



*Basingstoke
and Deane*

Dealing with anti-social behaviour




community
safety

Dealing with anti-social behaviour

Everyone wants to live in a nice, safe area where people get along. But this isn't always possible and often issues with anti-social behaviour can cause real problems for residents.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council works with partners including Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue and housing associations to try to limit the issues around anti-social behaviour, as well as dealing with cases.





What is anti-social behaviour?



Anti-social behaviour is any behaviour that causes harassment, alarm and distress to any person not of the same household.

The impact of anti-social behaviour is far-reaching and can have a detrimental effect on communities.

There are many different types of anti-social behaviour, but the real issue is whether or not the actions form a pattern over a period of time.



People have differing views and tolerance levels regarding anti-social behaviour.



The following can all be classed as forms of anti-social behaviour:

- Verbal abuse (including that of a racial or homophobic nature).
- Damage to property (including graffiti and vandalism).
- Aggressive behaviour (being threatening, intimidating or violent – verbally or otherwise).
- Harassment (persecuting people because you don't like how they live, their beliefs or lifestyles).
- Gatherings of people in public places that intimidate others.
- Noise (unnecessary volumes of noise especially at anti-social times).
- Fly-tipping and misuse of communal areas.
- Riding or cycling on footpaths.
- Uncontrolled pets or animals.
- Deliberate fire setting
- Hoax calls





What are the consequences of anti-social behaviour?

People causing anti-social behaviour can put their own lives at risk as well as others.

If someone is persistently acting in an anti-social manner, there are certain things that the borough council, police and partners can do to help both the individual take responsibility for their behaviour and for the community:

Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC):

- This is a written agreement in which the person agrees not to carry out a series of identifiable behaviours which have been defined as anti-social. The contracts can be used for anyone causing a problem to others. ABCs are not legally binding, but can be used in court as evidence for anti-social behaviour order applications, evictions or other legal proceedings.

Parenting Contract/Order

- A Parenting Order is a court order which usually means a parent or carer must attend parenting classes (sometimes called parenting programmes or interventions). Parents may also be ordered to meet other conditions, like making sure their child stays at home at certain times. These orders can last up to 12 months, and are intended to support the parents in addressing the behaviour of their child.

A parenting contract is voluntary and an order is legally binding.



Confiscation of property

- Sometimes the item which is causing the anti-social behaviour can be removed so that it is no longer an issue. For example, if someone is causing a nuisance by playing music too loud, the stereo can be seized.

Demotion of tenancy - eviction

- In severe circumstances, where all other measures to try and resolve issues have been tried, it is possible for the residents causing the problem to be evicted. This only applies to housing association properties.

Premises closure

- Where there are no other possible resolutions, it is possible for the council or the police, to apply a premises closure to any property where nuisance is being caused. This includes a privately owned house.

Fines

- Crimes such as fly-tipping, littering, graffiti, failing to clear up after your dog and vandalism can all be enforced. A range of fines could be given to people caught doing any of these. Fines can be issued via the council or through the court due to legal action being taken.





Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO)

ASBOs are a supportive measure to assist in changing an individual's behaviour. They are also designed to protect specific victims, neighbours, or even whole communities from behaviour that has frightened or intimidated them, or damaged their quality of life.



They are court orders which restrict specific behaviour and are tailored to an individual's needs. An ASBO can ban a person from threatening, intimidating or disruptive actions; spending time with a particular group of friends and visiting certain areas.



ASBOs are in effect for a minimum of two years.

Imprisonment

ASBOs are legally binding. If an ASBO is breached, it is a legal offence and the individual may be at risk of imprisonment.



Want to report anti-social behaviour?

To report incidents of anti-social behaviour call Hampshire Constabulary on **0845 0454545** or their non-emergency number **101**. Alternatively contact Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Community Safety Team on **01256 845245**, email **community.safety@basingstoke.gov.uk** or log onto the website at **www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/comsafety**

To report issues of fly-tipping, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and noise complaints, call the council on **01256 844844** or email **info@basingstoke.gov.uk**. For more information on how to report a noise complaint, log onto the council's website at **www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/noise**.

In an emergency, always dial **999**.

