



HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY

PRESS INFORMATION

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Humberside Police and Police Authority Focus on Anti-Social Behaviour

Representatives from key partners engaged in the fight against anti-social behaviour were joined by the Home Secretary Alan Johnson to hear plans designed to protect vulnerable people and those who may be repeatedly victimised.

The conference, entitled "Anti-social behaviour – Protecting the Vulnerable" was organised by Humberside Police Authority and Humberside Police as a result of feedback from the Police Authority's Citizens Panel. This showed that despite the significant falls in anti-social behaviour seen across the Humberside Police area, it still ranks as the fourth most important issue for the public.

Consequently, the Police Authority and Humberside Police Force have taken the initiative, developing new procedures and strategies to tackle the problem. Identified best practice, including improving the ways in which partners work together, and lessons learned by other forces have been integrated into the Police Force's new anti-social behaviour strategy, which was unveiled by ACC Stuart Donald.

ACC Stuart Donald said: "Addressing the causes of anti-social behaviour requires strong partnerships. Evidence of how we have successfully reduced crime over the last few years demonstrates to me that we have the partners, leadership and enthusiasm to ensure we tackle rather than tolerate anti-social behaviour. We are developing our response to ensure minimum standards can be expected across the whole area with plans which put the interest of the public first."

Emphasising the importance the Police Authority has placed on the need to address anti-social behaviour it has made 'work with partners and the community to manage the risk of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage' one of the local policing priorities for the coming year.

In addition, it has been agreed that a Member of the Authority will be given special responsibility for leading the Authority's work on anti-social behaviour issues, to increase the level of scrutiny undertaken with particular focus on repeat incidents. This will enable the Authority to ensure that the right mechanisms and procedures are not just in place, but being implemented effectively.

Alene Branton MBE, Chair of the Police Authority, welcomed the new proposals, saying: "When I was appointed Chair of the Authority in 2007 I was determined to see anti-social behaviour reduced and I'm pleased to see that huge progress has been made since then. We know from local people how much this matters to them.

"The conference really concentrated our thoughts and emphasised our determination to see anti-social behaviour effectively addressed, particularly if people are repeatedly victimised. Obviously our new processes will need time to prove themselves, but we know that by focussing on a problem in this way, it drives the force to deliver improvements.

"We believe we are probably the first authority to set out its plans to tackle the problem of repeat anti-social behaviour, which is good news for residents living in the Humberside police area.

"At the end of a thought-provoking day, we were grateful to our colleagues from Leicestershire Constabulary and Greater Manchester Police who shared their experiences with us and the Home Secretary, who highlighted the innovative approach used to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in this area."

Ms Branton will step down as Chair of the Authority in May, when her eight year term as an Independent Member comes to an end. The Home Secretary, Alan Johnson, paid tribute to Ms Branton's achievements saying she was a constant source of inspiration and wished her well in the future.

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