



HANSARD
SOCIETY

HeadsUp Forum

www.headsup.org.uk

'ASBOs... over the top or spot on?'

(November 21st - December 9th 2005)

An online platform providing young people with a secure and structured space to discuss their perspectives on ASBOs

This debate began at a furious pace with the most posts made in the first week than any previous Forum. In addition, this was the first Forum where young people could register themselves directly on HeadsUp, rather than go through their teacher or guardian.

Young people could share their perspectives on the intricacies of the ASBO debate with a large number of relevant MPs from across the political spectrum, taking part online with students posing questions and debating directly with them. These included:

- David Davis MP, Shadow Home Secretary
- Mark Oaten MP, Shadow Home Secretary
- John Denham MP, Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee
- Edward Garnier MP, Shadow Home Affairs Minister
- Humfrey Malins MP, Shadow Home Affairs Minister

Please note - the HeadsUp team also approached both Hazel Blears MP, Minister of State for Crime, Security & Communities and Lynne Featherstone MP, Home Affairs spokesperson. However, both MPs were unable to take part in the debate due to parliamentary business.

From a developmental point of view, HeadsUp is benefiting from the involvement of such an impressive list of parliamentarians who have taken part in the last few Forums, creating a snow-ball type effect. These MPs have helped make it acceptable and almost a must to participate in HeadsUp Forums, especially amongst some of their cautious parliamentary colleagues.

This welcome development can be seen after the HeadsUp team recently went to the very top of government, inviting the Home Secretary, Charles Clarke MP to take part in the ASBO debate. The Home Secretary sent his

apologies on this occasion but emphasised the importance of gathering young people's views on ASBOs and that he would await the final report with interest.

In November 2003, HeadsUp ran a Forum on the controversial Anti-Social Behaviour Bill proposed by the Government. The main outcome of this piece of legislation is that magistrates now have the power to impose Anti-Social Behaviour Orders or ASBOs to solve the problem. Since their creation ASBOs have been the subject of a massive amount of media and political attention.

In light of this, HeadsUp held a timely Forum to establish young people's perceptions of ASBOs and their thinking on where we are currently with this legislation. HeadsUp ensures young people's voices are heard in the political arena, enhancing engagement between them and elected representatives. We have this target at the forefront of our thinking when managing all HeadsUp Forums, and in particular when assessing young people's views on the importance of safeguarding their local communities.

Students could visit the Forum as often as they liked during the three weeks that the ASBO debate ran, with over 40% of posts made out of school hours. Young people were given the opportunity to find out more about the issues and to discuss the impact ASBOs are having on society and their peers. They contributed their thoughts on ASBOs as a so-called 'solution to anti-social behaviour' and discussed suitable alternatives. These young people were also best placed to assess the role the media has played in hyping up the current situation.

The main goal of HeadsUp is not only to enable peer-to-peer deliberation on hot political issues, policies or events but also to provide students with a means of informing themselves about the topic. In keeping with the youth participation agenda, a summary report outlining key findings and quotes is disseminated to interested parties, particularly parliamentarians and government, enabling young people's voices to be heard by key decision-makers.

This ASBOs Forum, like all previous HeadsUp debates, was supported by structured, student-centred background notes that included an explanation of the key areas surrounding the current ASBO legalisation, an overview of the key issues around ASBOs, a comprehensive glossary and summaries of arguments for and against ASBOs. These and other relevant facts and figures were presented in a student-centred tone, with a deliberate effort to keep jargon to a minimum.

Students from secondary schools right across the UK took part in this ASBO debate, aged between 11 and 17. Recent HeadsUp debates on gritty issues have led to a core group of students participating regularly in the Forums. Even more impressive, is that HeadsUp still manages to attract new schools, teachers, and young people to register to take part in the debates. The participants made multiple visits over the three-week duration of the debate and there were **194 posts in total**.

This summary report gives an account of the debate that took place and includes key posts from students. Conclusions from the debate are to be found at the end of the report. Special care has been taken to ensure that the report is non-partisan and representative of the views expressed by the participants.

Please note - in trying to make a candid account of all HeadsUp debates, we want to emphasise just how difficult it is to accurately summarise the deliberations without taking young people's opinions out of context. We try to address this issue by attaching all the transcripts from the debate at the end of the longer version of the summary report.

Both the young people who took part in this ASBO debate and the Hansard Society would like to once again voice their thanks and appreciation to the decision-makers who took part in this hotly-debated Forum. We would also like to extend an invitation to interested parties, particularly parliamentarians and government, to respond to the findings.

Responses and requests for further information should be directed to:

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'ASBOs... over the top or spot on?'

Forum Summary

ASBOs - solution or problem?

As ASBOs are such a complex area of legislation we decided to split the debate into three different sections; on whether ASBOs are the solution or problem, the role the media plays in reporting ASBOs, and whether there are any alternatives to ASBOs.

HeadsUp participants were asked whether they thought ASBOs were helping to address the problem of anti-social behaviour (ASB), or are they in fact causing more problems than they solve? This proved to be the most populated message space in the debate. Edward Garnier MP got involved in the proceedings early on and set the parameters and shortcomings of ASBOs as he saw them:

"ASBOs are one weapon in the armoury to bring home to these people that they have to respect the lives and property of others. So long as they are applied for by the police or local authorities consistently, fairly and speedily, and breaches dealt with at once, rather than too late when tempers are frayed, the public's patience exhausted and their confidence in the justice system strained to breaking point, they should be supported."

Young people were not afraid to tackle the more complex parts of this piece of legislation and astutely highlighted some of the current ASBO deficiencies. HeadsUp Forum participants felt that people with ASBOs should be isolated in some way but more importantly to help them with counselling to understand the motivations behind their ASB:

"I think if we can't controll people with ASBOs we should isolate them. Not completely but send them to a camp where they can talk to trained phycologist or someone who deals with anitsocial behaviour. This way they can let problems out and we can find reasons on why they act so anti social. You could make games which reflect on trust and they could be taught to respect others... Attack is the best form of defence"

"ASBOs should have to go to someplace and be kept from other people, they should not be alouwed to contact anyone."

Picking up directly on these comments, one participant goes even further by categorically stating that in their opinion ASBOs are nothing more than a short-term measure, but, again, the same participant highlights the shortfall in care after an ASBO is issued:

"ASBO's are becoming a generalisation, assumptions being made that young rowdy people should have an ASBO slapped on them. I feel this is a short term measure, doesn't solve the problem, what about after the ASBO."

Others were clear that their main message for the decision-makers was that the solution to ASB was simple and straight-forward - more jails:

"The government has loads of money why can't Tony Blair just build more jails."

"ASBO'S should have much worse punishment like being put in jail or have long time community service"

Forum participants largely moderated each other and were not afraid to voice their disagreement. These young people, for example, were quick to see the financial and moral stumbling blocks of putting more people in prison for ASB:

"I believe that ASBO's are a great solution, because it costs the government less money. Locking people up in jail costs the government millions and prisons are quickly getting full, but this way the council can still protect people from anti-social behaviour and punish culprits without having to send them to jail."

"Replacing ASBOs with jail sentences sounds ridiculously harsh. Someone mentioned people with anti-social behavior orders attacking people, but people don't get ASBOs for attacking people, they get them for much less serious crimes such as vandalism and verbal abuse..."

This HeadsUp Forum benefited from the intervention of key decision-makers from Parliament at numerous stages of the debate. Both David Davis MP and Humfrey Malins MP posted their primary thoughts on ASBOs, paying particular attention to whether the orders are entirely necessary or indeed working:

"Despite plans for 5,000 to be used a year, only that number have been used in six years, with over a third breached. Their effectiveness at present is questionable."

"Nearly every bit of conduct covered by an ASBO is covered by existing criminal law but where are the police to enforce existing law?"

Similarly, the time-consuming problem of having sufficient police to enforce the ASB law, rather than giving the police more power, was of most concern to this student:

"I don't think the police need more power, as what power do the police need to take a couple of teenage boys home? Police just need a larger presence."

Nevertheless, some students were quick to point out the shortcomings of ASBOs, in some cases using their own experiences, but interestingly one believed that the orders were nothing more than a badge of honour, enticing young people to try and get one against them:

"ASBO don't work as well as people think, as people with ASBO see them as a badge of honour and not as a punishment."

"My neighbour is tagged by the police and he still manages to get himself arrested for various misdemeanours at 3am. How are ASBOs going to work??? This dude is tagged and he's still getting into trouble. ASBO's are just going to get ignored."

Meanwhile, this group of young people attempted to understand some of the reasons behind ASB, and to almost put themselves in the position of a young person tempted to commit ASB. Insights included, how teenagers have no control over their lives, famous singers should not be used as a scapegoat for poor behaviour, and ASB is just attention-seeking action:

"Teenagers are given no control over what they do, so they try to take some control by committing crimes. If you're getting nothing from being good, you start being bad. It's human nature."

"Why should we blame famous people like singers and actors for peoples ASB? Not everyone that listens to 50 Cent has an ASBO against them. Even if they do have an ASBO they dont always comply to them. They seem to see ASBO's as a 'Fashion Accessory' as there was a lower rate of ASB before they came into existance."

"I am personally tired of the youth 2day, the way they do all bad things just to impress their friends, and then the adults think just because the majority of us teenagers do that, that all of us are that way.. well i am a teenager and i don't need to do that stupidity just for attention."

However, another young participant was eager to think of all sides of the argument and cautiously praised ASBOs whilst giving support to the suggestion that jail could be a final option for ASBO re-offenders:

"I think that ASBOs are a good idea, up to a point, only used as a first warning, not as a punishment. If they commit the crime again they should go to jail."

The Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee in Parliament, John Denham MP, used the Forum to underline his supportive thoughts on ASBOs, which he believes are a quick solution to deal with ASB:

"ASBOs are part of the solution to antisocial behaviour where people are making the lives of others a misery. We need to have some quick mechanism to deal with this type of behaviour, which is what ASBOs provide."

However, Mark Oaten MP turned the attention of the participants on the HeadsUp Forum to the importance of preventing re-offending and underlined his desire to deal with the reasons behind anti-social behaviour, something the Forum participants had tried to tackle themselves. Intriguingly, he concludes by saying that those who commit ASB should be made to repair the damage they do to the community, which was another idea suggested by the young people in the debate:

"We need to be more ambitious about what we can achieve in preventing re-offending. Whenever ASBOs are made, they should be accompanied by measures which will address the causes, not just the symptoms, of anti-social behaviour. We need a multi-agency approach, which includes things like alcohol and drug rehabilitation, counselling and education programmes. We should also require the offender to pay something back to the community to repair the damage they have done."

Some young people picked up on what Mark Oaten MP had to say, in particular about people with ASBOs giving something back to the community, ranging from ideas such as boot camp, community service and personal rewards for good behaviour:

"For the majority of asbo's boot camp would have a positive effect on their behavior but in the most extreme cases we may need to think of something else! something does need to be done about asbo's and i think something like a boot camp is great!"

"Community service... gives the person something to do and some purpose, for part of the reason why so many people are antisocial is because they have nothing in their lives, and if they were treated with respect by their 'boss' or whatever' then it could really change their life around- hopefully....There could be some sort of rule like, if the person didn't do their community service then they would get a fine, and if they didn't pay it they would go to prison."

"reward these people with things that affect them personally and they are more likely to behave sociably just so they can get on with their lives. having something to look forward to could motivate! it's worth a try!"

When analysing the reasons behind ASB these participants were clear that the parents should accept responsibility for the education of their children, and also people with ASBOs should take a long, hard look at themselves and stop hanging round on street corners:

"I believe that in almost all cases (excluding orphans) it is the parent/guardian's fault when their children are antisocial, so maybe if you trained the parents to be better then the children will follow"

"(people with ASBOs should) realise they could change their life and become successful, instead of spending their lives "hanging around corners" and most of all being Anti-Social."

