

# Warwickshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategic Framework

2024 - 2028



**safe in...**  
warwickshire

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# Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on local authorities to work with the Police and other agencies to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The Act requires local authorities, police forces, probation services, fire and rescue authorities and local health services in England to work together in Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

CSPs must conduct an annual 'strategic assessment' of crime and ASB in their area. They must use their assessment to formulate and implement a strategy to address local crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment).

Delivery of work to prevent and tackle ASB in Warwickshire is led at a district and borough council level. This document sets out a shared strategic vision for partners at a county level, to both fulfill the requirement for CSPs to formulate a strategy and provide an agreed high-level framework within which local interventions are delivered.

This strategy and the work delivered as part of it will contribute to the Safe in Warwickshire strategic ambition to have safe, healthy and empowered communities.

# What is Anti-social Behaviour?

The term anti-social behaviour can relate to a range of activities from serious criminal activity to environmental nuisance. People have different thresholds and what one person considers unacceptable behaviour may be tolerable to another.

For the purpose of this document anti-social behaviour is defined, as stated in Part 1 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, as being:

- a) conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm, or distress to any person
- b) conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation or residential premises or
- c) conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person

This is also the definition used in Warwickshire Police's anti-social behaviour policy and by district and borough councils.

In addition to the definition above, partners divide reports of anti-social behaviour into three categories to assist in monitoring incidents. There may be variations across local authorities as to what is considered environmental ASB.

- Environmental ASB – incidents where the ASB impacts the surroundings including natural, built and social environments

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- Nuisance ASB – incidents where the ASB affects the local community in general rather than an individual victims

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- Personal ASB – incidents deliberately targeted at a specific individual or group

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Appendix 1 provides details of who deals with the different types of anti-social behaviour.

# National Context

Local authorities, the police and social landlords share responsibility for tackling ASB at a local level. These public bodies have a range of powers, set out in Parts 1 to 4 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, to tackle ASB.

In 2023 a number of Government documents were published relating to anti-social behaviour including new [anti-social behaviour principles](#) and [revised statutory guidance](#) for frontline professionals on anti-social behaviour powers. These documents were published to coincide with the launch of the Government's [ASB Action Plan](#).

The Action Plan had three main focus areas. 1) to ensure anti-social behaviour is treated with the urgency it deserves, 2) to change laws and systems to take a zero-tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour and 3) to give the police and other agencies the tools they need to discourage anti-social behaviour.

Revised guidance was also issued for conducting an [Anti-social behaviour case review](#) (formerly known as the Community Trigger). The case review gives victims of persistent anti-social behaviour the right to request a review of their case where the locally defined threshold is met.

The College of Policing revised their [Anti-social behaviour toolkit](#) in 2023 which includes information on legislation and powers, evidence-based approaches for tackling ASB and case studies and research projects from forces in England and Wales.

All of the documents published in 2023 emphasise the need for victims to be at the heart of the response to anti-social behaviour. Victims should be able to report incidents easily and expect to be taken seriously.

# The Picture in Warwickshire

There were 7,949 ASB incidents reported to Warwickshire Police during 2023. 70% of these reports were 'Nuisance' ASB (5,564 incidents) and this proportion was reflected in each of the districts and boroughs of the county. The remaining ASB reports were 'Personal' ASB (20%, 1,566 incidents) and 'Environmental' ASB (10%, 819 incidents).

Data provided by three of the five local district and borough councils (to populate the ASB in Warwickshire dashboard) shows there were also 5,082 ASB incidents reported to the three councils, as well as 204 deliberate small fire incidents reported to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Volumes of ASB reports to the police in Warwickshire have steadily reduced over the last 6 years. This reduction is partly due to some ASB incidents being 'crimed' as 'Public Order' or 'Criminal Damage' in recent years. This trend has been reflected in all districts and boroughs in Warwickshire and is also a trend that has been identified nationally.

The highest volumes and rates of ASB reported to police in Warwickshire occur in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, with nearly a third of all incidents occurring in this borough during 2023. In addition, over half of the deliberate small fires reported in Warwickshire over the last 12 month period occurred in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough.

Nearly a quarter of ASB reported to Warwickshire Police occurred in Warwick District. Although volumes of ASB reported to police in North Warwickshire Borough were by far the lowest during the 12 month period, the rates of incidents per 1,000 population were the second highest in the county.

Hotspots for ASB reported to the police in Warwickshire continue to be around the main town centres and residential areas of the boroughs and districts. However, when looking at rates of offences, ASB is also concentrated in rural locations.

# Strategic Vision

Our strategic vision is to reduce instances of anti-social behaviour and the harm it causes in Warwickshire by taking a swift, coordinated community approach involving all necessary agencies who are victim focused.

Our strategic vision and objectives take account of the national Home Office [anti-social behaviour principles](#), which state that:

- Victims should be encouraged to report anti-social behaviour and expect to be taken seriously.

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- Agencies will have straightforward processes for reporting.

