

				order, drug testing and treatment order
Disposals available if ASBO breached - adult	Maximum five years' imprisonment, community order, absolute discharge, fine, compensation order, deferred sentence	Maximum five years' imprisonment; community order, absolute discharge, fine compensation order, deferred sentence	Maximum five years' imprisonment; community order, absolute discharge, fine, compensation order, deferred sentence	n/a

Untouchable gang's reign of terror on a anti-social behaviour response courts Issue  
A gang of 10 youths who believed they were beyond the reach of the law were regularly terrorising vulnerable residents on a street in Thornton, Merseyside. The youths had been smashing windows, breaking into and throwing missiles at vehicles, and verbally abusing people, Victims included the young, elderly and vulnerable and the gang's behaviour created such fear locally that residents would not go out after dark or leave their properties unattended. Many of them installed CCTV Only the most serious incidents were repented at the time they occurred but victims would not press charges for fear of being singled out and targeted by the gang.

Merseyside street ends in the Approach

The neighbourhood police officer carried out a detailed investigation of the problem to bring a case for arresting the perpetrators and bringing them before the courts.

Previous police logs and reports were scrutinised, and impact statements taken from the majority of witnesses in anonymity to use as hearsay evidence. One family, which had been singled out by the perpetrators, was given support by the police with daily contact and visits. The victims installed CCTV and kept a diary of all the incidents which was exhibited as evidence.

The police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) worked closely together to prepare the case and the police gathered strong evidence. Interviews with perpetrators were carefully planned so that when faced with

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the evidence against them all 10 perpetrators admitted their responsibility.

In advance of the case, the CPS specialist prosecutor for the area worked to set up a special anti-social behaviour response court. Advance disclosure of evidence to the judge and other parties prior to the court hearing meant that the case was dealt with quickly once in court.