'ASBOs... over the top or spot on?'

Forum Summary

ASBOs and the media

In this part of the debate young people were asked to assess the importance of the role played by the media in reporting ASB and people who are issued with ASBOs. The discussion started with the media's portrayal of ASBOs being crucial, as some ASBO recipients were being almost rewarded by being interviewed on the news, as this participant informed his/her peers:

"i think that the media is making the ASBO into a fashionable item, for example the news is always reporting on ASBOs and interviewing teenagers with them, for some this might encourage them to become anti social in order to get attention"

The media comes in for some fierce criticism and should be much more responsible for accurate and unbiased reporting on ASBOs, according to these HeadsUp students:

"The media's reports on ASBOs are ridiculous. I'm sure I could read every single article written on the subject by certain newspapers and still not understand what they're actually complaining about. They've been too desperate for stories and ended up hyping up ASBOs beyond belief, making ASBOs in the end less effective."

"the media causes so many problems with people copying what they read other people are doing and people developed unfounded prejudices based on what they read. It wouldn't stop the problem, or be right, to stop the media printing what they want to print. People do need educating so that they don't believe everything they read, but it doesn't seem people will ever learn"

In contrast to the last two participants who were quite critical of the media, these students were vocal in their support for the institution. They drew on examples like the strict censorship regimes in China as the type of controlled media Britain should avoid and also stressed that local papers have a key role to play in ASB reporting to help enforce the ASBOs:

"the media should be able to say what they like...although perhaps they worsen political issues we don't want to become like china, with censorship...the solution is better education for the population so that they can distinguish between the truth and the tabloids..."

"ASBOS aren't a new thing, injunction orders have been around for a long time. If someone was a petty criminal causing harm and stress to another, orders could be taken out. Now the government have given them a fancy name that everyone now thinks is a good idea. They do work to a certain extent, but the media is invading peoples privacy but they have always done that. I think that in local papers people should be aware who has got ASBOs as to help enforce them. Without the media we wouldnt know who had ASBOs or not, unless we were directly involved. We need the media but they take it too far IMO."

One of the main concerns discussed was the misreporting of people with ASBOs by the media. Government statistics released in November 2005, show that fewer ASBOs were issued to under 18 year olds than to adults. However, a large group of students in the Forum felt that the media were not reporting ASB fairly, and were being particularly savage when reporting young people with ASBOs. John Denham MP picks up on this particular debate, followed by one of the students:

"The media spotlight with regard to antisocial behaviour is on young people, but I think it is better for the media to adopt a much more rounded approach or picture when it comes to reporting of these incidents."

"i think that the media like newspapers, TV and radio believe that ASBOs are only given to teenagers. Although most are given to teenagers that does not mean that all teenagers should have an ASBO and all teenagers are trouble like most people believe."

One HeadsUp participant came up with a novel and interesting analogy which they used to help their peers better understand the debate. Once again this student is very critical of the media, for what he/she sees as a misuse of its powerful position of authority. He/she felt that the constant depiction of young people wearing hoodies and committing ASB, was not helpful, and asked whether Muhammed Ali training in a hoodie would get an ASBO:

"it is because of misrepresentation in the media that children have been named mindless criminals. just because off what they wear.... mohammed ali wore a hoodie while training, does that mean he is gonna get an ASBO for smashing a shop window in brixton? martin luther king wanted equal rights for everyone, instead off people being mistreated because of there skin... children are getting mistreated because of the clothes they were."

The role played by television in influencing the behaviour of its many viewers also came under scrutiny from the participants. Young people highlighted the difference in opinion during the debate, one believing TV has a lot to answer for in 'encouraging' young people to commit ASB, whilst the other thinks that TV is not as powerful as is suggested:

"The only people, in my point of view who are responsible for crime are television...What should be shown on t.v is having the consequences shown for the character (eg going to jail for a year or something) then having everyone hating that television character, the people watching t.v will soon learn that its not big and it not clever."

"I really disagree... I don't think most people take their ideas of what is right and what is wrong from whether or not it is on television."



'ASBOs... over the top or spot on?'

Forum Summary

ASBOs - are there any suitable alternatives?

Young people are so acutely aware of the reasons behind ASB and ASBO shortcomings, they are therefore well placed to put forward their ideas on ASBO substitutes. They showed themselves to be very conscious of the role they could play in safeguarding the safety and security of the nation for future generations, rather than turning a blind eye.

As Mark Oaten MP recommended in the 'ASBOs - solution or problem' section of the debate, he felt that some form of community service was a must alongside suitable counselling services for anyone who commits ASB, especially young people.

The HeadsUp participants largely agreed that community service was a minimum requirement for all young people who commit ASB, acting as a deterrent where they can see the consequences of their actions on the community:

"Community Service could be a good alternative to ASBO's as it wouldn't cost the council anything, but instead help the council."

"i think that ASBOs should have to pay for there crimes by comunity service and should have to do the uckist thing possible because then they will get sick of doing the punishment and will hopefully be good"

A more 'hardline' or tougher approach to ASB was apparent amongst a majority of students throughout this ASBO debate. This young person, for example, felt that interventionist ideas like community service were not tough enough on ASB criminals, calling for work camps instead:

"I think instead of ASBOs people should be sent to work camps where they work all day at jobs most people wouldn't want to do there for taxes could go down because all there working for is food and somewhere to sleep"

However, John Denham MP underlined his belief that there are no interventionist alternatives to ASBOs. Interestingly, he commented that not

all ASBOs work but most are effective - more so than prison in these circumstances:

"All evidence points to the fact that short-term prison sentences don't work in terms of increasing someone's behaviour, as it could be worse when they come out of prison. Not all ASBOs work, but they are more effective than other intervention methods. Prison is not the answer."

An ongoing and hotly-debated theme throughout this topic space was the idea of microchipping people with ASBOs. Those in favour of microchipping argued that they are an effective way of tracking people with ASBOs, especially for the police:

"ASBOs should work with a tracking system so if people break thier ASBO then the police would know then can take them away"

"I think that if you used computer chips or something to identify them, like cats and dogs, then it would be easier to monitor their movement to make sure that they don't break the terms of their ASBO."

This particular discussion on microchipping remained wide open as other young people had their say, including those against the idea who pointed to the cost and invasion of privacy involved:

"Giving all of those people tracking systems would be terribly expensive..."

"I don't think microchips are a good idea. That is invading privacy!! I would hate to be monitered everywhere I went."

During the debate, the HeadsUp Moderators drew attention to an article on the BBC news website about a new ASBO alarm used in Wales that targets young people. The device issues a high pitched alarm that its distributor says can only be heard by young people under 25 due to the sensitivity of their hearing.

We asked the participants what they thought about this 'novel' approach to ASB, but rather unsurprisingly they reacted with widespread contempt to the new alarm. Some were concerned that it could damage young people's hearing, others felt it was just plain barbaric and unfair against young people:

"It's insane... If it can be heard just outside the shop door, surely it would be possible to prosecute the shop for noise pollution and have them get an ASBO. That would be cool. Is this only in one shop?"

"i agree that the alarm is barbaric. How can this help? won't it just damage peoples hearing and annoy all the dogs in the area? i don't think this is the way to go at all!"

Furthermore, Moderators picked up on another BBC news article which stated that the government had decided to put aside £500,000 which would be used to pay for support orders to help people with ASBOs. These compulsory treatments could come in the form of anger management courses, counselling for drug abuse or training schemes. Students were asked whether this was the most appropriate way to spend £500,000 to help solve ASB. This comment was typical of the strength of feeling and support for the government's decision:

"I think its a great idea to give support to people with ASBOs. Hopefully this should help them stop and maybe help to see why these people are like this. I think £500,000 is a sensible amount to pay for this."



'ASBOs... over the top or spot on?'

Conclusions

Tough on crime & call for balanced ASBO reporting

The level of debate and interaction was exceptional from start to finish in the ASBO Forum, with the welcome development of having more new schools and, therefore, new participants register for HeadsUp. These new students, like their peers on the site, were not afraid to get involved in the debate immediately, coming up with sound points, and keen questions.

The young people in this Forum highlighted the fact that they are acutely aware of the threat posed by people who commit ASB, with some even posting incidents where they have been the subject of such behaviour. Students made several pleas in the Forum; to the decision-makers in Parliament to look into the possibility of adopting more severe punishments on repeat ASBO offenders, to the media to report accurately and fairly on ASBOs whoever they are issued to, irrelevant of age, and to people everywhere to take the education of the young very seriously, especially to treat others or property appropriately and with respect.

The fact that this Forum was so closely debated and that there is still such coverage in the media only highlights the fact that a lot of questions still remain unanswered and that ASBOs are not necessarily as simple and straight-forward as the Government had hoped. These students astutely pointed out that ASBOs should not be issued without suitable guidance or rehabilitation programmes to help the person who committed ASB.

The range of enthusiastic and high profile MPs taking part online during the second and third weeks, gave the debate added clarity, impetus and parliamentary approval from the young people's collective viewpoint. The interaction between young people and decision-makers was a significant moment, as it was more than likely their first ever correspondence with an MP. It is also a significant step for HeadsUp, that so many MPs were active in the ASBO Forum space - an increase over the numbers who took part in the previous smoking debate. This is a very welcome and healthy benchmark for future Forums.

'ASBOs... over the top or spot on?' was another gritty HeadsUp Forum and therefore one that was welcomed by young people who participated, other NGOs and MPs from across the political spectrum. It provided a secure,

structured but non-sanitised platform for young people to voice their perspectives on the ASBO debate at a very important time politically.

HeadsUp tackles complex political problems but is not designed to make set recommendations. Like adults, young people have a range of perspectives on political events, issues and policies, and often favour different solutions. This resource was established not to give the 'definitive line'; rather it is about providing a space for people to share their views, challenge those of others and, in turn, be challenged.



Forum Topic Transcript :: ASBOs - solution or problem?

21/11/2005 09:00:00

justice

Welcome to the ASBOs debate...

Since their creation ASBOs have been the subject of a massive amount of media and political attention, and students will get the opportunity to make their voices heard in this HeadsUp forum. Key cross-party decision-makers in Parliament are following this debate very closely and are extremely interested in what you have to say and are taking part online in the ASBOs debate see [Who's listening?](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s94_1)

The safety and security of the nation are topics of real contention for 21st Century Britain, and the forum offers you the chance to discuss the impact ASBOs are having on society and your friends around you.

But what concerns should be top of their agenda?

Are ASBOs the solution to anti social behaviour? Does the safety of other people matter?

Try and make sure that you

[BackUp](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=home_ASBOs%20backup)

your opinions with facts/supporting evidence as much as possible.

There's lots of info for you to get your teeth stuck into in the

[BackUp](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=home_ASBOs%20backup)

section.

Something else, different to these concerns?

What are the reasons behind your choice?

21/11/2005 11:50:00

EdwardGarnierMP

Opening thoughts on ASBOs

Persistent vandalism, rowdy behaviour and general anti-social behaviour plague many communities nowadays. Sometimes it's drug- or alcohol-related and sometimes it is the result of boredom and lack of imagination but, whatever the cause, the lives of residents on inner city estates and in rural market towns are equally blighted by anti-social behaviour. Sadly far too many people, adults and youngsters alike, appear to have no sense of responsibility for their own behaviour and simply do not care about the effect of their behaviour on others.

ASBOs are one weapon in the armoury, short of detention or gaol, to bring home to these people that they have to respect the lives and property of others. So long as they are applied for by the police or local authorities consistently, fairly and speedily, and breaches dealt with at once, rather than too late when tempers are frayed, the public's patience exhausted and their confidence in the justice system strained to breaking point, they should be supported.

