

7th May 2010

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Dear Colleague

Anti-Social Behaviour – Rethinking Definition and Principles

We have for some time now been clear that collaborative, multi agency working is the only way to go in addressing the problem of anti-social behaviour in our communities. As with any partnership undertaking, clarity around what we are doing is critical, and being able to sign up to an agreed definition and set of guiding principles helps us enormously in our endeavours. This is also extremely important in our work with our communities, in explaining to them what we can do for them, and what we can do with them.

In the West Midlands we have become increasingly aware of the challenge of a clear and agreed position, as we have one police force, seven local authorities and seven Community Safety Partnerships active on this agenda in the West Midlands. We recently met to discuss how far we could go to reach an agreed definition and guiding principles, and we also looked at whether we could agree a set of West Midlands Minimum Standards for Anti-social Behaviour. I think we made a promising start, and this work is still on-going.

The starting point for our discussions on definition and principles came out of an in-depth study of anti-social behaviour that is being conducted in Birmingham. This is being undertaken by a consortium, led by Tribal working with London Metropolitan University, the University of Birmingham and 'Birminghamambition'. An early product of this study was the attached paper, written by Professor Simon Hallsworth of London Metropolitan University.

We think that this paper gives us a much more clear and robust definition than any that we have seen to date, not only for the West Midlands but for the National stage. Please send me any comments on the attached document and I would particularly like to hear whether this is something that you could sign up to, or if not, if you would like to work with us to develop a position that you could sign up to.

Yours sincerely,



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Enc.