



# **Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy**

**2016 - 2019**

**Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council**

## Anti –Social Behaviour Strategy 2016- 2019

### Introduction:

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council are committed to making Nuneaton and Bedworth a safe place to live, where people's day to day life is not blighted by crime or Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). As a Council we want to introduce a strategic mechanism to identify and facilitate further development to address key priorities linked to ASB. This Strategy aims to set out our approach to challenging ASB. It defines what is meant by ASB and sets out the targets for the Council to work together to reduce ASB, in partnership with other agencies and organisations of both a Voluntary and Statutory nature.

### Our Corporate Focus:

Aim 1 of the Council's Corporate Plan 2007 – 2021 seeks to:

To work in partnership to reduce the level of crime and disorder so that the community is and feels safe.

As part of this, the Council has pledged to:

- Deal with anti-social behaviour by working in partnership and promote diversionary activities to engage with young people.
- Deliver environmental improvements and support for selective CCTV to reduce the fear of crime
- Use the Council's enforcement powers to support community safety initiatives

Furthermore, during 2016 the Council will continue to work with members of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer Communities Partnership (NABSCOP) to update the 'Community Safety Partnership Plan' for 2016-2019. Within this Plan, NABSCOP have committed to focus on initiatives to address Anti-Social Behaviour, which includes a focus on:

- All categories of ASB
- Deliberate Small Fires

### Links to additional plans and strategies

It is essential to consider other Plans and Strategies in relation to this document. Below highlights the relevant items:

- **The Nuneaton and Bedworth Sustainable Community Plan 2014- 2019 (SCP)** aims to improve the quality of life for those who live in the Borough. It is delivered via the Nuneaton and Bedworth Local Strategic Partnership.
- **Nuneaton and Bedworth Housing Strategy 2016 – 2021** will outline the vital role that Housing contributes towards maintaining safer communities. It

will encourage Registered Providers, including the Council to take appropriate action to address ASB.

- **Nuneaton and Bedworth Residents Involvement Strategy 2016 – 2019** sets out the Council's commitment to involve both Tenants and Leaseholders in shaping and developing Housing Services and seek to maintain a culture where the needs of the resident are at the heart of decisions made and actions taken.
- **Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement** is currently being revised for 2016 onwards. It meets the requirement for two-tier areas to have in place a Community Safety Agreement for the county on behalf of all the Responsible Authorities for the area.
- **Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan 2013 - 2017** – The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced significant changes in police governance and accountability. Police Authorities have now been replaced by directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC). PCCs are required to produce a Police and Crime Plan which sets out how they intend to work with the police and other statutory and voluntary agencies to deliver their priorities. The current objectives which link to ASB are:
  - Reduce Crime and Disorder
  - Protect the public from harm
  - Empower local communities to prevent crime and disorder

**Priority Families 2015-2020** Whilst this is not a plan per se, it is a significant national initiative which aims to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour in communities by working holistically with families to improve their circumstances in terms of education, health, employment, family relationships and offending behaviour.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour - Definition**

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) can be considered within a wide range of activity, from serious criminal violence and persistent on-going intimidation and harassment, to subjective feelings of unease caused by relatively minor and perhaps occasional environmental disturbances, such as litter. For the purposes of this Strategy however it is defined as:

*“Acting in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household”.* Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Until April 2011, ASB was categorised under 14 headings, from this date the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR) introduced three new codes:

- **Personal** – is designed to identify ASB incidents that are perceived as deliberately targeted at an individual or group rather than the wider community. Such incidents can impact on individuals in different ways, ranging from minor annoyance to a serious deterioration of health, mental or emotional wellbeing. Examples include an individual or family repeatedly having their windows

broken, car vandalised, Graffiti daubed on the property or being taunted or harassed by the same group of individuals on a regular basis

