



**ASBOs viewed as 'badge of honour'**

**Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) have become a "badge of honour" \_\_\_\_\_ young people, says an official study.**

Many tackling youth \_\_\_\_\_ doubted their effectiveness and some teenagers saw them as \_\_\_\_\_, said research for the Youth Justice Board. The year- \_\_\_\_\_ study in England and Wales said half the ASBOs \_\_\_\_\_ broken.

But Home Office minister Tony McNulty said ASBOs were \_\_\_\_\_ sparingly and only as a last resort to change \_\_\_\_\_ that was badly disrupting communities. Mr McNulty said \_\_\_\_\_ 7,000 ASBOs had been given out by the end \_\_\_\_\_ last year.

"Our communities have the right not to \_\_\_\_\_ constantly abused by anti-social behaviour," he said. "There is \_\_\_\_\_ we are doing with young children to try and \_\_\_\_\_ that but let's not demonise a whole generation. We \_\_\_\_\_ talking very, very small numbers."

The research conducted by \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Research Bureau and crime reduction charity Nacro looked \_\_\_\_\_ ASBOs given to under-18s between January 2004 and January 2005 in 10 \_\_\_\_\_ of England and Wales. Of 137 young people, 67 had \_\_\_\_\_ their order at least once, 42 more than once \_\_\_\_\_ six on six occasions or more.

"High levels of breach had \_\_\_\_\_ some sentencers to question how much impact ASBOs were \_\_\_\_\_ on the behaviour of individual young people," the study \_\_\_\_\_. "A considerable number of respondents alluded to the potential \_\_\_\_\_ the order to become glamorous," it added.

ASBOs were \_\_\_\_\_ by the government in 1999 to impose conditions on \_\_\_\_\_ person's behaviour and breaking one can lead to jail.

Youth Justice Board \_\_\_\_\_ Professor Rod Morgan urged the police, councils and courts \_\_\_\_\_ only issue an ASBO to a young person \_\_\_\_\_ working with the family had not worked. One district judge \_\_\_\_\_ researchers young people who breached orders were not \_\_\_\_\_ punished. And parents and carers of the young people \_\_\_\_\_ orders said an ASBO was now viewed as a "diploma" that \_\_\_\_\_ a child's street credibility.

"Some of the friends are \_\_\_\_\_ out now because they are not on an ASBO," said the mother of three young men who were all on ASBOs.

BBC News Online



A generation could be demonised by exaggeration, warned ministers

**“ I know a boy that is hell-bent on getting an ASBO because he feels left out ”**  
Mother



### Check your answers

#### **Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) have become a "badge of honour" among young people, says an official study.**

Many tackling youth offending doubted their effectiveness and some teenagers saw them as glamorous, said research for the Youth Justice Board. The year-long study in England and Wales said half the ASBOs were broken. But Home Office minister Tony McNulty said ASBOs were used sparingly and only as a last resort to change behaviour that was badly disrupting communities. Mr McNulty said only 7,000 ASBOs had been given out by the end of last year.

"Our communities have the right not to be constantly abused by anti-social behaviour," he said.

"There is much we are doing with young children to try and prevent that but let's not demonise a whole generation. We are talking very, very small numbers."

The research conducted by the Policy Research Bureau and crime reduction charity Nacro looked at ASBOs given to under-18s between January 2004 and January 2005 in 10 areas of England and Wales. Of 137 young people, 67 had breached their order at least once, 42 more than once and six on six occasions or more.

"High levels of breach had led some sentencers to question how much impact ASBOs were having on the behaviour of individual young people," the study said.

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ASBOs were introduced by the government in 1999 to impose conditions on a person's behaviour and breaking one can lead to jail. Youth Justice Board chairman Professor Rod Morgan urged the police, councils and courts to only issue an ASBO to a young person if working with the family had not worked. One district judge told researchers young people who breached orders were not properly punished. And parents and carers of the young people given orders said an ASBO was now viewed as a "diploma" that boosted a child's street credibility.

"Some of the friends are left out now because they are not on an ASBO," said the mother of three young men who were all on ASBOs.

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#### **Talking points:**

According to the journalist, ASBOs aren't working. Do you agree?

What would you suggest to help stop anti-social behaviour?

What do you think are the causes of anti-social behaviour?