

To: COATBRIDGE LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: ANTI SOCIAL TASK FORCE UPDATE REPORT
From: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES		
Date: 19 FEBRUARY 2008	Ref:ASTF/CBLAP/EOB/0	

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to update members of the Coatbridge Local Area Partnership regarding the work of the Anti Social Task Force (ASTF) in the Coatbridge area. The report will also provide statistical information relating to operational activities across North Lanarkshire.

2. ASTF and Local Area Initiatives

- 2.1 The six LAPs are - the North Area (including Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and the surrounding villages); Coatbridge and district; Airdrie and district; Wishaw and district; Bellshill and district, and Motherwell and district.
- 2.2 The ASTF works with numerous partner organisations and agencies addressing local issues in 'Hot Spot' areas and ASTF officers regularly take part in meetings and initiatives to address local concerns.

3. Initiatives within the Coatbridge Area:

3.1 *Townhead Youths Initiative*

- 3.1.1. Problems relating to gangs of youths in Townhead area were highlighted at a public meeting attended by Councillors McWilliams and Clarke, Community Police, Area Housing Manager and ASTF.
- 3.1.2. The ASTF and police are working together to target the main perpetrators.
- 3.1.3. Unacceptable Behaviour Notices and Acceptable Behaviour Agreements are to be served on the youths and warnings will be served on parents' tenancies as appropriate.

3.2 *Successful Actions in Coatbridge Area*

- 3.2.1. We have dealt with several quite active cases in Coatbridge over the past 6 months. In particular we have had 5 very active cases involving 4 households in Townhead area.
- 3.2.2. These 5 cases had to be passed to Legal Services to pursue court action resulting in 4 Interim ASBO's being granted and one case is still awaiting a court date.
- 3.2.3. In each of these cases, complaints largely stopped once the orders were granted clearly demonstrating that the orders can be successful in ensuring offenders amend their behaviour.

- 3.2.4. At a recent public meeting in Townhead, the Task Force was complimented by a representative of the Tenants and Residents Association on the work we have carried out in the area which had resulted in a definite improvement in the quality of life for residents in this area.
- 3.2.5. A major factor in the success of all of the above actions is the contribution of the residents within the community who were experiencing problems of anti social behaviour. These residents engaged with ourselves and other agencies and used our services appropriately enabling us to gather evidence to take the action necessary to stop the behaviour.

3.3. Town Centre Initiative – Strathclyde Police and ASTF

- 3.3.1. In response to concerns regarding an increase in Anti Social Behaviour in Coatbridge Town Centre, Strathclyde police approached the Task Force with a view to carrying out a joint initiative to tackle persistent offenders causing problems for shop staff and the general public using the Town Centre facilities.
- 3.3.2. The Task Force Investigator has taken statements from a number of shop workers regarding the problems they are experiencing.
- 3.3.3. As a result of the investigations, 2 main offenders have been highlighted. Disclosures for these individuals are being prepared by Strathclyde Police and we hope to apply for ASBO's which will include exclusion from the Town Centre area.

4. Dispersed Accommodation

- 4.1. The following information is supplied in response to a request made at the previous LAP Meeting for information relating to the distribution of dispersed, temporary accommodation in North Lanarkshire.
- 4.2. There are currently 346 properties being used as Dispersed Homeless Temporary Accommodation in North Lanarkshire. This is broken down by LAP Area as follows:
- Cumbernauld Area - 91 Dispersed Accommodation Units
 - Airdrie Area - 59 Dispersed Accommodation Units
 - Coatbridge Area - 31 Dispersed Accommodation Units
 - Motherwell Area - 41 Dispersed Accommodation Units
 - Bellshill Area - 78 Dispersed Accommodation Units
 - Wishaw/Shotts Area - 46 Dispersed Accommodation Units

5. ASTF Statistical Report for Coatbridge Area

- 5.1 Attached to this report are appendices which display ASTF information relating to the Coatbridge Area
- 5.1.1. Appendix 1 - Actions taken by ASTF from July 2007 – Dec 2007
- 5.1.2. Appendix 2 - Complaints received from July 2007 – Dec 2007
- 5.1.3. Appendix 3 - Mediation Cases from April 2007 – Dec 2007
- 5.1.4. Appendix 4 - ASTF Support Service Statistics from April 2007 – Dec 2007
- 5.1.5. Appendix 5 - Overview of ASTF Support Service for victims and witnesses of Anti Social Behaviour

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the LAP note the report.

