

# Safe Durham Partnership

## Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2022-25

*“Improving lives, through tackling anti-social behaviour”*



Better for everyone



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## Foreword

The Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) is the community Safety Partnership for County Durham and was formed in 2009. Over the last 13 years it has had significant success in tackling crime and disorder through the underlying principles of working together. It is made up of responsible authorities:

- Durham County Council
- Durham Constabulary
- County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
- Probation Service
- North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board

With extended Membership:

- County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- HMP Durham
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Voluntary and Community Sector

Further information can be found at <https://countydurhampartnership.co.uk/safe-durham-partnership/>

The partnership was formed under a statutory requirement within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to tackle crime and disorder and the issues that most effect those living and working in County Durham.

The Act placed a duty on the Police and Council to consider crime, disorder and community safety within all of their activities, policies, decisions and service provision.

Further to this, powers to tackle anti-social behaviour were introduced through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the 2014 Act'). The Home Office published a statutory guidance document for the act shortly after its implementation that can be accessed via the following link, [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act: anti-social behaviour - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414141/anti-social-behaviour-act-2014-guidance.pdf).

The aim of the guidance was to enable the effective use of these new powers and states that *"these powers are local in nature, as those who work within, and for, local communities are best placed to understand what is driving the behaviour in question, the impact that it is having, and to determine the most appropriate response. This guidance is intended to assist the police, local authorities and other local agencies who exercise functions under the 2014 Act to respond to instances of anti-social behaviour in their local areas."* It placed joint responsibility on partners to use tools and powers and gave victims and communities a say through the community trigger and community remedy. The guidance has had several amendments over the years, the latest being in June 2022, to ensure that there was a greater focus on the impact of anti-social behaviour on victims and on their needs, to emphasise the need to

ensure that relevant legal tests are met to trigger the use of the powers and expedite the implementation of Public Space Protection Orders.

Anti-social behaviour can have a massive impact on those who are subjected to it which is why it has been identified as a work area within the priority 'promote being safe and feeling safe in your community' as part of the SDP Plan 21-25.

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

This document provides the strategic approach, guiding principles of the level of service and what we want our services to achieve for those experiencing anti-social behaviour in County Durham.

# ***Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2022-2025***

## ***Vision – “Improving lives, through tackling anti-social behaviour”***

### **Introduction**

The Safe Durham Partnership recognises the cumulative impact that ASB can have upon the lives of individuals and communities and are committed to building upon the excellent partnership work already taking place across the County to tackle ASB.

All partners understand and recognise the need to work collaboratively to achieve the common goal of preventing and tackling ASB so that local communities feel safe.

This strategy sets out the guiding principles of how we will work together to identify those issues that have the most impact on residents and visitors within County Durham and investigate and resolve reports of ASB and highlight the values and beliefs of the partnership to serve as a guideline for operational decision making.

We will ensure the victims voice is heard and this will play a key role in developing this strategy to ensure we provide an excellent service that encourages reporting and supports and effectively communicates with victims.

It includes what we consider to be ASB and what we do not consider to be ASB. It recognises that whilst swift and effective action is needed to tackle high level ASB, action is also required to tackle what might be considered as low level ASB due to the impact this can have upon residents and visitors to County Durham.

Whilst every effort will be made to prevent ASB through identifying those at risk and addressing their needs through suitable interventions and support there is a clear commitment to using the tools and powers available to resolve ASB where these measures have not been successful.

This strategy does not sit in isolation but is intended to sit alongside other publications such as the ‘Safer Durham Partnership Plan 2021-2025’ and ‘A vision for County Durham 2019 -2035’ both of which have a commitment to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and ensure that County Durham is a safe place to live.

### **Our Strategy**

#### **A Vision for County Durham 2019-2035**

A Vision for County Durham involved wide consultation with partners and the public to provide a shared understanding of what everyone wants County Durham to look like in 15 years’ time. It is there to provide direction to key public, private and voluntary sector organisations that make up the County Durham Partnership enabling them to work together to improve the quality of life of our residents. A shared understanding of the issues we face and our vision for the future will help organisations work together, removing boundaries and co-delivering services for the benefit of our residents.

Commitments within the Vision for County Durham that mirror our Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy are:

- We will create a physical environment that will contribute to good health.
- All children and young people will have a safe childhood.
- Victims of crime will have access to the right level of support, with services available to address their needs.
- Our towns and villages will be vibrant, well used, clean, attractive and safe.
- Communities will come together to accept and support each other.

## **Safe Durham Partnership**

The vision of the SDP is that 'Durham is a county where every adult and child will feel and be safe'.

In order to achieve this vision, the SDP has six strategic priorities the following of which relate to ASB:

- To support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm.
- Reduce reoffending.
- Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community.

The SDP have worked hard to prevent and tackle ASB since its formation in 2009 and are continually reviewing the way in which it achieves this goal. This strategy provides the framework by which the SDP will work together to prevent and deal with ASB across County Durham whilst embracing the following 8 principles:

- Working in Partnership
- Champion the Victims' Voice
- Provide the Best Victim Support
- Provide Victim Centric Community Trigger & Community Remedy Processes
- Implement Preventative Measures
- To make full use of the tools and powers
- Maximise use of digital technologies
- An inclusive approach

**Safe Durham Partnership – ASB Strategy**  
**VISION: Improving lives through tackling anti-social behaviour**

**THE EIGHT PRINCIPLES**

**Working in Partnership**

Commitment to work with partners to tackle ASB

Sign up to a joint memorandum of understanding

Sign up to joint ASB Strategy and include joint strategic objectives in partner ASB delivery plans

Promote joint problem solving

Promote good news stories across the partnership

Collaborate on training

**Champion the Victims' Voice**

Work with Victims' Champions and Victims Commissioner

Consult with victims to ensure lived experiences are taken into account

Place victims at the centre of service delivery

Customer Service feedback & satisfaction to inform policy, planning and delivery of services

**Provide the Best Victim Support**

Provide and promote how to report ASB and to where, clear and consistent information signposting and referral pathways for victims

Provide a range of methods for victims to report ASB

Provide clear communication to victims

Aspire to a single front door entry to report ASB

Provide a victim Advocacy Service

**Provide Victim Centric Community Trigger & Community Remedy Processes**

Promote the local threshold and community trigger process

Enable victims to attend case reviews

Consider victim impact

Appoint independent Chairs at Case Reviews

Develop an independent appeals process with the PCC

Provide a community remedy and restorative justice service

Publish Community Trigger Statistics Annually



## Implement Preventative Measures

Promote local problem solving

Promote and undertake diversionary activities

Undertake crime prevention measures where possible

Engagement and Education

Ambition to Co-commission services and collaborate when accessing funding opportunities

