

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Information for parents and carers



Anti-social behaviour - what is it?

ASB is any behaviour or act by a person or group likely to cause others harassment, alarm or distress, or which causes a nuisance to the community or has an impact on the environment.

There are three main types of ASB:

Personal

Individuals or groups of people are targeted rather than the community. The incident causes distress and may have a negative effect on someone's quality of life. Intimidation and harassment through repeated ringing of a doorbell or damage to an individual's property are examples of this.

Nuisance

Nuisance incidents are those that affect the community rather than an individual. They cause trouble, annoyance, inconvenience or suffering. These incidences can interfere with public interests such as health, wellbeing, safety, and quality of life. Examples are drug or substance misuse, vehiclerelated nuisance, and animal-related problems.

Environmental

This kind of incident is when individuals or groups impact their wider surroundings. It includes environmental damage and the misuse of public spaces or buildings. Criminal damage or vandalism such as graffiti or damage to bus shelters, and littering are examples of this.

In response to a recent YouGov survey commissioned by Resolve, 50% of people said that "Youths/teenagers/groups causing trouble on the streets" was the biggest concern when thinking about ASB. However, adults are the main perpetrators of ASB. Groups of young people hanging around the streets was perceived as concerning, making others feel intimidated, whereas young people mention that hanging around in groups makes them feel safer. [Read more at YouGov.pdf \(resolveuk.org.uk\)](https://www.resolveuk.org.uk)

What does the law say?

While ASB itself isn't an offence, offences such as criminal damage, harassment, assault, and public order offences can be committed during the commission of ASB. There are many ways to deal with perpetrators of ASB aside from arrest such as Community Behaviour Orders, Community Protection Notices, and civil injunctions. Premises where ASB is taking place (e.g. drug misuse) can be ordered to close, and Public Space Protection Orders can be issued to areas where ASB is taking place or is likely to take place.

Why should I report ASB?

ASB goes largely unreported as people often consider it 'not serious enough' or believe that nothing will be done. Some people also worry about personal repercussions if they were to make a report. Not knowing how to report ASB is also a barrier. It's very important to report ASB at the earliest opportunity so that it can be dealt with before it escalates.

Here are ways to report ASB:

In an emergency where life or property is at immediate risk dial 999 and ask for police. Otherwise dial 101 or [report ASB to police online](#).

Your local council will deal with many aspects of non-urgent ASB. Visit your council's ASB webpage:

[Gateshead](#)
[Newcastle](#)
[Sunderland](#)

[Northumberland](#)
[North Tyneside](#)
[South Tyneside](#)

[Crimestoppers](#) takes anonymous reports. [This page](#) on their website details when they cannot use information (e.g. about noise nuisance) with signposting to appropriate ways to report.

Further information

[ASB HELP](#)

A website dedicated to helping people report ASB incidents, as well as providing information about ASB.

[A guide to recognising & reporting ASB - Neighbourhood Watch](#)