

Perth & Kinross Antisocial Behaviour Strategy

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

- The Chief Constable of Police Scotland
- Perth and Kinross Council Community Safety Committee

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:

This 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.

The extent and type of antisocial behaviour in the area

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.

Antisocial Behaviour can include:

- Nuisance, rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours
- Vandalism, graffiti and fly-tipping
- Environmental damage including dumping of rubbish or abandonment of cars

- Alcohol & drug issues
- Intimidation & harassment
- Noise nuisance

An early indication to someone that their behaviour is disturbing the peace or the lifestyle of the 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.

Information on all the service, available and planned, to tackle antisocial behaviour

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

- Safer Communities Wardens

Wardens 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 Coordinators

Coordinators work closely with partner agencies to investigate cases of serious and protracted antisocial behaviour.

- Police Scotland Prevention & Intervention Team

Police Officers are co-located with the Council Safer Communities Team which encourages joint-working and information sharing.

This Partnership approach encourages staff to work together to seek effective, sustainable resolution to cases of antisocial behaviour.

Partners intervene early to stop antisocial behaviour escalating. Where early intervention fails enforcement action is considered including the use of Acceptable Behaviour Agreements or Antisocial Behaviour Orders.

How progress will be reported back

The Safer Communities Team produces an Annual Report which is published on the Council Website.

How information will be shared between agencies

It is vital agencies share information at a local level to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour.

Perth and Kinross Council and Police Scotland are committed sharing information about incidents of antisocial behaviour.

A protocol for sharing information between Perth & Kinross Council and Police Scotland is in place and 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

Partners undertake to ensure that in joint working to tackle antisocial behaviour, only the minimum information required, to address the issue at hand, is disclosed.

Information is shared and stored in compliance with Data Protection.

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.

CONCLUSION

Perth and Kinross Council and Police Scotland are committed to the success of this strategy and will adopt the approach described in it to support the people of Perth and Kinross who have the right to live their lives free from violence, crime and anti-social behaviour and so create a safe and sustainable place for future generations.