## Make full use of tools and powers

Provide staff training across the partners on tools and powers

Agree lead agencies to take ownership where there is joint responsibility

Provide an incremental process of escalation to inc: Early Intervention, Support & Enforcement

Facilitate better use of the powers granted to the Courts

## Maximise use of digital technologies

Broaden the digital service offer

Commit to data sharing

Use a common reporting framework and where possible common software

Use technology to analyse and evaluate service provision and allocate resources

Continually improve customer experience e.g. Improve call handling response times

## An Inclusive Approach

Rural proofing to ensure rural communities are not disadvantaged

Provide Social Value

Undertake Equality Impact Assessments

Prioritise areas of high deprivation and need

Take into account impact on health and well-being

## Other key strategic documents

The causes and implications of ASB both on the victims and perpetrators will not be resolved in isolation and working together and understanding the roles of our partners, voluntary organisations and other strategic groups can play is crucial in order to ensure we are not duplicating efforts, pooling resources and funding and collaborating and shared goals. As part of the ASB Strategic Group, who will have responsibility for driving this strategic approach, key stakeholders are involved to ensure this happens and consideration will be given to other strategic plans and documents that play a part in tackling this issue such as:

- [County Durham Youth Justice Plan 2022-23 pdf](#)
- [The Poverty Strategy 2022-26 pdf](#)
- [Inclusive Economic Strategy 2022 pdf](#)
- [County Durham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025 pdf](#)
- [Durham Police and Crime plan 2021-2024 pdf](#)
- [Growing Up in County Durham Strategy 2023-25 pdf](#)
- [Durham County Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2022 pdf](#)
- [County Durham Housing Strategy July 2019 pdf](#)

## Action Plan

The ASB Strategic Group will be responsible for taking forward the approach identified in the strategy and developing and committing to an action plan that will help realise the full potential of this strategic approach.

Each objective within the strategic plan has a separate S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timed) delivery plan that is owned by the ASB Strategic Group and monitored regularly including updates to the Safe Durham Partnership Board.

## Delivery and Measuring Outcomes

The ASB Strategic Group will be responsible for ensuring that the principles of this strategy are delivered through the 'Safe Durham Partnership Plan'.

The SDP Plan is the overarching community safety plan for County Durham and will be used by partners to achieve the vision of ensuring that 'Durham is a county where every adult and child will feel and be safe'. The action plan will include clear objectives and performance indicators.

The Safe Durham Partnership has in place a Performance Management Framework structured around the strategic priorities. Performance management arrangements of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan are refreshed on an annual basis and incorporated into the Safe Durham Partnership Performance Management Framework. This ensures responsibility and accountability of the strategic actions within the Plan.

In addition, each group which supports the work of the Safe Durham Partnership has a specific action plan and performance management framework that directly supports the delivery of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee provides assurance and oversight of the partnership and its subgroups including the ASB Strategic Group.

Current performance indicators include:-

- Respondents who agree that police and local authorities are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter to them.
- Reports of anti-social behaviour
- Reduce ASB rates within the Selective Licensing Scheme areas by 10%

## Approach to Wellbeing

The County Durham Approach to Wellbeing has been adopted by the Safe Durham Partnership as a means of ensuring all organisations and services within the county consider wellbeing as a common currency; it includes everything that is important to people and their lives. It is designed to promote whole system change and to invoke a culture where the wellbeing of the County's residents is considered in every decision that is made whether this be regarding decisions about people or places, or the systems designed to support them.

Our approach has seven principles, underpinned by a strong evidence base. These principles affirm the key role that residents can play in supporting their own communities and the significant improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes that can result from involving residents more in decisions that affect them. A community can be defined as a geographical community or a community of interest such as people living with dementia or asylum seekers.

Our approach has people and places at its heart. Working with communities, building on the assets of those communities, supporting the positive development of the neighbourhoods that people live in and fostering the resilience and empowerment of these communities through the support offered to everyone, and importantly to those who are most vulnerable.



## What is Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB resists a simple definition as what may be unacceptable behaviour to one person may be tolerable to another. It can be wide ranging from minor public nuisances to more serious criminal acts such as harassment and drug use.

The definition of ASB that will be used by the SDP is that defined in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 as:

- **Non-housing related**

Anti-social behaviour in a non-housing related context is that the conduct concerned has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person.

- **Housing-related**

Anti-social behaviour in a housing context is conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises or conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.

Whilst the legal definition of ASB is important in terms of evidence gathering and ensuring that the legal tests are met to enable enforcement action to be taken, the SDP also accepts that the impact upon a victim is at the heart of any response to ASB.

In addition to the definition above the SDP divides reports of ASB into three categories to help us define, monitor and report incidents. These categories are Environmental, Personal and Nuisance and are defined as:

- **Environmental ASB** – the interface between people and places. It includes incidents where individuals and groups have an impact on their surroundings including natural, built and social environments. This would include incidents such as littering, irresponsible disposal of waste, fly-tipping, graffiti, dog fouling, deliberate fires etc.

- **Nuisance ASB** - those incidents where an act, condition, thing or person causes trouble, annoyance, inconvenience, offence or suffering to the local community in general rather than to individual victims. This would include noise by neighbours, rowdy behaviour, smoke from fires etc.

- **Personal ASB** – those incidents deliberately targeted at an individual or group or having an impact on an individual or group rather than the community at large.

The SDP will consider and assess reported incidents and the impact that it is having upon the victim to determine what action can be taken. Where it is not possible to take formal action the need for additional support will be considered and provided where possible. In some instances, the ASB may constitute a criminal offence and will therefore be dealt with appropriately.

These definitions however can be confusing to members of the public especially when different agencies and organisations record and report on these in many different ways using many different databases.

The Safe Durham Partnership has agreed a list of behaviours that could best describe antisocial behaviour. However, the list remains flexible. The prevalence of these behaviours varies in different areas of the county. The Antisocial Behaviour Strategic Group employ a range of techniques to profile the nature of antisocial behaviour as it occurs across the county. We share information in accordance with legal frameworks to understand the nature of local problems, assess risk, and direct resources where they are needed most.

**Personal:**

- Intimidation / harassment / abuse

**Environmental:**

- Criminal damage / vandalism / graffiti
- Environmental cleanliness
- Abandoned cars
- Pollution
- Deliberate fires

**Nuisance:**

- Noise
- Rowdy behaviour
- Nuisance behaviour
- Drug and substance misuse / dealing
- Loitering / pestering
- Animal nuisance
- Vehicle nuisance

## **Criminality and ASB**

ASB occupies the space where criminal and civil law overlap. The legal definitions of ASB use concepts from both civil and criminal law. Much of what we consider to be anti-social could be covered by criminal law but there are also civil remedies used to address it.

