



## Prevention through Support – Anti Social Behaviour

Wansbeck Homes Enforcement Unit have been 'thinking out of the box' to resolve a recent case of anti-social behaviour on one of our estates.

After complaints were received stating that two teenage boys in a family were causing disorder in the area by misusing fireworks, being abusive, underage drinking and riding illegal motorbikes dangerously the Enforcement Team began an investigation.

When the boy's mother was contacted it was found that she was also afraid of them and was at her wits end. She was at a total loss as to how she could improve the situation.

Marion Agar, Enforcement Officer, found that both boys were out of control. The eldest, 16, had left school and was unemployed and had been unable to gain a place at the local college. The younger boy, 14, refused to attend school. Their mother had suffered problems accessing benefits, causing considerable financial strain on an already struggling family. Apart from the two boys, there were another three children to support as young as 18 months old.

Marion discussed the issues with a range of partners both from within Wansbeck Homes and from other external agencies. It was decided that the best course of action would be to support the family using a Family Intervention Project in an attempt to prevent further incidents.

Prevention is not the soft option, Family Intervention Projects (FIP's) constantly confront and challenge the parents and children they work with to change their behaviour. The families know that if they don't use this support they could risk losing their home, go to court, prison or youth custody.

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# WANSBECK HOMES

The first of the new FIP's were set up in 2008 targeting families where young people are at risk of offending.

Housing Associations can make savings by using FIPs – some families cost their local community up to £250,000 each year in Police and court time or eviction and re-housing.

Both boys signed up to Acceptable Behaviour Agreements to help amend their behaviour, help was given in accessing the correct benefit payments and arrangements were made to get the boys back into education. Their mother was given charitable support in providing Christmas gifts for the younger children. She was overcome with tears of joy when the gifts were delivered, as she felt that the family faced a bleak Christmas.

Since the project has been underway, both boys have continued to attend local school and college and there has been no repetition of their previous bad behaviour. Residents in the area have been left to live peacefully in their homes and the boy's family have managed to continue living in their home without having to suffer the consequences of legal action being taken.

Anyone wishing to report the tenants of Wansbeck Homes who behave in an anti-social manner are encouraged to do so by telephoning 0844 800 3800 or by email to [enquiries@wansbeckhomes.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@wansbeckhomes.co.uk).



*Making the Difference*