



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Well Being Scrutiny Meeting 24 November 2022

### ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL

<b>Purpose</b>	This report gives the policy and background as a pre-inquiry outline briefing for the Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny Inquiry Panel
<b>Content</b>	The primary focus for the inquiry is to look at how Swansea Council and key partner organisations are tackling anti-social behaviour in Swansea
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	Consider the contents of the report and framework for conducting and planning the scrutiny inquiry into how the Council and key partners are tackling anti-social behaviour in Swansea
<b>Lead Cabinet Member / Officer(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Alyson Pugh – Cabinet member for Wellbeing</li> <li>• Dave Howes – Direct of Social Services</li> <li>• Jane Whitmore – Strategic Lead Commissioning</li> </ul>
<b>Report Author</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Thomas – Community Integration Manager</li> </ul> <p><a href="mailto:paul.thomas5@swansea.gov.uk">paul.thomas5@swansea.gov.uk</a></p>

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Swansea Council takes a partnership approach to act in conjunction with other statutory and key partners of the Safer Swansea Partnership to help tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) throughout the Swansea area.
- 1.2 There is not a specific Council Anti-Social Behaviour team or service area. However, the following posts co-ordinate and deliver our duties and responsibilities in partnership with other Council services and external partners.
- 1.3 The Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Co-ordinator is an officer in the Community Integration & Partnerships team funded from the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office annual grant and works across the whole of the City & County of Swansea alongside partners.
- 1.4 The Manager for Anti-Social Behaviour Support Team is part of the Landlord & Community Housing Services and this role relates specifically to issues arising from and with Council Tenants.

1.5 Swansea Council has legislative powers to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour as outlined under the “The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014” which provides additional tools to tackle ASB.

These include:

- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC)
- Civil injunctions
- Community Protection Notices (CPN)
- Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)
- Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO)
- Housing injunctions
- Demoted tenancies
- Court orders to deal with specific situations, such as Closure Orders or Parenting Orders.

In addition to:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Court Orders for Possession

1.6 Further details can be found below:

[What is being done about anti-social behaviour? - Swansea](#)

## 2. Why we do this?

2.1 This section provides a definition and process followed in regard to reporting, action and intervention

2.2 **Definition:** The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 defines ASB as:

- 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 of residential premises, or
- c) conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person

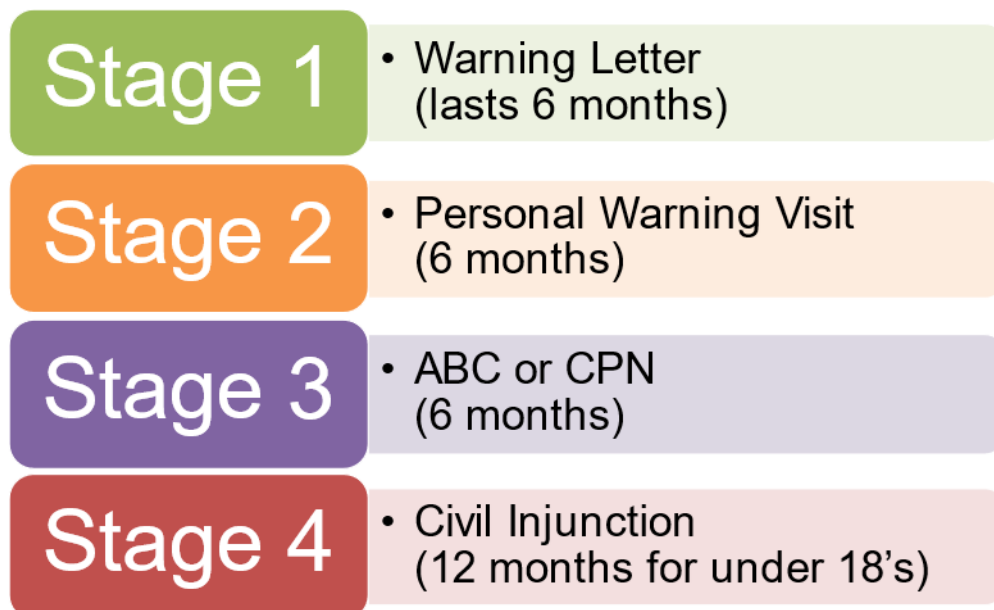
2.3 ASB is reported:

- Via 101 or through Housing Office or other council service areas
- Referral process identifies victims, perpetrators and location
- All referrals are recorded and processed on Niche
- Housing use REACT (an ASB case management database)

2.4 This is to enable us to identify the type of ASB and provide specific solutions. We record and monitor every incident of ASB in order to identify repeat victims and perpetrators and put in place action plans, support and identify vulnerabilities.