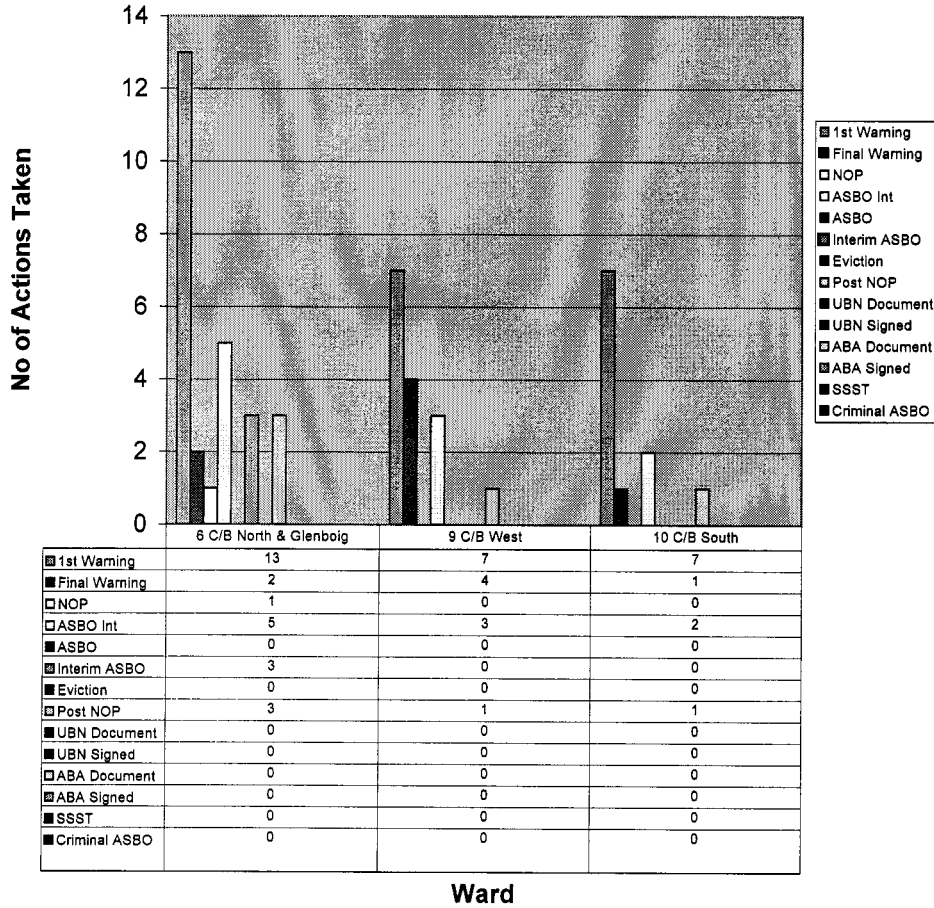
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Castles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mary Castles
Executive Director
Housing and Social Work Services
30 January 2008

Appendix 1: ASTF Actions Taken July - Dec 2007

Ward	1st Warning	Final Warning	NOP	ASBO Int	ASBO	Interim ASBO	Eviction	Post NOP	UBN Document	UBN Signed	ABA Document	ABA Signed	SSST	Criminal ASBO
6 C/B North & Glenboig	13	2	1	5	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 C/B West	7	4	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 C/B South	7	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