An array of criminal offences could apply to anti-social behaviour and can be sanctioned with court action or an 'out of court disposal'. However, it can sometimes be difficult or undesirable to dispose of low level anti-social behaviour through the courts. This is either because the burden of proof cannot be reached, or because it will not be in the public interest to do so. Therefore, civil or informal remedies are often favoured above criminal sanctions.

Whilst criminal sanctions are available to the Police, civil remedies are available to both the Police and the Council and can be used by both agencies to tackle ASB. Some of the powers in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 are

only available to the Police e.g., dispersal orders and some are only available to the Council e.g., PSPO, but most of the tools and powers that would be used against individuals causing ASB can be used by both agencies.

The Police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) may find that it is not in the public interest to pursue a criminal justice outcome for those who commit ASB. This is in part because ASB can be addressed through civil remedies which require a lower burden of proof. It is also because the police and CPS must direct their resource to offending that causes the most harm. They may decide it is more efficient and effective to resolve low harm ASB outside the criminal justice system and use civil powers available to them and the Council through the above legislation.

## **What is not ASB**

In considering reports of ASB there will be cases where no action is possible by the SDP as the circumstances of the incident are not considered to be unreasonable and therefore not ASB. The SDP expects a reasonable level of tolerance between members of our community and would encourage where possible that those involved try to resolve the matter themselves.

Investigating officers will make a fair and reasoned assessment to determine when further action can and can't be taken. Examples of what the SDP would not consider to be ASB are as follows:

- Normal household living noise such as children playing, noise from household appliances, doors closing, babies crying.
- Children playing in public spaces where there is no associated ASB such as harassment or damage to property.
- Family disputes.
- People being unpleasant to each other where the actions are not considered to warrant intervention e.g., raised voices, arguments.
- Disputes about street parking where there is no associated ASB such as harassment or damage to property.
- One off incidents which would not be considered a nuisance and / or where there is insufficient evidence to warrant further investigation.

The complainant will be advised at the earliest opportunity where the matter reported is not considered to be ASB and will be provided with advice and signposted to other agencies and support where possible.

## **Who deals with ASB?**

Whilst the Home Office is responsible for making and implementing policies to tackle anti-social behaviour across England and Wales, Local Authorities and the Police lead on tackling anti-social behaviour at a local level. In addition, Registered Social Landlords and Private Landlords form key partners in the response to anti-social behaviour by tackling issues surrounding the tenancies of the properties that they manage.

## **Local Authorities**

The Council is responsible for the delivery of a range of services including neighbourhood services, children's services, transport and housing. Through the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council is obliged to consider how they can prevent anti-social behaviour and crime through the delivery of all of its services.

Whilst the Council has a team of Neighbourhood Wardens, an Environmental Services team and a dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour Interventions team and that respond directly to reports of anti-social behaviour there is an underlying responsibility to consider how we can prevent anti-social behaviour through the policies, decisions and service provided by all Council services.

## **Neighbourhood Policing Teams**

The Police are also responsible for tackling crime and anti-social behaviour which is delivered through Neighbourhood Policing Teams that build relationships with communities. Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) form a key part of this response to anti-social behaviour and work closely with partners and residents.

## **Registered Social Landlords**

Registered social housing providers, such as housing associations, have a responsibility to prevent and tackle incidents of anti-social behaviour connected with the properties that they manage and the tenants that they house. Action against a perpetrator can be taken in the form of informal warnings, breach of a tenancy agreement, injunctions, and possession proceedings. RSL's form part of the SDP and work closely with partners, in particular the Council and Police, to deal with anti-social behaviour.

## **Private Rented Sector Landlords**

All responsible agencies will liaise with private sector landlords as and when required and on a case by case basis. Whilst private sector landlords are not legally responsible for the anti social behaviour of their tenants they may be able to take their own action through effective tenancy management.

Private landlords with properties registered under the private rented property licence (also known as 'selective licensing'), have responsibilities in relation to measures to prevent and combat anti-social behaviour.

A major selective licensing scheme began on 1st April 2022 and will run for 5 years. It covers 42% of the private rented sector in County Durham. Landlords renting out property in these designated areas will require a licence and comply with conditions of the licence. There are a number of conditions related to ASB including:

- Landlords must demand references in respect of prospective tenants
- Tenants must be provided with a written statement detailing the terms of occupancy including the responsibility for not causing ASB



- Licence holder must take all reasonable and practicable steps to prevent ASB including taking steps to terminate tenancies. They should also co-operate with DCC, Police and other agencies where ASB has been identified at their property.

Non-compliance with the licence conditions could lead to a number of sanctions including:

- Prosecution.
- Civil penalty up to £30,000.
- DCC taking over the management of the property.
- Banning Order.
- Entry on to the Rogue Landlord Database.

Further information on contact details and how to report currently are in Appendix 3 at the back of this document.

## **The Local Context**

The Safe Durham Partnership is required by statute to develop an annual strategic assessment. To provide current data and information for stakeholders which is easy to access, a series of web-based factsheets has been developed which is part of Durham Insight which is a shared intelligence, research and knowledge base for County Durham, informing strategic planning across Durham County Council and its partners. This site includes in depth Insight factsheets and lots of topic-based intelligence including infographics, maps and story maps. New intelligence content is regularly added, and the site is continuously being developed and improved.

