ⊗ *drinking in public*

It should be acknowledged that differences in, amongst other things, age, beliefs, health considerations and background, may give rise to different expectations and perceptions of what is acceptable conduct and what may or may not be considered to be antisocial behaviour.

Tolerance and awareness of others' needs is an important factor in dealing with antisocial behaviour.



4 Aims of the Falkirk Antisocial Behaviour Strategy

The long term aim of this Strategy and Outcome Agreement is to have fewer victims and perpetrators of antisocial behaviour.

The principal aim of this Strategy is, through prevention and early intervention, to tackle the causes and effects of antisocial behaviour, through effective partnership working at a local level. Where there is persistent and serious antisocial behaviour and those involved refuse to stop, enforcement will be actively pursued where appropriate. We will also work together to rehabilitate perpetrators of antisocial behaviour.

This Strategy is part of a wider national strategy for tackling antisocial behaviour which focuses on four themes:

- Ⓢ *Protecting and empowering communities*
- Ⓢ *Preventing antisocial behaviour*
- Ⓢ *Building safe, secure and attractive communities*
- Ⓢ *Effective enforcement*

The ASB Outcome Agreement will provide the strategic and operational framework for the Community Planning Partnership and the individual partners to deliver the national antisocial strategy. The ASB Strategy and Outcome Agreement complement the Community Safety Theme Group's five key principles which are:

- Ⓢ *Reducing crime and the fear of crime*
- Ⓢ *Improving personal safety*
- Ⓢ *Creating safer communities*
- Ⓢ *Tackling antisocial behaviour*
- Ⓢ *Strengthening Community Safety Partnerships*



5 Antisocial Behaviour in the Falkirk Area

It is recognised that the Falkirk area is one of the safest areas in Scotland to live, work or visit. Statistics demonstrate that the Central Scotland Police area has the lowest crime rate per head of population in Scotland and the highest detection rates. Local public surveys support this with the following indicators;

- ⊙ 84% of survey respondents feel very / fairly safe when outside in their local area during the day
- ⊙ 45% of survey respondents feel very / fairly safe when outside in their local area after dark.
- ⊙ 21% feel neither safe or unsafe.
- ⊙ 80% of survey respondents are satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live.

Following analysis of data held by partner agencies the following conclusions have been reached regarding antisocial behaviour in the Falkirk area.

- ⊙ There are areas in Falkirk that suffer particularly from antisocial behaviour
- ⊙ Most antisocial behaviour occurs in public space
- ⊙ Most antisocial behaviour occurs between 6pm and 10pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
- ⊙ Alleged offenders are predominately white males aged 12 – 20 years (with a peak of offending at 15 years of age) with the exception of Falkirk Town Centre where alleged offenders ages are higher and offending times are later in the evening. The age range of people making complaints to the police is evenly spread. However, young people aged 12 – 20 years are more likely to be victims of crimes against the person (assault)
- ⊙ Data from Falkirk Council highlights that people aged below 30 are more likely to be involved in low level antisocial behaviour, while people most likely to be involved in serious antisocial behaviour are aged in their 30s. The 40 – 60 age group is most likely to report antisocial behaviour
- ⊙ People from minority ethnic communities suffer disproportionately from crime
- ⊙ Most complaints of antisocial behaviour to the Council relate to noise nuisance
- ⊙ Vandalism is an ongoing problem within the Falkirk area affecting a number of public assets, including bus shelters, street furniture, salt / grit bins and property, as well as privately owned property. Damage to trees, shrubs and other landscaping features is also common place

These key points will inform and direct the action taken within this Strategy and Outcome Agreement for 2005-2008.



6 Objectives of ASB Strategy and Outcome Agreement for 2005-2008

From the examination of the findings of the PIER audit of current service provision there are a number of areas that require to be developed. The key objectives of the Strategy are:

⊗ *Safer and More Attractive Communities*

We continue to work towards a Falkirk area where residents feel safer and can take a pride in the appearance of their neighbourhood. This will be achieved through the continued provision of Community Wardens, Environmental Teams and high visibility police patrols working with local communities.

⊗ *Improved community engagement and empowerment*

Antisocial behaviour cannot be resolved by agencies in isolation and active participation of communities is essential. We will actively engage with and include local community members in decisions that will influence the way in which we tackle local problems. Communication with communities is a two way process and communities will be encouraged to report all incidents of antisocial behaviour.

⊗ *Improved support for victims and perpetrators of antisocial behaviour*

We recognise that there is a variety of causes behind antisocial conduct and we are committed to assessing the needs of the individual and providing support to meet these needs, as required. We will create robust links with the Supporting People Strategy and create a standard assessment of need. Extension to the 24 hour Helpline Service and the services provided by Victim Support will provide much needed support for victims and witnesses of antisocial behaviour.

⊗ *Effective joint multi-agency working to tackle antisocial behaviour*

A co-ordinated approach between all services and agencies is crucial to ensure that antisocial behaviour is tackled effectively and this will be achieved through the ASB structure detailed in section 7.

