



ANTI-SOCIAL
BEHAVIOUR

What you can do



Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is a top priority for us to tackle. Excessive noise, vandalism and drunken loutish behaviour impact on your quality of life and cause alarm and distress.

Thames Valley Police and your local council are working to reduce anti-social behaviour but we need your help.

How you can help

- Use your judgement as to whether you can resolve it yourself by speaking to the person responsible for the nuisance.
- Keep a log of all acts of anti-social behaviour including times, dates, details of those committing it and what they have done.
- Report it - if it's a noise problem, you should contact your local council. If tenants are behaving badly then the landlord or housing association is usually responsible and you should let them know. Call the police on 0845 8 505 505 if the behaviour involves drunkenness, violence or threatening behaviour.

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- Tell your local police officer, Police Community Support Officer or Community Warden. The neighbourhood you live in has its own dedicated policing team which works with partners such as the council to make your community safer. More information about your neighbourhood team can be found at www.thamesvalley.police.uk or call 0845 8 505 505.
 - If you witness vandalism taking place report it to the police. However, damage to street furniture (e.g. street lights) should be reported to your local council.

How we deal with it

The police and their partners have a range of options at their disposal, depending on the severity of the offence. These may include:

- Simply trying to talk to the individuals involved to help them understand how their actions affect others and to discourage further anti-social behaviour.
- An **acceptable behaviour contract (ABC)**. This is a written agreement between a person who's behaved in an anti-social manner and one or more local agencies.



We can apply to court for a **parenting order**, which usually requires the parent or guardian to attend a guidance or counselling programme, or to ensure their child attends school. Not complying can lead to a fine of up to £1,000.

Your local council may serve an **abatement notice** on a person for excessive noise. If it's breached, it's a criminal offence, and he or she may have to go to court.

Housing providers may apply to have a tenancy demoted – making it less secure – or even have offenders evicted. They may seek an **anti-social behaviour injunction (ASBI)**. Breach of the order can result in a fine or prison sentence.

If there is sufficient evidence we can apply to court for an **anti-social behaviour order (ASBO)**, which prohibits specific behaviour. If an **ASBO** is breached, it can result in a fine of up to £5,000, a prison sentence of up to five years, or both.

For problems with large groups of people, the police, with the agreement of the local council, can establish a **dispersal area** where there has been a persistent problem with anti-social behaviour, such as a shopping arcade or a park. Police can direct groups of two or more people to leave if they are causing a nuisance.



Case Studies

In an effort to prevent alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in Abingdon, the local council has introduced a **designated public places order**. It helps the police deal with people who behave anti-socially as a result of drinking. Anyone refusing to give up their alcohol to the police, risks arrest and a £500 fine.

The neighbourhood policing team in Earley, in partnership with Wokingham Borough Council, enforced a public dispersal order as part of a crackdown on anti-social behaviour. Police could move on groups of two or more people whose presence or actions were causing intimidation or distress to other members of the public.

A crack house in Bicester was closed down after complaints by neighbours about noise, discarded needles and people visiting throughout the night. The local anti-social behaviour team obtained a **crack house closure order** from court. The house was then boarded up for three months, and the occupants were prevented from returning. It has now been sold and the property has returned to normal use.

A 34-year-old man from High Wycombe was sent to prison for 20 months for breaching his **anti-social behaviour order (ASBO)** three times. His **ASBO** was granted by Wycombe Magistrates in September 2008, and banned him from engaging in threatening, abusive, or aggressive behaviour.



“ In 2007/2008 we had a lot of trouble with teenagers not behaving themselves. Working with the local Police Community Support Officer the problem was solved. She has made our customers’ lives and my staff’s lives return to normal, and the library is once again a good place to be. ”

The manager of Wantage library about her local PCSO.

“ They made the boys clean off the graffiti. They won’t be so keen to spray the walls and fences after that. They patrol the estate, which stops a lot of problems we were having. ”

A resident in Taplow, South Bucks, on her neighbourhood policing team.

How do you report it?

We are committed to tackling anti-social behaviour, but we can’t do it without you. Contact the anti-social behaviour coordinator at your local council, or call the police on **0845 8 505 505** and ask for your neighbourhood team.

Remember: anti-social behaviour can’t be tackled without your help and involvement. For more information visit:
www.thamesvalley.police.uk/anti-social