



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.

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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.

"A considerable number of respondents alluded to the potential for the order to become glamorous," it added.

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?