21/11/2005 13:39:00

04jwile

Solution

ASBO's should just be put in jail not have restrictions to places what was parliment thinking

21/11/2005 13:41:00

bazil14

asbo-solution or problem

asbos should have to go to someplace and be kept from other people, they should not be allowed (sorry for the spelling) to contact anyone.

21/11/2005 13:41:00

04apric

asbo-solution or problem

ASBO'S should have much worst punishment like being put in jail or have long time comuity service

21/11/2005 13:50:00

chilli

Food for thought

Hmmm, there is a range of interesting early comments on ASBOs. To pick up on a couple of points...

There seemed to be some agreement amongst you to keep people with ASBOs away from contact with anyone else. How do you think this idea could be enforced or policied - would it be tricky or simple?

Elsewhere, someone else thought that ASBOs were not strong enough punishment but that possible longer jail terms was an alternative method. Would longer jail terms be your favoured

option - if so, why?

21/11/2005 15:40:00

boffinbabe12

ASBOs

I believe that ASBO's are a great solution, because it costs the government less money. Locking people up in jail costs the government millions and prisons are quickly getting full, but this way the council can still protect people from anti social behaviour and punish culprits without having to send them to jail.

21/11/2005 15:43:00

boffinbabe12

Forget ASBOs, longer jail time

Longer jail time is a bad idea because it would cost the government more money that could be spent on something like education, or bird flu or the NHS

22/11/2005 09:04:00

bazil14

reply to boffinbabe12

boffinbabe12 if they are let out they will reek havock a attack people in places they are allowed(sorry for the spelling)

22/11/2005 09:07:00

04jwile

Reply to boffinbabe12

Ok boffinbabe12 you do have a point but they should at least do loads commuinity service. But won't it cost more to keep an eye on loads of ASBO'S they should just be put in jail. Why can't we just keep the same system

p.s The goverment has loads of money why can't tony blair just build more jails.

22/11/2005 09:12:00

masterzen

Spelling and Grammar

Don't worry too much if you can't remember how to spell the odd word here or there, or get into a muddle with grammar...

The most important thing is that you justify your argument as best you can in a reasoned and constructive way.

Keep up the good wrok (oops!)

22/11/2005 10:20:00

DavidDavisMP

Introduction of ASBOs - controver

Anti-social behaviour orders have been controversial. They were introduced by the Government to help deal with troublemakers over the age of ten. It was hoped that they would make troubled communities nicer places to live and provide the police with more effective powers to crack down on yobs.

Despite plans for 5,000 to be used a year, only that number have been used in six years, with over a third breached. Their effectiveness at present is questionable. I would encourage you to look at their success or failure, to look at the circumstances in which they have been used and think about the powers the police need to fight against anti-social behaviour in our communities.

How could things work better? What more can be done?

I wish you all the very best, and look forward to reading more about the debate!

22/11/2005 16:14:00

Levitica

Appropriate Sentences

Replacing ASBOs with jail sentences sounds ridiculously harsh. Someone mentioned people with anti-social behavior orders attacking people, but people don't get ASBOs for attacking people, they get them for much less serious crimes such as vandalism and verbal abuse.

I really don't see the problem with ASBOs. They are a warning, really, rather than a punishment.

They are an attempt to stop people's behavior, not punish people for it. I think people agree that there should be a warning for small, persistent crimes before punishment. People who get ASBOs for things like being noisy wouldn't have known before that that they were committing a crime. It's not like more serious crimes where people know they are doing something against the law - these sort of formal warnings, where people sign a contract agreeing to stop their illegal behavior are necessary, and if they work 2/3 of the time and stop people harrassing the people around them,

then they are probably more effective than other warnings issued by the police.
If I had a problem with a neighbour playing loud music every night and felt unable to approach them myself, I would want them to promise not to continue with this. I wouldn't want them to face a harsher punishment - what would be the point, when they're going to stop what was annoying me anyway?

Having a target on the number of ASBOs to give out is very silly though. I think everybody understands why, it's so obvious.

I like the point someone made about the government having enough money to pay for more jails. I hadn't thought of exactly that before, but I have thought about how much money the government is wasting. My school alone wastes a shocking amount of money. The government could probably afford to keep us all in jail for a year or two with the money they spent in Iraq...

22/11/2005 16:21:00

Levitica

What can be done

"Despite plans for 5,000 to be used a year, only that number have been used in six years, with over a third breached. Their effectiveness at present is questionable. I would encourage you to look at their success or failure, to look at the circumstances in which they have been used and think about the powers the police need to fight against anti-social behaviour in our communities.

How could things work better? What more can be done?"

I don't think ASBOs are really stopping the type of anti-social behavior that worries me. As a teenager, I am a target for other teenagers who are looking for someone to torment in the street. I live in a bad idea. I never see policemen out on the beat, and have never heard of someone being afraid to do something minor because they might be caught by police. I think people need to believe that there's a decent chance of a policeman walking around the corner at any moment. Even when they are called out to a burglary, policemen take hours to arrive at the crimescene, and that's then useless. Even if there is a problem with too little policemen, unless there are no policemen in charge of this area then they spend too little time walking around these streets. I don't think the police need more power, as what power do the police need to take a couple of teenage boys home? Police just need a larger presence.

22/11/2005 16:30:00

boffinbabe12

reply to 04jwile

THE GOVERNMENT SOOOO DOESN'T HAVE TONS OF MONEY!!! THE MONEY THEY GET IS FROM YOUR PARENTS TAXES AND THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT LOADED- IF THEY WERE THEN WHY ARE TAXES SO HIGH? UNLESS YOU WANT YOUR PARENTS TO BE MADE POORER BECAUSE THE TAXES ARE RAISED TO BUILD MORE PRISONS THEN I WOULD THINK ABOUT IT MORE BEFORE YOU ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF KEEPING MONEY LOCKED AWAY FROM THEMSELVES!

22/11/2005 16:44:00

Levitica

Reply

"THE GOVERNMENT SOOOO DOESN'T HAVE TONS OF MONEY!!! THE MONEY THEY GET IS FROM YOUR PARENTS TAXES AND THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT LOADED- IF THEY WERE THEN WHY ARE TAXES SO HIGH?"

Surely that's a contradiction? If taxes are "so high" and all that money goes to the government, then they must have lots and lots of money (be loaded.) All the tax money added together makes an awful lot of money.

"UNLESS YOU WANT YOUR PARENTS TO BE MADE POORER BECAUSE THE TAXES ARE RAISED TO BUILD MORE PRISONS THEN I WOULD THINK ABOUT IT MORE"

The government wastes a lot of money. Look around your school and tell me that every drop of money is spent on something worthwhile. It's not. The government bought me a £12 burger. By cutting waste, such a big spender could save a lot of money, and it would be enough to build a few more prisons. They can always turn the detention centres into proper prisons too.

"BEFORE YOU ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF KEEPING MONEY LOCKED AWAY FROM THEMSELVES!"

No one accused the government of keeping money for themselves. I don't think the other person meant that, and I don't think the government are stealing our money for themselves, I just think a lot of money is spent on things we don't want, and government funded organisations are wasting a lot of money.

22/11/2005 18:28:00

04apric

what!!!!!!!!!!!!

where on earth do you get £12 burgers from? I agree with boffinbabe12

22/11/2005 20:41:00

AHunt

old teacher rant

Get back to the point people - its not about taxes but ways to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour. I'd be interested to know who or what you think is to blame for ASB - when I was young I behaved. Sure, I hung out on the streets occasionally, but I was always home in time for dinner. Was I just a goodie goodie? Did I respect my parents wishes more than you lot do today? Am I right to say 'you lot' and just assume all young people are the problem? (this is rhetorical, obviously I know its just a significant minority). Was it because I didn't have inappropriate role models singing or rapping to influence me or make me feel that society somehow owed me a living? Is it that you see conspicuous wealth assailing you from just about every billboard and this leads to frustration? I don't know. Who gets the blame here? Is it purely the individual possessing no empathy for her or his fellow citizen? What about parents - I read lots of blame aimed at Governments and police - why can't parents control their kids? (Don't tell me ASBOs are only served on orphans) I've got a solution for you anyway: how about behaving at school; this leads to better motivated teachers; young people learn more and develop more skills, they become more employable, they earn more and guess what? They are less frustrated, have a higher self esteem and don't need to loose themselves in the bottom of a lager bottle or worse.... I'll sign off - this is meant to be a site for your views not that of old greying teachers. Anyway, I can't help it if I was into Abba and liked helping Mum prepare the dinner. I was quite hard really - I knicked apples from a tree once...

23/11/2005 09:12:00

adam91

not as threatening as you think

ASBO's are not that threatening to some youths so how are they always going to work?

23/11/2005 12:43:00

Colombo

PROBLEM!!!

ASBOS are a huge problem and they are a waste of space!!!!

23/11/2005 12:51:00

Levitica

Reply

Ahunt:

I think bad behavior in teenagers is caused by them having nothing to live for, and so no reason to behave well. Their parents are able to sustain themselves, and children are put under no pressure to go out and look after their parents, neither do most people at this age feel responsible for their parents (I don't think they should have to.)

Very few teenagers believe in God, and so have no religious reason to behave well, and school is so pathetically easy and unstimulating that I wouldn't condemn anyone for not caring about it. People need real lives.

Teenagers are given no control over what they do, so they try to take some control by committing crimes. If you're getting nothing from being good, you start being bad. It's human nature.

I used to see no meaning in my life, and I didn't care about anything around me. If people have something to work for, someone to keep happy, they will be happier themselves and not need to commit crimes or hurt others.

23/11/2005 12:52:00

Hatters

Students View on ASB

Why should we blame famous people like singers and actors for peoples ASB? Not everyone that listens to 50 Cent has an ASBO against them. Even if they do have an ASBO they dont always comply to them. They seem to see ASBO's as a 'Fashion Accessory' as there was a lower rate of ASB before they came into existance. Just because our parents generation did not have ASBO's does not mean they didnt have ASB; They cant say they're perfect.

23/11/2005 12:52:00

Levitica

04apric

04apric: Frankie and Benny's.

23/11/2005 12:52:00

Bradford

ASBO's

I think that ASBO's are a good idea but can the people who have an ASBO will not stop and they will just terrorise different people and end up with ASBOs from everywhere i think that they should be put in prison where they will not be able to terrorise innocent people.

23/11/2005 12:56:00

Singapore

Solution or not

ASBO's are becoming a generalisation, assumptions being made that young rowdy people should have an ASBO slapped on them.

I feel this is a short term measure, doesnt solve the problem, what about after the ASBO.

Today kids hang around in gangs, threatening people, the government have put in place measures to stop this, help people feel safe to walk the streets.

I feel an ASBO is a good solution, 10 - 16 year olds dont deserve prison. I also ask though perhaps its not the children that are the problem, maybe their parents. There are no measures to enforce good upbringing. A majority of the children with ASBOs have had a poor childhood with parents that couldnt care less.

Finally I remind you that adults can get ASBO's too.

23/11/2005 12:57:00

Hatters

In prison?!

theres not enough room in our prisons for every1 with an ASBO, there overcrowded enough, with people committing 'proper' crimes; and they dont even serve all their sentence.

anyway the subject is whether the ASBOs work or not, not another solution to ASB.

23/11/2005 12:57:00

Lima

ASBOS

ASbos are really a good idea as they are now identifying a huge problem in anti social behaviour.

As time goes on i think as a community we could weed out all the antisocial people.....on a different note bring back capital punishment.

23/11/2005 12:58:00

Portsmouth

ASBO

in my opinion asbos are great for poeple who are law breakin people!

