

Angus Citizens' Panel NEWS

March 2007

Welcome to the March 2007 edition of the Angus Citizens' Panel newsletter, which contains information about the surveys we want you to help us with this time, plus feedback on further developments in the Doorstoppers initiative, which the panel was asked about in 2005.

We are asking you to complete two surveys this month, one that covers issues around the proposed Angus Fair Trader Scheme (AFTS) and the other that addresses domestic abuse.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SURVEY

Domestic abuse is an often hidden but incredibly damaging fact of life, which Angus Council and its partners are working hard to combat.

The short survey that we are asking you to help with attempts to establish the understanding and extent of domestic abuse in Angus. It also aims to find out what people think about the services available to those either suffering domestic abuse or looking for help for someone they know. The results of the survey will be passed on to all those involved in working to reduce domestic abuse.

ANGUS FAIR TRADER SCHEME SURVEY

Angus Council Trading Standards Service need your help in the development of a new initiative, the Angus Fair Trader Scheme (AFTS). The scheme aims to establish the highest standards of behaviour by businesses, give consumers access to non-court dispute resolution and enhance community safety and health by clamping down on the sale of age restricted products.

The AFTS is being developed in partnership with Tayside Police, the Federation of Small Businesses, NHS Tayside, and Tayside Fire and Rescue, with the support of numerous other voluntary and statutory organisations.

The survey itself is designed to both inform the structure, development and strategy of the AFTS

and assist in the targeting and development of training, educational and promotional resources. Results may also form part of representations to the Scottish Executive to improve access to justice for consumers by the Trading Standards Institute in Scotland.

DOORSTOPPERS

The Doorstoppers initiative, which was introduced following positive feedback from the panel, continues to develop. The recent approval of corporate funding will allow the roll out of 'no cold calling zones' to new areas as well as training for those visiting vulnerable people in their own homes.

These projects will help empower individuals and equip their homes to better deal with the problems of unwanted visitors such as bogus callers, distraction burglars and confidence tricksters.

In the two years since the panel was first consulted much work has been done by Trading Standards, Tayside Police and other partners, with Angus leading the introduction of DOORSTOPPERS in Scotland and being the first to introduce 'no cold calling zones'.

By the end of March 2007, there will be over 100 zones in Angus, dwarfing almost every other authority in Scotland.

OTHER SURVEYS

Unfortunately we cannot tell you about all of the consultations that take place, however, you can find details of all exercises on the Have Your Say section of the Angus Council web-site www.angus.gov.uk/hys, or via ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778.

Thank you again for all the help you have given in the past. Your answers have helped to improve the services that are provided by Angus Council and its partners.

Details of further consultations can be found via the internet at
www.angus.gov.uk/hys