

# **Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy**

**2023-2026**



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# Foreword

This Antisocial Behaviour Strategy provides the framework by which public services, voluntary agencies, private sector and registered social landlords in Perth and Kinross will work in partnership to tackle antisocial behaviour. 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.

Our strategy builds upon the strong partnership arrangements already in place. This strategy demonstrates the contribution that will be made by all partners in tackling antisocial behaviour in Perth & Kinross. Though approved by the Perth and Kinross Community Justice and Safety Partnership this strategy is formally adopted on its behalf by Perth and Kinross Council and Police Scotland. This strategy has been developed in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 and provides the following:

- 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.

Perth and Kinross Council, alongside its partner agencies, such as Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service, Registered Social Landlords and third sector agencies will work together, and with communities, to tackle antisocial

behaviour. This strategy will provide the basis for promoting co-ordinated action to prevent and tackle antisocial behaviour.

The following groups and organisations have been consulted during the development of this strategy:

- Perth and Kinross Council – Locality Housing Services
- Police Scotland
- Perth and Kinross Youth Work Alliance
- Victim Support Scotland
- Perth and Kinross Tenants and Residents Association
- The Principal Reporter
- Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service
- Safer Communities Partnership
- Perth and Kinross Community Justice and Safety Partnership
- Perth and Kinross Community Safety Third Sector Collaborative
- Perth and Kinross Drug and Alcohol Partnership

Signed .....

**Police Scotland**

Signed.....

**Perth and Kinross Council**

# Background and Local Context

## What is anti-social behaviour?

Section 143 of the Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 sets out the interpretation of antisocial behaviour for the purposes of the Act:

A person engages in antisocial behaviour if they:

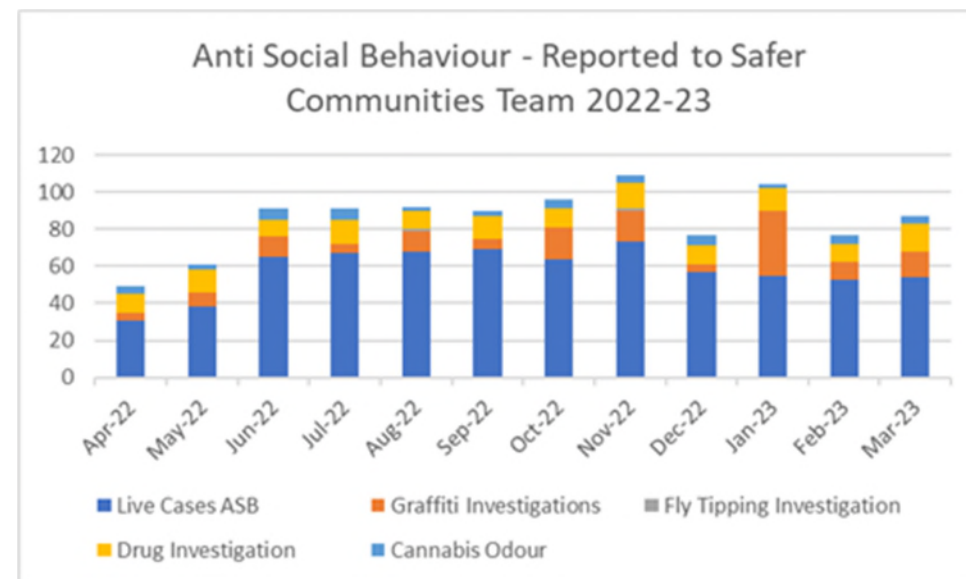
- act in a way that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress to anyone; or
- behave in a way that causes or is likely to cause alarm and distress to at least one person not of the same household as them

Perth and Kinross is a safe and attractive place to live but people and communities do experience antisocial behaviour. It is difficult to provide specific data as a great deal of behaviour is not reported. Antisocial behaviour is generally accepted to include:

- Violence and threats of violence.
- Disorderly behaviour and noise.
- Anti-social use of vehicles.
- Graffiti, vandalism and other environmental disorders.
- Behaviour associated with drug dealing and use.