23/11/2005 12:59:00

Zagreb

ASBO

I think that ASBO's are a good thing to have. People who do mi-behave and break the law deserve to have a ASBO. They deserve to be punished for what they did.

23/11/2005 12:59:00

Freetown

eeneey meanie miney mo

My neighbour is tagged by the police and he still manages to get himself arrested for various misdemeanours at 3am. How are asbos going to work??? This dude is tagged and he's still getting into trouble. Asbo's are just going to get ignored.

23/11/2005 13:01:00

Shrimps

ASBO's Jail??

I don't think that people with the title ASBO's shouldn't be put in jail, I agree that it is wrong and a bad crime to commit and they should be punished in some way, however I think the prospect of chucking people in jail, means they don't know what else to do with them. I think that a person committing a serious crime for example murder is completely different to someone with an ASBO and therefore should be treated differently.

23/11/2005 13:02:00

Bangkok

Of course their is a solution

Of course their is a solution to the asbo behaviour. alot of people nowadays especially adults judge us young teenagers thinking just because we were "hoodies" and tracksuits, that were bad and

were going to "jack" all their stuff e.t.c.

When really tracksuits are just the fashion nowadays. But because so many adults are judging us young teenagers we start to take this judgement and make it reality.. by stealing, drinking and being abusive to the public. I know we do have many celebrities who are influencing us to do bad things, e.g. 50 cent e.t.c. but they are only telling it how it was for them in the "ghetto", and the government and some adults are just using 50 cents music as an excuse for the teenagers behaviour and are not being responsible for their own actions (judging us and makin repulsive comments)

In my opinion teenagers who do this are only trying to seek attention and their problems can be solved by simple things like counselling e.t.c. not puttin them ni jail !! I personally believe the government don't really care about the asbo's and what they are doing to our society because if they did, they would have done something by now !!

I am personally tired of the youth 2day, the way they do all bad things just to impress their friends, and then the adults think just because the majority of us teenagers do that, that all of us are that way.. well i am a teenager and i don't need to do that stupidness just for attention. but i am tired of keepin my opinion in silence, i think the government should try and solve this problem before its too late !!

23/11/2005 13:04:00

Hatters

Capital punishment

that is one thing that shouldn't be bought back, anyway its about ASBOs.

not every teenager hangs around on the street either - i have fun with my friends, but none of us have ASBOs, we go to parties, drink and play games, just normal teenagers. I find that i just have enough time for school and some fun stuff, i cant hang around on the street.

23/11/2005 13:05:00

Colombo

ASBO's

I totally agree they do get ignored they aren't bothered if they are tagged and it may be because of the people around them as the society is changing for the worse in my opinion more and more people are terrorising people and property and something more serious needs to be done soon!

23/11/2005 13:05:00

York

do they work

ASBO don't work as well as people think, as people with ASBO see them as a badge of honour and not as a punishment.

23/11/2005 13:06:00

Canaries

Is Religion Antisocial??

Levitica:

I don't think that Religion plays a part or is even a reason for antisocial behaviour.

I know many people that don't have a religion or believe in a religion and they don't have ASBOs.

I think that if there has to be blame put on someone or something it is the parents. If the parents brought up their children to have respect for everyone then the amount of Anti-social behaviour would be decreased.

23/11/2005 13:11:00

justice

Messages to key decision-makers

Just to remind you that you can pose questions/comments in this Forum to the following key decision-makers...

Hazel Blears MP - Minister of State for Crime, Security and Communities (Labour)

David Davis MP - Shadow Home Secretary (Conservative)

Mark Oaten MP - Shadow Home Secretary (Liberal Democrat)

John Denham MP - Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee (Labour)

Edward Garnier MP - Shadow Home Affairs Minister (Conservative)

Lynne Featherstone MP - Home Affairs spokesperson (Liberal Democrat)

Humfrey Malins MP - Shadow Home Affairs Minister (Conservative)

NB - put the name of the MP in the subject line of the message, so as we can direct it to the right person...

ASBOs - solution or problem?

23/11/2005 13:24:00

04apric
reply to levitica
you do not get £12 pound burgers in frankies and bennys levitica

23/11/2005 13:25:00
bazil14
reply to levitica
you do not get £12 burges in frankies and bennies

23/11/2005 13:31:00
bazil14
reply to levitica
the goverment spends all the money on equipment for school and keeping in criminal etc

23/11/2005 13:35:00
bazil14
canaries
i agree with canaries about religion but it is not the religion that causes the problem it is people being RASCIST

23/11/2005 13:35:00
04apric
reply to levitica
the goverment does not waste its money in schools but it does waste money in other areas.i also agree with canaries about the reigion part of things.

23/11/2005 13:41:00
bazil14
BOFFINBABE12 IS SOOOOOOOO
THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE LOOODS OF MONEY AND IT IS ALL SPENT

23/11/2005 13:44:00
bazil14
FREETOWN
MAN YOU ARE SOOO RIGHT HOW ARE ASBOS SUPPOSTED TO WORK

23/11/2005 13:46:00
bazil14
I AGREE WITH BADFORD
ABOSO GET ALLOWED TO GO OTHER PLACES AND TERROIS OVERE PEOPLE

23/11/2005 15:36:00
adam91
how much help?
how much help do you think ASBO's are to the problems of society? how many people listen to warnings etc? and surely some people would argue that the police have more important things to do then worry about people moving in and out of areas they should and shouldn't? and surely they will move to another area and start getting in trouble there.

23/11/2005 18:37:00
bazil14
i agree with adam91
they will reek havock where ever they go and no rescriction will stop the being anti social

23/11/2005 19:15:00
04apric
i agree
i agree with adam91 about how asbos will keep causing havock but at least they will be away from the bulk of the population.

23/11/2005 19:17:00
Levitica
Reply
"Levitica:
I don't think that Religion plays a part or is even a reason for antisocial behaviour.
I know many people that don't have a religion or believe in a religion and they don't have ASBOs.

I think that if there has to be blame put on someone or something it is the parents. If the parents brought up their children to have respect for everyone then the amount of Anti-social behaviour would be decreased."

I think that to be good and be happy people need a reason to do it. I don't think being not religious means you won't be happy or a good person - I'm not religious at all, but I have other things in my life that give it meaning and encourage me to be a "good person."

It is people who don't have meaning to their lives that commit these little crimes. In the past, a higher percentage of teenagers were aware of a purpose for their lives, as a lot of them got it from religion. Do you not think religion is an incentive to be good (most of the time, at least)?

Note on Frankie and Benny's: I checked the Frankie and Benny's menu online, and the burgers were £8.95. I have been to Frankie and Benny's once in my life, but if I every return I will work my hardest to memorise how ridiculously overpriced the food was.

24/11/2005 13:24:00

adam91

levitica

i don't think religion causes anti social behaviour but when people are being racist against the religious people in a community that leads to antisocial behaviour

24/11/2005 17:00:00

03cmcglennon

adam91

I agree i dont think asb is caused by religion but by things such as a bad home or school life.

24/11/2005 19:07:00

04apric

stress

i think a lot of asbos have had problems at home or at school,maybe they where bullied or something.Bad parents lends to a lot problems in behaviour.

24/11/2005 20:23:00

03elangler

No good!

Altough ASBO's can work, more often than not the youths care so little that an ASBO will do nothing to stop them! It's just doesn't make a blind bit of difference!

25/11/2005 12:54:00

boffinbabe12

No respect

I believe ASBOs are caused when nobody has no self respect- which can be caused by a bad home life- because if nobody has any respect for themselves then how can they have respect for other people.

25/11/2005 13:36:00

Selkie

Good Points!

Hello Evr1!

I see u've all benn busy, and so have we, we got a teacher who worked with abos to give a talk, and what he said was very interesting...

...It seems you, like I was, are wondering how asbos are policed, well I found out that it's up to the public to police them. If they see someone breaking their asbo (they know who they are due to information leaflets that are sent out, and posters) then they can call the police. I think this is a good idea - it is in the public's interests to prevent people making a nuisance of themselves in their area, isn't it?

25/11/2005 13:43:00

Selkie

Jail

I am wondering whether or not the idea of people being sent to jail for breaking their asbos, when they didn't have to actually commit a crime to get one in the first place, is a good one.

Surely they are overcrowded already with REAL convicts, who have actually done something to get there...?

I have a feeling, however, that what they did to get the asbo is taken into account before they're thrown in jail.

25/11/2005 13:44:00

chilli

ASBOs = over reactive?

Do you agree with ASBO critics who argue that they are an over reactive measure that can criminalise people for behaviour that is not criminal?

Everyone needs to chill out a bit...

25/11/2005 13:58:00

Selkie

John Denham

Mr. Denham,

Are there any alternatives to ASBOs?

I am not sure that it is fair for people who have not committed a crime except breaking their ASBO (which at the same time could just mean going into an area where they have been told not to - not actually doing anything anti-social) to have the incident recorded, and possibly thrown in jail?

And should it be that it only has to be highly probable that someone has done something to get an ASBO, not proved beyond reasonable doubt?

25/11/2005 14:05:00

Selkie

Festive Season

It seems in some towns that, around the festive season, people are spending more time GETTING merry, rather than BEING merry.

Around Christmas and New Year Anti-Social Behaviour peaks, due to the consumption of alcohol.

Alcohol Control Orders (I think this is what they are called) mean that, at the policeman's discretion, alcohol can be taken off people, if they look as though they will act anti-socially with it.

Also, you can now have alcohol, open or sealed, taken off you if you are underaged, by the police.

25/11/2005 14:06:00

flowerfluff

ASBOs for minor criminal offence

I think that ASBOs are useful to issue to people who have committed a minor criminal offence (e.g. shoplifting, vandalism), however I do not think that people who have done this for the first time should be punished with ASBOs.

However, I think that some people given ASBOs care so little that them having an ASBO wouldn't make the slightest difference. They would maybe even get worse because of the anger they would feel having been issued with one.

About religion as a reason for anti-social behaviour. I think this could be a small part of the answer, as very few teenagers believe in God, therefore don't feel they have any reason to behave in the way the law says they should.

Also, another reason could be that their parents don't bring them up properly, teaching them right from wrong.

25/11/2005 14:06:00

swift strider

Send Them Away!

I think if we can't control people with ASBOs we should isolate them. Not completely but send them to a camp where they can talk to trained psychologist or someone who deals with antisocial behaviour. This way they can let problems out and we can find reasons on why they act so anti social. You could make games which reflect on trust and they could be taught to respect others. Hopefully this would make a great deal of progress on controlling people with ASBOs. Attack is the best form of defence, if leave people with anti social behaviour alone it will just become a greater problem in are everyday lives.

25/11/2005 14:09:00

Selkie

Are ASBOs fair???

Is it fair that you can get an ASBO at the age of 10, without having committed a crime and then do something which would not normally be a crime, and then get put in prison - not having committed any crimes at all?

Also, it is definitely not fair that you can be named and shamed in the newspapers - it could put people in real danger.

25/11/2005 15:45:00

03elangler

03cmglennon

i think you have a good point and i agree that it is all probably all to do with home life and school

life. if people are having a bad time themselves then they are more likely to rebel against society!

28/11/2005 15:07:00

HumfreyMalinsMP

My thoughts.

I think Labour has always been after smart headlines and a proper enforcement of existing law would have rendered ASBOs as unnecessary.

Nearly every bit of conduct covered by an ASBO is covered by existing criminal law but where are the police to enforce existing law?

ASBOs are increasingly too widely drawn and too many young people are being sent into custody for breach for much longer periods than they would for committing the offence which gave rise to the ASBO.

To prove my point about headline seeking the government are now introducing a drink banning order (a DBO), which can ban someone from going into licensed premises. But there are lots of laws enabling this at the moment.

