Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
2018 – 2023
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This Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy has been developed by the Council so that the Council is clear on its priorities for tackling and preventing Anti-Social Behaviour over the next 5 years.

Anti-social behaviour impacts on our Borough, Great Yarmouth experiences the 2nd largest volume of anti-social behaviour incidents in Norfolk as reported by Norfolk Insight data, with 2984 incidents being reported between July 2017 and June 2018.

Within the Council’s Corporate Plan, one of the focuses is on Neighbourhoods, Communities and the Environment, where we are aiming to achieve a “place brimming with pride – consistently clean and well presented. A place where residents will form strong, safe communities that are resilient and work together. A place where people choose to live and work and spend their leisure time and where young people will want to stay”.

This Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy clearly supports this aim, and furthermore we want to ensure that people are safe and feel safe. We are striving to achieve this in relation to anti-social behaviour by reducing the levels of anti-social behaviour across the Borough and through communicating with residents through this strategy, what we are doing to achieve this.
It is important when considering the content of this strategy that the definition of anti-social behaviour is clear. For this strategy anti-social behaviour has been defined as:

“Any behaviour created by a person or persons a reasonable person would not expect in public or between properties which causes harassment, alarm or distress to an individual or community”

Whilst the Council has powers to deal with some forms of anti-social behaviour through legislation such as the Environmental Protection Act 1990, some forms of anti-social behaviour can be criminal in nature and as such the Police will take the lead. Landlords of properties also have powers to deal with anti-social behaviour.

Examples of which include;

- Noisy neighbours
- Flytips and littering
- Dog fouling
- People being drunk or rowdy in public spaces
- People being under the influence of drugs
- Congregation of people displaying threatening behaviour
- Deliberate damage to other person’s property

Definition Of Anti-Social Behaviour
In 2014, the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act updated and simplified the tools and powers that local authorities, registered providers and the Police could use to tackle anti-social behaviour in their areas.

The powers and approaches introduced by the 2014 Act are deliberately local in nature as central government acknowledged that those who work within and for local communities are best placed to understand what is driving the behaviour in question, the impact it is having and to determine the most appropriate response.

The Act itself builds upon previous national level-studies and trials between 2012 to 2014 shifting from an incident-based approach to a harm-impact case management ethos, outlined within “Putting Victims First. More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour” (Home Office 2012) and “Empowering Communities, Empowering Victims” (Home Office 2013). This approach puts the victim at the heart of any response to anti-social behaviour and continues to be the Government’s guidance on how to tackle anti-social behaviour. Nationally commissioned research has confirmed that unchecked, anti-social behaviour has an overwhelming impact on its victims and in cases, the wider community.
For most people Norfolk is very safe, enjoying one of the lowest crime rates in the country. However, urban centres tend to have higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour than rural areas, though fear of crime can show the opposite. Deprivation is also linked with higher crime rates and a range of other social, economic and health inequalities, requiring concerted efforts to improve the quality of life in these communities.

Overall, crime reported to the police for 2016/17 increased by nearly 6% in Norfolk, against a national increase of 10%. The Crime Survey for England & Wales which asks for people’s actual experience of crime over the last 12 months also shows a continuing reducing trend, with a 7% drop.

The Norfolk Constabulary Strategic Assessment of crime and disorder in Norfolk indicates that the nature of crime and therefore vulnerability is changing. It identifies that understanding the interplay between criminality and the socio-economic factors which influence behaviour and vulnerability is crucial.

Specifically there has been a 20% decrease in police-recorded ASB incidents across the Great Yarmouth district in the past year whilst other types of crime and disorder have seen an increase over the past 12 months, such as drug related crimes.
Great Yarmouth Borough Statistics

The Council is already doing a lot to tackle anti-social behaviour across the Borough, but through this strategy the Council is committing to do more to help improve the lives of its residents.

- **99.1%** of flytips were removed within 3 working days.
- **10** incidents of offensive graffiti were reported to the Council in 2017/18 and removed with 24 hours.
- **3** Public Spaces Protection Orders in place.
- **7** People were prosecuted for dog fouling in 2017/18.
- **18** Community Housing anti-social behaviour actions were taken in 2017/18.
- **18** Flytip prosecutions were undertaken in 2017/18.
- **927** The Council received 927 anti-social behaviour complaints in 2017/18 of which 399 related to the Community Housing.
The Council will work with all its partner agencies to try and achieve this vision and itself will use all enforcement powers available to the Council to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Strategy Vision

The Council will work with all its partner agencies to try and achieve this vision and itself will use all enforcement powers available to the Council to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Aims And Objectives

This strategy has 4 overarching aims, each with a number of objectives to achieve this vision.

"We want to ensure that people are safe and feel safe, striving to achieve this by reducing the levels of anti-social behaviour across the Borough over the next five years."
That the Borough is a Clean Borough

Aim 1

Objectives

• To develop and implement a coherent waste strategy to include mix of education and enforcement

• That littering and flytipping hotspots are identified and targeted to reduce the incidents of littering and flytipping in these areas

• That littering is enforced using all legislative powers available to the Council

• That reported fly tips are removed within 3 days

• That the incidents of fly tipping in the Borough is reduced by 5% each year

• That offensive graffiti is removed within 24 hours and enforcement is taken against any known perpetrators

• That dog fouling is enforced using all legislative powers available to the Council
That the Borough is a Safe Borough

**Aim 2**

**Objectives**

- That the Council works in partnership with the Police and other stakeholders to reduce the level of crime in the Borough
- To work with partners to involve the public in crime prevention work to help generate ownership of issues
- That any use of or threatened violence is reported to the police either directly by the Council or by encouraging the victim to go to the Police
- That any damage to property is reported to the police either directly by the Council or by encouraging the victim to go to the Police
- That people’s perception of feeling safe in GY is benchmarked and then increased by 10% during the duration of this strategy
- That the Council works in partnership with the Police to implement Public Spaces Protection Orders as appropriate
That the Borough has joined up Communities

Aim 3
Objectives

- That incidents of hate crime are reported to the police either directly by the Council or by encouraging the victim to go to the Police
- That the Council works with all partner agencies to share information to support the reduction of anti-social behaviour
- Residents feel that the anti-social behaviour issues that matter are being tackled effectively in their local area
- That local residents are supported with anti-social behaviour issues including supporting vulnerable residents where enforcement action is not an available option
- That residents are able to report incidents of anti-social behaviour to the Council and are responded to within the time-scale laid down in the Council’s customer services charter
That residents of the Borough are able to have quiet enjoyment of their properties

Aim 4
Objectives

- That the Council takes a lead role in supporting tenants within its own housing stock who are experiencing anti-social behaviour including using our landlord powers effectively to resolve complaints
- The number of repeat demand nuisance/anti-social behaviour cases reported to the Council each year are reduced by 10% for the duration of this strategy
- Unreasonable behaviour in the community will be addressed using all available tools and powers including consideration to the use of Public Spaces Protection Orders
Implementing this strategy

The four aims of this strategy along with each set of specific objectives will be used on an annual basis to develop an action plan. This action plan will be approved by the Council’s Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee. Progress against the action plan will also be reviewed by this committee on an annual basis alongside a suite of performance measures.

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