‘Sticks and Carrots’ Guidance on:
Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
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INTRODUCTION

1. This guidance note is one of a number being produced by the Antisocial Behaviour Unit of the Scottish Executive to promote good practice in tackling antisocial behaviour. It is primarily aimed at operational practitioners from all disciplines and agencies who are tackling antisocial behaviour in the community and has been prepared with the assistance of a number of practitioners working in housing, specialist antisocial behaviour teams, legal services, police and youth justice who have had experience in the use of ABCs.

2. It is complementary to the statutory guidance produced in 2004 to support implementation of the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004, particularly that in relation to Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) but is not itself statutory guidance. The Act received Royal Assent on 26 July 2004 and can be accessed at:


3. In addition as part of a wider programme of support for the implementation of the Act, the Executive has set up an Adviceline for practitioners. This service provides expert telephone advice and support and can be reached on:

   0800 850 500

4. Finally practitioners will find all the statutory guidance with supporting good practice information and case studies on the Scottish Executive’s antisocial website:

   www.antisocialbehaviourscotland.com

CONTACT

5. If you have any queries about this guidance please contact: Scottish Executive Justice Department, Diane Janes 0131-244 4917 or email:

   diane.janes@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USEFUL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

6. Much of the information in this guidance has been drawn from the work on developing the concept and use of ABCs pioneered by Paul Dunn and Alison Blackburn in the Islington Antisocial Behaviour Team. It also uses the workshops and training materials prepared and delivered by Paul Dunn to local authority, RSL, children’s reporter’s staff and police officers as part of the Scottish Executive’s Masterclasses in tackling Antisocial behaviour in 2004.
Other useful sources are:


**Acceptable Behaviour Contracts addressing antisocial behaviour in the London Borough of Islington** (PDF 298k). This publication, by the Research Development Statistics (RDS) Directorate, contains findings from a scheme based in the London Borough of Islington, designed to reduce antisocial behaviour using Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) over 2 periods, January 1999 to October 2000 and May 2001 to December.

7. The agencies whose case studies are “boxed” as examples of good practice or referred to in the text of this guidance will be able to give valuable insight into the use of ABCs in their areas.

8. Finally up to date advice and information can be obtained from the Scottish Executive Adviceline **0800 850 500** and the Scottish Executive website at [www.antisocialbehaviourscotland.com](http://www.antisocialbehaviourscotland.com).

**WHAT IS AN ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR CONTRACT?**

9. An Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC), sometimes known as an Acceptable Behaviour Agreement (ABA), is an early intervention designed to get an individual involved in unacceptable or antisocial behaviour to acknowledge this behaviour and its impact on other people, with the aim of stopping it.

   It can also be used with parents who do not take action to prevent their children acting antisocially and might also be appropriate as a means of to tackle truancy and behaviour problems in relation to schools.

10. It is a voluntary written agreement between the perpetrator (and in the case of a young person his or her parent or guardian) and one or more local agencies charged with preventing such behaviour. Examples of these are police, housing, education and social work departments.

11. The ABC has no legal standing which is why some agencies prefer to call them Agreements. Although voluntary, ABCs can be a strong deterrent when the individual or family know that if they breach the contract or refuse to enter in to it without reasonable excuse, legal action such as an ASBO or a Parenting Order may follow.

12. ABCs are very frequently made with under 16 year olds but they are a tool which can be effective with a person of any age. Because they are flexible
and relatively informal they can be used for a wide variety of unacceptable or antisocial behaviour.

13. ABCs can be used to promote effective partnership work with a range of agencies. In the case of 12-15 year olds, use of an ABC should be considered on an interagency basis to ensure that the contract is both robust and reasonable and complements interventions currently in place or being considered by other agencies. ABCs can be used without referral to the Children’s Reporter and could in fact be a diversion from referral. A copy should only be sent to the Reporter where a child is being referred for consideration of compulsory measures of supervision. ABCs should be used alongside, rather than as a direct alternative, to other voluntary measures such as those recommended by the Reporter. It should be clear in an ABC for a 12 – 15 year old what the likely consequences of non compliance will be.

14. The ABC is agreed and signed at a pre-arranged meeting with the individual (plus parents or guardians if appropriate) and the relevant agencies.

15. The contract specifies the antisocial behaviour that the individual has engaged in and which they agree to desist from.

16. The individual should be encouraged to take part in drawing up the terms of the contract as this will help bring home to them the impact of their behaviour on others and may lead to them taking responsibility for their actions.

17. Support to address the underlying causes of the behaviour and to help maintain the terms of the contract should be offered in parallel to the contract and clearly laid out in it. It is therefore vital to ascertain which agencies are already involved and to engage with those that aren’t but should be. In the following example the antisocial behaviour was abated by the ABC and the ABC process brought out the underlying causes and enabled appropriate agencies to rectify it in a way that straightforward legal action may not have teased out.

<table>
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<th>Issue</th>
<th>A young person was entering a housing association estate and continually damaging property, smoking and drinking until the early hours and abusing a number of the vulnerable residents.</th>
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<td>Approach</td>
<td>Police and housing staff held an ABC meeting with the young person and his mother. It became apparent that he was not aware of the effect of his behaviour on others and his mother was unaware of his actions. Through discussions at the meeting the underlying cause of the problem was identified: due to the lack of space in their accommodation the mother was asking her son to leave the property at night. An ABC was signed by the young person and the lead agencies. In addition, the housing officer placed the family on the priority housing list for more suitable accommodation on the condition that the son kept to the terms of the contract.</td>
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The family were moved during the six month period of the ABC. Since signing the contract the young man has not come to the attention of police or housing staff.


18. The consequences of failure to keep to the contract should be stated in it especially if legal action is a potential consequence. The threat of legal action is a powerful incentive to ensure the contract is adhered to.

WHY USE ABCs

19. An ABC is an opportunity to involve an individual and for their family in a non-confrontational discussion about their behaviour and its impact on other people.

20. Because it is a round table discussion the underlying causes of the behaviour are more likely to be established than at a warning interview.

21. It can be used as part of an early intervention to stop bad behaviour – indeed it will get the perpetrator to recognise that his or her behaviour is antisocial in a way that a threat of legal action may not, as such a threat is likely to result in the perpetrator becoming defensive and either denying that the behaviour existed or not accepting it is antisocial.

22. It is an opportunity and a breathing space to provide positive solutions to address serious problems which may be identified before, during and after formal ABC meeting.

23. It places responsibility on the individual and his or her family to work towards an agreement rather than having one imposed and, as in mediation, there is more of a stake in keeping to a voluntarily entered into agreement than in passively accepting a warning.

24. It is two way in that the agencies commit to assist in sustaining the ABC.

25. As well as these “carrots” there is the underlying “stick” of legal action to reinforce adherence to the ABC until improved behaviour becomes the norm.

26. The Social Landlords Crime and Nuisance Group which is primarily composed of large English urban authorities commissioned a survey on members action on antisocial behaviour from Sheffield University in 2003. The survey found that ABCs are routinely used by nine out of ten (90%) Local Authority housing departments and seven out of ten (73%) of RSLs usually for young people. Over the 12 month period March 2002 to April 2003, 59 landlords reported that they had used ABCs in 803 cases, with an average six contracts being
issued by each landlord but with a range as high as 125 contracts per landlord. Respondents reported that most commonly the landlord (63%) took the lead role in issuing the contract, arranging meetings between the young person, their parents or guardian and the responsible officers but in over a third of cases the lead role was either taken by the police (15%) or was shared between the landlord and the police (22%). Whichever agency takes the lead role ABCs are essentially a multi-agency form of intervention with representatives from the Police, Youth Offending Teams, Social Services, and Schools most frequently involved in drawing up the terms of the contract and assisting in monitoring the contract.

27. On the whole, respondents in the 2003 survey reported that ABCs had proved to be a very effective form of intervention to deal with youth nuisance and antisocial behaviour by young people. Indeed without exception landlords stated that in their view ABCs were a cost effective form of intervention which could be successfully used to prevent cases from escalating into major problems requiring legal intervention as one respondent explained:

“We would look to using the ABC as an early deterrent which if broken could be used to justify ASBO proceedings … ABCs are a cost effective way to tackle antisocial behaviour because they are free”

Guinness Trust Housing Manager.

28. The following case studies illustrate the effectiveness of ABCs:

**The development of the ABC scheme in Islington**

Islington Council Housing Department and Islington Borough Police first introduced the contracts in a pilot to tackle problems on estates and on the street. The aim was to stop the bad behaviour rather than punishing the offenders. The problems mainly centred around quality of life issues for local people such as threatening behaviour and harassment, racist behaviour, graffiti, criminal damage and sub-criminal behaviour which is common to these areas. The scheme was established in 1999.