- **Nuisance** – focuses on an act, person, condition or ‘thing’ that causes annoyance, inconvenience, offence or suffering in a local community rather than an individual. Different aspects of tolerance affect how communities perceive ASB issues. What is deemed acceptable in one community may cause significant distress in another. Examples include neighbours causing distress by being noisy, rowdy, loud and inconsiderate. Inconsiderate use of vehicles, off road bikes, quad bikes or groups of young people hanging around in areas which are not suitable, i.e. outside shops, off licences or groups of individuals drinking in public places and behaving in a rowdy manner
- **Environmental**- deals with the interface between people and places. It includes incidents where individuals and groups have an impact on their natural, built and social surroundings. This category seeks to encourage acceptable and reasonable behaviour so people can enjoy both private and public spaces. Examples include littering, dog fouling and graffiti

### What are the issues for Nuneaton and Bedworth?

ASB Category	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 up to and including quarter three data
Nuisance	4,648	4,743	4,030	2,789
Personal	1,310	1,405	1,339	777
Environmental	369	489	363	390
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,327</b>	<b>6,637</b>	<b>5,732</b>	<b>3,956</b>

(\*Warwickshire Police data collated by Warwickshire Observatory)

As highlighted in the above table, the category with the greatest volume of incidents is ‘Nuisance’. This reduced during 2014/15 and reductions continued throughout the first three quarters of 2015/16. Whilst the volume of ‘Personal’ ASB incidents appear lower when compared to ‘Nuisance’, the Council commits to prioritise them as part of its victim focussed approach (see Appendix one – ASB Case Management Process).

### Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

In October 2014 the anti-social behaviour tools and powers changed when the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 was enacted. This introduced 6 new tools and powers for officers to utilise in tackling ASB in Nuneaton and Bedworth.

- **The Civil Injunction**  
This is a civil power which can be applied for by Police, Local Authorities, Housing providers, the Environment Agency and the National Health Service.

The Injunction can offer fast and effective protection for victims and communities, and set a clear standard of behaviour for perpetrators, stopping the person's behaviour from escalating. These replace the now redundant Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.

- **Criminal Behaviour Order**

The Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) replaces the CRASBO (the Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order). This can be applied for by the Crown Prosecution Service and Local Authorities on conviction for any criminal offence in any criminal Court. This is aimed at the most serious and persistent offenders where their behaviour has culminated in them being prosecuted before a criminal court.

- **Dispersal Power**

This is a flexible power which Police can use for a range of situations to disperse anti-social individuals and provide immediate short term respite to a local community.

- **Community Protection Notice**

The Community Protection Notice (CPN) is designed to deal with specific on-going problems or nuisances which negatively affect the community's quality of life by targeting those responsible. The Police and Council are able to issue these notices where appropriate.

- **Public Space Protection Orders**

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific area, that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area and apply to everyone. District and Borough Councils will take the lead in making new PSPOs.

- **Closure Power**

The Closure Power is a fast and flexible power that can be used to protect victims and communities by quickly closing premises that are causing nuisance or disorder. This is implemented in two stages: - the Closure Notice, and then the Closure Order. The Council and Police can apply a Closure Notice out of Court, and can then apply to the Courts for a Closure Order, which if awarded can mean that a property can be closed for up to three months initially, and up to six months where necessary.

- **The Community Trigger**

This allows victims of ASB the ability to demand action with a review of their case where the locally defined threshold is met.

Details of all the tools and powers available to the Council and Police can be found in the ASB Minimum Standards leaflet, and on the Councils website.

## **Our ASB priorities for 2016-2019**

Below outlines our priorities for the next three years which will be expanded on in an associated ASB Action Plan.

### **1. To Strengthen and Reassure**

- Identify and support vulnerable victims and witnesses
- Continue to support the Priority Families Programme
- Support the continued delivery of the Mobile CCTV scheme
- Work with residents, local communities and partners to address ASB concerns

### **2. To Prevent and deter:**

- Work with partners to promote diversionary activities for younger people where available
- Promote and publicise successful ASB case management outcomes
- Implement situational improvements to reduce the opportunity for crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Use of CCTV to prevent and deter ASB

### **3. To conduct timely and appropriate Enforcement**

- Manage ASB cases, interventions and enforcement activities
- Utilise all existing tools and powers available and respond to emerging legislation.

