

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

TO REDUCE LEVELS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES (PFG Commitment 56)

Lead Responsibility: ASB Delivery Group

Partners on Delivery Group: Department of Justice (DOJ), Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA), Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) Representatives and Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB)..

Performance Indicators:

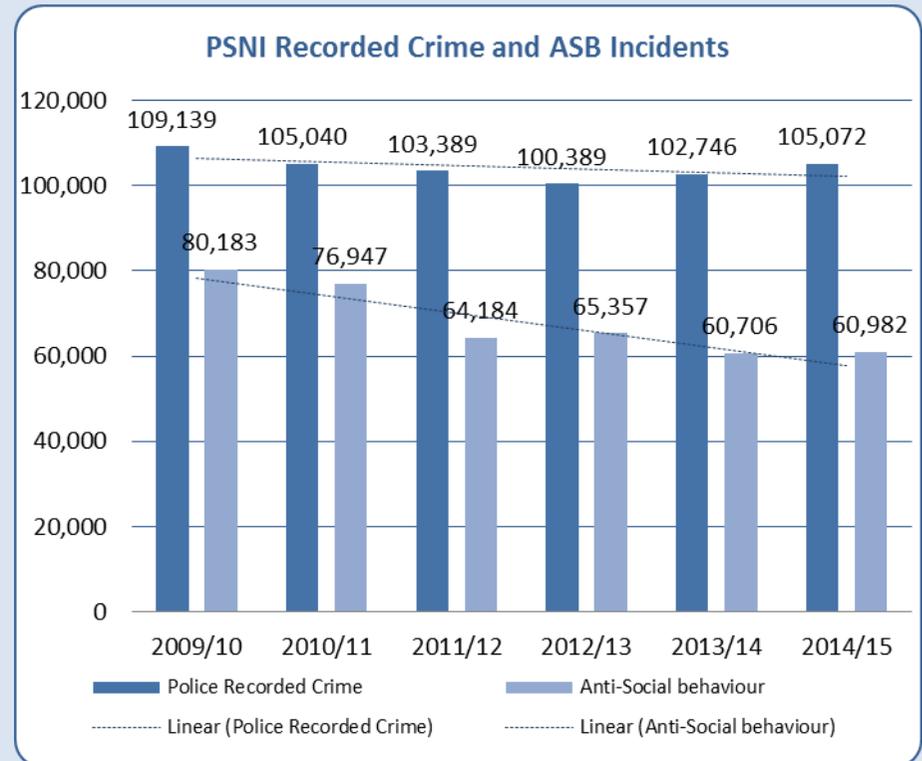
% of Respondents who:	Baseline 2010/11	Target	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Agree the police and other agencies are dealing with ASB and crime issues that matter in their area	38.4	↑	41.4*	41.7*	41.6	43.0*
Perceive the level of ASB in their area to be high	13	↓	12.1	10.0*	10.1*	8.1*
	Jan-Jun 2012					
Quality of life is minimally affected by ASB	82.1	↑	-	84.4	86.0	86.8*

* Indicates a statistically significant change from baseline (p<0.05)

Information taken from NICS Perceptions of Policing, Justice and Anti-Social Behaviour: Quarterly Update



Source: ASG NICTS



Source: PSNI Statistics Branch

Story behind the figures/context:

The current Programme for Government (PfG) commitment to improve community safety by tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) includes the following four performance indicators:

- to increase to 41.4% the percentage of people who agree the police and other agencies are dealing with ASB and crime issues that matter in their area;
- to reduce to 11% the percentage of people who perceive the level of ASB in their area to be high;
- to improve the percentage of people whose quality of life is affected by ASB, using a baseline figure of 82.1%, and
- the number of ASB incidents reported to PSNI.

At this stage, the results from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey indicate that we are currently on target to meet the first three performance indicators.

While the number of anti-social behaviour incidents fell year on year between 2006/07 and 2011/12, over recent years the rate of anti-social behaviour incidents has fluctuated. Between 2011/12 and 2012/13 there was an increase of 1.8 per cent followed by a 7.1% drop in 2013/14. During 2014/15 a slight increase of less than 1% was noted on the previous year.

With the exception of 2008/09, recorded crime figures have decreased each year between 2006/07 and 2012/13. In 2013/14 a 2.3% increase in recorded crime was noted and followed by a further 2.3% increase in 2014/15.

At a local level, District Councils, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Housing Associations and the PSNI continue to deal directly with reported incidents of ASB and they are continually developing their response to local concerns.