Perth and Kinross is primarily a rural area, with a population of 153,810 and the majority of the population living in the main towns of Perth, (47,220) Blairgowrie (9,260) and Crieff (7,430). Perth and Kinross had the 12th highest population in 2021, out of all 32 council areas in Scotland. As might be expected, most antisocial behaviour occurs in the more densely populated parts of the city and the towns but people are also affected in rural areas and services need to be sufficiently flexible to respond.

The graph below shows the number and types of anti-social behaviour that have occurred in the Perth and Kinross region from April 2022 – March 2023.



## Anti-Social Behaviour in Perth and Kinross

## Services Provided

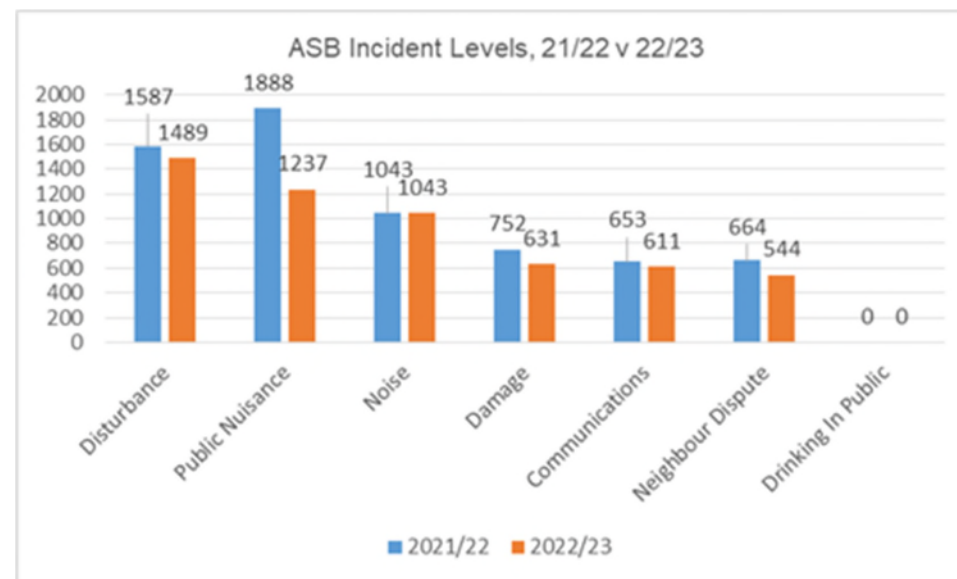
A wide range of partners work together to tackle anti-social behaviour in Perth and Kinross. Below is a list of our main partners, their roles and responsibilities in tackling Anti-Social Behaviour:

### Perth and Kinross Council - Locality Housing Teams

If the victims of anti-social behaviour are council tenants, the Locality Housing Teams of Perth and Kinross Council are often the first service to help. They can notify and penalise the culprits. The Locality Teams will gather and record evidence, mediate, and cooperate with other agencies to find creative solutions depending on the circumstances of each complaint.

### Police Scotland

Receive reports of all levels of antisocial behaviour, they gather evidence, record it and share it with partners if appropriate using the Information Sharing Protocol. The chart below highlights the ASB incident levels received by Police Scotland in 2021/22 and 2022/23.



### Safer Communities Team

The council Safer Communities Team specialises in dealing with antisocial behaviour. The team deal with Neighbourhood Issues in all tenures, Graffiti and CCTV, Fly-Tipping and Substance Misuse. The team can access measures such as Acceptable Behaviour Agreements and Antisocial Behaviour Orders in more serious and protracted cases.

Safer Communities Wardens – provide the visible, operational response to antisocial behaviour, patrolling neighbourhoods to challenge behaviour, gather and report evidence. They are co-located with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, at Perth Community Fire Station.

## **Police Scotland Prevention and Interventions Hub**

The Prevention and Interventions Hub is co-located with the Safer Communities Team at St Martins House, Perth and promotes effective information sharing and joint-working to find effective and sustainable solutions to different problems. Police officers are the only service that provides a 24hour response to reports of antisocial behaviour.

