

Powers to Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour

Rowdy/Nuisance Behaviour

Harassment & Verbal Abuse

- Local authorities, the police and social landlords can now apply for anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) and injunctions to curb an individual's anti-social behaviour and protect people from behaviour causing harassment, alarm or distress.
- Conditions of the order may include a ban from the area where the victims live or a specific ban on approaching or communicating with the victims. Because these court orders are made in civil proceedings, hearsay evidence can be used to protect victims who are too scared to come to court.

Large groups of youths

- Police can designate areas where they can disperse groups who are acting or may act anti-socially.
- Fines can be issued for a range of disorder-related offences.
- Warning letters and acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) may deter some groups of young people who are gathering and causing low-level nuisance.
- Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) for ringleaders and those responsible for more serious disorder and nuisance can be effective in stopping the behaviour and protecting the community.
- Parenting orders are another tool used, which require parents to take responsibility for their child/ren's actions.
- Engaging youth services in outreach work early in the problem-solving stage can lead to effective solutions such as improved diversion activities and facilities for young people.
- For 10-17 year olds, an individual support order attached to an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) to tackle the underlying causes of the behaviour and offer support for behaviour change can help. Where rowdy behaviour is related to drinking, support to tackle the problem and work with parents to improve parenting skills can be effective.

Throwing missiles

- 🌀 Fines can be issued for a range of disorder-related offences.
- 🌀 Warning letters and acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) may deter those throwing stones, eggs and/or other missiles.
- 🌀 Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) for those responsible for more serious disorder and nuisance as a result of this behaviour can be effective in stopping the behaviour and protecting the community.

Underage smoking/drinking

- 🌀 Powers to review, restrict or revoke licenses have been strengthened to prevent premises selling to underage drinkers.
- 🌀 Police have the power to confiscate alcohol/tobacco from underage drinkers/smokers in a public place.

Youths playing football

- 🌀 Police can designate areas where they can disperse groups who are acting or may act anti-socially.
- 🌀 Warning letters and acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) may deter some groups of young people who are gathering and causing problems as a result of their playing football.
- 🌀 Engaging youth services in outreach work early in the problem-solving stage can lead to effective solutions such as improved diversion activities and facilities for young people.