ABCs have proved extremely effective as a means of educating the parents and their children and getting the families to take responsibility and ownership of the unacceptable behaviour. The scheme can be used as part of an incremental approach leading to legal action in the form of possession orders or ASBOs should the bad behaviour continue. In each case there is a menu of options for further action available. This includes non-legal action such as diversion as well as legal action. The first contract took place in November 1999 during which it was clear to the various agencies that this effective and simple scheme was a winner. Since February 2000, the scheme has been developed in the borough with over 400 contracts signed up.
The aim was to warn the perpetrator and their family of the consequences of their actions and give them a chance to improve their behaviour. It also would give an opportunity for families to link into the range of services that a multi-agency setting could provide to tackle some of the underlying causes of antisocial behaviour.

To date there have only been a small percentage of breaches of the contracts. Most have been dealt with quickly and effectively and no further action was required to be taken. The success of the contracts had a remarkable effect on each of the boroughs ‘hotspot’ neighbourhoods and estates. Historically trouble would flare up in these areas but residents, police and housing officers saw a noticeable difference with the attitude of the youths and the obvious absence of unacceptable behaviour. Although a breach of the contract could contravene the family’s tenancy rights for those that live in council or housing association accommodation, owner-occupiers were targeted also. Feedback from contract interviews confirmed that the young people had little fear of the criminal justice system, in fact it improved their status within their peer groups and the parents or guardians themselves took little or no interest in their dealings with police. As soon as the question of tenancy was raised the parents and youths immediately took the situation seriously.

The scheme does not substitute ASBOs but complements evidence gathering in order to take the most effective action to stop the behaviour. The partnership is committed to taking action against those individuals, who breach the contracts and continue to act in a manner that causes harassment, alarm or distress. Unlike other parts of the country to date, Islington has not had to apply for an order against a young person but this action is still part of the menu of options for further action as necessary.

**Contact:** Sergeant Paul Dunn, MBE - Metropolitan Police Service, telephone 0207 297 8529 or email Paul.e.Dunn@met.police.uk

The following example shows the importance of getting the community on board before beginning an ABC scheme in an area. See Annex B for a detailed discussion of how to go about this.

**Edinburgh Housing Department introduced Acceptable Behaviour Contracts in the south area of the city.**

This is a housing scheme where there were severe problems with youths causing damage to both council and tenants property causing feelings to run high in the community. It is reported that tenants were angry with both the Police and the Housing Department for failing to take action but unwilling to testify against the perpetrators for fear of retaliation from the families involved. For some time now the Housing Department and the Police in the south Edinburgh area have worked
closely together and it was decided to build on this co-operation which would work alongside or instead of legal action.

Both the Police and Housing identified the youths that were causing the most problems in the area. Information was shared and a history was compiled on each perpetrator. Time was set aside by the Police and Housing for joint training that involved professional Police Instructors, the In-house Housing Solicitor and local staff. The training took the form of role-play, talks and information sharing. Twelve of the worst families were identified as suitable for piloting Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.

Initially the parents and the youths involved were asked into the Housing Department to meet with the Local Community Sergeant and the Housing Officer. Any that failed to show were immediately visited in their homes. The initial meetings took around one hour and concentrated on explaining to the youth and parents what antisocial behaviour was, the allegations against the youth and the consequences crime and disorder had on the wider community. Parents were advised that they were financially liable for any damage to council property. The focus was on preventing the problems recurring and not on legal remedies. The signing of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts were discussed and examples left with the families for reading. At the second appointment attended again by both Police and Housing the Acceptable Behaviour Contracts were signed by the parents and youths. Some families agreed to a curfew for their children and signed statements with the Police allowing the Police to pick up any child from the street who was out after curfew and take them home to their parents or to the Police Station. Two of the tenants refused to sign and Notice of Repossession were served on them for antisocial behaviour. Social Work were kept informed and agreed to be involved as appropriate.

To date there have been breaches of the ABCs by two families. This is considered a success as the 12 families picked for the pilot caused more than 80% of the crime and disorder on the estate. With the families’ co-operation, additional support has been negotiated for them through the Neighbourhood Support Team.

The tenants of the estate see the pilot as a success as crime has reduced and at last the families who were felt to be “untouchable” for years are thought by the community to be trying to change their behaviour.

Contact: Jane Ritchie, telephone 0131 529 7212 or email jane.ritchie@edinburgh.gov.uk

29. Agencies who have experience in using ABCs believe they work because they are a flexible tool which can be tailored to the circumstances of the case.
Key points are:-

- Although to date most have been used for young people, they are not restricted to them. Falkirk, Angus and East Renfrewshire for example, has had success in using them for people in their twenties as the undernoted examples show.

- They enable quick intervention when incidents have occurred.

- They are not restricted to people in social housing – unlike eviction action.

- They encourage, and rely on for their success, effective multi-agency working.

- The perpetrators adhere to them because they are party to the content and terms.

- Residents and neighbours like them because they have a direct impact on the quality of life in an area.

30. Examples Of Adult ABCs

**Use of Acceptable Behaviour Agreement on Private Tenant**

**Nature of Antisocial Behaviour**
Excessive loud music, noisy parties, guitar being played loudly, shouting and screaming.

**Background**
Mr X took sole tenancy of a private owned first floor flat in July 2004. Problem started shortly after Subject took up the tenancy. He worked offshore for two weeks followed by two weeks at home. On majority of evenings and nights he was at home antisocial behaviour occurred.

Mr and Mrs Y owned first floor flat opposite Mr X. This property extended to the floor above with the bedrooms being located above Mr X’s lounge.

Mr & Mrs Y spoke with Mr X on numerous occasions to try and resolve this ongoing problem. He always agreed to amend his behaviour and then failed to comply. They also contacted the owner of the flat requesting his intervention to assist in the problem, but he refused, stating that it was not his problem as the tenant was paying the rent.

Police were called on 14 occasions between August 2004 and January 2005. The noise/music volume would be turned down at police request, but regularly became excessive again a short time after they left. Mr and Mrs Y would often not make a repeat call for police
assistance on the same night as they believed it would be a waste of time. Mr X was charged with causing a noise nuisance under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 in December 2004 and his stereo system removed. Evidence suggested that the shouting and screaming was being carried out by Mr X’s visitors.

Mediation was considered, Mr and Mrs Y believed it would be a waste of time, that Mr X would not turn up, or if he did and agreed, that from previous experience, he would not abide by the agreement.

**Action Taken**
Problem was brought to the attention of Angus Council Antisocial Behaviour Unit in December 2004 and investigation instigated. Mr X proved particularly difficult to trace. Investigation Officers would attend at house, see/hear movement within, but obtain no response. Initial Contact Letters were sent but Mr X failed to respond.

Antisocial behaviour continued. A further letter was sent indicating that legal action would be pursued if he failed to respond. Mr X made contact in January 2005. At a meeting Mr X accepted responsibility and provided a positive response to amending his conduct.

Due to this it was thought the best method to tackle this problem would be an **Acceptable Behaviour Agreement**. This was carried out. Since then the Investigation Officer has been in contact with Mr and Mrs Y on a monthly basis. There have been no further instances of antisocial behaviour.

The contract negotiated can be found at Annex F: Contract 2.

**Angus Council**

**Acceptable Behaviour Agreement – A Case Study**

Ms D is an 18 year old, single female who is a habitual drug user. She was allocated her tenancy with the assistance of the Social Work Department, Throughcare/Aftercare Team. It was allocated in April 2003.

Ms D resides in a local authority single bedroom flat on the bottom right in a block of 4. There are 2 main complainers, one residing directly above Ms D and the other residing bottom left, directly through the wall from Ms D.

From August 2003 through to March 2005 Ms D had subjected her neighbours to antisocial behaviour, at various times of the day and night. This consisted of shouting and swearing, slamming doors and playing loud music. Over the above period, the complainers made numerous complaints to the local housing office. They used diary sheets to record their complaints. The police were also called on
numerous occasions with varying degrees of success. In response to the complaints, local housing office staff issued verbal and written warnings and undertook early intervention visits jointly with officers of Tayside Police. Community mediation was offered but the parties did not agree to a referral. As all of those measures were unsuccessful in achieving an acceptable resolution, a decision was made to serve Ms D with a Notice of Proceedings for repossession of the property.

In February 2005, one of the principle complainers decided to give up his tenancy and move due in the main to the level of annoyance or disturbance caused by Ms D’s repeated antisocial behaviour and what he perceived as the council’s lack of positive action in resolving the matter.


In February 2005, responsibility for this case was transferred to the Community Safety Team and allocated to an Investigations Officer.

Ms D was immediately advised that her behaviour was being monitored by the Community Safety Team with a view to commencing legal action for an ASBO application or action for repossession. Over the next few weeks the remaining witness reported several further instances of nuisance due to loud music coming from the subject’s home.