## **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. 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.

## ASB Data

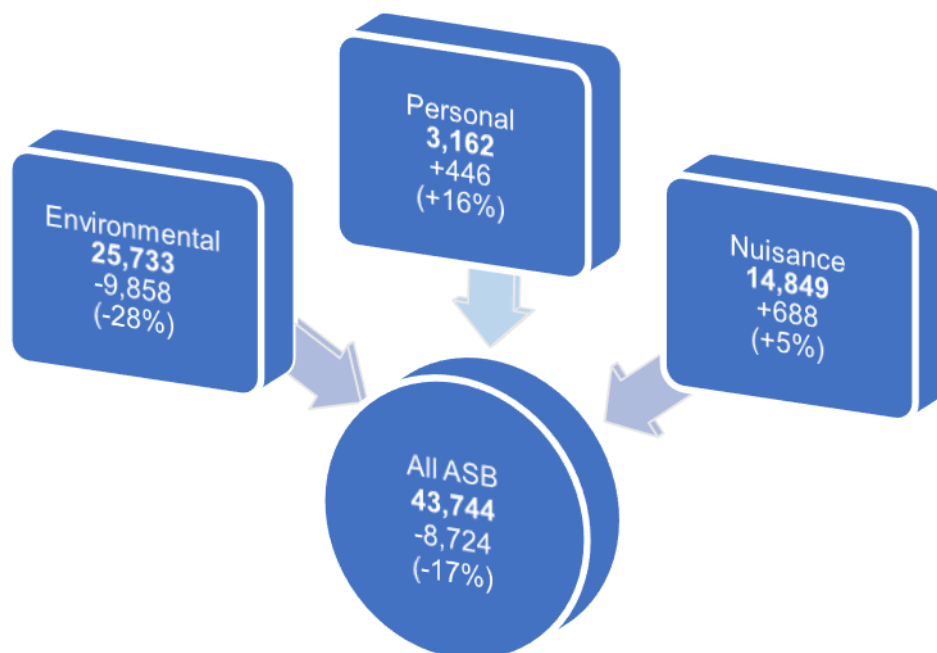
Information on the level of ASB in County Durham is maintained and reported through the SDP. An ASB Dashboard is currently in development which is a utility run via Power BI (a Data analysis tool) that incorporates Data from across relevant agencies and services from the Police (Includes Durham City Parish and Durham University Data), Council, Fire and Rescue and Believe Housing. We are also expanding this data set to incorporate the other housing organisations that operate within the County.

This tool will be utilised alongside more anecdotal information provided via local intelligence from elected members, the public, and officers to establish the new priority issues for County Durham in relation to anti-social behaviour and what is really important at a local level, establishing a local realistic definition and data set.

This tool will be used at a strategic level to ensure that we as a partnership are able to identify those trends in behaviours and develop a strategic approach to tackling the man issues.

To tackle antisocial behaviour, we need to have a clear understanding of the nature, frequency, location and complexity of the issue. We can identify the problems of most concern, where and when they occur, and the sectors of our communities most affected by combining a range of data and intelligence held by partner agencies. Working together in this way, we can understand problems, prioritise responses and make joint recommendations to resolve them.

Reports of ASB across the County during the 12 months ending 31 March 2022 (excludes all housing associations except Believe Housing).



## Consultation

Both the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-2025 and the PCC's Plan 2021-24 were consulted on recently and this will also have useful information on ASB from the view of those residing and working in County Durham, including the experience of the victim and suggestions on how this can be improved.

There were also several other consultations that have recently taken place that may contain valuable feedback to help inform the strategy:

- The Big Econ-versation.
- PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) consultation for Durham City Centre.
- Housing Targeted Development Plan priorities.
- Growing up in County Durham Strategy.
- AAP (Area Action Partnerships) Priorities.
- Student voice survey 2022.
- Durham Constabulary Rural Crime Survey.
- Durham Police & Crime Commissioner – Council Tax (Precept) 2021

A summary of the findings relating to ASB can be found in Appendix 1.

## The Voice of our Communities

We know that ASB has continued to remain a priority for the community following consultation on the Safe Durham Partnership Plan in 2020 where feeling safe and being safe in the community was a priority that the partnership should focus on with a key deliverable within that priority being antisocial behaviour. This continued to be the case even during the challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic when a refresh of the plan was carried out in 2021 and the reassurance from the community that this continued to remain an area of high priority, with 96% of respondents agreeing with this decision.

This was further re-enforced through the safer and stronger communities overview and scrutiny committee consisting of both elected members, co-opted officers from various government bodies such as the police and fire and rescue as well as well-respected members of the private sector business. Further to agreeing that the properties and key deliverables around antisocial behaviour were correct they reiterated the importance of concentrating on secondary fires and stressed the importance of having this as a separate area of within the plan and that the blight of nuisance motorcycles and quads needed to be highlighted as a key incident type that needed to be tackled within the plan on its refresh in 2021.

Local Councillors are a key partner and often the voice of the local community. They provide the link with the community and agencies, often being the ones to report the local issues and intelligence from those that have either lost confidence to report themselves or those that believe they aren't being heard or believe the right action hasn't been taken to address their issues. We need to ensure that there are the mechanisms in place so that members are involved in this process, consulted on and kept informed on relevant issues.

The PCC's consultation on the police and crime plan showed a cross over in priorities with ASB also being a top priority for the PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) in her plan following her election in 2021. Engagement with the community during the formation of the plan and since has provided key insights into what both the police and partners should be focusing on specifically around a single front door approach to reporting ASB and identifying common ground regarding what should and should not be classed as ASB.

## **A Victim Centred Approach**

Supporting victims and witnesses is another priority area within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan and is led by the work of the Victims and Witness's subgroup. The Police and Crime Commissioner has also appointed three Victims' Champions, one focusing on anti-social behaviour to ensure the victim's lived experiences are taken into consideration when commissioning of services.

We know that, where left unchecked, anti-social behaviour can have an overwhelming impact on its victims and, in some cases, on the wider community. We cannot stress enough the importance of this voice within the area of ASB to both learn from our mistakes, and continuously improving both our response to this issue for victims and witnesses, improving communication and managing expectations.

This will be further developed by ensuring that throughout the life of this strategy we continue to maintain and strengthen relationships of victims and witnesses of ASB and proactively seek the opinions on how we as individual services and agencies had responded to and dealt with their investigations as well as a partnership response, which we know had been an area of concern over recent years with confidence in the police and council tracking ASB being relatively low compared to other areas of the country at 54% within the National Crime Survey.

The partnership will work with the Victims' Champions and Victims' Commissioner to place victims and their needs at the centre of service delivery. The Partnership will consult with victims to ensure victims' lived experiences are taken into account and will use customer service feedback to inform policy, planning and service delivery.

To ensure a victim centred approach the Partnership will:

- Provide clear and consistent signposting information for victims
- Provide a range of methods for victims to report anti-social behaviour
- Provide clear communication and referral pathways to victims
- Aspire to a single front door for victims to report anti-social behaviour
- Provide a victim's advocacy service for vulnerable victims and those activating the case review or community trigger
- Promote how to report anti-social behaviour

## **Community Tension**

Community tensions through rising incidents of ASB within our communities continue to be monitored using the partnership's tension monitoring toolkit which is an intelligence gathering tool that identifies rising concerns were ASB directed at a

particular section of a community can be identified early and a partnership response actioned swiftly. Over recent years these have highlighted concerns within the GRT communities and issues around hate crime rather than ASB in general. However, this method of raising tension concerns will continue to be promoted and any concerns that require a partnership response raised at the local MAPS meetings for further action.