With 80% of crimes unsolved and unprosecuted what we really need is more police on the streets, less paperwork, hard enforcement of existing law, and fewer silly headlines.

28/11/2005 17:14:00

Levitica

Humphrey Malins

I agree with what you said about Labour caring far too much about their image in the media. I think the way they are running the country has forced every public service to become obsessed with making headlines.

I don't understand about "...and too many young people are being sent into custody for breach for much longer periods than they would for committing the offence which gave rise to the ASBO." though. Your party is constantly seeing that harsher punishments, or deterrents, need to exist for criminals, both those who commit major and minor offences. In this situation it seems the ASBO has acted as a way to come down harsher on these people, rather than the old methods which would see the person facing a shorter sentence.

I'm also a bit confused as to why you say this happens to "young people" rather than people. Are young people being given a raw deal with ASBOs, getting harsher sentences compared to older people in the same situations?

28/11/2005 17:25:00

tmyp

yeh but no but.. im not sure

im not sure if they work aswell as there meant to because all ure doin is makin people sad when they get them and after tht they become angry and more likley to get another 1

28/11/2005 17:33:00

tmyp

i agree with 04apric

because if they have restritions on were they got they can still b antisocial but comunity service will let them c wot they r doin to the comunity and all it population

29/11/2005 13:08:00

chilli

Support for your views on ASBOs

The children's charity NCH this week echoed your ASBO concerns calling for a balance between support and enforcement for children with antisocial behaviour.

They highlight that only nine of the 368 10- to 17- year-olds issued with ASBOs between January and March 2005 were also given an individual support order to help them address the underlying causes of their behaviour.

Food for thought?

29/11/2005 15:14:00

JohnDenhamMP

ASBOs

ASBOs are part of the solution to antisocial behaviour where people are making the lives of others a misery.

We need to have some quick mechanism to deal with this type of behaviour, which is what ASBOs provide.

What you cannot do is say to the public that they will have to put up with this sort of unacceptable behaviour.

30/11/2005 13:46:00

bazil14

mp i agree

i agree with the jhon denhammp totaly

Downlands Community School

30/11/2005 13:47:00

tmyy

i agree with the mp

i agree with john denham totaly because they make them realise wot they have done to the community

30/11/2005 15:20:00

04rpayn

reply 04jwile

Tony Blair doesn't have loads of money so do you want him taxing your mum and or dad to the extent that you can't have any extra treats or see them during the hol's More prisons=more taxes

30/11/2005 15:28:00

04rpayn

Reply:Lima

I agree compleatly bring back the cane and hanging we could intro duce the electric chair!

30/11/2005 17:25:00

bluebell

QUESTION

why are there so many townys and chavs in bishops stortford and why do they want sex?

30/11/2005 19:57:00

danzo

Reply 04rpayn

I don't think the electric chair should be brought back

in,that's a bit harsh for a person that didn't commit such a bad crime you need to be a pass murderer to get the alactric chair. personally i don't think asbos are all that good i think they should go to jail for a month or s instead and if they don't get the point they should go to jail again and so on.

01/12/2005 08:54:00

bazil14

rpayn

if we bring back the death sentence we will be a barbaric community and we will have to paY MORE TAXES TO GET THE ELETRIC CHAIR

01/12/2005 08:59:00

04apric

04rpayn

i total agree with you about the cane but not the eletric chair.the cane would by good because it would teath the children a good lesson.i don't think that dentention is good enough,people just don't care if they miss there lunch or whenever there dentention is.

01/12/2005 09:02:00

bazil14

RE: LIMA

I DISSAGRE WITH WITH YOU ABOUT BRING BACK THE DEATH SENTENCE

01/12/2005 09:04:00

tmyy

reply: 04rpayn

the electric chair should not b brought bak into the comunity because the ASBO's r doin there job in a different way than meant to.

01/12/2005 09:07:00

04jwile

Reply: 04Rpayn

Yo guys wats up haven't been on for a while but i'am sure u have been busy. Anyway we should not have the electric chair back and death sentence don't start me on that our country would be

hated. Killing is a horrible way to punish people i mean how do they learn there lesson they can't because they they would be died so punish them in way that they learn there lesson like jail. And hanging the cane would be even worse and all of this killing would make very uncivilised 04 rpayn what are you thinking.

01/12/2005 09:10:00

tmyp

04RPAYN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

that is so uncivilised! that is murder on a different matter scale.

the cane would b child abuse and some kids would not want to come to skool andn learn but they dont get ounished for it the oparents will get punished and maybe sent to jail for it.

01/12/2005 09:10:00

04jwile

John Denham MP

John Denham totaly agree with you lets hope every one agrees to it

James

01/12/2005 09:12:00

04jeill

ASBOs

There should be community service in the closed of area

01/12/2005 15:31:00

Levitica

Death penalty

Hang on... are you people talking about bringing back the death penalty in general (which has nothing to do with the subject) or are you actually talking about the death penalty for people who commit the crimes that get ASBOs, such as graffiti?

01/12/2005 18:57:00

04apric

death

i do agree that we should have the death penity for very bad crimes like what sadam hussain did but not just for what you get an asbo for that's mental.i think that people should not get asbo's at all because they should be brought up harder.the parents should be stricker and there should be a caning for bad behaviour at school,i do not think this is child abuse because the child will know whats coming if they behave bad

02/12/2005 10:11:00

masterzen

Government assessment of ASB

Louise Casey (national director of the antisocial behaviour unit at the Home Office) recently gave the following assessment of ASBOs:

"Our experience is that where dispersal orders are working well, crime has collapsed; where publicity has been used in ASBO cases, people have been empowered to come forward where previously they were intimidated; and where action is taken through warnings or acceptable behaviour contracts, problems are nipped in the bud. Police, local authorities and residents are telling us that this action is creating safer, better places to live."

Is this appraisal accurate in your view, or too much blue sky thinking (unrealistic)?

02/12/2005 13:40:00

joen

ASBOS

Everything is too soft nowadays; bring back the Tories to harden things up!! If we slash the benefits of people, they will be forced to work and will be off the streets. Anyway, about ASBOS, I think they should be much much harsher, even going as far as excluding them from certain towns and areas, and if they breach the ASBO... well... welcome to Cell Block H, matey!!

02/12/2005 13:52:00

RD3000

AsBoS!

i think asbos are a good idea and a good solution to people who have been bad.

02/12/2005 13:54:00

Selkie

The Death Penalty

The problem with the death penalty is that if you give it to someone, kill them and then find out they are innocent, and someone else did it? At least if you put someone in prison you can release them later if you're wrong. Besides, suicide is against the law, and giving a failed suicide attempter the death penalty sort of ruins the point really...

02/12/2005 13:58:00

Selkie

Asbos are making crimes out of t

Although they are making crimes out of things that already are crimes, Asbos make it easier for the police to get a conviction, no solid concrete evidence is needed, because you aren't locking them up, just placing restrictions on them.

Should the punishments be harder? What do you think?

02/12/2005 13:59:00

flowerfluff

Louise Casey & Death penalty.

I think that Louise Caseys quote is good, but this is presuming that asbos will definately work, and that people aren't going to break them.

If people do respect their asbos, then this would be fine, but they don't always do this.

Also, about the death penalty, I think that it should be bought back. I think this because if someone killed someone else on purpose (eg. not knocking them down in a car crach by accident), they deserve to be killed themselves.

For example, if somebody were to kill somebody that is close to you, then you would want them killed, wouldn't you?

02/12/2005 13:59:00

swift strider

Suicide

If some one is about to commit suicide and they get caught there is no piont to give them the death penalty. Is that what you are trying to say?

02/12/2005 14:00:00

Selkie

P.S the death penalty

I think that suicide is against the law, but I might be wrong.

02/12/2005 14:02:00

flowerfluff

Re:Selkie

I agree with you that it would be awful if someone got killed that was actually innocent.

People should be kept in jail until the courts have proof that they definately did kill the person they supposedly did. Then, when the courts have proof, they should be able to issue the death penalty.

02/12/2005 14:02:00

robiee

ASBOs

I think that ASBOs are a good idea, up to a point, only used as a first warning, not as a punishment. If they commit the crime again they should go to jail.

BUT to stops people getting ASBOs in the first place more police need to be on the streets, better education for mainly teenagers to learn that it is NOT a good idea to have an ASBO as a title.

The Death Pentaly should completely stay banned in this country. this Country shouldn't be as harsh as the touries, more caring, letting parents teach their children about scoiecty, polotics and gernal ways to act arounf things. Not steal old ladies hand bags, or playing loud music, so everyone else in the world can hear it.

02/12/2005 14:02:00

swift strider

Death Penalty

But if the person was mentaly disturbed and really depressed the best thing could be to give them the death penalty and therefor there would be a point to the death sentence.

02/12/2005 14:03:00

flowerfluff

Suicide

Suicide IS against the law.

02/12/2005 14:07:00

Selkie

I think that people who get asbos must be quite troubled, or have had a troubled childhood, because normal people who have proper outlets for their feelings don't run around reeking havok. They need counselling or something.

02/12/2005 14:08:00

Selkie

The death penalty

Yes

02/12/2005 14:09:00

flowerfluff

Re:Swift Strider

If the person was disturbed enough, wouldn't they have already committed suicide before the courts got round to giving them the death penalty?

04/12/2005 20:59:00

Levitica

Quick point, not important...

"Everything is too soft nowadays; bring back the Tories to harden things up!! If we slash the benefits of people, they will be forced to work and will be off the streets."

Are most of the people hanging around the streets near you old enough to claim unemployment benefits? The oldest people here are around 18, and there are only a handful that old. Average age would be about 14. (I'm not counting young children playing games and stuff, just people who "hang around.") It must be quite amusing where you live if there are loads of 40 year old men and women sat drinking on the street corner.

05/12/2005 11:22:00

chilli

the story so far...

It has been very interesting to read your views on a whole range of issues related to ASBOs: solution or problem? These include:

- ASBOs are a warning rather than a punishment
- concern that ASBOs are not stopping the anti-social behaviour
- ASBOs are more like a badge of honour to some
- not blaming singers/actors for antisocial behaviour via their music/acting

Is there anything else that the debate has so far not covered or have you got anything else to add?

05/12/2005 16:39:00

dipsy

asbos, are they really thought thr

asbos have had good effects on this country, but also, they are seem as being 'cool.'

people who get asbos are thought to be bad boys/girls and therefore are seen as a good thing to a teenager with a mixed up mind (not saying all teenagers are like that).

they need harsher penalties like 10 years community service if u get 2 asbos, or even 30 years in prison, i think the police need to be really harsh on one person, to be an example to the rest.

05/12/2005 20:35:00

Levitica

Crimes

A lot of you seem to be proposing really harsh punishments for some of these crimes... Just wondering, what do you think should be the usual sentences (warnings? punishments?) for each of the following:

graffiti

kerb-crawling

begging

noisiness that is annoying next door neighbours lots

intimidating behavior (not really intentionally)

shouting names at someone in the street

fly-tipping

Do you think that people doing these things should be treated differently if they are under 16?

Under 18?

06/12/2005 09:09:00

tmyb

agree/dissagree with dipsey

when they get ASBO's they think they are cool and would do most of their same stuff over again. the 10 years of community service would help the community and show what they have done to the community but the 30 years in jail would be over the top and is a bit harsh to just 1 person 2 set an example 2 the others! the 1 person that gets the punishment would be singled out by other police and then get a criminal record they don't deserve.