In March 2005 the Investigations Officer arranged a meeting with Ms D through her Resource Worker from the Throughcare/Aftercare Team. The situation was explained to her and she agreed to sign an Acceptable Behaviour Agreement prohibiting her from:

1. playing loud music or permitting persons within her home from playing loud music
2. shouting and swearing or permitting persons to shout and swear within her home
3. slamming doors or permitting persons to slam doors within her home.

At this time Ms D stated that the majority of the problems had been caused by others coming into her home. She was loaned a mobile phone by the Social Work Department and on several occasions since then, she has made calls to the police to have unwanted visitors removed from her home.

To date there has been one minor breach of the ABA. Ms D was given the benefit of the doubt and reminded of the terms of her ABA and the potential for legal action should there be any further significant breach. No further complaints have been received to date.

A copy of the ABA can be found at Annex F: Contract 3.
The following two examples of adult ABCs came from East Renfrewshire:

**Family ABC**

**Case 1** – persistent allegations and complaints from neighbours regarding behaviour of occupants, adult and children.

Family with 2 primary age children, noise nuisance and disturbances giving rise to neighbour complaints, further harassment by the 2 children (generally low level conduct – stone throwing, banging on door, minor vandalism, bullying other children), lack of parental control. This resulted in Notice of Proceedings for Repossession being served.

**Joint Working:** Housing Division/Antisocial Team/Social Work

**Conditions:** Will not:
- Cause unnecessary noise and disturbance to my neighbours;
- Shout, swear or verbally abuse my neighbours or encourage others to;
- Encourage my children to harass neighbours or their children;
- Allow the property to fall into disrepair or knowingly allow water leakage to occur;
- Allow ([address]) to be used as a bail address for ([name of cousin allegedly causing nuisance]) or any other persons.

**Support:** Social Work (All East Renfrewshire Council ABCs are signed in presence of Social Worker or other support worker for family or individual)

**Monitored:** ASB Investigation Team

**Outcome:** After adherence for some months, minor breaches occurred – dealt with by verbal warning and follow up meeting being arranged with social worker at present.

**Case 2** – single male householder unable to manage his tenancy and allowing premises to be used as a drinking den and location for noisy parties and disturbances which culminated in management transfer, changes to SSST with ABC.

**Joint Working:** Housing and support agency (Quarriers), no social work involvement with this person. (Changed from Quarriers, to Renfrewshire Council Alcohol/Substance Misuse Team, as problems required specialised support.)

**Conditions:** I will not:-

- Take in any lodger without the express permission of East
Renfrewshire Council and, specifically, will not permit (name of alleged perpetrator) to reside on the premises or to visit for the purpose of drinking alcohol, using controlled drugs or causing disturbance or disorder;
  - Allow the premises to be used as a meeting point or drinking den for my friends/family/visitors;
  - Instigate or allow to continue any disturbance/disorder/loud music or noisy parties on the premises which will cause nuisance or annoyance to my neighbours;
  - Allow the premises to fall into disrepair.

**Support**: Provided by Quarriers re tenancy management, financial management and alcohol problem.

**Monitored**: Estate Officer and ASB Investigation Team, sporadic contact with client/support agency and regular contact with complainers.

**Outcome**: Tenant initially warned again re consequences, failure to comply further has resulted in Notice to Quit being served. Recently changed support providers, signs of improvement that will hopefully continue, hence no loss of tenancy.

31. Annex C describes the context and process of Restorative Justice ABCs. These can be seen as complementary to ABCs and used where the perpetrator is already in the criminal justice system as a result of his or her activities. Their use is becoming more common amongst those working in youth justice, schools, prisons and issuing police warnings. Their emphasis is slightly different from “normal” ABCs in that the person harmed by the behaviour can have a greater role in the process. However the outcomes sought are similar:
  - to address the harm caused
  - to prevent the behaviour recurring or escalating.

**EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF BEHAVIOUR ABCs HAVE BEEN USED FOR**

32. ABCs have been used to address a wide range of antisocial behaviour including:
  - harassment of neighbours or passers-by in an area
  - verbal abuse
  - criminal damage and vandalism
  - noise nuisance
  - graffiti
  - being part of a large group whose behaviour is threatening
  - racial abuse
  - under-age smoking or drinking
• substance misuse
• joy riding
• begging
• prostitution
• kerb crawling.

33. The above list is not exhaustive and use could be extended to include for example such contributory factors as poor parenting skills. The following two examples show very different uses of ABCs:

### Acceptable behaviour contracts for kerb crawlers – Lancashire Constabulary

**Approach** In February 2002 Preston police launched ‘Operation Kerb’ to tackle the problem of street prostitution in an area of the city. This involved targeting kerb crawlers, all of whom were asked to sign a generic ABC on arrest. All of the 15 kerb crawlers arrested at the time signed contracts.

**Outcome** The ABCs were extremely successful with the kerb crawlers – none of these contracts were breached.

**Contact** Steve Little, Lancashire Constabulary, 01772 614444

*Source: Guide to Antisocial Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Home Office 2003*

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Barry, a man in his late twenties, was experiencing some mental health problems. He would scream and shout, and watch porn and horror movies at extremely loud volumes, causing distress to his neighbours. Eventually he was sectioned for four weeks under the Mental Health Act, before being released home. While he was sectioned, a multi-agency case review was convened to discuss possible outcomes when his section had finished.

This case resulted in a voluntary acceptable behaviour contract, between Barry, the police and the council’s environmental health service. Support from the local authority’s social services led to Barry attending a day centre on a voluntary basis, where he could be helped and his behaviour addressed. The local police beat manager and environmental health officer also maintained a relationship with Barry and social services.

Barry’s problem behaviour has now been resolved for eight months.

*Source: Sustainable Solutions to Antisocial Behaviour, Local Government Association, 2005*
34. ABCs can be used to promote effective partnership working with a range of agencies.

35. Their use can also assuage fears and reassure agencies dealing with young people that responses to antisocial behaviour and disorderly conduct are not purely grounded in legal enforcement. Indeed early use of ABCs can avoid the need for legal enforcement thus demonstrating that appropriate and proportionate remedies are sought by practitioners tackling antisocial behaviour.

36. Although the use of ABCs in Scotland to date has mainly been by local authority housing departments or specialist antisocial behaviour teams in conjunction with police, the flexible nature of ABCs means a variety of agencies could take the lead depending on the circumstances of a case.

37. Ideally the agencies that can have the greatest impact on reducing the behaviour should take the lead and this will depend on local practice and structure.

38. In Aberdeen for example procedures for implementing ABCs are being jointly developed by staff in youth justice, social work and education with referrals likely to come from the Neighbour Complaints Unit, police and housing staff.

39. As well as the agencies noted above registered social landlords, schools, environmental services and health services may also be involved with ABCs as signatories to the contract or in providing support to the individual and family. Additionally the support offered through a supervision requirement of a Children’s Panel could clearly underpin the conditions in an ABC.

40. Providing training for partner agencies involved in ABCs will contribute to effective implementation of ABCs. Training should cover the purpose of ABCs and the practical implications of contracts. It should be clear the level of ongoing commitment which is likely to be required from partners and how breaches will be dealt with. Training should also spell out liaison arrangements and practicalities such as paperwork required.

41. Multi-agency partnership will enable ABCs to work more effectively. Benefits include:

- speeding up the gathering of information and evidence
- ensuring all round monitoring of contracts by all agencies
- ensuring all relevant background information on an individual’s circumstances are known and taken account of
- ensuring all relevant information on the effect on the community of the behaviour is known and taken account of
- ensuring interventions are tailored to circumstances of the individual and the protection of the community
tailoring the provision of the support to minimise or prevent breaches.
utilising a wide range of expertise at an early stage in tackling antisocial behaviour
generally enhancing approaches to antisocial behaviour through joint training and planning.

IDENTIFYING CANDIDATES FOR ABCs

42. ABCs will not be suitable in all cases so it is essential that proper consideration is given to whether a potential candidate is suitable for a contract.

43. In cases where behaviour is serious, persistent or criminal and is very adversely affecting a community an ASBO or other legal action might be more effective. A Restorative Justice ABC might also come into play (see Annex C). Practitioners should always weigh up what is the most appropriate remedy in a given circumstance.

For background information on current views on the relationship between ABCs and ASBOs see Annex D.

44. Having said this, ABCs, properly monitored, can be surprisingly effective in really quite intractable cases as the following studies show.
Tackling youth antisocial behaviour – Stockport Youth ASB Action Team

Approach  The team make good use of acceptable behaviour contracts as an intervention with persistent young offenders, usually as a precursor to an ASBO. ABCs have been useful in preparing ASBO applications as they indicate to the court that an offender is unwilling to change their pattern of behaviour voluntarily and this negates any attempt by defence counsel to argue that the ASBO is unnecessary. The team has also had success in using records of previous criminal convictions together with a statement from the area police officer and the local antisocial behaviour officer as the main evidence in an ASBO application.

