



Spurgeons
for children and young people

Unpicking the policy agenda

A 'youth work' perspective

creating hope ● building futures



hollywood bowl
We are currently recruiting full & part time team members
For an application form, please ask the reception

Antisocial Behaviour



Anti-social Behaviour

According to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ASBOs are issued for:

"behaviour which causes harassment, alarm or distress to one or more people who are not in the same household as the person the order is against."



Anti-social Behaviour

(ASBOs) bypass the criminal justice system and ultimately mean seriously disruptive youths can be locked up. This may be a rough form of justice but it instils respect for authority in their peers by demonstrating that if they take society on, society can be tougher than them. Martin Bell 2005



Anti-social Behaviour

- **Civil law applies – not criminal therefore can be based on hearsay/gossip**
- **Only 3% of applications are turned down**
- **Breaching ASBOs has been the main cause of the rise in young people receiving custodial sentences**



Anti-social Behaviour

June 2005 - the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights in a report on UK human rights (Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, 2005) talked of:

“This burst of ASBO-mania ...

- ... excessive political encouragement being given to Local Authorities by Westminster**
- ... the ASBO being touted as a miracle cure for urban nuisance.”**



Anti-social Behaviour

When public attitudes towards ASB were interrogated through a research project sponsored by the Rowntree Foundation (Jacobson, McDonald and Hough, 2005), ***two-thirds of those questioned came out in favour of preventive rather 'tough' action.***



Prevention
is better than
cure

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Mind the Gap!

“Participation of young people in shaping the world as it affects them is vital to a healthy society”

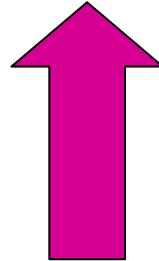
Stamping out young jobs

Feral youth



Big Picture Context

Deliberate, planned Initiatives



ASBOs

Kneejerk Initiatives

Underlying Issues

- Type of society we're becoming
- Place of children and young people
- Family and community breakdown

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Young Person's Perspective?

- **What's the message they're getting from society?**



What reaction does this engender?

What will be the ultimate outcome?



Young Person's Perspective

We have to take the time to understand their world:

- **What pressures are they facing?**
- **What fears do they live with?**
- **What self-image do they have?**
- **What hopes have they got for the future?**



Principle-based Policy

Every Child Matters / Youth Matters

- Child-centered approach
- focus on Outcomes
- Joint working
- Safeguarding central

Respect Agenda

- Tried to join up ASB agenda with some of the underlying issues



Principle-based Policy

- **There are no quick fixes!**
- **Knee jerk responses never deliver lasting, positive change**
- **Need political leadership nationally and locally that takes a principled, long term view with policy to match**
- **Need agencies on the ground to engage together and commit to the long, hard road**



So What?

- **Inclusion**
- **Relationships**
- **Place-shaping**
- **Focus on Prevention**
- **Focus on Parents**
- **Investing in community**





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Getting alongside
Staying alongside

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