



Perth & Kinross Council

&

Police Scotland

Antisocial Behaviour Strategy

The Perth & Kinross Antisocial Behaviour Strategy has been agreed and endorsed by:

- Perth and Kinross Council Community Safety Committee
- Police Scotland

The following organisations have been consulted:

- Local elected representatives
- Scottish Fire & Rescue
- Registered Social Landlords
- NHS Tayside
- Perth & Kinross Association of Voluntary Services (PKAVS)
- Procurator Fiscal
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Tenants and Residents Associations
- Victim Support

Foreword

The Perth and Kinross Community Safety and Environment Outcome Delivery Group reports to the Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership. It is responsible for developing this Antisocial Behaviour Strategy which is ultimately agreed by Perth and Kinross Council and Police Scotland as required in the Antisocial Behaviour etc, (Scotland) Act 2004. This strategy demonstrates the contribution that will be made by all partners in tackling antisocial behaviour in Perth & Kinross.

Antisocial Behaviour is a term which has various definitions. It takes many forms including noise nuisance, drunken behaviour, fly tipping, verbal abuse and drug dealing.

The purpose of the strategy is to outline how behaviour of this type will be tackled in Perth & Kinross and ensure there is no gap in provision for people who suffer antisocial behaviour.

Antisocial behaviour will be tackled in Perth & Kinross under 6 themes:

1. Communication
2. Prevention
3. Support
4. Intervention
5. Enforcement
6. Rehabilitation

Within this strategy we outline the specific services provided within the themes. This strategy outlines how, by working in partnership, we will tackle antisocial behaviour and our shared vision to support all people within Perth & Kinross who want to live in safe and secure communities.

Background and Context

The problem of antisocial behaviour is not new.

The Scottish Government has made tackling such behaviour a priority and introduced the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 to support this work.

It provides local authorities, police and other agencies with powers to tackle antisocial behaviour.

One of the requirements of the Act is that local authorities, jointly with the Chief Constable, produce an Antisocial Behaviour Strategy. This strategy must lay out:

- *The extent and type of antisocial behaviour in the area.*
- *Information on all the service, available and planned, to tackle antisocial behaviour.*
- *How progress will be reported back.*
- *How information will be shared between agencies.*

What is Antisocial Behaviour?

The Act states:

A person engages in antisocial behaviour if they:

- *Act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress, or*
- *Pursue a course of conduct that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress*

To at least one person not of the same household as them and that this includes speech and must involve conduct on at least two occasions.

In practice, antisocial behaviour can mean different things to different people. Behaviour regarded as acceptable by some, can be seen as antisocial and completely unacceptable to others.

Expectations of standards of behaviour can also vary between communities. So tolerance and awareness of people's needs is an important part of tackling antisocial behaviour. It is important that care and consideration be given to all when dealing with complaints of antisocial behaviour.

An early indication to someone that their behaviour is disturbing the peace or the lifestyle of their neighbours can be enough to resolve the problem at an early stage.

Antisocial behaviour is not confined to one specific group of people. This strategy will support all people within Perth & Kinross who want to live in safe and secure communities.

So where are we now?

The partnership has resources and policies in place to tackle anti-social behaviour. Good working practices already in place include:

- Safer Communities Wardens

Safer Communities Wardens were introduced to the Letham and Hillyland areas of Perth in June 2004. They have since expanded to work in Rattray, Muirton, North Muirton and Perth City Centre and are in the process of setting up a presence in Aberfeldy. They have also worked in other targeted areas following complaints of antisocial behaviour. They work closely with communities to tackle antisocial behaviour and with local schools and community groups. They conduct visits to vulnerable members of our communities and carry out Home Safety Visits with Scottish Fire and Rescue to protect the vulnerable members of our communities.

- Safer Communities Investigators

Following the merger of the former Antisocial Investigations Team and Antisocial Noise Team in 2011 the Safer Communities Investigation Team was set up to investigate protracted and serious complaints of antisocial behaviour. Working with partner agencies they deal with the perpetrators and victims of antisocial behaviour by seeking solutions but will if required take enforcement action.

In 2016 the team expanded its initial remit and is now heavily involved in co-ordinating multi-agency approaches to other issues affecting community safety.

- Co-Located Police Community Safety Team

Officers represent Police Scotland at Multi Agency Forums and co-ordinate multi-agency responses to community problems. They also work with high risk offenders and provide operational and intelligence support to the Safer Communities Team

The Way Forward

In addition to the required Antisocial Behaviour Strategy the partnership is also committed to a joint strategy for tackling this behaviour within Perth & Kinross.