What we agreed to achieve in 2015-2017	What we did in 2015/16
<p>Effective partnership working</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing agreements developed by ASB Delivery Group to formalise information sharing arrangements between the PSNI and Housing Associations to facilitate the prevention and resolution of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour. • Continued work between key ASB Delivery Group partners to ensure their ASB strategies and action plans reflected a consistent message on roles and responsibilities for tackling ASB and promoted a graduated response to ASB through use of non-statutory and statutory interventions. • Continued partnership working between all relevant statutory and non-statutory partners with a role in tackling ASB through the ASB Delivery Group. • NIFHA have appointed a Practice Officer to facilitate the development and sharing of best practice between housing associations and partners. This post will enable NIFHA to support its members to establish best practice in relation to ASB. • NIFHA are supporting housing associations to establish new partnerships with restorative justice agencies to support local communities to tackle anti-social behaviour. The Social Housing and Restorative Practice (SHARP) initiative provides a formal framework that gives housing associations greater access to independent and professional services from Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI) and Northern Ireland Alternatives (NIA). Services available include mediation, community support casework and direct intervention activities with families and young people.
<p>Deliver effective prevention and diversion strategies, with a greater emphasis on early intervention to address underlying risk factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOJ continues to support the delivery of the Executive’s Early Intervention Transformation Programme which aims to improve outcomes for children and young people across Northern Ireland through embedding early intervention approaches. [see Early Interventions Progress Report] • NIHE supports a number of initiatives to tackle ASB including an independent mediator’s service which offers mediation as a way of resolving neighbour disputes. This mediation service allows people in

dispute to reach their own solutions.

- **NIHE** also continues to support community safety warden and street pastor services, which aim to respond to ASB and low level nuisance in hotspots areas, and pilot initiatives such as the Community Safety Officer Post in West Belfast to address the fear factor associated with the consequences of reporting ASB. This Post aims to provide a local point of contact enabling residents and the local community to report incidents of ASB and build community confidence.
- Initiatives being delivered across the **PCSP** network include:

Derry & Strabane PCSP

Community Safety Wardens:

Council employs 11 Community Safety Wardens providing a dedicated service to the urban neighbourhoods, rural villages and educational precinct. The scheme is jointly funded by PCSP, Council, PSNI, DSD, NIHE and University of Ulster. The Service provides a response to calls from the public and carries out patrols of ASB hotspots.

Mid & East Antrim PCSP

Community Safety Wardens /Detached Youth Workers:

Operates a warden programme which monitors and aims to resolve ASB issues. These can range from litter, dumping, graffiti, dog-fouling etc, which can negatively impact on people's quality of life. The Detached Youth Workers scheme, which was piloted in Carrickfergus, has been extended throughout Mid and East Antrim, working in conjunction with Community Safety Wardens to provide a follow up service for young people in ASB hot-spot areas.

Mid-Ulster PCSP

Intergenerational Programmes:

PCSP has operated intergenerational programmes to increase engagement between older people and youth. This has contributed to reduced ASB complaints.

Belfast South DPCSP

Walkway Transient Youth Programme:

South Belfast DPCSP funded LORAG to coordinate on street work with young people who gather along

	<p>the Lagan Walkway, who are at risk of engaging in harmful behaviours and ASB. The project was able to work with the young people in an intensive programme to provide positive diversionary activities.</p> <p>Belfast West DPCSP <i>Bringing it Together 1&2 (Feile an Phobail):</i> Small Grant Project to develop police and community engagement within one of the most socially and economically deprived areas in the NI. The project focussed on preventing, reducing and tackling ASB and crime through building confidence in local policing, challenging negative perceptions and building a safer community for all.</p> <p><i>Transient Youth Initiative</i> This council and community lead initiative aimed at exploring issues around Transient Youth and the perceived ASB, criminality and fear of crime associated with large groups of young people coming together. The project consisted of a multi layered approach including diversionary activity, direct engagement and consultation with young people, and a citywide advertising campaign which highlighted the issues to parents of young people, as well as communities as a whole.</p>
<p>Ensure agencies have effective, proportionate and appropriate powers to tackle ASB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASB Delivery Group conducted an annual review of the use of the ASB legislation, including for each of the section 75 categories and found there were no adverse impacts on any of the categories. • ASB Delivery Group continued to monitor the implementation of current ASB legislation. • DSD has introduced a Housing (Amendment) Bill which includes information sharing powers in relation to ASB.
<p>Support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, to address disorder (graffiti, litter, vandalism) that acts as a signal for ASB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of the Environment is currently assessing the legislation used by District Councils to deal with dilapidated/dangerous buildings and neglected sites. The ASB Delivery Group will continue to monitor this area of work and will consider potential implications for environmental ASB.

Support victims of anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PSNI are taking forward the development of a pilot initiative, in G District, to address vulnerability of victims. The outcomes from this initiative will inform the provision of support for vulnerable victims of ASB.• NIFHA are supporting housing associations to establish new partnerships with restorative justice agencies to support local communities to tackle anti-social behaviour. The Social Housing and Restorative Practice (SHARP) initiative provides a formal framework that gives housing associations greater access to independent and professional services from Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI) and Northern Ireland Alternatives (NIA). Services available include mediation, community support casework and direct intervention activities with families and young people.
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