

## What is the Respect Agenda?

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The Government's Respect Agenda was officially launched on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2006 with the publication of the Respect Action Plan. Its aim was to build on previous legislation and initiatives such as the Together campaign in 2003 that had been introduced to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and its causes.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defines ASB as acting in 'a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the complainant'. (See appendix for more information).

### The Respect Task Force

Coordination of the Respect Agenda including the production and delivery of the Respect Action Plan is the responsibility of a special cross governmental Task Force. Set up in September 2005, it is headed by Louise Casey, the former National Director of the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit who answers directly to the Home Secretary.

The Respect Agenda recognises a number of factors which it associates with ASB by individuals. These include:

- **Parenting** - poor parenting skills, weak parent/child relationships and sometimes parental involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour.
- **School** - truancy and exclusion and schools where poor behaviour is not challenged enough.
- **Community factors** - living in deprived areas where there is disorder and neglect, peer involvement in anti-social behaviour.
- **Individual factors** - drug and alcohol misuse and early involvement in anti-social behaviour.

It aims to go "**Broader**", "**Deeper**" and "**Further**" to tackle anti-social behaviour by addressing it in every walk of life, tackling its causes through early intervention, providing support for parents and introducing new powers to ensure a robust response where necessary.

A key goal, stated in the Action Plan is "to empower individuals and communities, enabling them not just to feel secure but to be more able to act together to make their neighbourhoods safer and better".

There are six key themes featured in the Action Plan, their key points are:

### Supporting families

- Parents have a critical role in helping their children develop good values and behaviour.

- Conversely, poor parenting increases the risks of involvement in anti-social behaviour.
- Parenting services will be developed nationally and focus help on those parents who need it most.
- National parenting provision will be expanded and establish a new National Parenting Academy for front line staff.
- Legislation will be introduced to increase the circumstances, and organisations that can apply for a parenting order, where a child's behaviour requires it.

### **A new approach to the most challenging families**

- A new approach will be taken to tackle the behaviour of 'problem families' by challenging them to accept support to change their behaviour, backed up by enforcement measures.
- In 2006, a network of intensive family support schemes will be launched that target these challenging families.
- Additional investment for parenting programmes will be made available as part of a coordinated approach across children's and adult services in these areas.
- Improvements will be made across government to the way public services respond to problem families' in the longer term.

### **Improving behaviour and attendance in schools**

- The values and behaviour that support respect foster a positive environment where teachers can teach and children can learn.
- Legislation will ensure parents take responsibility for their child's behaviour in the classroom and when they are excluded from school. Provision for suspended and excluded pupils will also be improved.
- Tackling poor attendance and behaviour in schools is particularly important since truancy and exclusion have been proven to lead to anti-social behaviour.
- Targeted action against truancy will be extended and place a new duty on local authorities to identify children missing school and support them back into education.

### **Activities for children and young people**

- About seven out of ten parents and young people are known to think that young people commit crimes because there is not enough for them to do.
- That's why the role of sport, constructive activities and volunteering will be expanded as positive routes to nurture a culture of respect amongst young people, particularly those from deprived backgrounds.
- Specifically, Britain's first national youth volunteering service will be developed and a sports champion mentoring programme will be established and continued support given to existing mentoring projects.
- There will be an expansion of the Youth Opportunity Fund and pilot Youth Opportunity Cards in a number of areas.

## **Strengthening communities**

- Respect cannot be delivered by government or local agencies alone. People will be empowered to stand up and challenge unacceptable behaviour in their communities and make public services more accountable to local people and local priorities.
- It is known that change is needed most in our disadvantaged communities so government-funded physical regeneration schemes will be accompanied by measures to manage behaviour.

## **Effective enforcement and community justice**

- The drive to ensure effective, swift and proportionate responses and sanctions will continue by further extending the menu of powers available to local communities to deal rapidly and effectively with 'low level' anti-social behaviour. The range of people able to use existing powers will also be broadened.
- Powers available for frontline agencies will be strengthened whilst the case management of Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) within the courts will also be streamlined.
- A 'community payback' scheme of visible and constructive punishment for offenders will be rolled out nationally.

The aims of the Respect Agenda are designed to be delivered by a combination of central government, local authorities, local agencies and partnerships such as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP's), community groups and individuals.

## **Respect Squads**

In places where communities are experiencing high anti-social behaviour and where there may not be strong coordination of agencies to drive an effective response the government has created a Respect Squad who can be called upon to intervene.

The squad is made up experienced frontline staff from police and local authorities who have a successful track record of tackling anti-social behaviour. After assessing a case they will make recommendations to the Chair of the local CDRP and the case will be publicised on the Respect website to share their findings.

## **Respect Academies**

Since June 2006 a series of Respect Academies run by the Respect Task Force have been held around the country to promote the Respect Agenda. These have been aimed at practitioners who work in ASB, children's and youth services, housing, social services, police, community safety, regeneration and youth offending teams.

## Appendix

### Anti-social Behaviour

A variety of different types of behaviour are associated with ASB, these include: graffiti, abusive and intimidating language (including race or faith hate, or homophobia), excessive noise, particularly late at night, fouling the street with litter, drunken behaviour in the streets and the mess it creates, dealing drugs with all the associated problems to which it gives rise, harassment of residents or passers-by, verbal abuse, criminal damage, vandalism, noise nuisance, writing graffiti, engaging in threatening behaviour in large groups, racial abuse, underage smoking or drinking, substance misuse, joyriding, begging, prostitution, kerb-crawling, throwing missiles, assault, vehicle crime, domestic violence.

A number of measures have been introduced to deal with ASB, these include Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's), Individual Support Orders (which specifically deal with juveniles aged between 10 and 17), Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (mostly used against juveniles), Parenting Contracts and Orders, Fines, Curfews and Dispersal Orders. (A glossary explaining these term is available [here](#).)

### Further Information

#### Respect

<http://www.respect.gov.uk/>

The government website dedicated to Respect

[http://www.respect.gov.uk/assets/docs/respect\\_action\\_plan.pdf](http://www.respect.gov.uk/assets/docs/respect_action_plan.pdf)

The Respect Action Plan

#### Number 10

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/output/page8819.asp>

News on the Respect from the Prime Ministers office.

#### Together

<http://www.together.gov.uk/home.asp>

This campaign supports local agencies and residents to tackle anti-social behaviour. This website provides information, advice, and resources to help practitioners.

#### Home Office

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour/>

Information and resources on anti-social behaviour

Community Safety Advisory Service  
88 Clapham Road  
London, SW9 0JR  
Tel: 020 7793 3730, Email: [csas@lat.org.uk](mailto:csas@lat.org.uk)  
[www.csas@lat.org.uk](http://www.csas@lat.org.uk)