

# MINUTES

**MEETING:** Anti Social Behaviour Study Group

**DATE:** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008

**TIME:** 10.30 a.m.

**VENUE:** Committee Room A, Town Hall, South Shields

**CHAIR:** Greg Johnson, South Tyneside Council

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## Apologies:

Chris Przysiecki – Bradford Community Housing Trust  
Sara Herrington – Endeavour HA  
David Jones – Chester le Street  
Kelly Anne Burton – Cheviot Homes  
Paula Leckey – Cheviot Homes  
Paul Noddings – Tristar Homes  
Karen Vickers – Two Castles

## Present:

Greg Johnson – South Tyneside	Satty Rai - NHC
Michael Cowie – Gentoo Group	Andy Elvidge – Housing Hartlepool
Belinda Stockport – Hartlepool BC	Ian Bell – Hartlepool BC
Sue Strickland – Youth Taskforce	Clive Ledner – Accent Group
Clare Tierney – Gateshead MBC	Col Blackett – Blyth Valley BC
Pamela Cox – East Durham Homes	Sharon Dalton – Coast & Country
Amanda Fulcher – East Durham Homes	Ian Johnson – Blyth Valley
Malcolm Woodhall – Tynedale DC	Phil Tweedle – Richmondshire DC
Neil Hobson – Sedgfield BC	Lee Godfrey - Broadacres
David Higgins – Whiteheads Solicitors	Mike Picknett - GONE
Carl May – Home Group	

### 1.0 Minutes of last meeting

- 1.1 The minutes of the meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2007 were agreed as an accurate record.
- 1.2 Ian asked what the latest was on Benchmarking and costings, Greg informed the group that they had made good progress on this.

## **2.0 Matters Arising**

2.1 Greg apologised for the confusion around the start time of the meeting, these meetings actually start at 10.30am, with tea, coffee and registration from 10am.

## **3.0 Sue Strickland – Youth Taskforce, Youth Action Plan Update**

3.1 The Youth Taskforce is based within the Department of Schools, Families and Children. Following on from the work of the Respect Programme introduced in 2006 which focussed on the causes of ASB and introduced FIP's and parenting practitioners. The programme made progress with regards to tools and powers, and issues affecting young people, reducing the numbers of teenage pregnancies and perceptions of ASB. There are still gaps and loads to go around this agenda, with the need to identify the underlying causes and issues affecting this behaviour in young people.

3.2 The introduction of the Youth Taskforce has seen Louise Casey moving to the Cabinet Office and Anne Winestock stepping in as the new boss???. Its all about accelerating delivery of change for young people, and engaging with young people on the ground.

3.3 Policy Context – the new action plan which was published in March 08 needs to be seen in the context with the Children's Plan, as it's a development of this. There is still a continued focus from Central Government to tackle ASB.

3.4 Action Plan – £218 million worth of funding moved from a Twin Track approach to a triple track approach which includes tough enforcement, No negotiable help and better prevention.

3.5 Key Areas - £13m Intensive intervention Project – attracted large media attention, open to everyone to submit bids, key outcome to prevent homelessness, looking at innovative partnership approaches and working with the third sector.

£5m Targeted Youth Support – commissioned TDA to work with all LA's to ensure that this in place.

£75,000 ongoing funding to ensure ASB is tackled and this will continue until 2011.

£30m to expand the network of FIP, parenting practitioners and the parenting pathfinder programme.

The key focus is positive activities and safer communities, concentrating on the time of activities and whether they are on at the

right times/days. Good Practice example is the Jarrow Friday night Project.

£225m will be invested in the most deprived communities, as its important that these schemes are reaching out to the most vulnerable. There are a number of authorities across the NE that fit in the most 50 deprived authorities and these will be allocated £450,000.

My Place Programme – unclaimed money that is open for anyone to bid for, information on this to be circulated.

3.6 Looking to host a number of academy events throughout May, June and September which will train up 3000 practitioners.

3.7 The youth taskforce will continue the theme of the Respect Agenda but will develop it further. It's about a deeper response to ASB, prevention of getting these individuals into further trouble. The Youth taskforce will be concentrating to work closer with the Government Offices and supporting and integrating the arrangements that are already in place. Looking to publish best practice guidance and offering events to all, information on direct funding with named contact details, its about dissemination of information and raising awareness to practitioners.

The funding is committed for three years until 2011.

3.8 Questions

What about the Respect Branding?

It is time to move on, but we are aware that local communities are much more in tune with what Respect means and what it is all about, and is continued to be used locally, which is ok, but nationally it is not being used.

Next week the Home Office are hosting an event and as a result may develop new branding so will wait and see.

