



Better for everyone

# Anti-social Behaviour Factsheet

## What is anti-social behaviour?

Anti-Social behaviour is any activity which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to one or more people not of the same household. Some of the more common forms of anti-social behaviour include:

- Substance misuse i.e. dealing or using drugs in the street
- Drinking alcohol on the streets
- Acting in an aggressive and intimidating way
- Animal related problems e.g. not properly restraining your dog in a public place
- Aggressive begging
- Prostitution
- Abandoned vehicles
- Vehicle nuisance such as revving car engines, wheel spinning and mini-motos
- Noisy behaviour in quiet streets
- Graffiti, vandalism and littering
- Fireworks misuse
- Neighbourly disputes
- Unacceptable behaviour
- Setting off fireworks late at night
- General drunken behaviour (which is rowdy or inconsiderate)
- Hoax calls
- Use of an imitation weapon like a BB Gun in a public place

Some of the anti-social behaviour described above may also be recorded as criminal offences, such as criminal damage or drug dealing, and this can result in arrest and prosecution.

## What is the issue?

Whilst incidents of anti-social behaviour continue to be managed, such incidents can have a significant impact on individuals and communities. Levels of anti-social behaviour in County Durham remain higher than the national average. Problem solving approaches and partnership working remains key to addressing the issues and further partnership work and place-based approaches are being considered.

## Why is it important?

Resilient and cohesive communities are more likely to engage with services and report crime and anti-social behaviour. In order to achieve this there are a range of tools and powers available to partner organisations to tackle anti-social behaviour. However our real strength in communities lies in the recognition of place based community assets and seeking to mobilise these in order to support each other and listening to the individuals within those communities in order to improve a sense of belonging and purpose so that people are safe and free from the fear of crime.

## How does it impact people?

Being and feeling safe both in our homes and within the wider community impacts on our emotional and physical wellbeing. It also directly impacts on our personal resilience as well as impacting overall on community levels of resilience, confidence and cohesion.

## County Durham Context

### Council related data:

- Council related Anti-Social Behaviour incidents are categorised into Environmental, Nuisance and Personal. Data to the end of December 2020 shows a rolling year figure of 14,649 which is below the 2017- 20 3-year average of 14,776.
- Council related Enviro crime includes abandoned vehicles, bonfires, dog fouling, fly-posting, graffiti, discarded needles and drug paraphernalia, stray dogs and litter. Data to the end of December 2020 shows a rolling year figure of 8,581 which is below the 2017- 20 3-year average of 10,091.
- Fly-tipping data is reported separately from the other categories of Enviro-crime in line with Government reporting. Data to the end of December 2020 shows a rolling year figure of 7,541 which is above the 2017- 20 3-year average of 7,265. The latest benchmarking information is for the financial year 2018/19 and shows County Durham had 13.79 incidents per 1,000 population against a North East figure of 23.95 and England figure of 19.16. When comparing against the proportion of incidents per 1,000 hectares County Durham had 32.56 incidents, the North East region had 73.36 incidents and England had 80.67 incidents.
- Council related Nuisance data includes noise, smoke, odour, light and dust. Data to the end of December 2020 shows a rolling year figure of 5,472 which is above the 3-year average.
- In relation to Personal incidents data to the end of December 2020 shows a rolling year figure of 596 which is below the 2017- 20 3-year average of 789.

### Police Related Data for County Durham:

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) accounted for 13.7% of all police incidents in County Durham (April to end of December in 2020/21). Of these incidents:
  - 8.1% were categorised as 'ASB - Nuisance'; 3.6% 'ASB – Environmental'; and, 2% 'ASB – Personal'.
  - 27.4% were youth related, 16.4% alcohol related, 3.6% youth and alcohol related and 1.5% drug related.

## Resources

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/asb>

<https://www.durham.police.uk/Advice-Centre/Personal-safety/Antisocial-behaviour.aspx>

<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/crime-info/types-crime/antisocial-behaviour>

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/community-family/antisocial-behaviour>