With younger offenders or those who are on the cusp of offending behaviour, the team offers intervention work tailored to the individual’s needs and often use ABCs as a part of this intervention work to set boundaries and enable parents to regain some authority. On such occasion the team tend to work closely with specialist education staff and sports development officers.

The team has surveillance staff who use surveillance equipment to gather evidence for the team and other agencies such as the local authority housing department. Community beat officers also draw on this information to extend their operational capabilities.

Outcome  By November 2002 over 30 ABCs have been issued with only five being breached; four ASBOs have been granted and a further five are at an advanced stage of preparation. Three breached ASBOs have resulted in detention and training orders. The team found that the use of the record of previous criminal convictions speeded up the process of getting the ASBO granted as it showed a pattern of antisocial behaviour.


Tackling youth antisocial behaviour – South Edinburgh Housing Office

Background

The M family has a long history of antisocial behaviour since the start of their tenancy and were facing eviction on grounds of antisocial behaviour. However, the case was sisted in court due to neighbours failing to attend court to give evidence. Numerous complaints including stone throwing, allegations of fire raising, noise nuisance and threatening behaviour continued over the years but neither the police nor housing department could pursue further action due to lack of
There were continued complaints from neighbours specifically about Jamie (12). Jamie, although being the youngest member of the M household along with 5 other families has been one of the main perpetrators of youth disturbance in the area.

His mother, Mrs M, has been extremely vocal in her dislike of housing, social work and the police and has a poor relationship with all agencies.

In November 2001 the Youth Disorder Hotline was set up to encourage residents to inform the housing department and the police of those youths responsible for disturbances, vandalism and criminal activity within the area. This short term initiative brought about raised expectations amongst the community and numerous phone calls were made to the department naming youths across the area. In particular along with the names of 13 other youths the name Jamie M kept cropping up. This time the owners and tenants with some encouragement were willing to stand by their complaints.

The ABC Process

A joint interview with the Community Police Officer and Housing Officer was arranged with Mrs M and Jamie at Mrs M’s house. Mrs M was asked if she would like anyone else present but she declined. Social work were advised and a letter was sent to the children’s reporter by Housing advising them of what action the police and Housing were taking. Jamie did not attend the interview but Mrs M was made aware of the effect that Jamie’s behaviour was having on the community. This included the costs of vandalism carried out by Jamie, quotes from the neighbours on how they felt living next door to the family and the consequences to Mrs M’s tenancy should the bad behaviour not cease.

The thrust of the interview was to find a way forward and to support Mrs M and Jamie in changing their behaviour. After an initial outburst from Mrs M she eventually became fully involved in the interview and accepted that there were serious problems in her household and with the parenting of her son Jamie.

Mrs M was offered the services of a neighbourhood support worker to help with parenting skills but she declined. A discussion took place about the aims and objectives of “Acceptable Behaviour Contracts” to which Mrs M agreed to give some thought to signing. Copies of the ABC were left with Mrs M to discuss further with her son and a second appointment was set for ten days later.

Neither Mrs M nor Jamie turned up for the second appointment. A letter was received from Mrs M’s lawyers the next day stating they had
advised their client not to sign the ABC. The Housing Department wrote to the lawyer setting out the aims and objectives of an Acceptable Behaviour Contract and the lawyer wrote back informing the department they would support the signing. An appointment was made with Mrs M and her son Jamie at the local Housing Office.

At the interview Jamie was present with his mother. The same ground was covered as at the first interview but with Mrs M, police and housing taking a united stance. Jamie had had a chance to discuss the signing of the contract with his mother and agreed along with his mother to do so at the interview. Mrs M still declined the offer of help from the neighbourhood support workers but accepted if there were further problems she would be open to changing her mind.

Afterwards

There have been few problems with Jamie or his family since the ABC was completed. There were a couple of incidents with Jamie being noisy but these incidents are minor in comparison with previous problems and joint visits were made to the tenancy immediately Housing received the complaints. There have been no complaints from neighbours for six months. Police and Housing have a good working relationship with Mrs M and Mrs M’s lawyer has written again to state that Mrs M is committed to full co-operation with the Housing Department.

Source: City of Edinburgh Council Housing Department

Contact: Jane Ritchie telephone 0131 529 7212 or email jane.ritchie@edinburgh.gov.uk

45. Once the agency has identified a suitable candidate for a contract it needs to find out whether the individual or family is being investigated by or supported by another agency. This is particularly important with young people. A decision can then be made on who will lead and which partners should be involved.

46. Before contemplating the ABC you must assess whether the behaviour warrants it. Evidence will come from a variety of sources such as:

- complaints to the housing department and/or the police
- observation/surveillance by specialist antisocial behaviour teams.
- police incident reports
- admissions by individuals involved
- CCTV or video or photographic evidence
- tenants and residents meetings
- information from schools in relation to exclusion or truanting
- information from local authority departments such as environmental services, social work, housing, youth justice teams
• information from community wardens
• children’s reporter for under 16s.

THE ABC PROCESS

47. When relevant agencies have been identified and consulted the individual (and his or her parent or guardian if appropriate) should be formally invited to a meeting with the relevant agencies.

48. It should be made clear to the individual and his or her family first that the meeting is an opportunity for two way dialogue but also that the impact of the behaviour will be explored and solutions on how to stop it are expected.

49. The meeting may be used as an early intervention to prevent fairly minor behaviour escalating and to explain the consequences if it continues. It can also be used to explore solutions and support to address underlying problems with the individual and/or the family such as poor parenting.

50. This is likely to lead to further action by the agencies present to involve other agencies and/or initiate actions themselves.

51. Failure to attend without good reason should immediately be followed by further contact attempts. If reasonable attempts elicit no response or excuses for non attendance they should be recorded and can be used if the complained-of activities continue as evidence in future legal proceedings that all reasonable steps have been taken before resorting to legal enforcement such as an Antisocial Behaviour Order. The subject of the proposed ASBO should be advised of this in writing.

KEY ASPECTS TO BEAR IN MIND

52. • Publicise in the local area that the use of ABCs is being initiated so there is support and awareness in the community (see Annex B).

• Although the participants should be formally invited to the meeting to emphasise that the alleged behaviour is being taken seriously, avoid the meeting itself being too formal as this may be intimidatory and counter productive.

• Invite only those it is necessary to have there but conversely ensure all who are necessary are present.

• To keep attendance to those strictly necessary at the ABC meeting hold a pre-meeting.

• Pre-prepare

• Consider where to hold the meeting. If it is held at a police station...
there is a danger that the meeting may be interpreted as part of a criminal process. On the other hand a police station lends a certain authority and underlines that an ABC is a serious undertaking.

53. Annex E outlines some practical Do’s and Don’ts to bear in mind when initiating and undertaking ABC meetings - and following up and monitoring afterwards. They have been adapted from the experience of the Islington Antisocial Behaviour Team which pioneered the use of ABCs with young people. It is a model that has been adopted and adapted widely both for young people and adults.

THE CONTRACT

54. An ABC is a flexible document and infinitely adaptable to suit the circumstances of those signing and the behaviour it is designed to stop.

55. However it should clearly state the conditions the parties agree to abide by and the consequences if the contract is breached.

56. The individual may agree, for example, to:

- stop the antisocial behaviour;
- attend school regularly or accept help with substance abuse
- accept assistance to improve parenting skills.

57. The relevant agencies may also agree to provide support to enable the individual to sustain the terms of the contract. It may also refer the person to agencies who can provide further support.

58. Involving the individual in drawing up the contract will help them to recognise the impact of their behaviour and to take responsibility for what they have been doing.

59. ABCs have tended to be made for about six months (particularly when involving children or young people to whom six months is a long time) but there is no reason why this cannot be varied – or the contract be renewed by mutual agreement if it is thought to be an incentive to the individual on the contract and also of benefit to the community.

60. The table shows the conditions laid down in the first 100 contracts agreed in Islington (all Islington’s contracts are with young people and their families).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terms of contract</th>
<th>Number of contracts</th>
<th>Percentage*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will not damage property</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not verbally abuse passers-by/residents</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not write graffiti</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not throw stones or other objects</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not congregate in groups</td>
<td>64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not joyride</td>
<td>59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not threaten</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not swear</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not climb on public or private property</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not be rude to passers-by/tenants</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not hang about in public areas</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not be loud in public places</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not spit</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not smoke in public</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not set fire to things</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not smoke</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not harass physically</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not discard cigarettes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not force entry to property</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not damage environment</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not smash glass</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not damage cars</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not ring door bells</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: 95 contracts. Each contract contained seven terms on average.
* Responses total more than 100%

Source: Acceptable Behaviour Contracts addressing antisocial behaviour in the London Borough of Islington, RDS

61. For an example of an ABC contract see Annex F.

**MONITORING AND BREACH**

62. If ABCs are to be taken seriously both by the individual(s) on the contracts and within the wider community it is essential that any breach is followed up with further action.