### **4 To Improve information sharing**

- Refresh and implement the corporate approach to the information sharing process for ASB cases.

## **How will we measure success?**

Performance measures will be monitored quarterly via the NABSCOP Partnership Board meetings and the Council's Health, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel. Success will be gauged by reductions across the three ASB categories.

## **Delivery Arrangements**

The ASB strategy will be delivered through cross departmental and multi-agency working which is managed via a Corporate Community Safety Group and within the NABSCOP partnership structure (See Appendix two). Positive outcomes for the strategy will rely heavily upon the availability of resources (both people and financial) and on Departments and Partners being engaged.

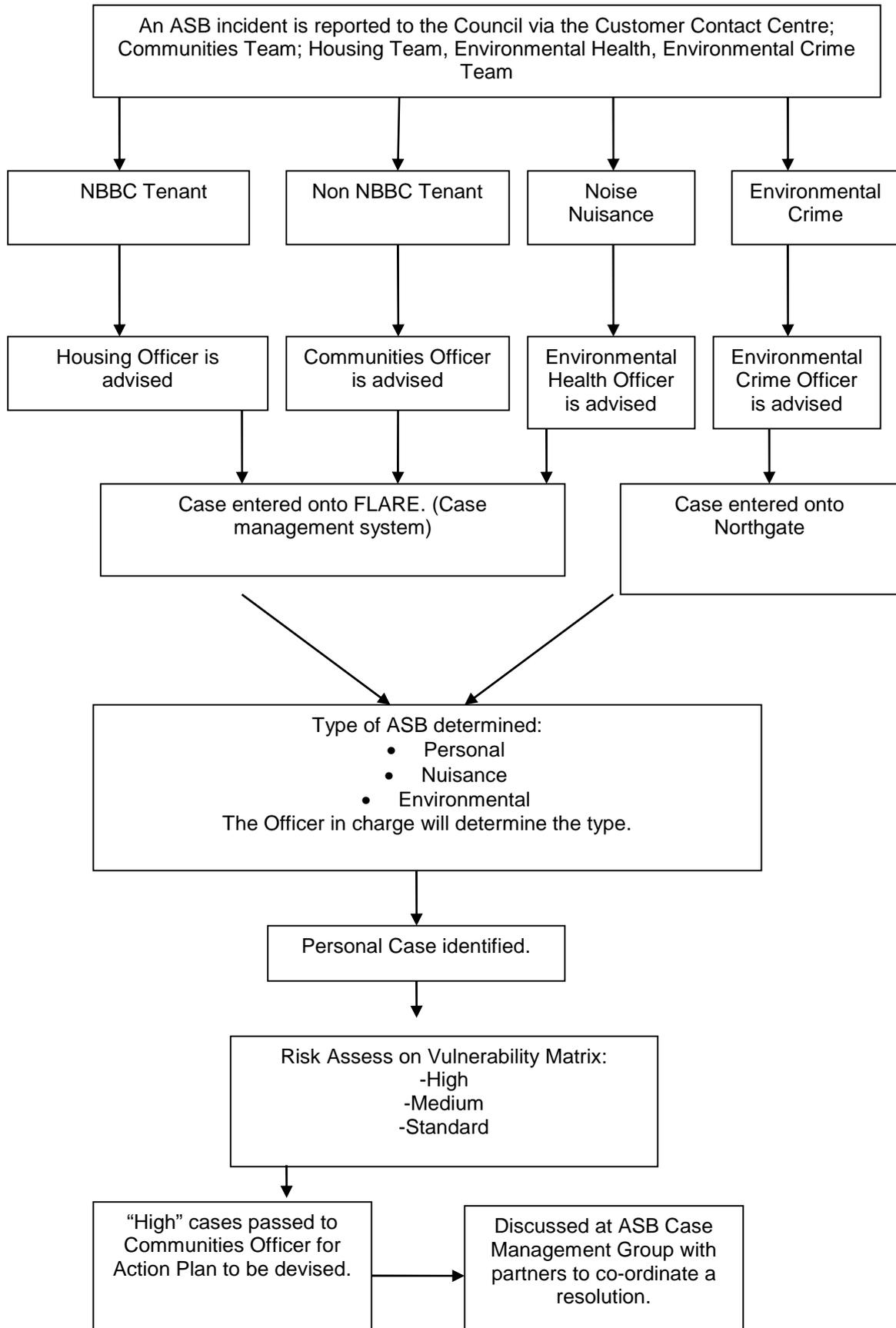
