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SURREY HERALD

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Anti-yob measures working

A COUNTYWIDE police campaign to curb violence and disorder has been hailed a success after more than 600 'yellow cards' were issued to people behaving anti-socially.

The football-style cards are at the centre of a range of powers to deal with persistent offenders in town centres and neighbourhoods.

The Surrey campaign started on June 8, just before the start of the Euro 2004 football championships.

In an eight-week period, police across the county also made around 400 arrests, five people were placed on anti-

social behaviour orders (ASBOs), another nine were given acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) and 10 were issued with section 30 orders.

Police say they have not had time to break down the 'yellow card' figures for each borough, but figures for other punishments are available.

An ASBO, which stops people repeating their offending behaviour, was issued to one person in Runnymede.

ABCs, which agree a course of action to stop offending at the risk of prosecution, were issued to three people in

Elmbridge, two in Runnymede and one in Spelthorne.

Two people, in Runnymede and Spelthorne, were on the receiving end of Section 30 orders. These allows police to disperse groups of young people aged under 16, who are unsupervised in public. If they return they are arrested.

Superintendent Martin Parker has been heading the crackdown. He said: "These results demonstrate that we will not tolerate violent crime and disorder and are determined to make Surrey a safer place to live and work."