06/12/2005 09:11:00

bazil14

re:dipsey

i agree partly with dipsey, i think that community punishment it would be what we need because it helps the community but if we have the jail sentence the taxes will go even more expensive (i will finish later)

06/12/2005 12:12:00

danzo

asbos out the window industriel w

I think instead of asbos they should have intense labour where they do extremely hard work for the best part of the day to get a little food and because prisoners work all day taxes could go down and the people would love that!

06/12/2005 12:15:00

dipsy

yeh i agree

your right bazil, if we increase the asbo penalty to a jail sentence we will as a country have to pay more tax. But if we fine the asbo offender for the sentence and jail (eg making someone pay for themselves to go to prison, i no its harsh but if they are that bad the teenagers deserve it) then the tax will be covered and hopefully they won't do it again.

06/12/2005 13:45:00

justice

Polite reminder

This is just a polite reminder asking you all to respect your HeadsUp peers and also to adhere to the [site guidelines](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s1_8).

When arguing your point, there is no need for anyone to make a personal attack on another individual, just because you don't agree with their perspective.

If these guidelines are consistently contravened, we have the right to remove you from the Forum.

06/12/2005 17:45:00

boffinbabe12

Prison...

I really don't think sending ASBOers to prison is a good idea because there tend to be two types of punishment by the law- fine or jail (and more recently ASBO) but if you give some person both punishments it is a bit over the top- considering most ASBOers haven't committed a crime as serious as something like robbery. Also, sometimes people are made to stay longer in prison than they were sentenced because of various reasons and when most people come out of prison they have very little, if not, any money so how would they be expected to pay even more money to keep themselves in prison because they have to stay in there longer. ALSO, paying the money it will cost the government to keep you in prison and is a bit like paying for a hotel, and if somebody doesn't pay a fine, they go to prison so how on earth would that work out? I don't mean to offend or patronise anyone so please don't take any offence. Also, if you want to talk about ASBO alternatives, there is another forum for that....

06/12/2005 17:59:00

boffinbabe12

don't slash benefits- not a solution

If the Tories came into power and slashed all benefits then yes tax would be lowered dramatically and people who live on benefits would, theoretically, have to work, but what about all those people who physically cannot work because of a disability or do work but have a job that provides them with little pay so they need their money to support their family. You mustn't say that EVERYBODY who lives off benefits are the anti-social people because it isn't true, everybody is capable of being anti-social and of getting an ASBO and a large majority of people with ASBOs are teenagers so wouldn't have a job because they are living with their parents so how would slashing benefits and throwing their family out onto the street help them????? At least the Labour party/ government are

trying to help out those in need and get people off the streets! Get rid of someones benefits then a large majority of them still won't work or get a well paid job, they will grow to live on the streets and then become antisocial against people because they feel the world owes them something and resent those more fortunate than themselves and this will increase the numbers of anti social people.

07/12/2005 17:14:00

MarkOatenMP

ASBOs are only part of the solutio

I'm glad to see that this forum has attracted so much interest. No-one can deny that this country faces a serious problem with low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.

ASBOs have a role to play in tackling this problem but the difficulty with the Government's approach is that it is all too often wholly negative.

We need to be more ambitious about what we can achieve in preventing re-offending. Whenever ASBOs are made, they should be accompanied by measures which will address the causes, not just the symptoms, of anti-social behaviour.

We need a multi-agency approach, which includes things like alcohol and drug rehabilitation, counselling and education programmes. We should also require the offender to pay something back to the community to repair the damage they have done.

08/12/2005 08:57:00

bazil14

the problem with asbos is.....

the harder the punishment the more the taxes rise so we need to find the punishment that won't raise the tax and will give the asbos the punishment that fits the crime like community service.

08/12/2005 09:04:00

tmyb

how long have ASBO's been arou

how long have we had ASBO's ? because i want to know how well they have done in the past and c if its just the kids of today that are makin the comunity a mess and making gettin a ASBO a real cool thing to get and getting a cool reputation on the streets and when they finish they will go out and get a criminal record

08/12/2005 09:05:00

04apric

boffinbabe

i think your right boffinbabe slashing benifits is not the way to go i will only course more trouble people could be really angry because their fill their have been negleted because their have a disability which could course people to rebel againt the government. This is not the solution to the asbo problem. I think the best way to deal the asbo problem is to harden thing up at home and at school with sricter parents and bringing back the cane.

08/12/2005 09:06:00

bazil14

i agree with boffinbabe

if we bring back the torey yes the taxes will go down but think about the homeless people are mps at the moment are sorting out people on the streets getting them new homes. but if they come back there will be more people on the street so we should keep the current mps and will eventually will find the solotion

08/12/2005 22:52:00

boffinbabe12

RESPECT

What the asboers need is respect. i have said this several times on the forum so it is probs getting boring, but il say it anyway! If we help these people to realise that they are or can be productive and repected members of society then it would bring down the antisocial rate by so much. Main reason why people are anti-social is because of problems at home. If their parents treat them with no respect, and therefore they have no respect for themselves, how on earth will they have respect for other people and their feelings? ASBO's could really work, if they are approached more as a new opputunity to change their ways, rather than a 'DONT DO THAT OR ELSE' punishment. If ASBOers are helped out by the council- i.e they help them get in touch with local businesses and find jobs, then hopefully we will soon be seeing a decrease in antiisocial behaviour and an increase in productive members of society. Respect is all people need.... i think....

09/12/2005 10:29:00

Tokyo

anti -social behaviour

In my opinion clubs and pubs who close late at night should be well monitored by Police . Security must be more strict and should keep an eye on regular customers who tend to over drink as a result causing inappreciate behaviour and affecting the lives of innocent people getting harmed aswell which should be taken into consideration and should be dealt with

09/12/2005 13:47:00

robiee

Pubs

Even if pubs are given more security people will still get drunk and commit ASBOs, while taking up valuable police time, money and effort. Police patrols should be increased in town/city centre when pubs are closed, to stop drunk people from hurting others or themselves any more.

09/12/2005 13:51:00

Selkie

I agree

I agree - people who live near pubs get very disturbed at closing time, with drunks and louts making big noises. It is disgusting to walk down the street and find vomit and other disgusting things in your path. Pubs closing later I think is also a bad idea. we have a binge drinking problem in this country already, surely now is not the time to encourage it? Mind you, people who are for the later closing times (Mainly pub owners, surprise surprise) say that it will mean people have more time to drink and will not try to cram it all in. Are these people sure that the drinkers wont see it as more time to drink more in?

09/12/2005 14:03:00

pluto

long hours for pubs to open

people say that by having longer hours to drink their drink they will not drink as much as they take it slowly. i dont agree with this because people will take their drinks slower but will still have more to drink. so this defeats the problem.

09/12/2005 14:05:00

robiee

Pubs

should we limit the % and volume of the alcohol which people are allowed to buy. to stop people from getting completely drunk!!!!!!!

09/12/2005 16:48:00

justice

Thank you

It seems a shame to close this Forum but that's the way it goes unfortunately.

But what a debate it has been!

You should all be proud of yourselves. You made your points, used evidence, asked questions, tried different viewpoints and came up with practical solutions - all around a set of very difficult and controversial issues. That's no small achievement!

Those MPs who agreed to provide feedback afterwards have certainly got a lot to chew over.

Watch this space!

The next Forum is on the subject of the European Union which begins on February 27th. Hope to see you there.

Have a great xmas....

Forum Topic Transcript :: ASBOs...and the media

21/11/2005 09:00:00

justice

Welcome to the ASBOs debate...

Since their creation ASBOs have been the subject of a massive amount of media and political attention, and students will get the opportunity to make their voices heard in this HeadsUp forum.

Key cross-party decision-makers in Parliament are following this debate very closely and are

extremely interested in what you have to say and are taking part online in the ASBOs debate see [Who's listening?](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s94_1)

The safety and security of the nation are topics of real contention for 21st Century Britain, and the forum offers you the chance to discuss the impact ASBOs are having on society and your friends around you.

Try and make sure that you [BackUp](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=home_ASBOs%20backup) your opinions with facts/supporting evidence as much as possible. There's lots of info for you to get your teeth stuck into in the [BackUp](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=home_ASBOs%20backup) section.

But what role are the media playing in ASBO reporting? Should it concern us?

Given the official statistics released in early November (in the [BackUp](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s95_5) section) are you surprised that more ASBOs were issued to people over the age of 18 than to young people? Do you think it's important that all ASBOs are reported fairly by the media - if so why?

Can we make the situation better? Can we make it worse?

What's your take on it?

ASBOs...

ASBOs...and the media

22/11/2005 16:27:00

Levitica

The point?

I really don't understand what the problem is with ASBOs. They are meant to stop people continuing behavior which is somehow bothering others, and they have been reasonably successful.

The media's reports on ASBOs are ridiculous. I'm sure I could read every single article written on the subject by certain newspapers and still not understand what they're actually complaining about. They've been too desperate for stories and ended up hyping up ASBOs beyond belief, making ASBOs in the end less effective. Many people now getting ASBOs believe that every teenager, his grandmother and his dog already have an ASBO, and take their contract they have made with the police less seriously.

23/11/2005 11:26:00

biged

Naming and shaming via the med

People subject to ASBOs can now also be "named and shamed" with their photographs and details published in local papers and on leaflets distributed in the area where they live.

Is this the right way to deal with people with ASBOs against their name - what do you think of alternative methods such as re-educating the person responsible, or give them community service or perhaps counselling would be the best solution?

23/11/2005 12:42:00

Shrimps

ASBO'S

I think that ASBO'S are not mediated enough because many people do not know what they mean. Everyone thinks ASBO'S are really bad because there isn't enough coverage to explain what they entail. I personally do not know exactly what they mean and would wish to know more. When we read about teenagers that have been given this title of ASBO, all we hear is the bad crimes they have committed and in some cases do not know what the ASBO means they can or cannot do, in this case I think that we should get to know more about ASBO'S and they should be explain, maybe in school in lessons like this.

23/11/2005 12:44:00

Oxford

representation

it is because of misrepresentation in the media that children have been named mindless criminals. just because off what they wear.... mohammed ali wore a hoodie while training, does that mean he is gonna get an asbo for smashing a shop window in brixton? martin luther king wanted equal rights for everyone, instead off people being mistreated because of there skin... children are getting mistreated because of the clothes they were.

23/11/2005 12:56:00

Ely

Asbo

I think that ASBOs are a good thing in order to put naughty children back on track and try to steer them away from the path of jail, alcohol and drugs. However 2431 ASBOs were issued in England and Wales to young people aged 10-17, between April 1999 to March 2005. What does this say about the younger generation? They obviously are not getting attention that they need in order for them to stop misbehaving. people cannot complain about younger people who misbehave if people are unwilling to do anything in order to stop it. Schools expel children or put them in isolation which is fair enough but after a week they are allowed back into the normal surroundings of school life. If there was harsher punishments in school and at home then there would be less children misbehaving. I feel that the problems do now only start at school but you have to be disciplined from a younger age so that you do know what is right or wrong. If the children have no firm family discipline they do not know what is right or wrong as they have been allowed to do what they like for a long period of time.

Not only the younger generation are getting ASBO's though. 2922 ASBOs were issued in England and Wales to people over the age of 18, between April 1999 to March 2005. What impression are adults giving to the children of the future if they are receiving ASBO's.

23/11/2005 13:05:00

Singapore

ASBOS are too hyped

ASBOS aren't a new thing, injunction orders have been around for a long time.

If someone was a petty criminal causing harm and stress to another, orders could be taken out.

Now the government have given them a fancy name that everyone now thinks is a good idea.

They do work to a certain extent, but the media is invading people's privacy but they have always done that. I think that in local papers people should be aware who has got ASBOs as to help enforce them.

Without the media we wouldn't know who had ASBOs or not, unless we were directly involved. We need the media but they take it too far IMO.