## **Other Regulatory and Voluntary Services**

The Safer Communities Team chairs a regular meeting of the Safer Communities Partnership where a wide range of services and agencies come together to consider a wide range of issues affecting people and communities including anti-social behaviour.

Where issues are serious or long-standing, a multi-agency team is established to develop a plan to deploy the various resources, skills and powers necessary to find creative, sustainable solutions. These Partnership meetings are supported by meetings of multi-agency, locality-based, Tasking and Co-ordinating Groups which support ongoing cases and identify emerging issues.

**Perth and Kinross Council, Police Scotland and the other partner agencies, continue to take a proactive approach to antisocial behaviour based on support and early intervention.**

# The Way Forward

In 2023 the Safer Communities Partnership began a review of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy. The partnership decided to develop an approach to create a more useable version, which is accessible to all.

Members decided to:

- Develop a strategy on a page, in picture form.
- Develop a partnership 'Pledge' on antisocial behaviour.
- Convert all documents into Easy Read format.

Multi-agency workshops were held to develop the draft strategy which included people with lived experience of antisocial behaviour. The members were then invited to join a forum to review the strategy and develop the 'Pledge'.

## Our Pledge

Our pledge, which was devised by the Safer Communities Partnership, outlines the 8 statements which make up the approach that will be taken by all partners to combat anti-social behaviour in Perth and Kinross and is detailed in the image below.



## Key Priorities and Next Steps

The image on Page 8 of this strategy provides the summary from our Strategy workshop and maps out where we are currently, and the steps we need to take to deliver on our key priorities such as Prevention, Accessibility, Safety and Support.



# Perth and Kinross Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy: Key Priorities and Next Steps



ILLUSTRATION by [www.listenthinkdraw.co.uk](http://www.listenthinkdraw.co.uk)



# Monitoring and Evaluation

This strategy will be approved by the Perth and Kinross Community Justice and Safety Partnership where all relevant partners are represented. It will then be widely distributed and published on member websites.

The Safer Communities Partnership will prepare an annual report on activity detailing progress on how well we are delivering on our priorities. The priorities for Anti-Social Behaviour are to:

- Build on our commitment to raising awareness around Cuckooing and County lines – exploitation of vulnerable drug users and infiltration by drug gangs from other areas.
- Further develop the Fly Tipping Strategy with partners.
- Establish the role of Fly Tipping Co-ordinator
- Review of the Noise App and evaluate its effectiveness.
- Provide all publications in easy read format.
- Continue to work with schools to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Continue to seek opportunities to work with Alcohol and Drug Partnership.
- Work with partners to consider and review the approach to youth issues.
- Review and integrate the role of complex needs co-ordinator into mainstream activities.
- Continue our proactive information sharing, joint working and advice role with third sector agencies working with young people.

The report will be submitted to the Perth and Kinross Community Justice and Safety Partnership and then be widely distributed and published on member websites.

Delivering on these priorities will ensure that people living in Perth and Kinross feel safe in their communities. Priorities will be constantly reviewed by the Community Safety Partnership, to ensure we can respond to any new and/or emerging issues. Progress made against these priorities will be reported annually, as part of the Annual Performance Report.

# Information Sharing

To effectively manage antisocial behaviour, it is vital that agencies share information. 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 to support this.

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 tackle 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.

## Equalities and Diversity Statement

In accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (General Equality Duty), Perth & Kinross Council has a duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics, under Equalities legislation, include race, disability, religion or belief, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marital status or pregnancy. Under the Fairer Scotland Duty we must also actively consider how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions.

This Antisocial Behaviour Strategy complies with the Council's Equality Policy.

We will review our Antisocial Behaviour Strategy every three years for their equal opportunities implications, taking appropriate action to address inequalities likely to result or resulting from the implementation of this strategy.

We are committed to providing fair and equal treatment for all our stakeholders and if any of those who are from an equality protected characteristic group are a victim of anti-social behaviour specifically because of this then support will be put in place where possible.