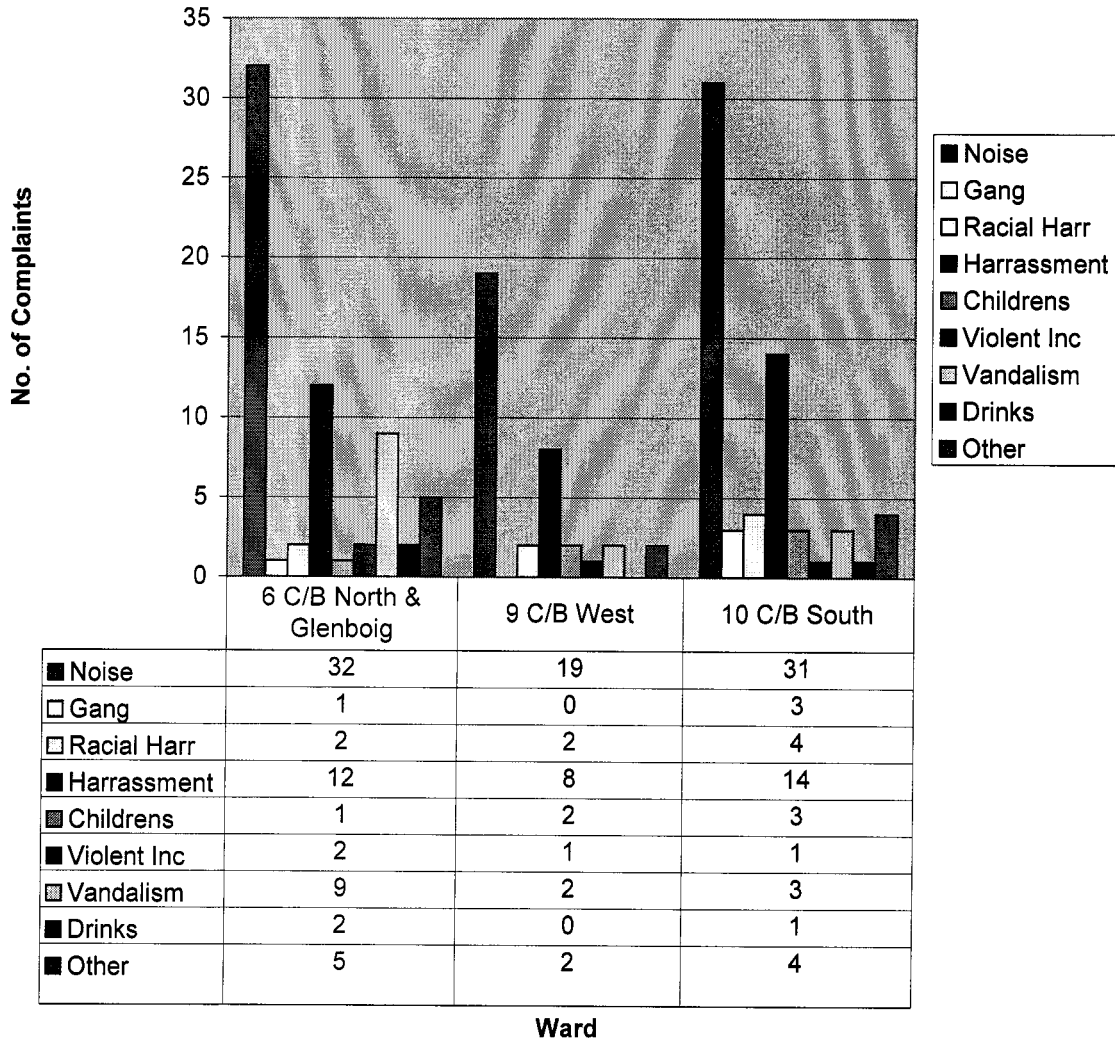
ASTF Actions Taken: July - December 2007



Appendix 2: Complaint Types July - Dec 2007

	Noise	Gang	Racial Harr	Harrassment	Childrens	Violent Inc	Vandalism	Drinks	Other
6 C/B North & Glenboig	32	1	2	12	1	2	9	2	5
9 C/B West	19	0	2	8	2	1	2	0	2
10 C/B South	31	3	4	14	3	1	3	1	4

Breakdown of Complaint Types: July - Dec 2007



COATBRIDGE
AREA SUMMARY
YEAR 07 - 08

Appendix 3 - Mediation Stats

Ward No	Ward Name	Month	Joint Meeting Successful	Shuttle Successful	Improvement Reported	Enquiry	Non Participati on Party B	Withdrawa I Party A	Withdrawa I Party B	Mediation Inappropriate	Closed for some other reason	Outcome Pending	Total	
6	Coatbridge North & Glenboig	APR				1	1						2	
		MAY						1					1	
		JUN											0	
		JUL				1	2						3	
		AUG					1						1	
		SEP					1		2				3	
		OCT				2							2	
		NOV			1								1	
		DEC				1							1	2
		JAN											2	2
		FEB												0
		MAR												0
Ward 6 - Coatbridge North & Glenboig			0	1	3	3	4	3	0	0	0	3	17	

Ward No	Ward Name	Month	Joint Meeting Successful	Shuttle Successful	Improvement Reported	Enquiry	Non Participati on Party B	Withdrawa I Party A	Withdrawa I Party B	Mediation Inappropriate	Closed for some other reason	Outcome Pending	Total	
9	Coatbridge West	APR					1						1	
		MAY	1			2	3						6	
		JUN											0	
		JUL											0	
		AUG				1							1	
		SEP						2					2	
		OCT											0	
		NOV											0	
		DEC					1						2	3
		JAN												0
		FEB												0
		MAR												0
Ward 9 - Coatbridge West Total			1	0	0	4	6	0	0	0	0	2	13	