⊗ *Strategic co-ordination and corporate accountability*

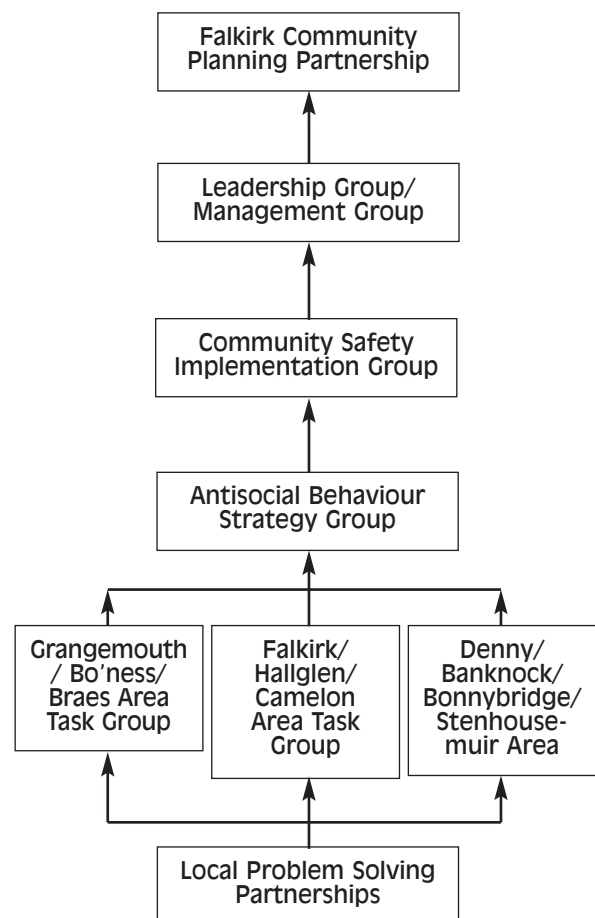
Due to the range of agencies involved in providing services to tackle antisocial behaviour, there is a clear need for central co-ordination and evaluation. The performance of the Strategy will be accountable to the Community Safety Theme Group, through the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy Group. An integral duty of the Strategy Group will be a Performance and Monitoring function with responsibility for the delivery of the Strategy and monitoring of the Outcome Agreement.



7 Links to Community Planning & Associated Strategies/Plans

Tackling Antisocial Behaviour is a complex process, requiring the involvement of many partners and the wider community to address identified issues. The structures under community planning have been revised to address antisocial behaviour through an area based problem solving approach.

The Antisocial Behaviour Working Group has become the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy Group and will oversee three ASB Task Groups and the local Problem Solving Partnerships as they develop. The diagram below illustrates the structure:





The role of each tier of the ASB Structure is as follows:

ASB Strategy Group

- ⊗ *Ongoing development of the ASB Strategy & Outcome agreement;*
- ⊗ *Ensuring delivery of outcomes;*
- ⊗ *Monitoring and evaluating Strategy and Outcome Agreement;*
- ⊗ *Supervision & Control of finance; and*
- ⊗ *Reporting on progress to the Community Safety Implementation Group, Falkirk Council and the Scottish Executive.*

ASB Task Groups

- ⊗ *Analysis of community intelligence;*
- ⊗ *Identification of problem areas/ individuals;*
- ⊗ *Reporting to ASB Strategy Group; and*
- ⊗ *Formation of Problem Solving Partnerships to address single issues where this is outwith the scope of the ASB Task Groups.*

Local Problem Solving Partnerships

- ⊗ *To tackle and resolve problems identified by ASB Task group;*
- ⊗ *Work with locally based agencies and communities to address problem;*
- ⊗ *Single issue group to deal with an identified problem;*
- ⊗ *Case management; and*
- ⊗ *Report to ASB Task Group.*

The overarching responsibility for Community Planning lies with the Falkirk Community Planning Partnership.

This Antisocial Behaviour Strategy has strong links with existing strategies and plans, including but not limited to:

- ⊗ *Strategic Community Plan*
- ⊗ *Community Safety Strategy*
- ⊗ *Community Regeneration Strategy and Regeneration Outcome Agreement*
- ⊗ *Central Scotland Police, Strategic Business Plan*
- ⊗ *Integrated Children's Services Plan*

- ⊗ *Youth Justice Strategy*
- ⊗ *Forth Valley Criminal Justice Plan*
- ⊗ *Homelessness Strategy*
- ⊗ *Local Housing Strategy*
- ⊗ *Racist Attacks & Harassment Multi Agency Strategy*
- ⊗ *Litter Strategy*
- ⊗ *Community Fire Safety Strategy*
- ⊗ *Community Learning Plan*
- ⊗ *Community Care Plan*
- ⊗ *Supporting People Strategy*
- ⊗ *Forth Valley Substance Action Team, Action Plan*

8 Closing Statement

It is everyone's right to live in peace and in safety, in a clean and friendly environment and free from the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.

This Strategy sets out how Falkirk Council, the Chief Constable of Central Scotland Police and Community Planning Partners will seek to reduce the incidence of antisocial behaviour through the implementation of the Outcome Agreement.

The Implementation Plan will provide a coherent plan for the delivery of the ASB Outcome Agreement and will assist the ASB team to provide the appropriate levels of support to initiatives within the PIER framework identified below:-.

- ⊗ *Prevention*
- ⊗ *Intervention*
- ⊗ *Enforcement*
- ⊗ *Rehabilitation*

It is important to note that the ASB Outcome Agreement is not fixed, and the Executive appreciates that delivery requires a degree of flexibility. The Outcome Agreement will develop according to need and through consultation with the community and partner agencies including Registered Social Landlords and the Children's Reporter.



www.falkirk.gov.uk email: asb@falkirk.gov.uk

If you would like a copy in community languages, braille, large print or audio-tape contact 01324 506398.

ਇਹ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਸਾਡੇ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ
ਭਾਗੀਦਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ (Partnership)। ਇਹ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਸਾਡੇ ਕੰਮਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ
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هذه الوثيقة متاحة عند الطلب
في اللغات الأخرى في المجتمع.

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Working in Partnership to Create Safer Communities



**Falkirk
Antisocial
Behaviour
Strategy**

2005-2008

