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Dublin North Gardaí need to use ASBOs in their fight against antisocial behaviour – Kennedy

DUBLIN NORTH Gardaí must be praised for their efforts and active work in the fight against antisocial behaviour, but Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) need to be utilised more often if we are to tackle this disruptive behaviour, according to local Fianna Fáil TD for Dublin North, Michael Kennedy.

“Some 284 behaviour warnings have been issued nationally to adults, with 80 similar warnings issued to children in the first nine months of 2007 and just eight of these have been handed out in the North Dublin Metropolitan Region; that’s a mere 2.8 per cent.”

“ASBOs have been in effect since the introduction of the new Criminal Justice Act 2006 - introduced in Spring 2007 - which provides for civil proceedings in relation to anti-social behaviour by adults and children,” said Deputy Kennedy.

“I have received these latest figures in answer to a parliamentary question put to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Brian Lenihan. Many people were sceptical about the introduction of antisocial behaviour laws but I also know from my own experiences, from canvassing and from the number of queries into my office that antisocial behaviour is one of the biggest scourges on communities in North Dublin and needs to be dealt with by extraordinary measures.”

“Therefore I am calling on Gardaí in the North County to actively use ASBOs as a means of punishment for antisocial behaviour,” said Deputy Kennedy.