Ward No	Ward Name	Month	Joint Meeting Successful	Shuttle Successful	Improvement Reported	Enquiry	Non Participati on Party B	Withdrawa I Party A	Withdrawa I Party B	Mediation Inappropriate	Closed for some other reason	Outcome Pending	Total
10	Coatbridge South	APR					1						1
		MAY	1		1	2				1			5
		JUN			1								1
		JUL			1	1							2
		AUG	1			1							2
		SEP											0
		OCT											0
		NOV					1						1
		DEC					1						1
		JAN											0
		FEB											0
		MAR											0
Ward 10 - Coatbridge South Tot			2	0	3	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	13

Coatbridge Area Total	3	1	6	13	11	3	0	1	0	5	43
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Total Monthly Cases	APR	4
	MAY	12
	JUN	1
	JUL	5
	AUG	4
	SEP	5
	OCT	2
	NOV	2
	DEC	6
	JAN	2
	FEB	0
	MAR	0
Coatbridge Total		43

Appendix 3 - Support Stats for Coatbridge Area

WARD 6 - SUPPORT REFERRALS APRIL 07 TO DECEMBER 07	
Referral Source	
ASTF	5
Area Housing	0
Elected Members	0
Support Accepted	
Emotional	0
Emotional & Practical	5
Outcomes Achieved	
Better Informed	5
Reduced Stress Level	4
Addressed Own Behaviour	2
Other Agencies referred to	
Safer Homes	4
Community Police	0
Total Referrals to date	5

WARD 9 - SUPPORT REFERRALS APRIL 07 TO DECEMBER 07	
Referral Source	
ASTF	6
Area Housing	0
Elected Members	0
Support Accepted	
Emotional	0
Emotional & Practical	6
Outcomes Achieved	
Better Informed	5
Reduced Stress Level	4
Addressed Own Behaviour	3
Other Agencies referred to	
Safer Homes	4
Community Police	2
Total Referrals to date	6

WARD 10 SUPPORT REFERRALS APRIL 07 TO DECEMBER 07	
Referral Source	
ASTF	11
Area Housing	0
Elected Members	0
Support Accepted	
Emotional	2
Emotional & Practical	9
Outcomes Achieved	
Better Informed	9
Reduced Stress Level	4
Addressed Own Behaviour	3
Other Agencies referred to	
Safer Homes	7
Community Police	0
Total Referrals to date	11

APPENDIX 5 ANTISOCIAL TASK FORCE SUPPORT SERVICE

The Support Service was established in July 2004 and was initially manned by 2 support workers. However due to the increase in the numbers of residents requiring support, the team has doubled and now consists of 3 Support Workers led by a Senior Support Worker.

Support Workers provide emotional and practical support to victims and witnesses in a wide variety of ways including:

- Confidence Building
- Assertiveness training
- Advocacy provision
- Provision of invaluable information on a range of issues including:
 - ✓ Housing Matters
 - ✓ Benefits
 - ✓ Community Groups
 - ✓ Education
 - ✓ Court Process

The most valuable service we provide is listening! Almost all of our clients are so thankful that, at last, someone is listening and more importantly believing them.

That being said anti social behaviour must be present in some shape or form as this is the remit of the team and what our funding is provided for. In our experience however this is only the tip of the ice-berg for some clients and it soon becomes clear there are other issues surrounding them. We also look at their behaviour and suggest ways of dealing with incidents differently. We are on hand to explain the services of a number of agencies including the work of the task force, community wardens, community police and will collect information on any other agencies we feel would be of benefit to our clients.

As can be seen from the figures provided the number of referrals from outwith the Anti Social Task Force itself are disappointingly low. The Support Team are currently working on ways of promoting the service within our communities and Elected Members, local community Councils, and Residents Associations are amongst the first agencies we will be communicating with.

However in the meantime the Support Team would be happy to come along to any Community Forums, Community Councils, Residents Associations or voluntary agencies etc, to provide further information on how the service can help those in need.

If you are aware of anyone that could benefit from the service of the Support Team contact can be made through:

Susan Paterson,
Senior Support Worker,
9 Easton Place
Coatbridge
Tel: 01236 638592
Email: patersonsu@northlan.gov.uk