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- Agencies will work across boundaries to identify, assess and tackle antisocial behaviour and its underlying causes.

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- Best practice should be shared through a network of anti-social behaviour experts.

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- Those exhibiting anti-social behaviour should repair the harm caused by it using appropriating interventions.

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## Objectives

In Warwickshire we want to:

- Deliver a consistent response to anti-social behaviour across Warwickshire, irrespective of location.

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- Improve the experience for victims of anti-social behaviour through better engagement and understanding, including promotion of pathways for reporting and applying for an ASB case review.

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- Identify repeat and vulnerable victims effectively and respond efficiently.

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- Identify repeat perpetrators of anti-social behaviour and explore opportunities to implement interventions to reduce their negative impact on communities.

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- Tackle problem locations where anti-social behaviour is occurring repeatedly.

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- Facilitate effective information sharing to allow for a more joined up approach in managing high risk cases.

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- Increase and improve the sharing of good practice, skills, and experience across the county amongst both statutory and non-statutory agencies.

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- Bring perpetrators to justice using community resolution and where appropriate restorative justice.

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## Our Approach

We know that anti-social behaviour cannot be tackled by one agency alone and that to provide an effective response agencies must work together.

We will take a range of approaches, including:

- intervening early to prevent the issue escalating (whether in relation to an individual victim or to more general disorder in a specific location).

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- using a range of interventions (tool box approach) to determine what works. See Appendix 2 for details of the tools and powers available for use by agencies tackling ASB.

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- using an escalating tiered process (incremental approach) to provide a measured and justifiable approach to ASB management.

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- considering a problem solving approach (using the Scanning, Assessment, Response, Analyse (SARA) model), where specific groups or locations are identified.

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We will keep our focus on victims. Our approach will be led both by a victim's immediate and longer-term needs.

We will give victims a say in out of court punishments through a community resolution disposal.

We will have a clear understanding of ASB in Warwickshire.

An ASB in Warwickshire dashboard has been developed that incorporates district / borough council and Warwickshire Police data. The dashboard, which is run via Power BI (a Data analysis tool), is managed by Warwickshire County Council.

# Delivery

Warwickshire County Council chair and administer the ASB Practitioner's Forum which brings together representatives from district and borough councils, Warwickshire Police and Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service. The Forum meets quarterly to discuss ASB across the county and share learning and best practice.

District and borough councils lead on ASB work adhering to their own ASB policies or ways of working.

Different types of ASB are dealt with by different agencies (see Appendix 1). Local Authorities will deal with certain reports of ASB while the Police will deal with others.

In most cases joint working is an essential part of the investigation process and management of ASB.

Risk Assessments will be carried out where there is a report of personal ASB in order to determine the risk to the victim. Action taken will reflect the outcome of the risk assessment.

Multi-agency Case Management meetings take place to review high risk and repeat victims of ASB. Case management meetings consider possible solutions to the ASB.

Warwickshire Police revised its ASB policy in 2023. The policy aims to ensure a consistent approach to ASB and guidance on how ASB is responded to and investigated.

There is an ASB Police Community Support Officer (PCSOs) assigned to each district and borough. They work closely with the Community Safety team and other relevant partners in their area to tackle ASB.

There is an ASB Case Review procedure for Warwickshire. District and borough councils follow this procedure when ASB victims apply for an ASB case review. Work to promote the ASB case review will increase.

Further details of what an [ASB Case Review](#) entails and how to apply can be found on the Safe in Warwickshire website.

A victim of anti-social behaviour can make an appeal in relation to an ASB Case Review if they are dissatisfied with:

1. the decision by the relevant bodies on whether the threshold for a Case Review was met (i.e. the application was declined on the basis the threshold was not met), or
  2. the way in which the case review has been carried out by the relevant bodies.
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Further [details of the appeals process](#) can be found on the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's website.

# Appendices



# Appendix 1: Reporting Anti-social Behaviour and to which Agency

Listed here are the main reporting routes for anti-social behaviour. Please read the entire appendix before making a report. Incidents where there is an immediate risk of harm to a person or property must be reported to Warwickshire Police by calling 999.

Reports to your local District/Borough Council and/or Social Landlord:

If you are a tenant of a social landlord and the premises that you are complaining about is also a tenant, you should contact your housing provider in the first instance. They have a responsibility to enforce their tenancy agreements, which includes noise and other forms of anti-social behaviour, and has a broader definition and lower threshold than the local authority.

