



WCCTV

How to Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Understanding ASB

Anti-social behaviour, often abbreviated to ASB, is a term used by the Police force within the UK to broadly characterise 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household.'

The catch-all term is split into three distinct categories:

- **Personal anti-social behaviour:** Person is targeting an individual or group.
- **Nuisance anti-social behaviour:** A person is causing trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
- **Environmental anti-social behaviour:** A person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.



What are the Most Common Types of ASB?

Statistics gathered by our partners working for anti-social behaviour reduction teams within Public Sector organisations such as Police, Local Authorities and Housing Associations suggest the most common types of anti-social behaviour:



Criminal Damage



Loitering in Public Spaces



Neighbour Nuisances



Graffiti



Arson



Drug-Dealing



Fly-tipping and Littering



Noise Disturbances



Hate Crimes



Assault



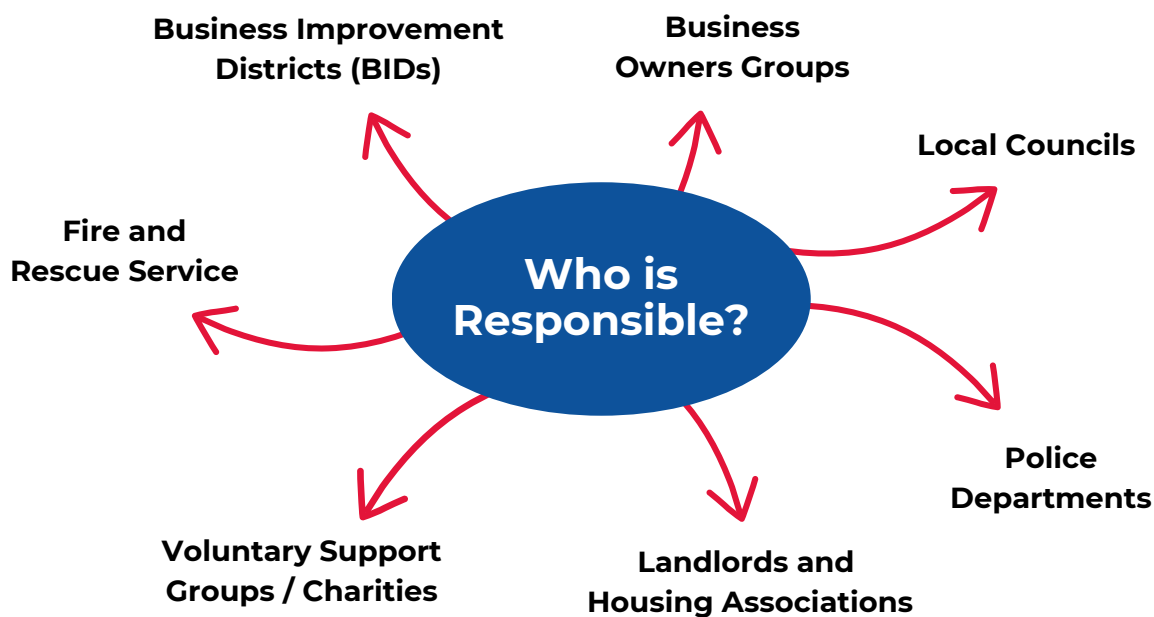
Harassment



Alcohol-related Crimes

Who is Responsible For Tackling ASB?

Generally referred to as a collection of 'low-level' crimes, the severity of ASB can often be diminished, along with the impact it has on its victims and any communities faced with high-levels of it.



How to Prevent Anti-Social Behaviour

Each group will tackle ASB differently due to their varying powers and objectives set out within their remit.

So, just as it is challenging to pinpoint ways to tackle ASB, it is equally challenging due to the number of groups targeting it. However, all of these groups will have the same core objectives and aims, which include:

- 1 Reducing crimes of all types**
- 2 Making people feel safer**
- 3 Reducing the harm caused by drug and alcohol abuse**
- 4 Preventing offending by children and young people**
- 5 Reducing adult re-offending**
- 6 Developing community cohesion**



Core Reduction and Prevention Strategies

Some core reduction and prevention strategies apply to all bodies looking to tackle ASB, including legal measures and community engagement tactics.

These strategies include:

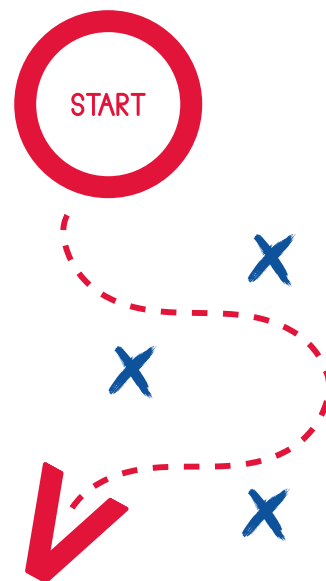
Community Engagement and Reporting Support

Multi-Agency Approach

Early Intervention and Prevention

Visible Policing

Education and Awareness Campaigns



Community Engagement and Reporting Support

Referred to as an 'ASB Case Review', this process aims to support victims and communities in ensuring Local Authorities and Agencies review recurring instances of ASB.

Each body will have their own threshold which will need to be reached before it triggers the request for response from that specified agency.

The threshold cannot be any greater than 3 complaints and if accepted as having met the threshold, a review must take place, outcome provided and any recommendations in relation to this.

Essentially, it encourages equal dealing with ASB across various agencies, holding them accountable for managing repeated instances of any crime that falls under this umbrella.



Multi-Agency Approach

A multi-agency approach involves various groups and agencies like the Police, Housing Association, Health Services and Charities collaborating to understand the impact of ASB on specific victims and determining the best approach to act against offenders.

Within every Local Authority area, there are statutory bodies named Community Safety Partnerships which are responsible for crime and ASB strategies.



These partnerships are built of experts and trained professionals who dedicate time to research and create dedicated approaches through available data and resources.

Early Intervention and Prevention

Early intervention approaches tend to target young offenders specifically, helping to both prevent and intervene early on to help promote them onto the right track.

This includes positive engagement, education, mentoring, and diversion activities to support individuals in understanding the dangers of engaging in ASB and steering those already involved to engage in healthier activities.

For some, they may utilise Acceptable Behaviour Contracts which are voluntary agreements that outline the behaviour individuals should display. Often taken as a precautionary step before legal action.



Working with local schools, youth groups and community services can play a vital role in identifying those at risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour. Providing access to positive role models, structured activities and early support can help steer individuals away from negative influences.

Visible Policing

Within policing, there are dedicated teams like Police Community Support Officers and Neighbourhood Policing Teams, who specifically work on improving community relationships and handle low-level ASB.



This approach provides both peace for many visitors and residents within the area as they can visibly see support is present, but also in reducing ASB and its impact.

Although these teams will often hold less legal authority with enforcement action, by effectively working alongside the Police, they can help understand root causes and reduce ASB collectively.



Education and Awareness Campaigns

For Local Authorities and other agencies, public awareness campaigns are becoming increasingly common, especially in sharing key messages or reporting processes within the area.

Most individuals now seek their news online, making it a useful engagement tool for many organisations.

From sharing reporting processes to informing individuals of the repercussions of various ASB offences, you can target posts by location and other factors to ensure a more successful outcome.



Education and awareness campaigns help prevent anti-social behaviour by working with schools, youth groups and local services to highlight its real-life consequences and promote responsible choices among young people.

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