What about the focus of those who are not classed as young and cause ASB?

The Home office has always had the policy brief on ASB, but they have realised that they have not been too vocal on this area and this may result in new ways of working/changes following the event next week. Sue informed the group that she will ensure any messages are communicated back.

Funding has always been secured for those in the Respect Areas, what about those of us that are not?

This round of funding is not just for the Respect area, there is a bigger pot with more opportunities. It's a very mixed picture, where some pots of money is on an open bid process.

There is a big issue in gaps of provision, and alcohol abuse is one of them, how is this being addressed?

The Youth Taskforce are working on a Youth alcohol initiative, more announcements around this are expected.

Drinking Banning Orders – David to circulate information to the group on this.

#### **4.0 David Higgins – Whitehead Solicitors**

##### **Demoted Tenancies**

**4.1** See Presentation

**4.2** For RSL's it is much easier to enforce a demotion order than for LA's.

**4.3** Its important to include appropriate advice and refer to CAB, Housing Advice centre and legal advice. There is no public funding/legal aid available in the case of a review.

**4.4** No right of review for RSL tenants, although a appeals mechanism will be in place. The Housing Corporation's Good Practice Note – Nov 07 is recommended.

**4.5** Questions.

How regular should the reviews take place?

No set review in Good Practice Note, although quarterly would be advisable.

Sue advised that the FIP can be a powerful tool in this, as you have a good case to put forward highlighting the benefits and what it could offer.

Why do RSL's not need an appeals procedure?

RSL's are not a public body.

It's important to demonstrate good evidence to strengthen your case.

## **4.6 Family Intervention Tenancies – What its all about? – David Higgins**

FIP's was launched in 2003, which offers intensive support to families causing ASB

FIT's introduced in the Housing and Regen Bill, for families, new voluntary tenancy. It is not secured or assured; more of a contractual tenancy, there is lack of security attached to this form of tenancy.

It is recommended that a detailed discussion takes place with the family prior to creating a FIT, to agree and clarify the terms of the tenancy and the kind of support and level that can be offered. There is no obligation of take up, but need to be clear of the likely action if it is not taken up.

Who? Tolerated trespassers and very keen to draw the private sector into this agenda.

Termination of FIT's – it will all be taken on a case by case basis.

There will be some secondary legislation/regulation out soon, with some detailed guidance.

Used as a tool to move families and prevent them from becoming victims themselves, it's key that there is ongoing engagement with the families prior for this to be a success.

## **5.0 Regional Round Up**

**5.1** Claire, Gateshead – asked the group whether anyone had experience of the Centrica ASB database, and linking it with CDRP system to map?

Also mentioned that the FIP's are working really well, and they have had loads of referrals from Social Services, but the question of appropriateness has been in issue. What are other peoples experiences of this?

**5.2** Malcolm, Tynedale – Mental Health & ASB – big issue, engaging with professionals in the PCT's, it's very difficult to work together on this, but it's very important. Claire mentioned that Gateshead have appointed a mental health worker to work with them. This may be someone to invite to a future meeting.

**5.3** Phil, Richmondshire – going through stock transfer at present, looking to have the show homes ready by July 08, so rushing this through. David from Whiteheads raised the issue that in some cases the

tenancy agreements can fall short as a result of this, so be aware that everything is considered and noted, to avoid problems in the future.

**5.4** Lee, Broadacres – asked the group for some guidance on producing a ASB strategy and the length. Group advised that it should be short and punchy, Sue echoed this.

**5.5** Sharon, coast and Country – FIP set up by Tees Valley, running successfully. A residential care unit will be set up in the Estate from Sept.

Garden Injunction – judge advised as he did not want to grant an injunction, that it should be put on hold for 12 months and suggested possession. The group agreed that this was inappropriate, and did not address prevention. Sue asked for any difficult cases like this to be sent to her colleague at the home office, as there could be a training need. [cherin@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cherin@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

**5.6** East Durham Homes – no FIP's at present although there is a pilot under the Supporting People Funds.

Currently experiencing problems around engaging with social care and health professionals, in cases of small children.

Sue asked them to email details if EDH is interested in FIP's for some money to kick start the project.

**5.6** Ian, Hartlepool – Mental Health not being picked up enough, and areas of Domestic Violence, and Bereavement where there are limited resources.

Clive, Accent Foundation mentioned that they were taking on someone for a 3 week/month placement?

**5.7** Greg, South Tyneside – FIP successful in the area, one case where behaviour of mum and son had changed drastically in a positive sense once they had been relocated. One case where mother was reluctant to work with FIP, and after agreed after she was taken to Court, experience so far has been positive.

**6.0 AOB**

None

**7.0 Next Meeting**

TBC