



# Dealing with Persistent Anti Social Behaviour

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# Anti Social Task Force Presentation Contents

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# North Lanarkshire Council

- 4th Largest Council in Scotland
- Largest public sector landlord in Scotland - 42,000 tenants (Council voted to retain stock)
- Located in West Central Scotland - bordering Glasgow - close to Edinburgh
- Population - 320,000



# Background to the Anti Social Task Force (ASTF)

- Team of specialist officers for serious ASB set up in 2001 - 9 staff
- Expanded to current establishment of 34 - Including Legal team
- Utilised council and Scottish Executive funding
- NLC residents/members consulted widely on team and remit
- ASTF deals with all tenures



# Anti Social task Force - Statistical Information

- Approx 5,000 cases referred to the ASTF
- Over 280 cases being investigated at any given time
- 118 ASBO applications made - 100 Granted (Remainder Pending)
- 20 Interim ASBO applications made - 18 granted (Remainder Pending)
- 7 Eviction Orders granted

# Anti Social Task Force Breakdown of Complaint Type



Children	254
Drugs	242
Gangs	299
Land	83
Noise	3120
Pets	90
Racial H't	58
Violence	182
Vandalism	274
Other	211

# Methods used to Tackle Anti Social Behaviour

- Multi Agency Working - Pro Active
- Services inc. Mediation, Pro Witness - 24 Hours
- Incremental Warnings - NOPs
- UBNs & ABAs-Innovative Approaches
- ASBOs/Interim ASBOs
- Short Scottish Secure Tenancies
- Tenancy Support
- Work Closely with RSLs

# Methods used to Tackle Anti Social Behaviour

- Build Community Confidence
- Regular attendance at Public Meetings
- Training and awareness meetings in communities
- Extensive joint working with Police in schools and communities
- Tackle "Hot Spot" Areas
- Use eviction as last resort



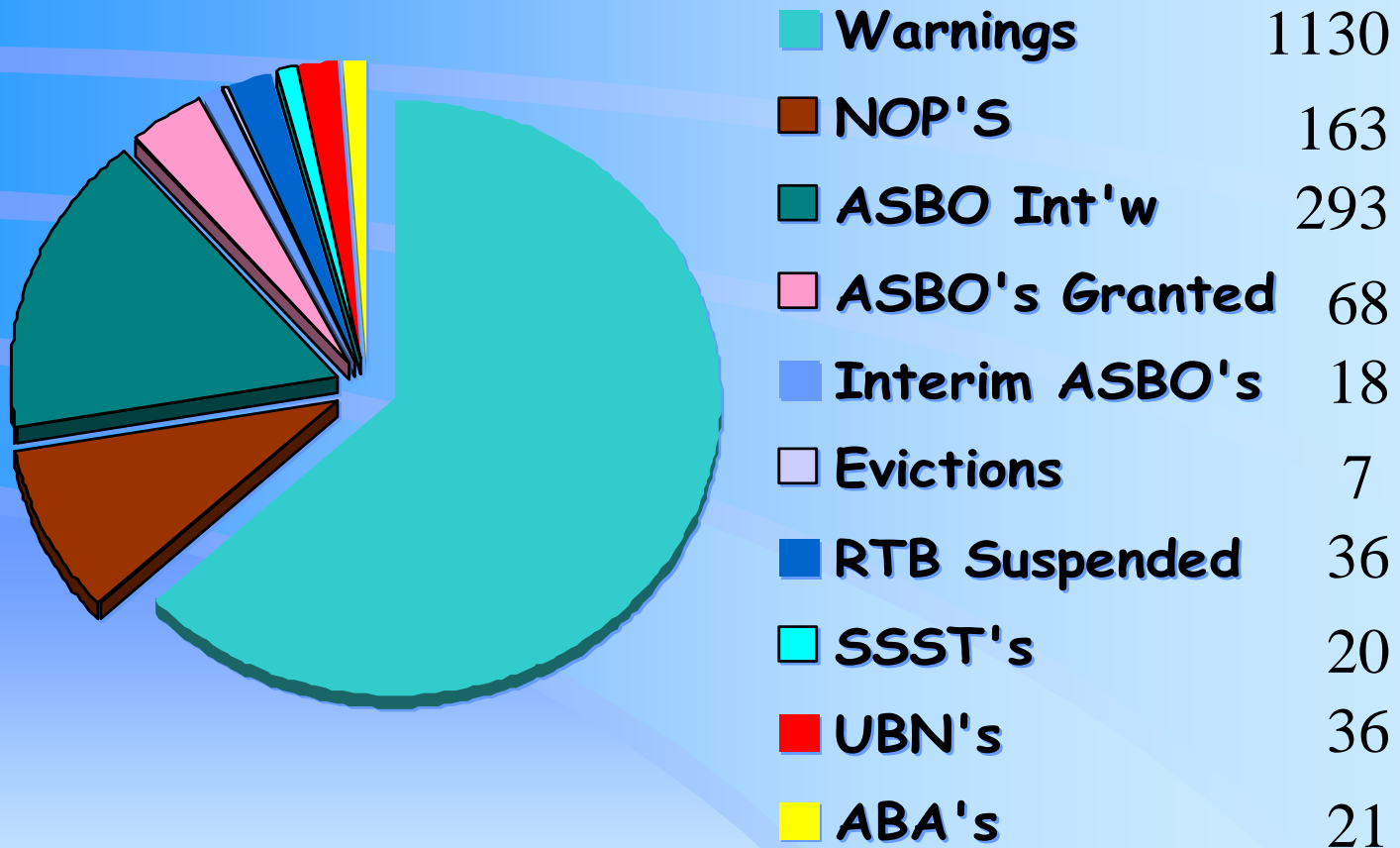
# Anti Social Task Force - Success of methods used

- Effective multi agency approach
- Popular and effective mediation and professional witness service
- Formal support service for victims and witnesses
- Almost all ASBO applications granted at hearings - majority not breached
- Breached ASBOs dealt with effectively by police and courts

# Anti Social Task Force - Success of methods used

- Effective use of SSSTs
- Low number of evictions
- High Levels of user satisfaction
- Recognised good practice
- Development of Consultancy Service
- Multi Award Winning Service

# Anti Social Task Force Breakdown of Action Taken



# Anti Social Task Force - Funding

- Currently funded mainly through HRA
- Consideration being given to Council Tax contribution
- Exec funding accessed successfully
- Service Level Agreement with RSLs
- Consultancy Service

# Anti Social Task Force - Will the ASB Act Help?

- ASBOs for under 16s
- ASB Strategies (joint with police)
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- Strengthened Powers to deal with other landlords
- Piloting Good Neighbour Declarations
- Protection for victims and witnesses of ASB
- Neighbourhood Compacts

# Anti Social Task Force

## *Why a Specialist team?*

- Good experience in a complex field
- Clear responsibilities for staff
- Improved efficiency/effectiveness
- Improved access to services
- Higher profile and awareness of issues and tools to tackle ASB
- Improved multi agency working
- Improved links with community
- Shows commitment of LA

# ASTF - What can be learned from our Experience?

- Specialist Teams **do** work
- Joint Working/Training **is vital**
- ASBOs are **extremely effective**
- Professional Witnessing **is essential**
- Support for victims/witnesses **is required**
- Mediation **can be used** in ASB cases
- Co-operation from communities **is essential and beneficial**
- Effective protocols **are necessary**