

## **Botcherby Initiative, Cumbria Constabulary re: ASB**

### **Scanning:**

Botcherby estate is a relatively small housing estate of predominantly social housing owned by Carlisle Housing Association (CHA) and comprising five streets. The estate is part of the City North and East Local Policing Team (LPT), one of four wards covered by the team. During 2006 levels of anti-social behaviour and violent crime on the estate began to alarm local residents, CHA and police. There were a number of violent incidents, including racial attacks and calls to police to deal with anti-social behaviour were at an all time high.

### **Analysis:**

During 2006 there were 79 violent crimes, 150 offences of damage and almost 500 anti-social behaviour calls in these few streets. A problem profile was conducted by a member of the LPT to try and establish repeat offenders, locations and victims. A 'street safe' operation was conducted to establish the thoughts of the local community to the problems that were occurring. Survey forms were handed out asking for feedback on quality of life issues. Youth disorder, general anti-social behaviour, better CCTV, 'more police needed' and criminal damage were the main areas that the public saw as priorities. A review of more serious violent crimes was undertaken to establish offenders and trends.

### **Response:**

A targeted approach was adopted to the estates problems involving CHA and other agencies. Dedicated resources were deployed to the estate. The 'street safe' operation resulted in 120 householders being spoken to. Homes were referred for immediate prevention work. Graffiti was removed. Fire service referrals were made for fire checks and safety alarms. A portable CCTV camera was installed at a 'hot spot' location on the estate, an area that had never before benefited from CCTV. Perhaps most importantly local residents felt confident enough to talk to police and provide information about a number of individuals and households 'terrorising' the estate. Civil injunctions and undertakings were obtained by CHA with support of police. One of these resulted in a main offender receiving two terms of imprisonment.

### **Assessment:**

During 2007 there was a reduction of 20% in violent crime, 20% in anti-social behaviour calls and a 29% reduction in criminal damage offences. Prison sentences were imposed following investigations into racist public order offences. Police learned that in order to make a long lasting difference, a commitment in terms of resources and time must be made and that working with other organisations was essential.