23/11/2005 13:07:00

Bradford

ASBOs in the media

i think that the media like newspapers, TV and radio believe that ASBOs are only given to teenagers. Although most are given to teenagers that does not mean that all teenagers should have an ASBO and all teenagers are trouble like most people believe.

23/11/2005 14:02:00

Canaries

ASBOs

I do not think that ASBOs do put the 'naughty' children back on track, many of the people break the conditions of their ASBO and many do appeal against their ASBO, (normally getting it taken away).

In regards to the media, i think that the media is making the ASBO into a fashionable item, for example the news is always reporting on ASBOs and interviewing teenagers with them, for some this might encourage them to become anti social in order to get attention.

I think the children that get anti-social behaviour orders are just attention seeking, and think that by terrorising people they will get the attention, this to me all stems down to the parents and the child's family situation.

24/11/2005 09:05:00

03beills

ensorship

the media should be able to say what they like...

although perhaps they worsen political issues we don't want to become like china, with censorship...

the solution is better education for the population so that they can distinguish between the truth and the tabloids...

24/11/2005 15:43:00

Levitica

03beills

I think 03beills is absolutely right, the media causes so many problems with people copying what they read other people are doing and people developed unfounded prejudices based on what they read. It wouldn't stop the problem, or be right, to stop the media printing what they want to print. People do need educating so that they don't believe everything they read, but it doesn't seem people will ever learn.

29/11/2005 13:09:00

gruff

Surprising stat?

According to public opinion research conducted by BT, 10% of children say that police have moved them on even though they have done nothing wrong.

Do you think this figure is a little low - I expected it to be slightly higher, given the hyped-up media coverage young people seem to get in relation to antisocial behaviour.

What do you think?

29/11/2005 15:19:00

JohnDenhamMP

Media focus

The media spotlight with regard to antisocial behaviour is on young people, but I think it is better for the media to adopt a much more rounded approach or picture when it comes to reporting of these incidents.

29/11/2005 17:41:00

Levitica

Shocking statistic

I would have guessed around that statistic. The teenagers who will always be questioned whether they do anything or now are those on the streets at night in large groups, who aren't all teenagers, as many people seem to think.

Either way, 10% is probably greater than the amount of teenagers who actually commit crime, and that amount of people shouldn't have been bothered by the police for doing nothing, but if it was helping the police find the criminals then so be it.

02/12/2005 11:45:00

biged

Misrepresentation of ASBOs

To highlight the point about the misrepresentation of ASBOs in the media, you might want to have a look through the contrasting articles (below).

Which article and style of reporting worries you the most and why?

Can we do anything to adress this?

'Inappropriate' Asbos risk harming children for life, says top adviser

The Independent

By Ben Russell

19 November 2005

Anti-social behaviour orders (Asbos) could prove 'catastrophic' to children's prospects if they are not properly applied, the Government's new children's commissioner has warned.

Professor Al Aynsley-Green said inappropriate Asbos could be damaging to young people and they should be a last resort.

He made his comments as part of an investigation by the BBC 1 series Panorama, which highlights cases of interim orders being imposed on children without any formal warning.

The programme highlighted the case of a teenager who was arrested 24 times because he did not understand the conditions of the order. His mother told the BBC that he set fire to himself, bit his arm through to the bone and tried to hang himself as a result of his Asbo.

Professor Aynsley-Green told the programme: 'If the Asbo is inappropriate, if it's not proportionate, if it's not just, if the Asbo is breached, then there is a risk of that child or young person having a criminal record.'

'That could be catastrophic for their life chances with employment and so on.

'Surely it's not fair or just to apply an order on a young person who can't understand the implications of the order. What that person needs is support ... to be able to cope with their behaviour, not be punished and criminalised as a consequence.'

"Colditz camps plan for ASBO families"

by JONATHAN OLIVER

Mail on Sunday

9th October 2005

Entire families would be confined without trial in 'Colditz-style' camps under draconian new laws being drafted as part of Tony Blair's drive to restore 'respect' in British society. The Mail on Sunday has learned that so-called 'neighbours from hell' will be placed in 'sin bins' policed by private security guards with powers to detain residents and impose curfews.

The Prime Minister is also examining plans to confiscate the homes of parents whose children are accused of persistent anti-social behaviour under the controversial measures proposed by Downing Street 'Respect Tsar' Louise Casey.

Although unelected and unaccountable, Ms Casey has been given a free hand by the Prime

Minister to find ways of dealing with problem families who terrorise council estates - and her ideas will cause deep divisions between Ministers. Ms Casey has previously found herself in the spotlight when, in an expletive-filled afterdinner speech earlier this year, she confessed that she enjoyed being 'hammered' and said she would like to 'deck' Ministers. She also suggested Ministers might perform better if they were to 'turn up in the morning p***ed'.

The idea for sin bins is based on a scheme which has been running in Dundee for almost a decade. Nicknamed 'Colditz' by locals, the project in the St Mary's housing estate consists of a tenement of six flats surrounded by high fencing and closed-circuit TV cameras.

In Dundee, residents can come and go as they please, and most have already signalled they want to reform. They are typically single mothers who have lost control of their teenage offspring and are keen for help from the authorities.

But under the legislation now being drawn up, so-called problem families may be forced into these boot camps against their will. And the guards, known as porters, will be given wide powers to lock up residents, enforce curfews, restrain troublemakers and, in extreme cases, keep mothers and their children apart in separate accommodation.

The exact legal mechanics of how problem families will be forced into these camps has yet to be determined. However, officials believe the answer lies in an extension of anti-social behaviour orders, used against thousands of alleged troublemakers since their introduction in 1998.

ASBOs bypass the ordinary Crown Court system by allowing police and local authorities to apply to magistrates for orders restricting the movement of individuals. Applications are rarely refused.

Mr Blair's Respect Bill will also contain a draconian measure to deprive anti-social families of their own homes. Home Secretary Charles Clarke is understood to be concerned at the wide powers given to the gaffeprone Ms Casey. However, she retains the total confidence of the Prime Minister who recently ordered £90million to be diverted from schools and the fight on crime to pay for the work of her Anti-Social Behaviour Unit.

A senior civil servant said: 'Charles Clarke and the Home Office are almost completely out of the loop. Blair simply does not trust them. He regards them as timid sandal-wearing liberals.' It is that frustration which led him to back Ms Casey, who promises to get things done fast, even if that means upsetting Ministers.

Mr Blair indicated in his speech to the recent Labour conference that he was looking at radical reforms to the 'Dickensian' criminal justice system. 'We are trying to fight 21st Century crime - antisocial behaviour, binge drinking, organised crime - with 19th Century methods,' he said.

But last night civil liberties campaigners warned that the new measures risked seriously eroding the principle that the accused is innocent until proven guilty. A spokeswoman for Liberty said: 'Respect needs to be a two-way street. Creating a ghetto where you put an entire family because of the crimes of one individual is wrong.'

02/12/2005 14:01:00

joen

ASBOS

Oxford - that's rubbish! No-one ever got an ASBO just for wearing a hoodie, in fact, troops of idiots wearing hoodies (NOT that I think that all hoodie-wearers are idiots, just that it seems to be the chav garment of choice, other than stupidly-expensive trainers and slightly-tilted baseball caps) strut round the streets, acting like they own the place, spitting, shouting and swearing, yet did any of the several policemen in town even approach them? NO!! Policemen should be allowed to have cattleprods, and shock anyone that is annoying them, or 'misbehaving'. These idiots are intimidating everyone and ruining towns which could be lovely. The other day, when a couple of friends and I were in town, we had a cup of hot chocolate thrown at us, which drenched one of our number. If this chocolate had been at full heat, it could have scalded him/her, and he/she would have had to go to hospital. Yet, although several people witnessed this event, the only keeper of the peace that came over to say anything was a policeman who scolded us for sitting the back of a bench.

THINGS MUST BE TOUGHENED UP. Under Labour, people are given several chances to behave themselves, and if the person really pushes it, a five-year sentence can be cut down to six months for good behaviour. Now that's justice!!!!

02/12/2005 18:19:00

04apric

i agree

i agree i had a tomato thrown at me in town the other day and the poilceman outside a shop on the other side of the street did nothing about it. The people who though the tomato at me then started to write something on a bench, the poilceman reacted to that and the people run off. So the poilce care more about goverment property than the public

05/12/2005 11:08:00

chilli

the story so far...

It has been very interesting to read your views on a whole range of issues related to ASBOs and the media, including:

- the misinterpretation and importance of what clothes young people wear
- the media play an important role in informing us who has ASBOs
- media puts extra, unjustified emphasis on reporting young people with ASBOs

Is there anything else that the debate has so far not covered or have you got anything else to add?

05/12/2005 20:37:00

Levitica

AsBos

I think I said earlier, but ASBOs to me seem like an absolute non-story. Little, petty crimes have not been dealt with as well as they could be... It's not a big deal, there are much bigger news stories, surely.

07/12/2005 15:17:00

dipsy

poisoning the youth of the UK

The only people, in my point of view who are responsible for crime are television.

If a person sees a character on t.v greffetining a wall then skate board away from the police using a car as a ramp, the chances are that person is going to think this is right. Eventually that person will do it, then all his/her friends will do it.

What should be shown on t.v is having the consequences shown for the character (eg going to jail for a year or something) then having everyone hating that television character, the people watching t.v will soon learn that its not big and it not clever.

07/12/2005 21:33:00

Levitica

Television?

"If a person sees a character on t.v greffetining a wall then skate board away from the police using a car as a ramp, the chances are that person is going to think this is right."

I really disagree... I don't think most people take their ideas of what is right and what is wrong from whether or not it is on television.

09/12/2005 14:00:00

robiee

Media problems

i think the media do sometimes "blow up" situations which do not need to be seen by the public, nothing can really that the media has a right to report what is happening, but when they just want a story, with something which doesn't really matter, they try to make the story interesting, by competely making the story different, from what it actually is.

09/12/2005 21:00:00

justice

Thank you

It seems a shame to close this Forum but that's the way it goes unfortunately.

But what a debate it has been!

You should all be proud of yourselves. You made your points, used evidence, asked questions, tried different viewpoints and came up with practical solutions - all around a set of very difficult and controversial issues. That's no small achievement!

Those MPs who agreed to provide feedback afterwards have certainly got a lot to chew over.

Watch this space!

The next Forum is on the subject of the European Union which begins on February 27th. Hope to see you there.

Have a great xmas....

Forum Topic Transcript :: ASBOs...any suitable alternatives?

21/11/2005 09:00:00

justice

Welcome to the ASBOs debate...

Since their creation ASBOs have been the subject of a massive amount of media and political attention, and students will get the opportunity to make their voices heard in this HeadsUp forum.

Key cross-party decision-makers in Parliament are following this debate very closely and are extremely interested in what you have to say and are taking part online in the ASBOs debate see [Who's listening?](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s94_1)

Try and make sure that you [BackUp](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=home_ASBOs%20backup) your opinions with facts/supporting evidence as much as possible. There's lots of info for you to get your teeth stuck into in the [BackUp](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=home_ASBOs%20backup) section.

What kind of impact does anti-social behaviour have, if any, on the people and environment around you?

What do you think about anti-social behaviour? (see [jargon buster](http://www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s95_1) for explanation) Are you concerned about it or not?

Given the widespread criticism, do you think there any suitable alternatives to ASBOS?

What do you think?

21/11/2005 15:53:00
boffinbabe12

What else is there?

Thousands of people have already been given ASBOs so this shows that the prosecutor must think it is a good option. Locking people up in jail costs a lot of money for the government and prisons are becoming overcrowded. I know that personally I would prefer to see the money taken from my parents in tax be spent on education and the NHS, rather than making sure that some criminal can have a free place to stay- even if it is jail.

