

## Norwich one of 40 Respect Areas

Norwich was one of 40 areas to be confirmed as Respect Areas on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. These are areas that have earned the right to become exemplars in delivering the Respect programme and tackling anti-social behaviour in their communities. The announcement was supported by a Ministerial visit by Hilary Armstrong, Minister for Social Exclusion. The Minister took part in a walkabout of the Vauxhall Street area to see what anti-social behaviour problems it faces. Meeting the Leader of the Council, Steve Morpew, the CEO Laura McGillivray and Police Superintendent Jim Smerdon as well as PCSOs, Neighbourhood Wardens and other operational staff the Minister heard about how Norwich City Council and its partners are engaging with the local community to tackle such issues as drug use, vandalism and nuisance behaviour. She concluded her visit by meeting the residents of Melbourne Cottages to hear about their experiences of such problems.

- Respect Areas are not the worst areas for anti-social behaviour. They have been chosen from a longer list of areas with significant challenges, where more action is needed. They are areas that have a track record of achievement but, more importantly, have shown the commitment and capacity to do much more.
- Respect Areas have pledged to take action across the breadth of the Respect programme and demonstrate what works on the ground – so that their communities can see and feel that action is being taken, and others can learn from their experience. Respect Areas have signed up to providing:
  - **Family Intervention Projects** that work intensively to challenge and change the behaviour of the most problematic households.
  - **Parenting programmes** for families at risk of/or behaving anti-socially.
  - **Face the People** sessions where the police, local authorities and others can be accountable to their local public.
  - Keep up the relentless action to tackle anti-social behaviour by using the full range of **tools and powers** available.
  - Promoting the **Respect Housing Management Standard** to ensure a consistent, responsive service from landlords for all social housing tenants. Members will be aware of the work carried out by the Council's own housing service to deliver the standard. We are now looking to work with our partner Registered Social Landlords to encourage and support them to adopt the standard in their own stock.

### **Parenting money**

- Becoming a Respect Area is not about securing extra money, it is about commitment to deliver on the Respect programme. Local authorities sought to

become Respect Areas without any promise of additional funding to help them implement their programmes of activity.

- But Respect Areas will continue to receive funding from the Respect Task Force and DfES are making an additional £6 million (£125,000 each) available to Respect Areas in 2007-08 to improve their parenting services for families whose children are at risk of or involved in anti-social behaviour.
- Evidence shows that good parenting is crucial in preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour, determining children's life chances, protecting against poverty, social exclusion and poor academic attainment. This is why policies to support parents form a key part of the Respect drive.
- The 40 Respect Areas have today been invited to put forward proposals by the end February setting out how they would use this additional funding to improve parenting services in the area. This resource will help local authorities to boost existing provision, fill gaps and complement existing work to support parents of children at risk and to prevent anti-social behaviour. In Norwich this work is being led by the Families Unit in Community and Neighbourhoods.