## **The Rural Community**

Getting it right for our rural communities. We need to recognise that the landscape within County Durham consists of both highly populated urban conurbations as well as more sparsely populated vast rural areas particularly in the West of the country. These areas present many challenges in relation to timely response from services, the lack of an internet connection, an aging rural population, lack of a reliable and regular transport infrastructure and a focus on issues of ASB very specific to that community. We need to ensure that we reduce the gap in the disparity in services and the ability the contact these services to raise a complaint or report an incident and the challenges with providing an accurate location when doing so.

## **What is Rural Proofing?**

The term 'rural proofing' is used to define a systematic approach which identifies any notable rural differentials likely to impact on service effectiveness and outcomes. It assists service providers by enabling thinking about appropriate solutions, mitigations and opportunities. The objective is to ensure equitable outcomes for service users who live in rural areas.

Rural Proofing can help to:

- Optimise the outcomes achieved by strategies and plans.
- Demonstrate a commitment to act equitably and benefit all communities.
- Support locality-based approaches to working and service.
- Design out any unintended gaps in service provision.
- Identify opportunities to innovate or make better use of available resources.
- Embed good practice within strategy and plan making.

Rural proofing recognises that rural areas have distinct geographies, often characterised by a dispersed population and small settlements. This can present challenges both for providers who deliver services and residents who use them. There may be lost economies of scale, if smaller service hubs are needed, and extra downtime or travel costs for those visiting service users at home. Gaps in infrastructure (such as public transport and digital connectivity) may also be an important rural consideration.

## **The Business Community**

Economic impact is also a concern with the voice of businesses within the retail, industrial and night-time economy raising their concerns during the consultation in the production of a new economic strategy for the council as part of the Big Conversation. Engaging further with our business community to ensure we are focusing

on areas that will enable us to support our local existing business and attract further opportunities into the area can only have a positive impact on our communities and improve the well-being and prosperity of our residents, workers and business owners.

## Young people

Just like all sections of society young people can be both the perpetrators and victims of ASB. There is a misnomer that young people are the cause of most ASB.

However, we do know that children and young people who are not in education or subject to trauma and neglectful parenting are more likely to both commit and be a victim of ASB. It is imperative that when addressing ASB, committed or experienced by young people that a holistic whole family, strength based, trauma informed approach is used to both understand what life is like for the young person and help to better understand potential solutions and interventions.

Continuing to learn about young people's experiences of harm and safety outside the home and working in partnership with professionals and communities across County Durham, will help increase protection in young people's peer groups, schools and neighbourhoods.

A number of key priorities have been identified to provide help and support for young people, at the earliest opportunity including:

- Implementation of Fearless across County Durham

Fearless is the youth arm of Crimestoppers and provides dedicated resources to schools to work with young people and also provides young people a confidential route to report crime. <https://www.fearless.org/>. The Area Action Partnerships agreed to support the employment of a Crimestoppers Fearless worker for 2 years. They also agreed to support a £20,000 campaign budget to support local targeted campaigns through social media and print media. This would enable to project to operate countywide through the employment of a dedicated Fearless worker.

- Development of a directory of positive activities and diversionary schemes

A directory has been established by Children and Young Peoples Services working closely with the AAP's and our partners which will be shared with the community and key services that work directly with young people. This directory will remain under constant review and provide information on positive activities available for young people and of diversionary interventions and activities where there are early signs of involvement in ASB. Evaluation of diversionary programmes and co-production with young people and their families will inform future developments to address young people's ASB.

County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS) supervises all sentences imposed on young people in the youth court and all out-of-court disposals imposed by the Police. These sentences are imposed for committing crimes. However, many of these young people are also responsible for anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhoods and CDYJS will complete full assessments of why the young person

behaves in this way and undertake the interventions that have the greatest chance of changing anti-social behaviour and build on the strengths of the young person and their family.

## **Social value and the Durham pound**

It is imperative that new initiatives are developed to maximise the value of every pound we as a partnership spend, to work with developers, suppliers and our partners to create and develop opportunities for local economic opportunities, local wealth building and retention as well as social value outcomes. Our business partners are a part of our community and often they can be a fantastic untapped resource in relation to helping improve our community and environment.

## **Anti-social behaviour and Safeguarding**

When investigating incidents of anti-social behaviour there are often underlying complex causes and needs that can be identified. Having an open mind from both a victim and perpetrator perspective is crucial as the lines between both are often blurred and transition back and forth. Having suitable training to ensure investigating officers are aware of their statutory requirements in relation to safeguarding. These complex needs and how they can impact on a person's behaviour are often a key element in resolving a complaint and also in safeguarding a vulnerable person from the risk of harm, for example:

- A noise complaint may on the surface be a very simple issue however on further investigation it may become apparent that the noise from banging, shouting and screaming heard through the walls of an adjoining property may be the result of domestic abuse.
- People turning up to a lone adult males property with signs of alcohol and drug abuse and loud parties may actually be cuckooing, where a vulnerable adult with learning needs is being taken advantage of by organised crime gangs and their property used to sell and take drugs. Things are not always what they seem and if concerns aren't highlighted and referred then it could lead to further harm and in extreme cases loss of life.
- Adopting a contextual safeguarding approach to better understand, and respond to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. Recognising different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online and that they can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can often undermine parent-child relationships.

Making these safeguarding referrals can often lead to involvement in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements taking place where suitable intervention and support can be offered. The agencies involved can be varied but often include Police, Social Services, Health, Mental Health practitioners, Education, Probation, Youth Justice, Local Housing providers etc. i.e.:

- MARAC (Multi agency risk assessment conference – For victims of domestic abuse)
- Channel (Safeguarding panel for those vulnerable to radicalisation)
- Adult Safeguarding meetings
- Child Safeguarding meetings

## The Tools and Powers

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour and provide better protection for victims and communities. The Act seeks to put victims first, giving power to local people and enabling professionals to find the best solutions for their local area.

The Police, Local Authorities and other local agencies are provided with a range of flexible tools and powers that can be used to respond quickly and effectively to anti-social behaviour some of which are listed below:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Refuse Disposal Amenity Act 1987
- Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949
- Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2005
- Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907
- Environment Act 1995
- Criminal Damage Act 1971
- Highways Act 1980
- Control of Pollution Amendment Act 1989
- Housing Act 1996

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and associated guidance revised in January 2021 provide three overarching methods of dealing with anti-social behaviour.

1. By putting victims at the heart of the response to anti-social behaviour by introducing the Community Trigger to ensure that victims voices are heard together with the Community Remedy to give victims a say through out of court punishments through a community resolution disposal.
2. Through early informal interventions that are intended to encourage an individual to change their behaviour.
3. By providing flexible powers to ensure that the lead agencies have the necessary enforcement tools that they need to respond to different types of anti-social behaviour.