If you do not live in social housing, you can make a report for the following concerns to your local District/Borough Council, who each have their own procedures for dealing with such matters:

- Barking dogs

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- DIY

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- Loud music

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- Construction noise

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- Factory noise

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- Equipment noise

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- Burglar and car alarms

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- Motor repairs

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- Fly tipping

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- Discarded needles or syringes

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- Or if you feel you are being targeted personally

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Your local District/Borough Council cannot deal with complaints of noise for:

- Children playing

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- Day to day activities during reasonable hours (such as lawn mowing)

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- Road traffic on the public highway

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- Occasional or one-off parties

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- Air traffic noise

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- Emergency services sirens

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Website/telephone contacts for local District/Borough Councils:

- [North Warwickshire Borough Council](#) - **01827 715341**

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- [Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council](#) - **024 7637 6322**

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- [Rugby Borough Council](#) - **0800 096 8800**

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- [Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) - **01789 267575**

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- [Warwick District Council](#) - **01926 456010**

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Reports to Warwickshire Police:

Incidents of noise should normally be reported to your local district or borough council. Noise concerns are not usually a matter for the police. The exception is where noise is from people being inconsiderate in public or public disorder, illegal gatherings (raves), and in some instances noisy motor vehicles on public roads.

Categories of ASB most likely to be encountered and dealt with by police are as follow:

- Abandoned vehicles

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- Vehicle nuisance or inappropriate use

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- Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour

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- Rowdy or nuisance neighbours

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- Littering or drugs paraphernalia

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- Animal problems

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- Trespassing

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- Nuisance phone calls

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- Street drinking

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- Activity relating to sex workers or sex working.

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- Begging

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- Misuse of fireworks

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A report of anti-social behaviour can be made to Warwickshire Police online via their [Online ASB Reporting Portal](#), by calling 101 or by attending their local police station during opening hours. Where a crime is being committed and/ or an emergency response is required always call 999.

# Appendix 2:

## Tools and Powers

In many cases of anti-social behaviour informal and early interventions may often be all that is necessary to stop incidents. These early interventions may include:

- A verbal or written warning - where officers are satisfied anti-social behaviour has occurred.

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- A community resolution - primarily aimed at first time perpetrators and where an out-of-court disposal is more appropriate than taking more formal action.

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- Mediation - can be an effective way of resolving an issue by bringing all parties together.

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- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts - a written agreement between a perpetrator of anti-social behaviour and the agency or agencies acting locally to prevent that behaviour.

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- 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.

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- Tenancy Agreements – Registered Providers and Private Landlords (specifically in Selective Licensing Areas) may encourage tenants to comply with tenancy conditions preventing anti-social behaviour.

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- 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.

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The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced more effective powers (summarised in the table below) to tackle anti-social behaviour and provide better protection for victims and communities. In 2023 Home Office guidance emphasises the importance of using ASB powers to provide a "proportionate response" without "impacting adversely on behaviour that is neither unlawful nor antisocial."



	POWER	EFFECT	RELEVANT AUTHORITY	SANCTION ON BREACH
People	ASB civil injunctions	Individuals (aged ten and older) conducting anti-social behaviour can be issued with an ASB injunction which prohibits them from certain activities and/or requires them to attend rehabilitative activities.	Police Local authorities Social landlords Transport for London & Transport for Greater Manchester The Environment Agency & Natural Resources Wales. NHS Protect	A "contempt of court" punishable by up to 2 years
	Criminal Behaviour Orders	Individuals with a criminal conviction can have a CBO attached to their sentence if they have behaved anti-socially. CBO's can be place prohibitions or requirements on an offender designed to address their anti-social behaviour.	The courts (upon application from the prosecution)	Criminal offence punishable by up to five years in prison (if tried at a Crown Court).
	Community Protection Notices	Adults or businesses responsible for environmental issues which have diminished the 'quality of life of those in the locality' can be required to remedy the problem.	Police Local authorities	Criminal offence punishable by Fixed Penalty Notice.
Place	Public Space Protection orders	Specific activities can be prohibited in a designated area.	Local authorities in consultation (in consultation with the police)	Criminal offence punishable by Fixed Penalty Notice.
	Dispersal Powers	Individuals (aged 10 or older) conducting anti-social behaviour in a public space can be directed to leave that specified area for up to 48 hours. Their property can be confiscated if they are using it to conduct ASB.	Police	Criminal offence punishable by up to 3 months in prison
	Closure Powers	Access to a building associated with ASB can be restricted for up to 48 hours (for those other than the residents). The courts can extend the restriction for up to 6 months. Extensions approved by the courts can apply to residents.	Police Local authorities	Criminal offence punishable by up to 3/6 months in prison (depending on the circumstance).

# Appendix 3: Resources

## ASB Help

Provides information and advice for victims experiencing anti-social behaviour.

[asbhelp.co.uk/](http://asbhelp.co.uk/)

## Victim Support

Provides information and advice

[www.victimsupport.org.uk/crime-info/types-crime/antisocial-behaviour/](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/crime-info/types-crime/antisocial-behaviour/)

Victim Support (Warwickshire)

[www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/warwickshire/](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/warwickshire/)

## Mediation and Community Support

Provides support with neighbour disputes and community conflicts

[www.mediationsupport.org.uk/](http://www.mediationsupport.org.uk/)

## Resolve

Helps organisations to deal with community safety and ASB issues through training, support, guidance and sharing best practice but also has useful information for individuals.

[www.resolveuk.org.uk/](http://www.resolveuk.org.uk/)

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[safeinwarwickshire.com](http://safeinwarwickshire.com)