## **Funding and resources:**

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council continues to experience unprecedented financial challenges and these are likely to continue throughout the duration of this Strategy. The Council is committed to delivering the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy's priorities and actions and will seek to maintain a focus on them from 2016 – 2019. It is however unknown what level of financial commitment will follow in subsequent years, which may invariably affect some elements of delivery.

## **For more details:**

Please call the Communities Team on 02476 376322 , or write to the Communities Manager, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Town Hall Nuneaton, or email [Safe@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk](mailto:Safe@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk).

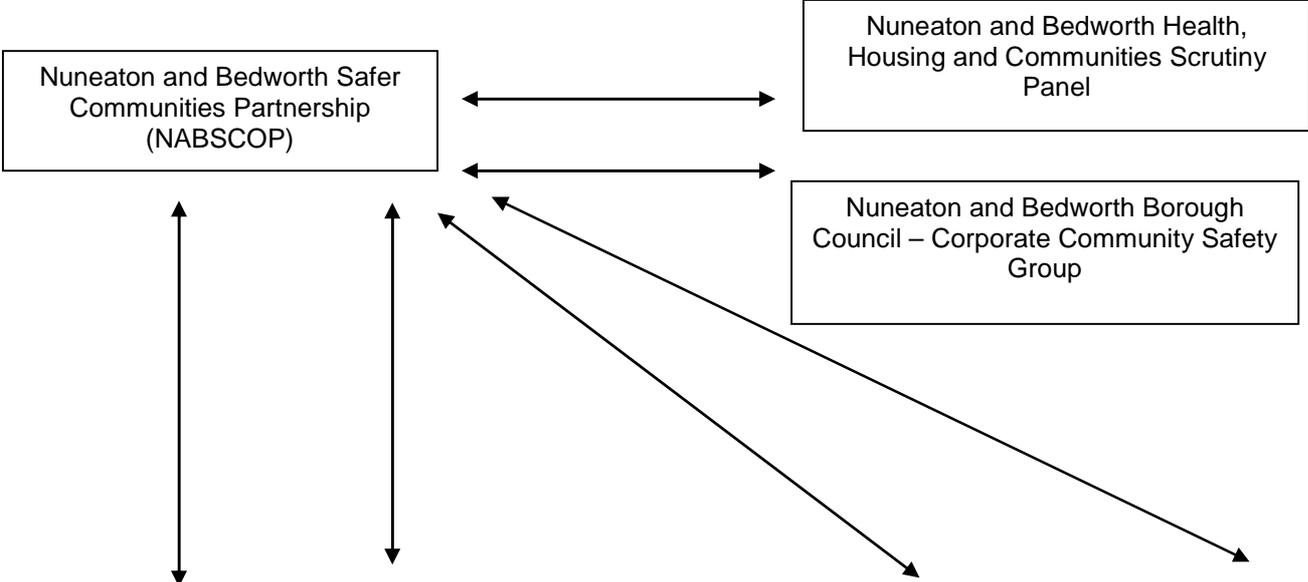
**Appendix one: ASB Case Management Process**



