

# Nottinghamshire County Council

## Anti Social Behaviour Policy

Draft

### 1. Safe and Thriving Communities

- 1.1 Nottinghamshire County Council recognises that developing and supporting thriving communities is a priority. The County Council also recognises that anti social behaviour reduces the quality of life for people living in our communities.
- 1.2 This policy sets out the County Council's approach to dealing with anti social behaviour and the principles that shape it. It also provides a context for our partnership work with district and borough councils, health, police, fire and rescue service and the voluntary sector.

### 2. Anti Social Behaviour

- 2.1 Anti social behaviour covers many types of actions ranging from minor nuisance to serious public disturbance (See Appendix A). For the purposes of this policy it is defined as:

**Acting in a manner that is causing or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as himself/herself.**

- 2.2 Through its work across our departments, and with people and agencies in the County, the County Council will pursue a clear policy objective of preventing anti social behaviour and, where it occurs, will play a full part in stopping it.

### 3. Nottinghamshire County Council's Statutory Duties

- 3.1 There are many statutory duties that the County Council is required to undertake which will have an influence on issues of anti-social behaviour. Statutes directly relevant to the County Council's work on anti social behaviour include the Crime and Disorder Act, the Children Act, the Anti Social Behaviour Act and the Human Rights Act.
- 3.2 Specifically, Sections 5 and 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 make prevention of crime and disorder a statutory responsibility of the County Council. Anti social behaviour clearly falls within those sections.
- 3.3 The success of the County Council's work on anti social behaviour will depend on departments fully engaging with the broad range of duties and powers that are available to them, and which in many cases we are required to undertake.

#### **4. The County Council's Approach to Anti Social Behaviour**

- 4.1 The County Council takes the view that anti social behaviour can be reduced by early intervention. Good communication, sharing of information, diversionary activities and mediation are as important in dealing with anti social behaviour as using statutory powers such as anti social behaviour orders.
- 4.2 Information sharing, between and within our partner agencies and departments, is an essential tool in combating anti social behaviour. Protocols developed under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 have been established to maximise the sharing of information and intelligence.
- 4.3 The County Council considers that making public the name, address or other information that could identify a person against whom anti social behaviour proceedings have been taken, particularly someone under 18, should be a last resort.
- 4.4 The County Council is particularly concerned to work with, and protect, those aged under 18 from being drawn into anti social behaviour and to offer a range of interventions, both statutory and non-statutory, that will deliver improved behaviour.
- 4.5 The County Council is equally aware that children and young people are very often the victims of anti social behaviour. Work to reduce the impact of anti social behaviour on young victims will play a part in delivering the Staying Healthy and Staying Safe themes within the Every Child Matters agenda.
- 4.7 Statistics indicate that adults are at least as likely to be involved in activities that might be defined as anti social behaviour as children and young people, and our work needs to reflect this reality.
- 4.8 Adults with special needs such as learning or physical disabilities, mental health problems and hearing or visual impairment may need additional support to counter harassment or intimidation. Equality issues should be a consideration in all decision making and planning in anti social behaviour work.

#### **5. Guiding Principles**

- 5.1 The approach taken by the County Council on anti social behaviour issues will be guided by:
- A recognition that a partnership approach to solving problems of anti social behaviour is essential whilst respecting the right of individual partners to use powers available to them

- A commitment to prevention and early intervention, to using a diversionary or mediation approach as the preferred strategy for reducing anti social behaviour
- A good knowledge of the broad range of strategies available to deal with anti social behaviour
- A case discussion approach to anti social behaviour ensuring actions are proportionate and justified
- A commitment to keeping communities and their residents informed through regular consultation
- A commitment to ensuring issues of diversity are embedded in our work to reduce anti social behaviour

## **6. A Corporate Approach**

6.1 To achieve its objective of playing a full part in reducing anti social behaviour within Nottinghamshire the County Council will:

- Ensure all departments are fully aware of their role in reducing anti social behaviour
- Have named persons from each department who will act as lead officers for anti social behaviour issues and will be members of the County Council's Anti Social Behaviour Strategy and Policy Group
- Develop communication within the County Council and with external partners to support a co-ordinated, proportionate, timely and effective response to anti social behaviour
- Record all anti social behaviour incidents and make sure all data is reported to the County Council Anti Social Behaviour Information Officer
- Review and evaluate this policy annually to assess its impact in addressing anti social behaviour issues within Nottinghamshire.

## **7. Performance Management**

7.1 The success of the County Council's work on anti social behaviour will be measured by communities' perception of anti social behaviour in their area and by a reduction in criminal damage in the county.

7.2 The Local Area Agreement "Safer and Stronger Communities" Block contains both of these targets. Other targets contained within the "Children and Young People" Block and the "Healthy Communities and Older People" Block will also support the perception target. These

targets will be monitored and managed through the Local Area Agreement performance management structures.

- 7.4 Tackling anti social behaviour is a key line of enquiry within the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

## **8. Information Sharing**

- 8.1 It is very likely that anti social behaviour in County Council premises or affecting County Council staff will be perpetrated by people who are known to other agencies. It is essential we share information on incidents and meet with other agencies to consider action to stop or reduce the impact of the anti social behaviour.
- 8.2 The Jupiter in Nottinghamshire data hub can provide a full matrix of information showing where and what data we hold in terms of anti social behaviour and the limits on what we can share.
- 8.3 Regular liaison with district council based Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinators is crucial.

## **9. Co-ordination**

- 9.1 The work on anti social behaviour within the County Council will be co-ordinated through the County Council's Safer Communities Team based within the Communities Department. Service leads will attend quarterly meetings to review progress on implementing the approach set out in this policy.
- 9.2 The County Council's anti social behaviour work needs to influence, and be influenced by, the following key initiatives and pieces of strategic work in the county:

- Children and Young People's Plan
- Development within Children and Young People's Services
- Developments within Adult Social Care and Health
- Local Safeguarding Board
- Local Area Agreement
- Home Office Respect Action Plan

## **10. Action Planning**

- 10.1 An annual County Council Anti Social Behaviour Action Plan will identify the key areas of work from the Respect Action Plan and map them under departmental headings. This process will identify gaps in our existing delivery plans and ensure that the County Council delivers all the objectives within the Respect Agenda.

# Appendix A

## Anti Social Behaviour Categories

- Drugs (and needles)
  - Street drinking
  - Begging
  - Prostitution
  - Kerb Crawling
  - Sexual Acts
  - Abandoned cars
  - Vehicle Nuisance
  - Hate Crime
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- Noise (and domestic noise)
  - Rowdy behaviour
  - Nuisance behaviour
  - Hoax calls
  - Animal related problems
  - Intimidation/harassment
  - Criminal damage/vandalism
  - Litter (and fly tipping)
  - Domestic violence