63. Actions following a breach must be spelt out in the contract. If these actions are not taken in the event of a breach trust and respect between the perpetrator and the agency initiating and monitoring the contract will break down.

64. Successful intervention through voluntary agreement, as against enforcement, depends on all the agencies involved giving out the same clear message about the consequences of continuing the antisocial behaviour.

65. Agencies should ensure they agree common approaches and priorities at the pre-meeting and that they are clear they are comfortable about what action will follow a breach.
66. Continued monitoring is essential if the ABC is to be effective. Information on breaches is likely to be collected from the same sources as those from which the original behaviour was identified (see 46 above).

67. Standard forms and robust arrangements for sharing information encourage systematic and accurate collection and collation of data which will assist with the monitoring and evaluation of contracts.

68. Because any breach must always be followed by a response, agencies involved will need to consider the following key points when embarking on ABCs:

   - Ensure there are sufficient staff and resources to enable monitoring for the period of the ABC. ABCs are resource intensive especially when immediate response to a breach is needed.
   - Keep the number of ABCs in a particular area low enough to ensure there are resources available for consistent monitoring.
   - Ensure there is good communication between agencies because breaches may be overlooked otherwise (see 67 above).
   - Plan for a reasonable number of home visits through the period of the contract – and do them.
   - Factor in regular meetings of those involved in monitoring.
   - Ensure parents of children who have entered into contracts receive regular feedback – don’t just wait until there is a breach as positive feedback will reinforce the ABC.

69. The action taken when the ABC is breached should be determined by the seriousness and nature of the breach and what previous interventions there have been. A structured approach with a hierarchy of intervention can be considered but approaches need to be flexible enough to go to serious enforcement if the breach is serious as this is spelled out in the contract.

70. Responses could be:

   - verbal warnings;
   - written warnings (consider the level of literacy of the signatories to the contract);
   - interview to reiterate the terms of the ABC. This may be more useful than warnings as it enables the agencies to identify why the breach has happened and look at additional interventions to prevent recurrence;
   - referral to the children’s reporter;
   - application for an ASBO;
   - application for a decree for repossession of tenancy;
   - termination of a Short Scottish Secure Tenancy;
   - referral for assessment for entry into an intensive support project.
71. In the case of a breach or breaches by a young person there will be a range of agencies who may be involved and able to identify appropriate measures to address antisocial behaviour. Local authorities will need to be mindful when considering a breach by an under 16 that they have a duty under the 1995 Children Act to act in the best interests of children in need (and some of those subject to ABCs will be defined as children in need), so they will have to consider the balance to be struck between meeting the needs of the community and those of the child. However, it must never be lost sight of that the ABC is to primarily protect the community and where the community is facing continuing antisocial behaviour legal actions will be considered.

72. Where an ABC has been unsuccessful it may be necessary to obtain an ASBO or initiate other court action.

73. Although ABCs are often tried to avoid having to apply for an ASBO, or as a precursor to an ASBO, there does not have to be an ABC in place before an ASBO can be applied for. If an ABC has been tried before an ASBO, evidence collected for it, and of its breach, can be cited in court in support of an ASBO or repossession action. For a discussion on ABCs in relation to ASBOs see Annex D.

74. There will always be cases where an immediate ASBO application is the most appropriate intervention.

**Successful ABCs**

75. At the end of an ABC where no breach has been identified the lead agency should look for a way of recognising this as this will continue to reinforce the improved behaviour.

76. Recognition should be for the person on the ABC and in the case of a young person the contribution of family members to the successful outcome should be acknowledged as this will encourage continued vigilance about behaviour.

77. Some agencies have introduced simple completion certificates to mark the completion of the ABC signed by the lead agencies.
FLOWSHART ILLUSTRATING TYPICAL ABC

Problem(s) brought to the attention of one or more agencies

Identify relevant agencies to involve and decide lead agency

Preliminary investigation to corroborate existence of problem and identify culprit(s)

Begin to gather reports of incidents and evidence (see 30). Open file and ensure it is kept up to date

Contact culprit and parents if under 16

ABC Meeting

Monitor and review regularly (see do's and don'ts)

Breach

Serious

Minor

Reconvene agencies and agree action

ACTION

Contract completed successfully – offer recognition

Letter/interview reiterating ABC terms and consequences

Non attendance: re-invite – firmly

2nd meeting: non attendance

Recommend action if behaviour is continuing

ACTION

If ABCs have not been used in area before may wish to issue explanatory leaflet to affected community (see Annex B)

Pre-meeting see do's and don'ts
GETTING THE COMMUNITY ON BOARD

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A requirement of the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 is that local authorities shall develop a strategy for tackling antisocial behaviour in partnership with other relevant agencies in their area.

1.2 They are also required to do this with the active participation of the local community and this is bound to involve making the community aware and seeking the views of residents on the introduction and use of ABCs.

1.3 However it is also good practice to promote and publicise their use at a local neighbourhood level before a pressing need to utilise ABCs arises as there can be scepticism that a tool with no legal backing can be effective and this could undermine their utility.

2. HOW

2.1 Agencies might consider the production of a leaflet which could be launched at regular tenants and residents forums where concerns about the effectiveness and benefits of ABCs can be addressed head on. The leaflet should be widely available through the usual outlets and also on the organisation’s website and intranet.

2.2 Leaflets, public meetings and residents forums are also useful for clarifying how much information the community is entitled to expect about individual ABCs. The opportunity can also be taken to emphasise to the community its importance in monitoring the effectiveness of ABCs and their flexible nature enabling them to be tailored to particular local need.

2.3 Making the community aware of the full range of services available to tackle antisocial behaviour, including ABCs, will:-

- give individuals confidence that something can be done to tackle it
- encourage reporting of complaints
- act as a deterrent by letting those who perpetrate antisocial behaviour see that effective action will be taken against them – after all they are part of the community too.

2.4 ABCs are still mostly applied to young people. It is essential, therefore, that their introduction and use should be well publicised amongst
2.5 The following shows the approach adopted by Islington:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>An area or housing estate with increased disorder levels is identified.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A letter is sent to all residents on the estate outlining the aims and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>objectives of the ABC scheme. The letter discusses the problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caused by antisocial youths on the estate, and includes a general</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>description of the unacceptable behaviour occurring. It invites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>residents to record the details of all problem behaviour experienced or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>witnessed and to complete incident record books that can be used for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evidential purposes. The local authority housing department, police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and other agencies are also encouraged to monitor activity and gather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evidence to identify the people involved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A second letter is sent specifically to the parents or legal guardian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of any young person who has come to the attention of the police or the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>local authority housing department informing them of their child’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unacceptable behaviour. This second letter invites both the young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>person and their legal guardian to attend an interview with police and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>housing officers at their local housing office to discuss the behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the young person. The letter informs the family that on completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of this interview the child will be expected to sign an acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>behaviour contract and adhere to its terms and conditions for a period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of 6 months.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact: Paul Dunn or Alison Blackburn, Islington Antisocial Behaviour Team, 020 7421 0111, paul.e.dunn@met.police.uk Alison.Blackburn@islington.gov.uk.

2.6 City of Westminster has produced a leaflet in conjunction with partner agencies such as the police and the local RSL entitled “A Guide to Acceptable Behaviour Contracts”. It carries the strapline “We want to steer young people away from causing problems and towards a better lifestyle”. The front page shows a sample ABC. Inside the leaflet briefly answers the following questions:

- What is an ABC?
- Why an ABC?
- What could the Contract include?
- What happens if the young person fails to attend the interview?
- What happens after the ABC is signed?
- What happens if the ABC is breached?
- What support is there for parents who are having problems controlling their children?
2.7 In addition to the above questions which are very much oriented to ABCs for young people, leaflets and other awareness raising could address some or all of the following:-

- What age group do ABCs apply to?
- Is an ABC legally binding?
- Links between an ABC and the Children’s Hearing system
- Who can be present at an ABC interview?
- Where are interviews held?
- How long do ABCs last?
- How are ABCs monitored?
- Would people who breach ABCs be evicted?

2.8 The answers to such questions and the information in any leaflets will obviously be tailored to the policy, practice and needs of the area.

2.9 Frequently asked questions at public meetings, tenants and residents forums and by individual complainants revolve around how much the community can expect to know about individual ABCs especially people who are complainants and witnesses. The answer to this is that the parties to signing the contract only are entitled to know that the contract exists and what its terms are. The agencies involved will not share this information with the community or third parties. However, it is not unknown for the subject of the ABC to volunteer the information to associates that he or she is “on an ABC” as this may be necessary to explain why they are reluctant to engage in hitherto desirable and regular activities.