- Perpetrators are processed via the 4 Step Plan
- Repeat Victims are identified, and appropriate support is put in place
- Repeat locations are identified and appropriate crime reduction solutions are provided
- Niche allows for data to be collated and analysed for any developing trends

## 4 Step Plan



2.6 Perpetrators: Informal approach to begin with

**Stage 1:** Initial warning highlighting what would happen should behaviour continue

**Stage 2 visit:** This is done by a police officer and YJS officer. Individual will sign personal warning letter and interventions will be discussed and agreed upon

**Stage 3:** Acceptable Behaviour Contract. This is a Voluntary written agreement which includes both prohibitions and positive requirements. Potential further action is made clear so the person is aware of the consequences. Reviewed every 3 months

**Stage 4:** Formal Sanction - Civil Injunction for anyone over 10. Includes prohibitions or requirements. Power of arrest.

**Early intervention is key in preventing and resolving most ASB from further escalation**

2.7 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) were introduced in 2014 as part of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

They provide wide-ranging and flexible powers for local authorities to address anti-social behaviours in response to particular issues affecting communities. PSPOs are a council-led tool to address certain issues in a specific location so they are just one approach that can be targeted in the right way to achieve a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

2.8 There is a broad legal framework which underpins the work. This is attached as **Appendix B**

### **3. Partnership Approach**

3.1 As outlined in section 1, this work is not solely delivered by Swansea Council. There is a broad partnership approach to tackling anti-social behaviour which is co-ordinated through the Safer Swansea Partnership and its partnership sub groups and structures or problem-solving task and finish groups.

3.2 The Safer Swansea Partnership reports and is accountable to the local Public Service Board.

Anti-Social Behaviour is included in Priority 3 of the Safer Swansea Strategy – Stronger Communities and reported on quarterly to the partnership and annually to the Public Service Board

3.3 Some of the key Partners involved in dealing with anti-social behaviour are listed below:

- South Wales Police Community Safety
- South Wales Police Neighbourhood Policing Teams
- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- Youth Justice Service
- Evolve, Early Help and CMET (Child & Family Services)
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Services AWWFRS
- Registered Social Landlords
- Local Authority Housing ASB Support Team
- Universities and Colleges
- Probation Services
- Third Sector

All of partners engaged are involved in the process and there will be occasions where other stakeholders and partners will be involved to problem solve.

We work closely both with statutory and non-statutory partners when dealing with ASB. We are constantly looking at ways of improving our approach.

### **4. Finance**

4.1 As outlined in Section 1, there is no one specific team that deals with Anti-Social Behaviour from a Council perspective. Swansea Council utilises Grant funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund the Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Co-ordinator. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funds the Anti-Social Behaviour Support Team as part of the Landlord & Community Housing Services relates specifically to issues arising from and with Council Tenants. Child & Family Services utilise a variety of grants to enhance a preventative approach for children and young people. Other areas of the Council such as City Centre Rangers also support this agenda as well as tackling poverty services.

### **5. Current Performance and Trends**

5.1 Anti-social Behaviour is monitored and collated via the Police NICHE

Database system which the ASB coordinator has direct access to in order to update, endorse, process referrals and run reports to analyse specific trends, hotspots and perpetrators.

- 5.2 During lockdown ASB referrals increased but that was mainly due to COVID breaches being categorised as ASB. Actual ASB obviously declined due to restriction of movement. Since lockdown there has been an increase in ASB specifically youth related. In addition to this the implementation of a PSPO in the city centre has also seen a rise in reported ASB. This trend is not isolated to Swansea and is in line with what is happening nationally

## 6. Future Challenges & Opportunities

- 6.1 The Home Office chairs the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Board, which brings together a range of partners and representatives from relevant agencies and government departments to work together to identify and assess strategic issues relating to ASB and share information and good practice in order to support an effective multi-agency response to ASB.
- 6.2 The Anti-social Behaviour Strategic Board has developed a set of principles which seek to describe a consistent approach to understanding and addressing Anti-Social behaviour (ASB) in local communities.

The principles are to act as a guide in seeking to deliver the best possible outcomes for victims of ASB and can be found under **Appendix C** and could potentially form a framework for this scrutiny inquiry.

## 7. Risks

- 7.1 The main risk to outline in relation to the implications of this inquiry to the Council is around the understanding, definition and wider partnership responsibility for tackling anti-social behaviour together and also the public perception as to what anti-social behaviour is and how it can be tackled

## 8 Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## 9. Legal Implications

- 9.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

### Glossary of terms:

Acronym	Expansion
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
LA	Local Authority
WG	Welsh Government
TAF	Team Around the Family
MWWFRS	Mid & West Wales Fire Rescue Service
CMET	Contextual Missing Exploited Trafficked

EHH	Early Help Hub
YJS	Youth Justice Service
ABC	Acceptable Behaviour Contract
IJA	Integrated Impact Assessment

**Background papers:** None

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – IJA Screening Form

Appendix B - Legislation

Appendix C – Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour Principles