

MINUTES

MEETING: Anti Social Behaviour Study Group

DATE: Tuesday 25th January 2005

TIME: 10.30 a.m.

VENUE: Council Chamber, Blyth Valley Council

CHAIR: Paddy Law, Housing Hartlepool

Apologies:

Carolyn Crean	- Stockton BC	Neil McFarlane	- York City Council
Paul Noddings	- Tristar Homes	Jane Hill	- Middlesbrough Council
Sharon Dalton	- Coast & Country	Greg Johnson	- South Tyneside
Simon Riley	- Doncaster MBC	Mandy Walker	- Middlesbrough Council
Tim Winter	- SLCNG	Nick Gilks	- Northumbria Police
Pete Donegan	- Riverside	Charlie Bell	- Cleveland Police
Vanessa Waller	- Hartlepool BC	Alison Newbould	- North Yorkshire Police
Alex Rhind	- Home Office	Ken Sharples	- Harvest Housing
Barry Moore	- Two Castles	Cliver Ledner	- Accent Homes
Lee Colclough	- Yorkshire Coast Homes	Malcolm Woodhall	- Tynedale Council
Dave Pickard	- Tristar Homes	Gavin Brown	- Endeavour HA

Present:

Ian Palmer	- CPS	Alan Russell	- South Tyneside
Clare Tierney	- Gateshead Council	Stuart Brown	- Castle morpeth BC
Ian Johnson	- Blyth Valley Housing	Jocelyn Sirs	- Housing Hartlepool
Tracey Hall	- Cheviot Housing Association	Sharon Bushby	- Enterprise 5 HA
Paddy Law	- Housing Hartlepool	John A Bell	- East Durham Homes
Kelly Taylor	- Nomad Housing	Susan Abraham	- South Tyneside
David Conlin	- Derwentside	Steve Johnson	- Erimus Housing
Caroline Dargue	- Erimus Housing	Steve Lawson	- Cleveland Police
Mark Nockels	- Home Group	Dianne Hedley	- Sedgfield BC
Rod Barker	- Sedgfield BC	Michael Cochrane	- NHC

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 Paddy Law chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chair Greg Johnson and the resignation of Vice Chair Maggie Drury.

2.0 Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting on the 5th October 2004 were agreed as an accurate record.

3.0 Matters Arising

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

4.0 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

- 4.1 The group agreed that Greg Johnson should continue as chair of the group.
- 4.2 Maggie Drury has changed jobs and therefore resigned her position in advance of the meeting.
- 4.3 The group was asked if there were any volunteers to take up the role of Vice Chair, or if they would like to nominate anyone for the group.
- 4.4 Paddy Law was nominated and seconded by the group to be the new Vice Chair.

5.0 ASB Conference Feedback

- 5.1 The group was asked if they had any comments on last years Crime and ASB annual conference.
- 5.2 The group members who had attended the conference thought that it had been very good overall and the best one for a few years.
- 5.3 The second morning of the conference was singled out for particular praise.
- 5.4 It was highlighted that there was a need to avoid clashes with other events, as last years conference clashed with the Taking a Stand Awards.

6.0 Safer Estates Agreement

- 6.1 The group discussed the Northumbria Safer Estates Agreement following on from initial discussions at the previous meeting.
- 6.2 The group felt that the principles of the agreement are sound, but some of the workings are not, and discussed whether it would be right for Housing Officers to have access to Police information.

- 6.3 The group agreed that they should not be too critical of an agreement that has been, and continues to be, very useful.
- 6.4 It was requested that Michael Cowie outline his ideas for updating the protocol to the group at the next meeting.

7.0 Together Campaign

- 7.1 The group discussed the success of the *Together* campaign which is now over a year old. It was generally felt that the campaign had had a very positive impact, the group did however highlight areas that could be improved as the campaign develops further.
- 7.2 The group expressed the need for greater consultation with the *Action Areas*, with the process being hurried in the approach to going live. There is also a need for greater efforts to avoid confusing the general public over which areas have which type of Action Area.

9.0 Regional Round up

- Sedgefield BC* - Have gone through a period of inertia in the past, but have now been using the new Housing Act powers, including demoted tenancies, and have recognised the need to use ASBOs in certain situations.
- Home Group* - They are pulling a centralised team together. They are experiencing a lot of tenants leaving their properties before action against the tenant comes to court.
- Cleveland Police* - Have streamlined and speeded up the process of ASBO approval in the area.
- Erimus Housing* - The new enforcement team is now in place and is working with the council.
- South Tyneside* - They are putting their centralised unit in place, and liaisons with the police are working well, they are also currently an Action Area.
- Gateshead* - Had issue with the time it was taking to get cases in to court, but a training day they have undertaken with magistrates has been very beneficial in dealing with this issue. They have also obtained another CRASBO.
- Nomad* - No serious cases currently, just lots of low level cases.
- Derwentside* - The police in the area are becoming better organised in their dealings with ASB and have begun to take out CRASBOs.
- Cheviot* Gained their first ever injunction in December, they also have 1 ABA, with more set to be served.

- Enterprise 5* - Generally low level ASB, but are considering possession order for one property.
- Housing Hartlepool* - Had a winner of a Taking a Stand Award in the area. 'COOL' project for 8-14 year olds, has now been launched at 8 school sites in the area, with a 9th to be launched soon. The Primary Care Trust are looking to buy in to the project. They have also put into place a cadet scheme for joining the health service. The issue of failed tenancies and the need for mentoring and support services is becoming increasingly prevalent.
- Castle Morpeth* - Gained an interim ASBO before Christmas. Have support service in place to provide younger tenants with life skills.
- Ian Palmer - CPS* - Specialist prosecutors are now in place and the magistrates and judges are starting to come on board. ASBO on conviction are increasing all the time.

10.0 Any Other Business

10.1 There was no other business

11.0 2005 meeting dates:

Date:	Time:	Venue:
17 th May	10.30am	Council Chamber, Sedgefield BC
6 th Sep	10.30am	Volunteer Needed
13 th Dec	10.30am	Volunteer Needed