2.10 In this regard ABCs differ from ASBOs as when an ASBO is granted the applicant is at liberty to notify anyone to whom the terms of the ASBO are relevant which would clearly include complainants and witnesses.

2.11 The lead agency can and should publicise the fact that a number of people in the area have signed an ABC and can outline in general terms the activities proscribed. Doing this could act as a deterrent to other potential perpetrators and may encourage the reporting of incidents.
3. **FEEDBACK: KEEPING THE COMMUNITY ON BOARD**

3.1 It is important to keep the community aware of ABCs, and indeed of all mechanisms adopted to combat ASB.

3.2 To this end agencies must be prepared to evaluate the effectiveness of ABCs and feedback the information to the community. If they are effective this will act as a further incentive to people to report problems and believe that something will be done about them.

3.3 If they are not as effective as hoped this is a pointer to examining why individual ABCs are not producing the intended results and may suggest how you might modify your approaches to make them more effective or be more selective in their use.

3.4 You need to know the scale and nature of the problems in an area before the introduction of the ABCs to properly measure post implementation effectiveness.

3.5 Measures can include:-

- reduced recorded crime and disorder incidents;
- reduced calls for police service related to youth in public places (increased reports to officials or reduced anonymous complaints may be a positive indicator initially if you determine that complainants have previously been reluctant to come forward);
- reduced numbers of young people congregating at particular locations (if crowd size contributes to disorderliness);
- reduced numbers of repeat offenders, the same names not coming up again and again;
- improved perceptions of complainants (shopkeepers, businesses, shoppers, residents);
- improved perceptions of MSPs, MPs, local councillors who often receive complaints about antisocial behaviour;
- reduced costs associated with repairs for damage and vandalism;
- reductions in void houses and improved demand in an area of social housing;
- displacement of the problem to other locations shown by more complaints than hitherto.
- less emphasis on antisocial behaviour problems at public meetings and residents forums or in satisfaction surveys.

3.6 Antisocial behaviour is a complex problem with many underlying causes which vary from family to family and individual to individual. Gains from the use of ABCs may be long term and incremental, not all will produce the dramatic success described at 71.
GUIDANCE ON RESTORATIVE ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR CONTRACTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A Restorative ABC is an agreement that aims:

(1) To address or repair the harm caused by the anti-social behaviour; and

(2) To help prevent the behaviour from re-occurring.

1.2 To achieve these aims, a Restorative ABC can be most effectively reached by combining Restorative Practices and the decision-making process used in Family Group Conferences.

- **Restorative Practices** enable those affected or harmed by anti-social behaviour to communicate - directly or indirectly - the impact of that behaviour to the person responsible, and to be involved in formulating relevant parts of the ABC.

- **Family Group Conferences** enable the person responsible, their family and significant others to make a decision about how to prevent the behaviour from re-occurring in a safe, informed and supportive context. Other relevant agencies contribute to this process and sign the ABC agreeing to provide the services (e.g. leisure, sport, hobbies, education, counselling etc.) which will enable the person responsible to make and sustain the necessary changes.

1.3 There are various ways in which these two approaches can be combined to reach an ABC, depending on the needs and wishes of the participants. The following are likely to be the most common scenarios:

(a) Where the person harmed wishes to communicate directly with the person responsible, then a **Restorative Justice Conference** may be held. The Action Plan can then be drawn up as an ABC.

(b) Where a Restorative Justice Conference is held, but the person responsible and their family decides that their issues are too private or complex to be discussed in front of the person harmed, then they can request a separate **Family Group Conference** to finalise the ABC.

(c) Where the person harmed cannot or does not wish to communicate directly with the person responsible, then a **Restorative Family Group Conference** may be held. The Family Plan can then be drawn up as an ABC.
(a) **Restorative Justice Conference**

If the person harmed and the person responsible wish to meet, then the Restorative ABC can be reached by using a Restorative Justice Conference.\(^1\)

The facilitator would enable the group to come up with an Action Plan that both addresses the offence(s) and helps to prevent future anti-social behaviour. This plan would then be written up as the ABC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1 Restorative Justice Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stage</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSEQUENCES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refreshments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) **Family Group Conference**

In some cases, there may be issues that the person responsible and their family consider to be too private or complex to be discussed in the context of a meeting with the person harmed.

Likewise, the family may have welfare needs that could ‘sideline’ or overwhelm the restorative needs of the person harmed.

If these issues are relevant to preventing the anti-social behaviour (and so need to be addressed and/or written into an ABC) then the family may ask the facilitator to arrange a separate meeting involving only the family group and relevant professionals. This second meeting would be a Family Group Conference.

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\(^1\) This kind of meeting can be arranged either by the ABC facilitator making a referral to a local Restorative Justice Service (RJS) or by the council contracting the RJS to deliver ABCs.
Any Action Plan that was agreed on in the meeting with the person harmed could be fed into this second meeting and written into the final ABC.

Table 2 Family Group Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Welcome, introductions, ground rules, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Sharing</td>
<td>Family present their perspective on the issues Professionals explain their perspective, resources available, bottom-line, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Family Time</td>
<td>Family meet in private to come up with a plan to resolve issues related to the antisocial behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreeing on the Plan</td>
<td>Family presents their plan, which is reality-tested, clarified, then agreed upon (= ABC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close</td>
<td>Facilitator closes meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 Restorative Family Group Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Welcome, introductions, ground rules, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACTS</td>
<td>Person Responsible says what happened and why Others may ask questions/clarify facts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSEQUENCES</td>
<td>Facilitator (or the PR) relays how the PH was (or might have been) affected Supporters of PR say how they were affected Person Responsible responds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUTURE</td>
<td>Facilitator explains next 3 stages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Sharing</td>
<td>Facilitator (or the PR) says how the PH would (or might) like the harm to be addressed Family present their perspective on issues related to the antisocial behaviour Professionals explain their perspective, resources available, bottom-line, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Family Time</td>
<td>Family meet in private to come up with a plan that will (a) address the harm and (b) resolve issues related to the anti-social behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreeing on the Plan</td>
<td>Family presents their plan, which is reality-tested, clarified, then agreed upon (= ABC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close</td>
<td>Facilitator closes meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are three ways of acknowledging the ‘voice’ of the person harmed in a Restorative Family Group Conference:

**Shuttle Mediation (indirect communication between parties)**
The person harmed may only wish to communicate the impact of the behaviour to the person responsible and to request a letter or apology, reparation or an agreement. If the request is disproportionate, degrading or unrealistic, then it is the facilitator’s role to explain the limitations of an ABC to the person harmed. If there are disagreements about what the person responsible can do (or is willing to do), then the facilitator’s role is to ‘shuttle’ back and forth between the parties - in a safe and respectful way - until consensus is reached. Any agreement with the person harmed should, if possible, be finalised before the Restorative FGC. The person harmed may obtain a copy of the ABC or those parts of the ABC the family have agreed to share with the person harmed. The facilitator will present the views of the person harmed during the Consequences stage of the Restorative FGC (see Table 3 above). The facilitator may use notes based on conversations with the person harmed, or read out a letter they have written, or play a cassette or video they have made.

**Victim Awareness (with information from person harmed)**
If the person harmed only wishes to communicate the impact of the behaviour to the person responsible, then this information is relayed by the facilitator during the Consequences stage of the Restorative FGC (see Table 3 above).

**Victim Awareness (without information from person harmed)**
If the person harmed cannot be contacted or does not wish to communicate anything to the person responsible, then the person responsible may be asked by the facilitator to reflect on how their actions might have affected the person harmed in the Consequences stage of the Restorative FGC (see Table 3 above). This should only happen if the person responsible is prepared by the facilitator.

Training on how to facilitate the processes described in this paper is provided by the Scottish Restorative Justice Consultancy and Training Service, which is managed by SACRO and funded by the Scottish Executive. Please contact Derek Brookes on Tel. 07814021113 or dbrookes@ednet.co.uk for more information.
CURRENT AND POTENTIAL USE OF ABCS IN SCOTLAND

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The following information is extracted from findings of an interim survey done on behalf of the Scottish Executive by DTZ Peida on the Use of ASBOs by local authorities and registered social landlords which was published in April 2005.

1.2 However respondents were also asked about use or potential use of ABCs and their relation to ASBOs.

1.3 The information is drawn predominantly from an email survey of antisocial co-ordinators or specialists in local authorities and housing associations (RSLs) though a small number of focus groups were also convened with representatives from local authorities, police, tenant’s organisations, a Children’s Reporter the Scottish Retail Consortium. The survey was conducted in late 2004.

2. THE FINDINGS

2.1 Thirteen local authorities and seven RSLs had experience of using ABCs. The researchers found that it was uncommon for an RSL to use ABCs in an area where the local authority did not.

