

## Press release

22 January 2008

### **CrackDown conference tackles substance misuse**

Hackney's award-winning CrackDown project is staging a conference this month to promote greater understanding of substance misuse amongst young people in the borough.

The conference, to be held this Thursday the 24th January is targeted at agencies who are involved in reducing the number of crack houses, or in the field of drugs misuse in Hackney.

This is the second annual conference since the project was launched in 2003. Since it was set up the project has successfully obtained 63 closure orders granted by Thames Magistrates Court, significantly reducing related crime and ensuring a safe environment for Hackney residents to live.

The CrackDown project is innovative because it combines intervention, prevention and outreach and because it brings together all the relevant agencies in one strong task force.

Key speakers at the conference include Meg Hillier MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch on the subject of anti-social behaviour, as well as Diane Abbott MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington talking about the impact of drugs on the community.

Councillor Alan Laing, Hackney Council's Member for Neighbourhoods says: "We are committed to tackling the causes of anti-social behaviour that too often blight our communities. Whilst crime is falling in Hackney, we need to ensure that our residents feel safer in their homes and on our streets and working with other agencies, the council is determined to achieve this."

Hackney Homes Chair Rupert Tyson said: "This conference should prove to be a great opportunity for people working in the field of anti-social behaviour to get their heads together and come up with some really positive ideas. By working together I hope we can come up with some innovative solutions to the problem of drugs misuse in our community."

**Ends**

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