22/11/2005 09:06:00
04apric

reply to boffinbabe12

i think that if prisons are overcrowded that asbo's should get long time comunity service like cleaning gerafite off walls.The other option of course is to build more prisons.

22/11/2005 09:09:00
bazil14

reply to boffinbabe12

i think that asbos should have to pay for there crimes by comunity service and should have to do the uckist thing possible because then they will get sick of doing the punishment and will hopefully be good

22/11/2005 15:35:00
04rpayn

Asbo alternatives

I think that ASBOs should work with a tracking system so if people break thier ASBO then the police would know then can take them away

22/11/2005 16:30:00
Levitica

Tracking Systems

Giving all of those people tracking systems would be terribly expensive, and for most "ASBO" crimes you wouldn't be able to tell from someone's position whether or not they were breaking their contract.

22/11/2005 16:36:00
boffinbabe12

tracking

i suppose it could be a good idea, but i agree with letvica (sorry if ive mispelt that) that it would cost too much money- and someone who have to be watching them all the time.

22/11/2005 16:40:00
boffinbabe12

reply to levitica

also, with most ASBOs, the order prevent them from going into certain areas, because they have been anti-social around there so a tracking device would let police know if they were breaking it.

22/11/2005 22:32:00

Levitica

Reply

I'm not sure what sort of percentage of ASBOs they make up...

23/11/2005 13:45:00

04apric

i don't like your idea 04rpayn

i don't like the idea of having tag things it will be far to expensive for the goverment. There must be another way.

23/11/2005 13:50:00

04apric

punishment

i think the punishment for breaking a ASBO should much more severe like a short prison or anything else.

23/11/2005 13:51:00

bazil14

I AGREE WITH 04APRIC

23/11/2005 14:08:00

Canaries

Punishment

I do think that the punishment for ASBOs should be severe and there should be a way in which the 'Children' can be tracked to ensure they are not breaking the terms of the ASBO.

I do not think that putting them in prison is a severe enough punishment, and prison would also cost not just the government but the workers of England more and more money.

23/11/2005 14:56:00

04rpayn

re:i dont like your idea 04rpayn

in portsmouth it has worked wiv pedophiles cos they are not allowed near schools and places like that and if they enter an area they arent allowed in the police can investigate

23/11/2005 15:21:00

adam91

what would you suggest?

other than prison what other alternatives are their? canaries is right in a way as it would cost more and more money to the taxpayer, but there is no other way, how can we reduce the amount of repeat offenders? the electric chair perhaps? for serious offenders but that would make us a barbaric society now wouldn't it?

23/11/2005 18:31:00

bazil14

adam91

i agree with you partly about we would become a barbaric soicity if we brought back the death penelty

23/11/2005 18:46:00

bazil14

asbo sentance

a prison sentance would be perfect to sort out asbo because thre would be nobody to atack if there behind bars but then there is the money ishue has any 1 got any ideas about money

23/11/2005 19:17:00

bazil14

04apric

i agree with him on the sentances

23/11/2005 19:20:00

04apric

bazil14

i totally agree with you the only problem is that there are not enough prisons to hold all the asbos as well as adult criminals.

23/11/2005 19:24:00

bazil14

asbos

if we kept asbos in jails people would not be attacked by asbos.
helping the comunity

23/11/2005 19:25:00

Levitica

Antisocial behavior equal to paed

I think peadophiles are much more of a threat to the public than someone who got an ASBO for something like graffeting...

In an area of my town, there has been a curfew on and off through the past year. Anyone under 16 (possibly 18, but I think 16) had to be home by 9pm, or else they would be forced home by the police. I think that is disgraceful. Treating all teenagers as criminals is ridiculous. People have the right to leave their houses. Anti-social behavior was said to go down when the curfew was enforced, but that's probably because the police were busy enforcing the curfew, driving home the innocent, to catch those committing acts of antisocial behavior.

24/11/2005 09:06:00

adam91

thanks basil14

basil you obviously seem to agree with me a lot? he he he. prison sentences work pack our already crowded jails to the limit. it is a shame we can't deport people like we used to. the problem is there aren't any severe punishments that are functional any more

24/11/2005 10:07:00

gruff

What would you do with £500,000

Young people given ASBOs in England and Wales should also be given counselling and support, a government report has said. The Social Exclusion Unit said ASBOs did not treat the causes of offending.

The government is to provide £500,000 for compulsory treatment such as anger management courses, counselling for drug abuse or training schemes. Magistrates will be urged to issue support orders alongside ASBOs.

Is this the most effective use of half a million pounds in your view? What would you do with such an amount of cash if you were part of the government?

24/11/2005 16:51:00

03cmcglennon

£500,000

I think its a great idea to give support to people with ASBO's. Hopefully this should help them stop and maybe help to see why these people are like this. I think £500,000 is a sensible amount to pay for this.

24/11/2005 20:41:00

03elangler

bazil14

I agree wiv basil14, bringing back the death sentance isn't the answer but i don't think asbos are really working as they are supposed to. there has to be a different way to control these people who can't control themselves. Prisons are crowded enough but i don't asbos should be left to roam the streets.

25/11/2005 11:22:00

03jpope

asbo's

I think the best way to enforce asbo's is by stationing more police in areas where there are more people with asbo's than worrying about small villages where most of the inhabitants are elderly, although moving the most troublesome people to bootcamps to have sense put into them would help quite a bit

25/11/2005 16:23:00

03elangler

03jpope

i think it's a good idea to have more police in areas where there are more asbo's. i also don't think it's fair to increase the number of police in areas that have more elderly. Unless it's for their safety!! For the majority of asbo's boot camp would have a positive effect on their behavior but in the most extreme cases we may need to think of something else! something does need to be done about

asbo's and i think something like a boot camp is great!

28/11/2005 12:35:00

biged

New ASBO alarm...

What do you think of the new ASBO alarm used in Wales that targets young people? The device issues a high pitch alarm that its distributor says can only be heard by young people under 25 due to the sensitivity of their hearing.

Is this scheme a good idea or out of order??

28/11/2005 14:41:00

Levitica

High pitched noise thing

It's insane... If it can be heard just outside the shop door, surely it would be possible to prosecute the shop for noise pollution and have them get an ASBO. That would be cool. Is this only in one shop?

I guess it would also be audible to dogs tied up outside the shop. That could cause some problems with dogs freaking out.

28/11/2005 19:47:00

03cmcglennon

Levitica

Yeah i agree, its completly out of order i mean cant this damage their ears??

29/11/2005 15:25:00

JohnDenhamMP

Alternatives

All evidence points to the fact that short-term prison sentences don't work in terms of increasing someone's behaviour, as it could be worse when they come out of prison.

Not all ASBOs work, but they are more effective than other intervention methods. Prison is not the answer.

30/11/2005 15:53:00

03elangler

asbo alarm

i agree that the alarm is barbaric. How can this help? won't it just damage peoples hearing and annoy all the dogs in the area? i don't think this is the way to go at all!

01/12/2005 09:05:00

bazil14

ASBO ALARM

I AGREE WITH 03ELAGER ABOUT THE ASBO ALAM IT WILL JUST UPSET PEOPLE

01/12/2005 09:06:00

04apric

asbo alarm

i think the idea of the asbo alarm is good because you are only going to be near a shop for a few seconds so it does not matter but it does stop people hanging around the shop.it does not affect the older cormuity because there ears can not hear the high pitch nouse the alarm makes.

01/12/2005 13:50:00

03jpoppe

ASBO alarm

the ASBO alarm is a good idea, but how would you get it to work. I think that if you used computer chips or something to identify them, like cats and dogs, then it would be easier to monitor their movement to make sure that they don't break the terms of their ASBO.

02/12/2005 13:54:00

RD3000

I agree, chips would be a good way of tracking previous offenders

05/12/2005 11:16:00

chilli

the story so far...

It has been very interesting to read your views on a whole range of issues related to ASBOs and possible solutions, including:

- the idea of more jail terms and jails was suggested by some as an alternative.
 - others pointed to the cost to the taxpayer of such a step.
 - tracking system for people with ASBOs?
 - possible curfews
 - support for Government spending £500,000 on anger management courses, counselling for drug abuse or training schemes to go hand in hand with ASBOs
- Is there anything else that the debate has so far not covered or have you got anything else to add?

06/12/2005 17:05:00

03cmcglennon

Chips

I don't think microchips are a good idea. That is invading privacy!! I would hate to be monitored everywhere I went.

Yes, it may help by keeping a watch on people to make sure they don't break their ASBO, but surely there is a better, less expensive way to do this.

06/12/2005 17:26:00

boffinbabe12

chips

I think chips are a good way to help keep an I on the ASBOers but I do agree that it is an invasion of privacy, however part of the point of an ASBO is to keep an eye on certain, antisocial people to make sure they don't go into places where they are banned, and the only other solution I can think of would be having 'stalkers' or something to watch over the ASBO's all the time which would cost a lot of money as well, however having said that chips probably are still more expensive because you have to pay for the technology, and for someone to watch their tracks... hmmm..... If the inhabitants of the area where the person had been banned from were willing to keep an eye on them for free for the safety of themselves and their family it would be a good idea.....

06/12/2005 17:29:00

boffinbabe12

Also 03cmcglennon

I am assuming you do not have an ASBO so although I admire your empathy, you probably don't have a reason to be monitored, but these ASBOers do. So I agree that innocent people shouldn't be watched over or have their privacy invaded but these people, in the eyes of the law are not innocent.

06/12/2005 17:36:00

boffinbabe12

Community Service

Community Service could be a good alternative to ASBO's as it wouldn't cost the council anything, but instead help the council. Also it means that it give the person something to do and some purpose, for part of the reason why so many people are antisocial is because they have nothing in their lives, and if they were treated with respect by their 'boss' or whatever' then it could really change their life around- hopefully.... There could be some sort of rule like, if the person didn't do their community service then they would get a fine, and if they didn't pay it they would go to prison. It's a thought.....

06/12/2005 18:55:00

03cmcglennon

BoffinBabe

Yeah, I agree. I think having someone compliment them will help them feel respected (im not saying these people are all like this). It could get them to realise they could change their life and become succesfull, instead of spending their lives "hanging around corners" and most of all being Anti-Social.

07/12/2005 15:26:00

dipsy

03cmcglennon

unfortuantly, not every one on this world will except a pat on the back as encouragement, they should have bettter things/rewards happen to them like having their jail sentence cut by a day for a really good job/behaving.

Eventually the people will see that if they do this instead of this they will get something good out of it.

08/12/2005 16:01:00

03elangler

dipsy

i think you have a really good point! reward these people with things that affect them personally and they are more likely to behave sociably just so they can get on with their lives. having something to look forward to could motivate! it's worth a try!

08/12/2005 19:11:00

danzo

work work work

I think instead of asbos people should be sent to work camps where they work all day at jobs most people wouldn't want to do there for taxes could go down because all there working for is food and somewhere to sleep

08/12/2005 22:58:00

boffinbabe12

I do agree with dipsey but...

Not all ASBOers have jail sentences, in fact how can you be in jail and have a job? But I agree with your point (yes contradictory to what i said earlier) that maybe a 'pat on the back' wont do it for everyone. But if they have jobs maybe hope of a promotion/ payrise/ bonus for good work might be the boost they need. And for teens without jobs their parents could go into training/ counselling on how to be more supportive parents so the parents could sort out the rewards...

08/12/2005 23:01:00

boffinbabe12

another rant from me!

I believe that in almost all cases (excluding orphans) it is the parent/ guardian's fault when their children are antisocial, so maybe if you trained the parents to be better then the children will follow and yes i do watch a lot of supernanny!

09/12/2005 21:00:00

justice

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