See Appendix 2. For more detailed information on the tools and powers available to partners to tackle ASB.



## Problem-oriented policing (POP)

### Focus of the intervention

This is an approach to tackling crime and disorder that involves:

- identification of a specific problem
- thorough analysis to understand the problem
- development of a tailored response
- assessment of the effects of the response

POP is an approach to develop targeted interventions, rather than an intervention itself.

A POP approach can therefore be applied to any crime and disorder problem. It should not be viewed as an alternative to interventions in the crime reduction toolkit but used in conjunction with them.

POP can be described in the context of the OSARA (objective, scanning, analysis, response, assessment) model of problem solving.

The model assumes that by identifying and understanding the root causes of a problem or conditions that enable it to persist, the solution developed to tackle it will be effective.

### The OSARA model

The OSARA Model employs five stages.

**Objective** – What we want to achieve

**Scanning** – the identifying and prioritising of potential crime and disorder problems.

**Analysis** – the analysis of potential problems, by gathering information and intelligence to identify underlying causes of the problem.

**Response** – the development and implementation of tailored activities to address the causes of the problem, as identified in the analysis phase.

**Assessment** – the measurement of the impact of the response to test if it had the desired effect and to make changes to the response if required.

This method will form the basis for our partnership approach to tackling ASB within County Durham.

### Community Trigger

The ASB Case Review, often referred to as the 'Community Trigger' is an important statutory safety net for victims of anti-social behaviour who believe they have not had a satisfactory response to their complaints about anti-social behaviour. Where a locally determined threshold is met, victims can require the relevant bodies in the local area to undertake a review of the case, and those bodies have a statutory duty to undertake that review. In addition to the victim, the Community Trigger can be activated by a person on behalf of the victim who is aware of the circumstances and

acts with the victim's consent. This might include a family member, friend, carer, councillor, Member of Parliament or other professional. Receiving a Community Trigger application should not be perceived by agencies as a complaint about their work but as an opportunity to find a solution for the victim(s) of the anti-social behaviour.

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Anti-social behaviour powers  
Statutory guidance for front line Professionals – revised June 2022 sets out the good practice expected from agencies for community trigger and community remedy including the role of the Police and Crime Commission.

The Partnership will place victims at the heart of the community trigger process by:

- Promoting the local threshold and community trigger process
- Considering victim impact, taking into account the persistence of the anti-social behaviour and the harm or potential harm caused by the anti-social behaviour
- Enabling the victim and or victim's advocate to attend case reviews
- Appointing independent Chairs at case review meetings
- Publishing community trigger statistics annually
- Providing a community remedy and/or restorative justice service.
- Providing an independent appeals process through the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner

## **Community Remedy**

The Community Remedy document is a list of actions that the victim will be invited to choose from when a community resolution is to be used. The list of actions may vary from one police force to another, based on what is available in the area and what the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable agree is appropriate. The Community Remedy document must be published. They should consider providing this to the local Community Safety Partnership and the local agencies responsible for preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour. It is also good practice for Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure that the public are aware of the document.

## **SWOT Analysis**

A SWOT analysis is a planning tool which seeks to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats involved in a project or organisation. It's a framework for matching an organisation's goals, programmes and capacities to the environment in which it operates.

A SWOT analysis will be undertaken on the partnerships current approach to tackling ASB. This will identify where we are doing well and what we need to either start doing or improve on, plus it will identify any threats on the horizon that may impact on delivery.

This work will help form the basis for what will need to be included in an action plan moving forward and a commitment from partners to deliver.

## Case Studies

### **Multi-Agency problem Solving Meetings (MAPS) - Wheatley Hill dog track**

Since its closure in 2019, the then abandoned greyhound racing track in Wheatley Hill had become a hub for anti-social behaviour and a persistent target for vandalism, arson and wider disorder. The site had derelict buildings which were a magnet for youth disorder and there had been several attacks on the emergency services when they had been called to deal with incidents.

A collaborative effort was made by the partner agencies in the Multi Agency Problem Solving (MAPS) group to tackle the problem. A swift call was made to all key service providers to come together to scan and analyse the problem and to deliver solutions. Enforcement visits were made by the relevant partners to identify the youths that were at the centre of the disorder and anti-social behaviour which proved effective. In order to make some long-lasting solutions local council services worked closely with the tracks owners to facilitate and clear the site of the derelict buildings. By removing them from the site it became less appealing to youths to frequent there and therefore provided some visible reassurance to the local community when reports of disorder, crime and arson stopped.

The work was followed up by press articles and wider communications highlighting the work of the services but to give the public confidence that the partners were listening to their concerns and effective action had been taken.

### **Crime and Anti-social behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (CASBRAC) – Shotton Colliery**

On a Friday in early November 2021 7 arsons occurred in Shotton Colliery. There had been a rise in Arsons in the Peterlee area and in particular Shotton Colliery. A CASBRAC was required to invite key decision makers around a meeting to identify ongoing work by partner agencies and identify actions to take forward for their teams with the sole aim of working together on a particular problem for the benefit of the Shotton Community.

All partners worked extremely well together in problem solving the location and targeting the offenders. This had a positive impact on reducing the number incidents of arson in the Shotton Area.

Due to the sheer volume of the arsons at one time it had a significant impact on the community, which had also attracted attention from Local MP's and County Councillors. The CASBRAC process allowed partners to meet together and show our

united front against this problem and several actions were identified, which were shared with the community to show action had been taken and increase their confidence.

Incidents have reduced over the past few months and the County Councillors have expressed their satisfaction in how the incidents had reduced.

It is suspected that the main offenders who were responsible previously have started to be involved once again upon release from prison. Action has already been taken in relation to addressing this by targeting the main offender who is on a Criminal Behaviour Order.

A further CASBRAC will be considered if patterns start to emerge.

## Appendix 1.

### Summary of relevant consultations.

#### The Big Econ-versation

This is a consultation for the County Durham Economic Strategy and will highlight issues around ASB raised by the business community in Industry, retail and night-time economy.

##### Business Response

There were only a few responses that cited relevant concerns around ASB and crime with 3 directly commenting on the issue:

- The public are scared to go out and there is an issue with public confidence in government.
- Crime is the biggest challenge for our business
- A concern around the management of licenced premises in Durham City Centre.

##### Public Response

From the consultation within the Big Econ-versation targeted at the public the following questions was asked:

Thinking about where you live, do you agree or disagree that it has safe streets and a low crime rate?