To take this forward, we have collected information on the extent and type of antisocial behaviour within the area, and looked at the services required to tackle this behaviour.

Antisocial behaviour itself will be tackled under the six themes previously described.

1. Communication
2. Prevention
3. Support
4. Intervention
5. Enforcement
6. Rehabilitation

In the following sections the services provided under these themes.

Within each of these themes we also describe how we will use the measures provided in the Act.

It is also important that we feedback regularly on how our services are working. We have outlined this process in the Monitoring and Evaluation Section.

Communication

“We will use effective communication methods to reassure the public and promote confidence, and as a tool for influencing appropriate behaviour”

Raising awareness of the problems caused by antisocial behaviour is an important part of this strategy. It is also important that the remedies available in Perth & Kinross are publicised and understood.

Good Communication ensures the public is aware of the work being carried out, aware of the positive results and where to go for help.

What have we done so far?

Productive relationships have been established between the partners and this supports a joint approach to dealing with antisocial behaviour.

Literature advertising our service is available at locations throughout Perth & Kinross including Perth & Kinross Council Offices, Libraries, Social Housing Provider Offices, Police Stations, Doctor’s Surgeries and online at www.pkc.gov.uk and at www.scotland.police.uk.

How will we move forward?

We will

- Publicise information on initiatives, events and projects through the local media.
- Report our progress to public meetings such as community councils and tenants/residents meetings.
- Make information available at publicly accessible venues such as Medical Centres, Libraries and Post Offices.
- Continue to update information on our agency websites.
- Ensure that operational staff continue their important role by sharing information during their day-to-day contact in communities.
- Continue to ensure that the information we provide is accessible by all.

Prevention

“We will use effective prevention strategies to ensure that antisocial behaviour can be stopped early, while striving towards a reduction of antisocial behaviour in the long term”

Early intervention reduces the incidence and re-occurrences of antisocial behaviour.

What have we done so far?

We have extended the Safer Communities Warden Service to cover Letham, Hillyland, Muirton, North Muirton, Rattray, Perth City Centre and other areas as required.

The Wardens’ role is to solve problems and secure the co-operation and support of the residents.

They are seen as the “eyes and ears” of the community, with their role being one of prevention and early intervention, covering a mix of environmental and crime issues.

Wardens are involved in a number of events and initiatives within the communities they serve including:

- Close liaison with local schools
- Junior Warden scheme working with local primary school age children
- Working with Scottish Fire & Rescue to conduct home safety visits
- Supporting vulnerable members of our communities through home visits
- Safer Communities Partnership established

The Safer Communities Investigators work closely with partner agencies to deal with more serious and protracted cases of antisocial behaviour.

We have a community Intelligence Analyst co-located with the Safer Communities Team who collects and analyses information on antisocial behaviour so that the resources of all partners can be applied more efficiently and effectively.

We have established a Police Community Safety structure under a Community Safety Inspector.

We have identified a Sergeant for each community with responsibility for Community Policing.

We have produced a Policing Plan for each ward within Perth and Kinross.

How will we move forward?

We will:

- Continue to provide youth prevention schemes that offer young people an alternative to criminal and antisocial behaviour.
- Continue the good work of the Community Warden Service to work with residents to prevent antisocial behaviour occurring.
- Continue to work closely with schools and other partner agencies to help reduce antisocial behaviour.
- Continue to develop opportunities for co-location of services where this will provide benefit.

Support

“We recognise the importance of supporting the victims of antisocial behaviour and will use appropriate services to enhance that support when required”

It is important to recognise that the actions of one person can have a significant effect on the lives of many.

What have we done so far?

Victim Support deals with a number of people who are the victims of antisocial behaviour. They provide advice, guidance, and support for both victims and witnesses.

Hillcrest Tenancy Support provides support to the perpetrators of antisocial behaviour in order to try and help them adjust their behaviour.

Tenancy Support and Sustainment Officers have been specially trained to provide support to tenants and provide a mediation service.

How will we move forward?

We will:

- Continue to encourage victims of antisocial behaviour to engage the assistance of Victim Support
- Continue to encourage perpetrators of antisocial behaviour to engage the assistance of Hillcrest Tenancy Support.
- Ensure that Safer Communities Investigators take ownership of problems and find solutions that will support victims.
- Encourage Community Police Officers and Community Wardens to develop plans jointly and with others to support to communities affected by antisocial behaviour.
- Identify new partners who can contribute to the reduction of antisocial behaviour and support victims of antisocial behaviour.

