

Additional Policy Advice
Re: Building respect and reducing anti-social behaviour July 2006

In March this year, we signed off the 66 Round 2 LAAs, with the condition that those LAAs (22) that did not contain the anti social behaviour perception survey measure, would do so by November. We agreed with GOs that the absence of this formal commitment would not prevent sign off because they undertook to ensure that any local problems would be resolved and appropriate arrangements put in place in November

Home Office has always made it clear that the only effective way of measuring a reduction in anti-social behaviour is by a perceptions [survey](#). This is the most robust outcome-focussed approach. The survey approach will give an accurate picture of local people's perceptions of the extent of anti-social behaviour, and thus provide a good guide to the effectiveness of the interventions. The perceptions indicator will be mandatory for all LAAs from April 2007, (the latest LAA guidance for Round 3 and Round 1 and 2 refreshes refers).

The Home Office does not monitor progress in tackling anti-social behaviour by incident data because:

- there tends to be under reporting of anti-social behaviour to a greater extent than crime
- of the subjective relative nature of what constitutes anti-social behaviour which varies according to context, location, tolerance and quality of life expectations
- there are a variety of statutory agencies responsible for tackling anti-social behaviour

Perceptions of anti-social behaviour are already measured through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Local Government User Satisfaction Survey (LGUSS) using seven strands of behaviour:

- Abandoned or burnt out cars
- Noisy neighbours or loud parties
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places
- People using or dealing drugs
- Teenagers hanging around on the streets
- Rubbish or litter lying around
- Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to properties.

Therefore local areas have processes in place to obtain this data for their LAA. A number of areas also carry out their own perceptions survey based on the seven strands of behaviour so again this data can be used for their LAA. Baseline data can be established from the LGUSS (2006); if this is not yet available, LAAs can use 2003/04 data as a useful baseline or snap shot against which to measure future performance. LAAs can then re-look at the indicator/target when 2006 data becomes available.

Having reviewed the final published versions of the Round 2 LAAs on the IDeA website, only 11 have not yet included the ASB perception indicator. These are -

- Barking and Dagenham
- Kensington and Chelsea
- Brent
- Hounslow
- Kingston

- Darlington
- South Tyneside
- Poole
- Luton
- Oldham
- Wirral

Home Office would like assurances by November from the relevant GOs that these LAAs have now included (from 2006/07), the ASB perception indicator and taken steps to establish the baseline.