From the 969 respondents 34%, a third, disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement, which is a concerning proportion as concerns could directly impact on the footfall in the retail high street areas within the County for local businesses.

- 60 respondents directly mention Anti-social Behaviour as being the main issue.
- 33 mentioned youth disorder as an issue.

The overarching themes from the comments received were around:

- Youth disorder.
- Elderly residents do not access shops in the evening due to not feeling safe.
- Lack of visibility of Police.
- Low employment.
- The impact of drug and alcohol abuse.

#### Durham City Centre PSPO (Public spaces protection order)

Consultation on making drinking alcohol in public and aggressive begging in Durham City an offence.

Most respondents believed the implementation of the PSPO would have a positive impact on ASB, Alcohol related issues and student behaviour however there were concerns around how this would be enforced and that more support was needed to prevent homelessness/alcohol dependencies.

## **Housing Targeted Development Plan priorities.**

The consultation was targeted at residents living in areas where we aim to target services to improve housing and the environment.

It focused on areas which have been found to be most in need, to make a real difference and bring about improvements to housing and the local environment.

Seven Targeted Delivery Plan (TDP) areas were identified across the county:

- Blackhall Colliery South
- Coundon Grange
- Deneside East (Seaham)
- New Kyo
- Stanley Hall West
- Thickley (Shildon)

The aim of the consultation was to identify priorities for each TDP area which will help to improve the quality of existing housing and support and maintain mixed and balanced communities in the wider community.

The top three top housing issues that concerned residents most were:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Property conditions
- Number of empty properties in the area

The top three top non-housing issues that concerned residents most were:

- Presence of dog fouling
- Litter
- Fly-tipping

The top three most important options look to improve the appearance of the area including local shops or community facilities:

- Improvements to pavements and public walkways
- Tidy up shop fronts (shutters, paint work, shop signs, broken windows)
- More dog waste bins

The main themes mentioned within the free text comments were:

- Lack of youth provision/facilities
- Cleanliness of the streets re dog fouling and litter and fly-tipping
- More wardens patrolling the area and taking enforcement action.

- More visible police presence.
- The community spirit of the area seen as a positive.
- ASB
- Too many empty and boarded up properties.
- Off road motor bikes and quads an issue.

## **Growing up in County Durham Strategy.**

During March / April 2022, children, young people and parents / carers were asked to take part in an initial engagement exercise ahead of developing the new children, young people and families strategy.

Within these boundaries, there were two elements to the exercise:

1. To tell us what words or phrases they would like to see included in a statement of ambition for all the county's CYP&F for Growing Up in County Durham?
2. We also asked them a series of questions to help us identify what their aspirations and priorities are, what issues and challenges they are facing and where relevant, what they think of the services they receive?

Out of the emerging themes the following were relevant to the ASB Strategy:

### **Safety / trust:**

- Being safe at home
- Safe places to play and learn
- Gaining independence
- Bullying / peer pressures
- Diversionary activities
- ASB
- Drugs
- Crime
- Improved safety in public areas e.g.CCTV
- More child friendly places / venues
- Parent / child relationships
- Getting in with the wrong crowd
- Risk taking behaviour

### **Access to facilities, programmes and services:**

- More accessible opportunities
- Time of day
- Access to technology
- Waiting times
- Clubs
- Listen to what CYP want
- Transport, affordability
- Location – too far away

- Not knowing about what's available
- Access to out of school activities/ leisure
- Access to exercise facilities
- More free or subsidised fares / entrance fees.

#### **Environment and climate change:**

- Litter

#### **Worries:**

- Environment e.g. litter
- Socialisation
- Mental health
- Increase in crime / ASB locally
- Support
- Bullying.

### **AAP (Area Action Partnerships) Priorities.**

There are [14 AAPs in the county](#). AAPs consist of members of the public, representatives for Durham County Council, town and parish councils, police, fire, health, housing, business, and voluntary organisations. Together they work with communities and organisation to identify local priorities and the actions required to tackle them, allocate funding to local organisations, and monitor the difference that funding and support is making to communities.

To identify and help set these priorities, AAPs engage local residents and key stakeholders to ask them to use their local knowledge to provide their opinions on what they consider to be the key local priorities for their AAP area.

During 2020/21, as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, all AAPs worked towards the common priority of 'Community Recovery', instead of individual priority choices. The priority included the following themes:

- Employability initiatives,
- Advice and guidance,
- Mental health and wellbeing,
- Organisational sustainability (specific help for VCS organisations who lost income due to the pandemic),
- Food provision and support,
- Social isolation,
- Support for the voluntary and community sector,
- Support to small businesses (through a third party, not-for-profit),
- Emerging community issues.

AAPs have, once again, asked their individual communities to guide their work and see which priority themes they should concentrate their efforts on for the coming



year. The survey allowed residents/stakeholders to have their say on keeping 'Community Recovery' as an overarching theme, instead of returning to individual priority themes that AAPs have traditionally consulted on pre Covid-19. Residents and stakeholders were also given an opportunity to suggest additional priorities for their local area, and an opportunity to remove themes from the 'Community Recovery' Priority. This gave residents and stakeholders a chance to suggest bespoke localised issues for their individual AAP. In addition, residents and stakeholders were also asked to identify; *'What would make your town or village a better place to live in?'*

2448 people participated in the survey with 81.5% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing to continue to have the single priority of Community Recovery for 2022/23

Additional common priority themes that came across throughout the County and through the Towns and Villages question relevant to the Safer Partnership were:

- Young people
- Community safety
- Activities for young people
- New community facilities
- Community safety: Policing issues
- Community safety: Antisocial behaviour

## **The Student Voice Survey.**

This survey will inform the development of plans and services across County Durham and is designed to positively impact upon pupils as services can be directed to support where particular issues come to light.

The survey has been designed in conjunction with children and young people and includes questions of a range of topics that could provide insight for this strategy including:

- Social wellbeing
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Behaviour and safety
- Online safety
- Health and physical wellbeing
- Physical activity
- Community wellbeing
- Access to community facilities

The overarching themes relating to ASB for both the Primary age group and Secondary age group were:

### **Primary**

- That a majority (93%) say that they are provided awareness on how to protect the environment.

- A quarter (22%) say that there are times in school when they don't always feel safe.
- Over half (55%) would you like to be more physically active.

### **Secondary**

- A third (30%) said they don't always feel safe either in school or outside.
- Again, over half (56%) would you like to be more physically active.

## **Durham Constabulary Rural Crime Survey.**

In partnership with the National Farmers Union, Durham Constabulary carried out a rural crime survey. This gave an outlet for people in rural communities to have their say on how they feel or their personal experiences of rural issues. The aim of the survey was to know what the community thought the police and partners could do better to help rural communities, who often feel isolated.

