

Media release

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Hackney's partnership approach celebrated at ASB forum

Anti-social behaviour in Hackney is being tackled by a series of innovative partnerships in the borough, and intervention and prevention are proving to be the vital tactics.

The work of Hackney Homes' anti-social behaviour team and the Safer Neighbourhoods police team was showcased on 1 June at the Anti-Social Behaviour Forum at New Scotland Yard.

Brian Doran and Amalia Rodriguez from Hackney Homes said that the partnership between Hackney Homes and local police has helped in the recent drop in crime rates in the borough.

"Anti-social behaviour is not just a housing problem, or a problem in schools, or something for the police to deal with. It's a community problem and it can make people's lives a misery, so the only way to tackle it is to see it as a problem that affects us all and work together to solve it," Brian said.

With Safer Neighbourhoods officers now based alongside the anti-social behaviour team at Hackney Homes' Neighbourhood Office in Homerton, communications are always kept up to speed.

Along with the police, Hackney Homes has been working with the Youth Offending team, the Truancy team, Social Services, Education, Welfare and residents to introduce programmes that prevent anti-social behaviour or tackle it early.

One of the tools being used is Acceptable Behaviour Contracts – or ABC's – and they have proven especially useful for diverting young people from anti-social behaviour and stopping them graduate to criminal convictions. ABC's are written agreements between the young person, the housing office and the police in which the young person agrees not to carry out any form of anti-social behaviour including graffiti, theft, intimidating language, excessive noise, littering, drunken behaviour or using or dealing drugs.

"We will not accept anti-social behaviour in our neighbourhoods, but at the same time, we don't want to criminalise our young people. We want to

intervene, address the behaviour and give the young person a second chance.”

ABC’s have been in operation in Hackney since 2001 and young people issued with these orders are far less likely to go on to commit criminal acts.

“I personally have been involved in issuing 65 ABC’s and only 8 of these people have gone on to receive an anti-social behaviour order,” Brian said.

It is for this reason that Brian and his team have recently run training sessions for local police officers stationed in Hackney schools.

“We’ve trained the police in how we can use the ABC’s, where we’ve had successful outcomes and how we can continue to work together to tackle the root causes for young people committing anti-social behaviour.”

In an effort to divert youths away from carrying out anti-social behaviour, Hackney Homes also runs the Kickz programme which offers sport and recreation activities and the Nemesis street dance project. For more information, check out www.hackneyhomes.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes is an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) launched in April 2006 to manage the Council’s social housing stock. Hackney Homes is responsible for managing 22,000 tenanted properties and 8,000 leasehold properties in the borough.
- The latest audited figures released on 19 April by the Metropolitan Police show offences in Hackney have been cut by more than 7,000, or 28 per cent, in the past three years – the best results for any borough in the capital. Street robberies, home burglaries, and car thefts were all down in 2006/07, while overall crime fell by nearly 15 per cent.