



Operational Partnership Team

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Anti Social Behaviour? (ASB)

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defines Anti Social Behaviour where somebody who acted in *a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress.*

However, it is important to remember that peoples perception i.e. what they believe is anti social behaviour differs. Some noise and everyday lifestyle behaviour must be expected and tolerated and it is a balance between what is reasonable in the circumstances.

How is anti social behaviour determined?

Each case is looked at individually however in order to determine what action should take place in respect of reported anti-social actions or behaviour there would need to be detailed evidence that proved that the person or persons acted in such a way that was causing or was likely to cause harassment, alarm and or distress. It is unlikely that any one off or sporadic behaviour would result in any action being considered.

So what do I do if I am concerned by such activities or behaviour?

South Norfolk Council and Norfolk Constabulary work together to tackle antisocial behaviour through a joint Council / Police team based at South Norfolk Council. Anti-Social Behaviour can be reported to the Police by telephoning 0845 456 4567 or online at www.south-norfolk.gov.uk.

How will an investigation be carried out?

You will initially be contacted by an Officer from your local Safer Neighbourhood Team to discuss in more detail your concerns. The information you provide will be used in confidence and is likely to be shared with other relevant organisations that may be able to help resolve the situation. Supporting incident statements from neighbours or other witnesses will all add to the picture. The Officer will liaise with other South Norfolk Council teams or agencies as appropriate to resolve the issue. Please note that one-off incidents, which have caused you annoyance, are unlikely to be investigated, as are typical daily activities such as young people playing a game of football or a neighbour having an occasional party.

In some cases the situation may need to be monitored for a length of time and you will be sent forms to help you do this. In some cases the evidence supplied will form the basis of

a case conference between appropriate agencies (e.g. the Police, Housing Associations, Youth Offending Team, Fire Brigade)

What action could be taken if the activities/or behaviour is proven to be anti social?

The multi agency case conference would establish which agency or department takes the lead role and they would consider the appropriate intervention. If the person is the tenant of a Housing Association and involves their tenants, procedures will be followed to warn them of a breach of their tenancy conditions. If the complaint involves elements of noise issues, we may seek your permission to install noise recording/monitoring equipment to supplement your written evidence. All organisations involved consider how to prevent and deter Anti-Social Behaviour.

What happens if the person or persons do not comply with this action?

All investigated cases will be monitored, however, we rely on the continued observations of the complainant to inform us of any non-compliance. None of the organisations can monitor situations around the clock. If the anti-social behaviour continues, and is reported to us, we will again convene a case conference and a decision on further action will be agreed. In extreme cases, continuous anti-social behaviour could be used as evidence towards an application to the courts for intervention such as an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) or a tenancy demotion or even eviction; however, this is a very rare conclusion to this type of investigation as other interventions often work.

I am worried about repercussions, would my details have to be released to other parties?

In the initial stages of any intervention no reference whatsoever is made of the person who has complained. Your details would **never** be disclosed to the person or persons allegedly causing the situation. Your details may be shared with other agencies investigating the case but would remain confidential outside of that case conference. If the case resulted in the extreme conclusion of applying to the courts for an ASBO or tenancy demotion or eviction, then the monitoring forms would form part of the evidence required. In addition you may be called by the court to give evidence, however, it is a highly unlikely situation and your permission would be sought at every stage of the process. In addition, it is usual for an ASBO to be jointly applied for by the local authority and the Police so evidence would need to be sufficient and strong enough for both agencies to proceed.

Please note that all South Norfolk Council fact sheets are available in large print, cassette form or alternative languages upon request