2.2 Five local authorities – Argyll and Bute, Clackmannanshire, East Ayrshire, Inverclyde and Perth and Kinross – said that their routine practice was to negotiate an ABC before considering an application for an ASBO. More than a third of RSLs responding to the question (30 of 82) stated that they would negotiate an ABC before proceeding to an ASBO. In Glasgow City this was much higher – over half of RSLs (11 of 20) stated that they would negotiate an ABC before proceeding to an ASBO.

2.3 However, greater weight should probably be accorded to the responses of those who had actually used ABCs. This group (13 local authorities and 12 RSLs) was almost evenly split in terms of whether it would be ‘standard practice’ to negotiate an ABC before considering an ASBO application. Perhaps more tellingly, a large majority of the local authorities who had used ABCs (nine of 13) said that such a ‘progression’ (from ABC to ASBO) was not their routine practice.

2.4 The table below suggests that there is little – if any – association between the use of ABCs and the use of ASBOs. For example, among the six authorities that sought no ASBOs in 2003/04, three reported
experience of using ABCs. Hence, these authorities might be able to argue that their apparent ‘inactivity’ with respect to ASBOs simply reflected their commitment to an ‘alternative approach’. At the other end of the spectrum, of the ten local authority areas where ASBO applications were most common in 2003/04, four had made use of ABCs whilst six had not. This demonstrates that these two devices are not usually used together. At the same time there is clearly no consensual view that they are simple substitutes for one another.

2.5 Use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts by Local Authority Area (at September / October 2004)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area (sorted by applications per 100,000 HHs)</th>
<th>No of ASBO applications per 100,000 HHs</th>
<th>ASBOs granted per 100,000 HHs</th>
<th>ABCs ever used?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stirling</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundee City</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Lanarkshire</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orkney Islands</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Borders</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>Yes – RSL only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shetland Islands</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumfries &amp; Galloway</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Lanarkshire</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renfrewshire</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeens City</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlothian</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lothian</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Ayrshire</td>
<td>11.8</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
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<td>3.3</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moray</td>
<td>8.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falkirk</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Lothian</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Dunbartonshire</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>Yes – RSL only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Edinburgh</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angus</td>
<td>4.2</td>
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<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Renfrewshire</td>
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<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverclyde</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow City</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>Yes – RSL only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Ayrshire</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>Aberdeenshire</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
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<td>Argyll &amp; Bute</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clackmannannshire</td>
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<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Dunbartonshire</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eilean Siar</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perth &amp; Kinross</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>-</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Email survey; Scottish Executive 2002 Based Household Projections
2.6 There was general agreement among focus group participants that ABCs (or ABAs) can play a useful role in tackling antisocial behaviour – particularly where perpetrated by juveniles. ABCs were seen by some local authorities and RSLs, as potentially playing an important part within the ASBO process, enabling them to demonstrate to the court that they had exhausted all ‘lower level’ measures before resorting to an ASBO.

2.7 For most local authorities and RSLs who were involved in the focus groups, ABCs were a fairly recent introduction and there was uncertainty as to where they fitted within overall strategies for tackling antisocial behaviour eg should they be seen as a standard pre-cursor to an ASBO application, in what circumstances they could be usefully negotiated with adults.

2.8 The survey will be repeated on an annual basis and future surveys will include in-depth case studies which will examine the relationship between ABCs and ASBOs. This is particularly important because the introduction of ABCs is of fairly recent origin in most areas and will be almost certainly post date the use of ASBOs (available since April 1999) in many local authorities.
DOs AND DONTs: PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF SETTING UP, CONDUCTING AND FOLLOWING UP AN ABC MEETING

Before the meeting

**Do**

- Consider other measures for tackling antisocial behaviour alongside this action. A notice of proceedings for repossession of property may still be relevant.

- Identify individuals likely to benefit from the ABC scheme at regular meetings involving police and housing officers. Once a person is being considered, start a file.

- Give reasonable notice of the meeting and hand-deliver the invitation letter where possible so there can be no excuse that it has not been received. Ensure the letter makes clear what the meeting is about and who will attend.

- Seek to involve both parents or guardians if there is a joint parenting role, even if they do not live at the same address in the case of an ABC for a young person.

- Where the family are known to social work advise them of the interview, the purpose, and if appropriate ask if they would like to be present. Where the local authority is looking after a young person (i.e. ‘in care’), a representative from social work must be invited to attend.

- If the young person is known to attend a local school, encourage their involvement. The young person could be on a school sponsored scheme that could assist with tackling the unacceptable behaviour.

- Try to find out if the young person is involved in activities organised by any youth services. They may be able to assist with diversion activities.

- Contact agencies involved with youth offending e.g. children’s reporter, youth justice services to establish whether they know the young person and to ensure that the action proposed does not conflict with action being pursued by them and to encourage their active participation and support.
• Contact the police to check whether the subject of the proposed ABC is known to them and to agree what is the most appropriate course of action to pursue and encourage their active participation and support.

• Pre-meet with professionals to clarify the procedure and purpose of the meeting/ABC. Ideally this meeting should **not** take place immediately before the interview in case there are concerns that need to be resolved. Ensure that if officers from other departments are to be present at the meeting they are clear on who is taking the lead.

• Pre-meet to agree who will take the lead and clarify the latest position on reported incidents and action against the youth or the tenancy.

• Try to establish in advance which other agencies/individuals may attend, if any.

• Consider involving other siblings within the same family in the same meeting if you think they could be vulnerable to becoming involved in antisocial behaviour, even if an ABC is not thought to be appropriate at this stage.

• Be clear in your own mind what the purpose of the meeting is. Remember the aim is not simply to come away with a signed contract, but **to stop the antisocial behaviour**. The idea of the interview is to talk with the person so that they have an understanding of what we mean by antisocial behaviour and what the implications are should further incidents take place.

• Be prepared for the fact that people may deny all involvement and that feelings could run high.

• Give consideration to a suitable venue and seating plan so that the meeting can take place in relative comfort with enough chairs and space for everyone. Avoid setting up barriers or creating an ‘us-and-them’ situation.

• Give consideration to the type of activities the person has been involved in and those that are particularly relevant in the area, which you may wish to include in the contract. These should not be used to prepare the contract in advance but to include in the discussion about which activities should be included in the contract.

• Nominate a suitable officer to take notes during the interview. Although you should aim to keep the number of officers to a minimum it is recommended to have a note-taker that will not be
involved in the discussion. Detailed notes are not required but the main points do need to be jotted down.

- Try to ensure that the same people are involved for the duration of the contract and monitoring period. The ABC creates an opportunity to establish rapport with people on contracts.

- Agree common approaches and priorities – agencies will inevitably have different concerns both for the individual and the community but in order for the ABC to work there must be a reasonable degree of agreement on approaches and particularly on the action to be taken if there is a breach.

**Don’t**

- Expect to be able to follow a script and for all interviews to be the same. They are all different. [Of the interviews carried out so far in Islington a significant number of parents have been extremely positive about the meetings once they overcome their initial suspicion and concern. The attitude of the young people has ranged in extremes from total silence to hostility and abuse, but the latter is not usual and in most cases it has been possible to have a discussion about antisocial behaviour and what it means.]

- Underestimate the importance of the preparation in advance of the meeting. You cannot expect to be able to turn up on the day and carry out an effective interview without being clear on the background to the case. Also, if you fail to involve other relevant departments or organisations you are potentially compromising your position in being able to pursue further action.

- Prepare the final version of the contract in advance of the meeting. This is defeating one of the key points of the meeting, which is to encourage the person to list the activities he/she has been involved in or could become involved in in future. A draft list of activities that you may wish to include is, however, a good idea.

**During the meeting**

**Do**

- Arrive promptly to allow for a pre-meeting, and allow enough time for the meeting so you are not rushed. Some meetings have been known to last two hours, others have been more straightforward.
• If the person (and his or her parent/guardian where necessary) fail to attend write once more with a further date for a meeting. If they fail to attend the second meeting, consider further action which might mean moving straight to legal action, write setting out the seriousness of the issue including details of action proposed. Monitor the case as you would have a contract been signed.

• Wear name badges.

• Use plain language that is free from council/police jargon.

• Aim to get the message across that antisocial behaviour and the signing of the contract is an extremely serious issue, however, at the same time you should aim to keep the meeting informal and relaxed to encourage full participation of the person (and their parents if present).

• Make the person (and their parents if present) aware of the consequences of breach.

• Support each other and be mindful of the issues relevant to all agencies present eg possible criminal or civil action.

• Talk to the person. Find out how they spend their time, what their understanding is of antisocial behaviour and how it may impact upon residents, the council, his/her parents, him or herself.

• Listen to what is being said about home circumstances and any other pressures or difficulties the family is experiencing. This will help to put together information for dealing with the case and involving any other relevant agencies.

• Explain the purpose of the contract, how it will be monitored and the implications of any further incidents, both in terms of civil action such as possession orders and antisocial behaviour orders or criminal action such as criminal damage or further action through the Children’s Hearing system, before the contract is signed.