Intervention

“Where antisocial behaviour develops in the community, we will employ effective intervention at an early stage with the aim of resolving matters, and changing the behaviour of the offender”

It is recognised that if antisocial behaviour occurs, then prompt and effective intervention is required. Working with partners, victims and perpetrators, we will endeavour to solve underlying problems and persuade perpetrators of the need to change their behaviour.

What have we done so far?

In 2012 the Antisocial Investigations Team and Antisocial Noise Team were merged to form the Safer Communities Investigation Team with a remit to work with partners and investigate any serious, protracted or complex complaints of antisocial behaviour.

In 2014 the team was joined by the Police Scotland Community Safety Team which includes a Sergeant, Constables and support staff. Officers represent Police Scotland at Multi Agency Forums and co-ordinate multi-agency responses to community problems. They also work with high risk offenders and provide operational and intelligence support to the Safer Communities Team.

Wardens work closely with communities, Housing and the Police to help alleviate incidents of antisocial behaviour. They work closely with schools, community and residents groups and Scottish Fire and Rescue to conduct home safety visits. They also visit vulnerable members of our community in their own home to ensure they are safe.

We have formed effective working relationships with partner agencies to ensure that relevant information is shared so that the victims of antisocial behaviour can be supported and referred to other services when necessary.

We have established Multi Agency Tasking Arrangements which we use to ensure relevant information is shared between partners and that resources are deployed effectively.

How will we move forward?

We will:

- Identify an ‘owner’ for each problem and expect them to remain accountable for resolving the issue whilst working with others.
- Work closely and proactively with perpetrators of antisocial behaviour to ensure effective resolutions are reached.
- Work closely with victims of antisocial behaviour to ensure prompt and adequate support is put in place.
- Ensure that Housing Offices swiftly issue written and verbal warnings to tenants who show early indications of antisocial behaviour.
- Work closely with schools, community and residents groups.
- Use the option of re-housing tenants where there is evidence to suggest that witnesses of antisocial behaviour are at risk.
- Where necessary prepare paperwork for court cases against perpetrators of antisocial behaviour.

Enforcement

“We aim to address the issues of antisocial behaviour by using remedial action but, when this does not work, we will use firm action and enforcement to address the behaviour”

We will try and address the causes of antisocial behaviour and take remedial action. However, when this is not successful, we understand the value of enforcement.

What have we done so far?

Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are orders to protect the victims of antisocial behaviour. ASBOs were first introduced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, but were limited to people aged 16 years or over.

ASBOs are not restricted to dealing with neighbour problems, and may for example be used to deal with antisocial behaviour in retail parks, recreational parks or city centres. They can also be made against any person irrespective of their housing tenure whether they be owner-occupiers, private sector tenants or tenants of public sector landlords including local authorities.

ASBOs for adults

In cases where antisocial behaviour cannot be resolved informally consideration will be given to applying to the Sheriff Court for an Interim Antisocial Behaviour Order as a tactic for changing offending behaviour. Breach of an Interim Antisocial Behaviour Order is a crime and having a joint implementation plan between the Police and the Local Authority is key to its effectiveness.

ASBOs for 12 – 15 year olds

As a result of the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004, the application of ASBOs has been extended to 12 – 15 year olds. Within Perth & Kinross they will be viewed as a preventative measure intended to modify antisocial behaviour in a way which prevents it escalating to the level of criminal behaviour. They will only be applied to those young people for whom alternative options have not been effective in protecting the community.

How will we move forward?

We will:

- Where an adult’s behaviour is at risk of escalating to criminal behaviour or is causing considerable alarm and distress to the community, take steps to consider the application of an antisocial behaviour order.
- Where there has been significant, continuous and serious antisocial behaviour due to the presence of groups, Police Scotland will, where appropriate after consultation with Perth & Kinross Council and other relevant partners consider using the power to disperse groups.
- Where there has been significant, continuous and serious nuisance and disorder within premises, Police Scotland will, where appropriate after discussion with Perth & Kinross Council, and other relevant partners consider the closure of premises.
- Work with Housing services to consider Housing options which will include eviction if necessary and proportionate.

