



## **Housing association leads multi agency attack on anti-social behaviour**

A new taskforce has recently been formed to tackle anti-social behaviour in the Lincolnshire town of Gainsborough and surrounding villages. The key partners involved in the initiative are West Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire Police and housing association Acis Group, the area's largest social landlord.

It is envisaged that the work of the unit, known as the Gainsborough Anti-social Behaviour Tasking Group, will eventually spread further to include other parts of the region such as Market Rasen.

Chairman of the group, Councillor Geoff Wiseman, said:

"The group meets each month to identify individuals engaged in anti-social behaviour and discusses how all the partners can work together to deal with it. So far this sharing of information has proved very effective and has resulted in early intervention interviews and a number of formal warnings have been issued."

All the partners believe that acceptable behaviour contracts and anti-social behaviour orders will continue to be effective tools to use, but there is also much more to be achieved by working effectively together.

Acis was asked to Chair the taskforce by the group's two other partners because of their innovative and forward thinking approach to tackling anti-social behaviour. Claire Glasby, Community Safety Manager for Acis, said:

"Acis will not tolerate anti social behaviour and will take enforcement action where required. This new tasking group will improve our ability to provide a co-ordinated multi agency response to reports of anti social behaviour."

Councillor Wiseman added:

"The clear message is that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated and by working together our efforts to reduce it can be much more effective."

Causes of anti-social behaviour, including excessive drinking, drug abuse and lack of consideration about noise levels are all being tackled. In some cases it will only be possible to resolve the issues in a court of law and our case has got to be water-tight. This is a particular area where joint working can be effective as it is vital that all the agencies share information they have.”