The top five key priority issues/concerns identified by respondents, in order of priority were:

1. Trespassing with bikes/off-road 4x4
2. Speeding
3. Fly tipping
4. Poaching/hare coursing
5. Machinery theft

Whilst there were several specific actions suggested that could be taken to alleviate the issues identified above, there were several commonly suggested actions that were reported across all five priority issues, as well as for the other issues that did not score as priorities. These are listed below:

- Police attending incidents when reported rather than via telephone
- Quicker police response when incidents are reported
- Dedicated rural policing contacts/teams with specialist knowledge of rural law and of the rural areas they police
- More police patrols in hotspot problem areas and at hotspot dates/times
- Stricter penalties for the offenders/increased fines/custodial sentences
- Increase in and better use of CCTV/Cameras/ANPR in hotspot areas
- Increase in and better use of community groups such as WhatsApp groups, Neighbourhood Watch, Rural Watch etc.
- Increase in both preventative and helpful signposting, i.e. trespassing warnings, appropriate dog walking advice, private land, CCTV warnings, numbers to report any problems such as fly tipping etc.
- Improve collaborative working/relationships between local communities and police.

When asked about technologies that could be employed to prevent rural crimes or help to notify the police sooner to such crimes, respondents gave several positive suggestions however by far and away, the most commonly suggested technology was the use of cameras in one form or another.

Lastly, when asked if respondents felt there were any actions that they themselves and their communities could take that would help the Police to alleviate rural issues, a large majority of comments related to police-led actions whereby the majority suggested an increase police presence in rural communities and/or installing a dedicated rural policing team in areas with a direct contact point and a guaranteed police response to incident reports; some proactive suggestions were offered where the vast majority of these related to the continued and increased level of reporting incidents when they occur and the continued and increased use of community groups such as WhatsApp groups, Ruralwatch, Farmwatch etc. to support each other as well as to collate and disseminate intelligence when appropriate.

## **Durham Police & Crime Commissioner – Council Tax Precept (2021)**

The Police and Crime Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington is responsible for setting the budget for Durham Constabulary. The majority of its funding comes from central government grant with the remaining coming via a precept on council tax.

A survey was undertaken in 2021 by the Police and Crime Commissioner who has a statutory duty to consult local people and council tax payers when setting the budget for Policing in County Durham and Darlington. In addition, the views of local residents and what matters to them most are an important aspect of this consultation as it helps inform local policing priorities.

91% of respondents considered tackling anti social behaviour was a priority and identified the following anti-social behaviours being of most concern:-

- Environmental Crime (32%);
- Alcohol/drugs related ASB (35%);
- Groups of people in public spaces causing harassment, alarm distress (45%)
- Noise nuisance (7%)

## Appendix 2.

### Further information on tools and powers.

#### Early Interventions

Early intervention may often be all that is necessary to stop incidents of anti-social behaviour. Such interventions can establish clear standards of behaviour and reinforce the message that anti-social behaviour is not tolerated. These early interventions may include:

- A verbal or written warning- where officers are satisfied anti-social behaviour has occurred.
- A community resolution - primarily aimed at first time perpetrators and where an out-of-court disposal is more appropriate than taking more formal action.
- Mediation - can be an effective way of resolving an issue by bringing all parties together.
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts - a written agreement between a perpetrator of anti-social behaviour and the agency or agencies acting locally to prevent that behaviour.
- Parenting Contracts - like an acceptable behaviour contract but are signed by the parent or guardian where it is considered that they have an important part in changing behaviour.
- Tenancy Agreements – Registered Providers and Private Landlords (specifically in Selective Licensing Areas) may encourage tenants to comply with tenancy conditions preventing anti-social behaviour.
- Support and counselling – whilst positive support may be provided through more formal enforcement action it can also be given as part of any informal intervention.

#### Civil Injunction

An injunction is a court order requiring an individual to do or not do a specific action. Intended to be a speedy method of preventing problems from escalating by setting clear standards of acceptable behaviour. It can also include positive requirements to get the individual to deal with the underlying cause of the behaviour.

#### Criminal Behaviour Order

This replaced what used to be known as the ASBO. Issued by a criminal court against a person who has been convicted of an offence to tackle the most persistently anti-social individuals who are also engaged in criminal behaviour. Like the injunction they can include prohibitions together with positive requirements aimed at addressing the cause of the anti-social behaviour.

#### Dispersal Power

This requires a person committing or likely to commit anti-social behaviour, crime or disorder to leave an area for up to 48 hours and is a power available to the Police.

Whilst they are short term, they can provide a swift and immediate respite to the individuals affected by anti-social behaviour.

## **Community Protection Warnings and Notices**

These can be served to stop a person aged 16 or over from committing anti-social behaviour and where there is evidence that the behaviour is unreasonable, persistent, and having a detrimental impact upon those in the locality. A warning must be issued prior to the Notice.

## **Public Space Protection Order**

A PSPO can where necessary be used to control place based anti-social behaviour by imposing restrictions on the use of an area that apply to everyone. They are intended to ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces without suffering anti-social behaviour.

## **Closure Order**

These are a tool that can be used to quickly close down premises that are causing nuisance or disorder. A Closure Notice would initially close the premises for up to 48 hours and can be applied out of court. An Order can be issued by the court to close a premises for up to 6 months.

## **Other Tools and Powers**

As a partnership we look to ensure that we have a problem-solving approach which includes a range of elements including, prevention, intervention, community empowerment, integrated intelligence along with enforcement. Although the ASB, Crime and Policing Act was introduced in 2014 there are wider tools and legislative powers that partners utilise to enforce on activities that can be deemed as antisocial but may also be criminal in nature for example the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides enforcement for nuisance, littering and fly tipping.

Due to the wide range of incidents that may be considered to be anti-social behaviour the use of criminal sanctions by the Police may be more appropriate than the use of the above powers. Conversely there may also be times when the above tools may be more appropriate to tackle mildly criminal neighbourhood concerns.

## Appendix 3.

### Further information on reporting ASB.

For issues dealt with by Durham County Council please follow the link below.

[Anti-social behaviour - Durham County Council](#)

For issues dealt with by registered social landlords please find contact details by following the link below.

[Housing associations - Durham County Council](#)

For issues dealt with by Durham Constabulary and how to access the Community Trigger Process please follow the link below.

[Antisocial behaviour \(durham.police.uk\)](#)

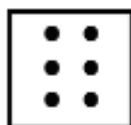
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