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ACCEPTABLE

The Department of Local Government and The Environment in partnership with the Police is taking tough measures to deal with anti social behaviour

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's) have proved a positive way of getting people to take responsibility for their behaviour, when they have been involved in anti-social behaviour.

What is an ABC?

It is a written agreement between the person, the Department and Police not to engage in or carry out any behaviour that causes alarm or distress, to other tenants or residents in the area.

Why an ABC?

It gives the person the opportunity to find out the impact their behaviour is having on other peoples lives. It also makes them aware of the repercussions for themselves, their family, including the possible loss of their home, if their anti-social behaviour continues.

Who can sign an ABC?

The contract can be used either for children and young people aged 10-18 years or persons over 18.

B

BEHAVIOUR

Do people have to sign an ABC?

No. Signing an ABC is voluntary. However, by signing an ABC it shows that the person has thought about their behaviour and is seriously trying to change.

Is an ABC a legal document?

No. But it can be used as evidence in court if an application for a possession order, an injunction or an anti-social behaviour order is sought.

What happens if an ABC is broken?

The Department and Police will investigate and depending upon the evidence available, will decide upon the best course of action, this may include taking legal action against the offenders.

What is the duration of an ABC?

An ABC usually lasts for six months although it may be extended in some circumstances. If during this time there have been no further incidents involving the person we will acknowledge this in writing and the ABC will come to an end.

If I have any questions about ABC's who do I contact?

Your should contact the Housing Officer on 685955 or your local Police Station

C

CONTRACT

Benefits of using Acceptable Behaviour Contracts

ABC's are an extremely effective way of getting people to take responsibility for their bad behaviour.

ABC's set boundaries and help to change bad behaviour

ABC's have stopped young people influenced by peer pressure from becoming young offenders

ABC's have been an effective way of disrupting gang related activities.

ABC's can reduce conflict at an early stage, reassure the community that action is being taken and act as a supportive process for the persons involved.

Each contract is individually drawn up to deal with the anti-social activities the person has been involved in.

As a parent the contract will also help you to take responsibility for your child's behaviour and avoid legal action.