• Take any concerns raised by the person (and his/her parents) seriously and attempt to address them.

• Produce the final typed version of the contract as quickly as possible once those present have agreed the activities to be included. Ideally arrange for someone outside the meeting to do this for you. Remember that any delay could be a source of
irritation to those present and may result in a contract not being signed.

- Remember to get everyone present to sign the contract and to provide a copy for the person (and their parents) to take away with them.
- Allow ‘time out’ if the meeting becomes heated. Consider the provision of tea/coffee if appropriate but remember that a hot drink could be used as a missile.
- Take notes of the meeting and any issues that are raised.
- Sum up the main points at the end of the meeting.
- Provide contact details of lead officers to parents.
- End on a positive note. If there are no further incidents there will be no further action.
- Thank everyone for his/her attendance.

**Don’t**

- Behave in a confrontational manner but state any allegations calmly. Remember that the aim is not to accuse but to stop bad behaviour.
- Single out the person and/or the family for all the problems in the area. If parents are told that their children are one of a number of young people and others will also be interviewed, you will find that the parents more readily accept this and be prepared to work with you.
- Attempt to force the person to sign the contract but DO explain why it is important and persuade them as far as possible without doing anything that could be interpreted as undue pressure should legal action be subsequently taken.
- Worry if you have been unable to get a signature. This does not mean that the meeting has been a waste of time. Try to establish why there is a reluctance to sign, attempt to address their concerns and keep a record of their responses. It may be that they need time to think it over and you can suggest meeting again in a few days time. You may even wish to suggest they seek independent legal advice. You do need to advise that you would like a signed contract as this demonstrates a commitment on their part to taking the issue seriously, and that if they still refuse to sign you can still pursue further action should the bad behaviour continue. This must be followed up in writing.
- Disclose details of complainants.
After the meeting

**Do**

- Write up the file straight after the interview. This is a very important document which will be used as evidence should further action be pursued.
- Copy the contract to relevant agencies not present at the interview.
- Notify police officers in the area where the behaviour has occurred.
- Notify the relevant housing officers, housing assistants, senior caretaker and relevant caretakers, community wardens that a contract has been drawn up and request assistance in monitoring further activities.
- Write to thank those present for their attendance and to confirm the outcome, attaching a further copy of the agreement. Advise who has been given copies of the contract. This will help to serve as a reminder of what the implications are should the person carry out further antisocial acts.
- Monitor the contract. If there is a further incident, regardless of how minor it may seem, you must bring this to the attention of the lead officer so that consideration can be given to any further action. This could range from sending a letter to reiterate the terms of the contract, to applying for a repossession order or an antisocial behaviour order. **It is most important not to let a further incident pass by seemingly unnoticed.**
- Liaise with partner agencies if there is a report of a further incident or trouble in the area. At very least updates must be provided at regular meetings of the key agencies. Try to visit the person with the contract, as part of the monitoring process, on at least two occasions. A written record of the outcome must be kept on file.
- Ensure that any further incidents are documented in the file promptly.
- Write to the person at the end of the contract period. In the letter acknowledge that the contract period has come to an end, thank them for keeping to the terms of the agreement and remind them of the implications should there be a repeat of the unacceptable behaviour in future.

**Don’t**

- Generally provide complainants (or others) with details of the people with a contract, but **DO** publicise the fact that a number of people within the area have signed a contract. This could act as a deterrent to others as well as encourage the reporting of incidents.
EXAMPLES OF AN ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR CONTRACT

CONTRACT 1

This contract is made on the [date] between [individual]

Name: ____________________  DOB: ____________________
Address: ____________________
Postcode: ____________________

And [name and address of lead agency/agencies]

1. I will agree not to [write graffiti or damage property in and around the X area]

2. I will agree not to [congregate in a group in common areas of X ie common stair or back green]

3. I will agree not to [throw anything at residents or passers-by in or around X area]

4. I will agree not to [threaten or abuse residents or passers-by. This includes swearing]

1. I will agree to [attend weekly meetings with X who is monitoring this contract]

2. I will agree to [attend Y Drug Rehabilitation Unit as required]

3. I will agree to [go to school and attend all lessons and regularly meet with my guidance teacher as agreed between us]

FURTHER [name of individual] enters into a commitment with the [name of agency/agencies] not to act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not in the same household.

To help the above complete the Acceptable Behaviour Contract successfully, the representatives of the various agencies and organisations agree to provide the following help and support

1. We agree to [meet weekly to discuss any ongoing difficulties that B has in sustaining this contract]

2. We agree to [ensure B has a place in the Drug Rehabilitation Unit]
3. **We agree to** [assist B to re-integrate back into school and meet regularly to monitor her progress]

I understand that by signing this contract I am entering into a contract with .......... Council and .......... Police not to behave in ways stated above.

The partner agencies present will seek to provide the help and support outlined in this contract. If partner agencies are unable to provide the support listed, they will discuss as soon as possible to provide suitable alternatives.

I have been made aware that although the Contract is voluntary, if I continue to behave in an antisocial manner .......... Council and .......... Police may take action against my family and me. This action may include referral to the Children’s Reporter and / or action to re-possess my family’s home and /or an application to the Sheriff Court for an Antisocial Behaviour Order.

I understand failure to comply with an Antisocial Behaviour Order can result in a substantial fine / or a prison sentence of up to 5 years.

**ABC Review Meetings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**Final Review**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I can confirm that my parent(s) / guardians and me understand the meaning of this Contract and the consequences of a failure to comply have been explained to us.

Signed ........................................  Date ....................................
(Young Person)

Signed ........................................  Date ....................................
(Parent / Guardian)

Signed ........................................  Date ....................................
(Police Officer and Housing Officer)
CONTRACT 2

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR AGREEMENT

This agreement is made on Date

BETWEEN Subjects Name
date of birth
Address

AND ANGUS COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

The said …… Subjects Name agrees the following in respect of future conduct –

1. I will not play loud music within the house at Subjects Address
2. I will not have noisy parties within the house at Subjects Address
3. I will not play loud guitar music within the house at Subjects Address

and enters into a commitment with the Angus Council Community Safety Team not to act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not in the same household.

BREACH

If Subjects Name does anything which he has agreed not to do under this agreement which the Angus Council Community Safety Team considers to amount to antisocial behaviour, an application may be made for an ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDER to prohibit Subjects Name from acting in a manner likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household.

FURTHER, Subjects Name acknowledges that:-

Where an Antisocial Behaviour Order is made by the court and breached he/she will be liable to penalties of up to 6 months imprisonment or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both on summary conviction and up to 5 years imprisonment and an unlimited fine or both on indictment.
**DECLARATION**

I confirm that I understand the meaning of this contract and that the consequences of breach of the contract have been explained to me.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIGNED</th>
<th>__________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(signature of subject)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>__________________________</td>
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**WITNESSED**

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigation Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>__________________________</td>
</tr>
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<table>
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<td>Investigation Officer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>__________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTRACT 3

ANGUS COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM
ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made on Date

BETWEEN Subjects name
Born
(Subject’s home address)

AND ANGUS COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

The said ….. (Subject’s name) agrees the following in respect of future conduct:

1. I will not PLAY LOUD MUSIC or permit people to PLAY LOUD MUSIC within ….. (Subject’s home address)

2. I will not SHOUT AND SWEAR or permit people to SHOUT AND SWEAR within ….. (Subject’s home address)

3. I will not SLAM DOORS or permit people to SLAM DOORS within ….. (Subject’s home address)

and enters into a commitment with the Angus Council Community Safety Team not to act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not in the same household.
**BREACH**

If said **Subject's name** does anything which he has agreed not to do under this agreement which Angus Council Community Safety Team considers to amount to antisocial behaviour, the following courses of action may be taken:

1. Application for an **ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDER** to prohibit **(Subject's name)** from acting in a manner likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household.

2. Initiation of Court Action by Angus Council to **RECOVER POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY**.

**FURTHER,** said **(Subject's name)** acknowledges that:-

1. Where an **Antisocial Behaviour Order** is made by the court and breached **(Subject's name)** could be liable to penalties of up to 6 months imprisonment or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both on summary conviction and up to 5 years imprisonment and an unlimited fine or both on indictment.

2. Where an **Order of Repossession for the Property** is granted by the Court, this could lead to **(Subject's name)** Eviction and that of other members of **(Subject's name)** household.

**DECLARATION**

I confirm that I understand the meaning of this contract and that the consequences of breach of the contract have been explained to me.

SIGNED ____________________________________________
(Signature of individual)

DATE ________________________________

**WITNESSED**

SIGNED ____________________________________________ Investigation Officer

DATE ________________________________

SIGNED ____________________________________________ Investigation Officer

DATE ________________________________