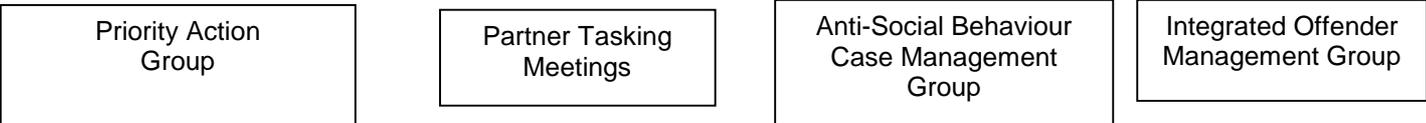
**Appendix two: ASB Partnership Delivery activity structure**

The below diagram illustrates the governance and delivery arrangements for ASB management:

**Strategic delivery:**



**Operational delivery:**



**Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council – ASB Strategy Action Plan 2016 - 2019**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>When (dates are tentative)</b>
<b>Priority 1</b> <b>Strengthen and Reassure</b>	Identify and support vulnerable victims and witnesses	Provide training for all employees involved in assessing vulnerability  Develop and review action plans to manage identified risks	On-going for any new staff.  Monthly
	Work to support the Priority Families program	Contribute to the countywide focus on the Priority Families Programme  Support the local delivery within the Local Coordinating Groups	April 2016 onwards  April 2016 onwards
	Support the continued delivery of the Mobile CCTV scheme which is deployed by Warwickshire Police	Work with partners to ensure the effective and timely deployment of mobile CCTV cameras by Warwickshire Police  Conduct an annual evaluation of the impact of the CCTV scheme  Identify funding to support the continued deployment of the scheme	Fortnightly Partner Tasking meetings  December 2016  Annually from April 2016

Priority	What	How	When (dates are tentative)
	Work with residents, local communities and partners to address ASB concerns	Deploy a multiagency problem solving approach to develop local solutions to ASB issues	On-going
	Community Trigger/Community remedy	Seek to engage with residents via Tenant Involvement Panels and local ad hoc meetings where ASB issues are a concern	On-going
<b>Priority 2</b> <b>To Prevent and deter</b>	Work with partners to promote diversionary activities for younger people where available.	Secure resources to commission the provision of diversionary activities	Annually from April 2016
	Promote and publicise successful ASB case management outcomes	Utilise available resources to promote good news e.g. press, In Touch, Homing In, NBBC website	On-going
	Implement situational improvements to reduce the opportunity for crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	Install appropriate target hardening measures e.g. prickly planting, improved lighting  Identify funding to support this implementation	On-going  Annually from April 2016

Priority	What	How	When (dates are tentative)
	Use of fixed CCTV to prevent, detect and deter ASB	Continued support for NBBC's 113 CCTV cameras	On-going
	Continue to promote and offer the free Mediation Service to residents of the Borough.	Ensure all staff are made aware of the mediation service and promote it where appropriate in low level ASB cases.	On- going.
	Provide appropriate guidance and advice to assist residents in helping themselves to resolve low level neighbour disputes.	Face to face meetings, or telephone conversations, and ensure relevant information is up to date on the NBBC website.	On-going
<b>Priority 3</b>  <b>To conduct timely and appropriate Enforcement</b>	Manage ASB cases, interventions and enforcement activities	Record cases and track progress on the 'Flare' case management system and new Housing IT solution  Conduct a monthly audit on a sample of Flare cases for Quality Assurance purposes	On-going  On-going
	Utilise all existing tools and powers available and respond to emerging legislation	Via regular meetings with partner agencies and other Enforcement Officers to explore the most appropriate tools for specific cases.	On-going

Priority	What	How	When (dates are tentative)
	Publicise and promote the minimum standards that residents should expect from the Council and its partners when reporting ASB.	Utilise available resources to promote the minimum standards. E.g. Local press, In Touch magazine, Homing In magazine and the NBBC Website	On-going
<b>Priority 4</b> <b>Facilitate Information Sharing between partner agencies.</b>	Implement the new ASB case Management system which will be a part of the new integrated Housing solution in 2016.	Ensure that all officers are trained once the system is in place.	2016/2017
	Refresh and implement the corporate approach to the information sharing process in ASB cases.	Via Corporate Community Safety meetings, and internal communication methods.	2016/2017