Rehabilitation

“Where intervention and enforcement has been used, we recognise the need to establish the underlying reasons for antisocial behaviour and tackle these through effective methods of rehabilitation”

Whether the measures of intervention or enforcement have worked, it is still important that those who have been the perpetrators of antisocial behaviour are rehabilitated.

What have we done so far?

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 introduced the Short Scottish Secure Tenancy (SSST) which is a tenancy offering a reduced security of tenure. This can be used in defined circumstances and is often put in place after legal action has been taken in respect of antisocial behaviour. Such a tenancy will be accompanied by an agreed package aimed at rehabilitating the individual or family concerned and the eventual conversion back to a Scottish Secure Tenancy.

The measure offers a valuable option that protects the rights of other residents whilst focusing on services aimed at changing the behaviour.

Police Scotland’s Community Hub is part of the Safer Communities Team and provides support to partners and shares information. The Community Hub consists of a Sergeant, Constables and support staff.

How will we move forward?

We will:

- Use the Short Scottish Secure Tenancy measure to support the rehabilitation of those who behave anti-socially.
- Identify suitable programmes for the perpetrators of antisocial behaviour to allow them to focus on changing their behaviour.
- Provide general tenancy support to families displaying aspects of antisocial behaviour.

Links to other Strategies and Plans

It is important to ensure that this strategy compliments and links with the other plans and strategies within Perth and Kinross. A number of these are outlined below.

- **Perth and Kinross Community Plan**
This document sets out the Community Planning Partnership’s shared vision for Perth & Kinross and makes reference to improving the safety and environment of Perth & Kinross.
- **Perth & Kinross Corporate Plan**
The Council’s Corporate Plan outlines the corporate priorities of
 - Community Safety – working towards creating safer communities in Perth & Kinross.
 - Environment – protecting and enhancing the environment of Perth & Kinross.
- **Police Scotland Annual Policing Plan**
Police Scotland’s Annual Policing Plan outlines the objectives of reducing crime and disorder and improving public safety and the feeling of safety. This is also reflected in
- **The Police Scotland Local Policing Plan.**

Information Sharing

To effectively manage antisocial behaviour it is vital that agencies share information at a local level.

Perth and Kinross Council and Police Scotland are committed to sharing information about incidents of antisocial behaviour. They will also share with others involved in addressing antisocial behaviour. Appropriate protocols are in place for this purpose.

However, it is recognised that the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 makes substantial provisions for enhanced sharing of information between, and the provision of information to:

- Local authorities
- Chief constable
- Principal reporter
- Registered social landlords
- Authorities administering housing benefits

Having a protocol in place is recognised by all partners as one of the key tools to effectively tackling antisocial behaviour within a framework consistent with Data Protection and Human Rights legislation.

To this end the partners undertake to ensure that when involved in joint working to tackle antisocial behaviour, only relevant information required to address incidents of antisocial behaviour is disclosed.

Equal Opportunities

Partners are committed to discharging their functions in a manner consistent with the support and promotion of equal opportunities.

They will act in a manner which has as its objectives the prevention, elimination or regulation of discrimination between people on grounds of sex or marital status, on racial grounds, or on grounds of disability, age, sexual orientation, language or social origin, or of other personal attributes, including beliefs or opinions, such as religious beliefs or political opinions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This strategy has outlined the work that is being undertaken to address the issue of antisocial behaviour. This work will be monitored and evaluated to ensure that services are making a difference and providing best value.

Safer Communities Team management will be provided with a monthly performance update and will prepare an annual report which will be available to the public and the partners.

The Scottish Government has developed a framework for measuring the performance of antisocial behaviour strategies, which includes measures they require to compare performance at a national level. These indicators are split into the categories of:

- Disregard for community or personal wellbeing.
- Acts directed at people.
- Environmental damage.
- Misuse of public space.
- Agencies' performance in tackling antisocial behaviour.

However, the Scottish Government has advised that local performance measures should also be identified.

The partnership has identified key indicators which are monitored. The key indicators are:

- Number of antisocial behaviour incidents reported to police, local authority and other agencies.
- Incidents reported to Safer Communities Team.
- Annoyance Incidents reported to the police.
- Disturbance Incidents reported to the police.
- Number of Youth Calls
- Evaluation forms are sent to every caller to the Safer Communities Team. These forms are used to determine satisfaction levels of callers.

Perth and Kinross Community Safety and Environment Outcome Delivery Group is committed to the success of this strategy, and believe the services provided will support all people within Perth and Kinross who want to live their lives in safe and secure communities.