

REPORT TO: Police, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

MEETING DATE: 14 June 2022

BY: Executive Director for Place

SUBJECT: Tackling Antisocial Behaviour

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the number, type and geographical breakdown of antisocial behaviour complaints received by East Lothian Council during the reporting period (1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022) and to advise on actions taken in response to same.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the terms of the report.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The number of antisocial complaints received by East Lothian Council during the reporting period was 733. This compares to a figure of 887 received during the equivalent period in 2020/2021 and represents a 17% *decrease* in the number of complaints received. Comparisons with the 2019/2020 figure, however, show a 9% increase; thereby, suggesting that the effect of the pandemic (e.g. working from home, a diminution in tolerance levels, the disruption to traditional education methods and the display of exaggerated behaviours following upon the relaxation of restrictions) continues to have an effect on the level of antisocial behaviour being reported.
- 3.2 Of the 773 complaints received, 293 were made by 113 individuals who had cause to complain on more than one occasion.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 provides a linear analysis of antisocial behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council from 2012 to date. This shows a downward trend in antisocial behaviour complaints received between 2012/2013 and the current reporting period.

- 3.4 Of the 773 complaints received, 265 related to antisocial noise (primarily loud music), 146 were youth related, 95 to drug misuse and the remaining 267 consisting of, amongst other things, shouting, swearing, neighbour disputes and verbal abuse. The diagram at Appendix 2 offers a visual representation of the breakdown in terms of case type.
- 3.5 In terms of loci, 32% of the 773 complaints were from Musselburgh and the surrounding environs, 20% from Tranent, 14% from Dunbar, 13% from Prestonpans, 17% from Haddington and 4% from North Berwick. The diagram at Appendix 3 offers a visual representation of geographical breakdown.
- 3.6 During the reporting period, 86 referrals were received by the Resolution Service as compared to 121 during the equivalent period in 2020/2021: this 29% decrease coincided with the increase in the number of people returning to their workplaces.
- 3.7 Three multi-agency Problem Solving Partnerships (PSPs) were active during the period; the first related to youth related antisocial behaviour taking place within the Preston/Seton/Gosford ward, the second to antisocial behaviour occurring in Haddington Town Centre and the third in relation to youth related antisocial behaviour issues in Dunbar. Actions taken within the context of each PSP included, amongst other things, joint Police/Council visits to the homes of youths identified as having behaved antisocially, the signing of Acceptable Behaviour Agreements, increased hi-visibility Community Warden/Police patrols of affected areas, multi-agency case based discussions taking place with regard to those identified as forming part of “the core groups”, the initiation of targeted one-to-one and group diversionary youth work, the expansion of “open” youth facilities and outreach work, the deployment of mobile CCTV units and the use of communications to highlight the collaborative work being undertaken by each PSP. Membership across the PSPs includes representatives from the Safer Communities Team, Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Education, Social Work, Housing, Sports, Countryside and Leisure, Connected Communities, Community Councils, Elected Members, Business Associations, local sports clubs, Tenants and Residents Associations and the third sector (including MYPAS, the Pennypit Trust and “Heavy Sounds”).
- 3.8 There are 8 live Antisocial Behaviour Orders in East Lothian. There is currently one live eviction case before Edinburgh Sheriff Court. The Antisocial Behaviour Case Monitoring Group continues to meet on a 4-weekly basis to ensure that the more serious, complex and persistent cases are addressed from a multi-agency perspective; there are currently 61 adult and 6 child cases being so monitored.
- 3.9 The Antisocial Behaviour Overview and Officer Groups, along with the weekly Tasking and Co-ordinating Group, met throughout the reporting period; the latter of these multi-agency groups informs the deployment of Police Officers, Community Wardens, Neighbourhood Outreach Youth Workers and mobile CCTV cameras to antisocial behaviour “hotspots”, with said deployments being made on an analysis of complaint levels and received intelligence. The Overview Group is currently overseeing a

refreshing of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy; a cross-service working group will be established in the summer of 2022 to undertake the review and manage the consultation process through to final ratification in 2023.

- 3.10 During the reporting period, 31 joint Police/Council letters were sent to the parents of children whom the Police had identified as being present in instances and areas affected by antisocial behaviour; all such letters were copied to Education, Children's Wellbeing, Police Scotland's Youth Justice Officer and to the relevant Area Housing Office where the child formed part of Council tenancy household.
- 3.11 Street-based youth outreach work continued throughout the reporting period in the county's major towns with other forms of traditional generic and targeted face-face youth diversionary work reverting to pre-pandemic delivery models.
- 3.12 A review of the previously constituted Night Time Noise Service is currently underway. Since April 2020, an alternative system has been in operation whereby Police Scotland supply East Lothian Council with a list of all noise complaints on a weekly basis. Council officers, within the context of the Antisocial Behaviour Policy, then follow up each individual complaint. An analysis of antisocial noise complaints made to Police Scotland during the reporting period shows only 44 calls received at times when the Council's noise response service would have been operating had it not been for the pandemic. Alternative methods of capturing contemporaneous evidence are currently being used; including, the recent purchase of four new noise monitoring devices and the procurement of a "Noise App" that will allow for complainers to contemporaneously record instances of noise and to send them to the safer communities team for analysis.
- 3.13 Within the context of formal antisocial behaviour investigations, the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions has allowed for a return to face-to-face contact with complainers and perpetrators. During the reporting period, a number of joint visits were undertaken by members of the Antisocial Behaviour Team alongside colleagues from other Council departments and police officers.
- 3.14 The Community Wardens have maintained a high-visibility street presence throughout the reporting period. Apart from their routine duties of attending to fly-tipping, littering, graffiti, dog fouling and lower level antisocial behaviour complaints, they will be taking part in the peak summer season multi-agency effort in managing the coastal areas. Wardens continue to engage with the local community and their representatives on a daily basis.
- 3.15 Work is currently underway to review the way in which antisocial behaviour complaints are recorded, categorised and allocated. Improved recording systems are now in place allowing for a more effective analysis of data, which in turn, has led to a more effective targeting of resource. In time, this work will flow through in to the public reporting of antisocial behaviour.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial – none

6.2 Personnel – none

6.3 Other – none

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

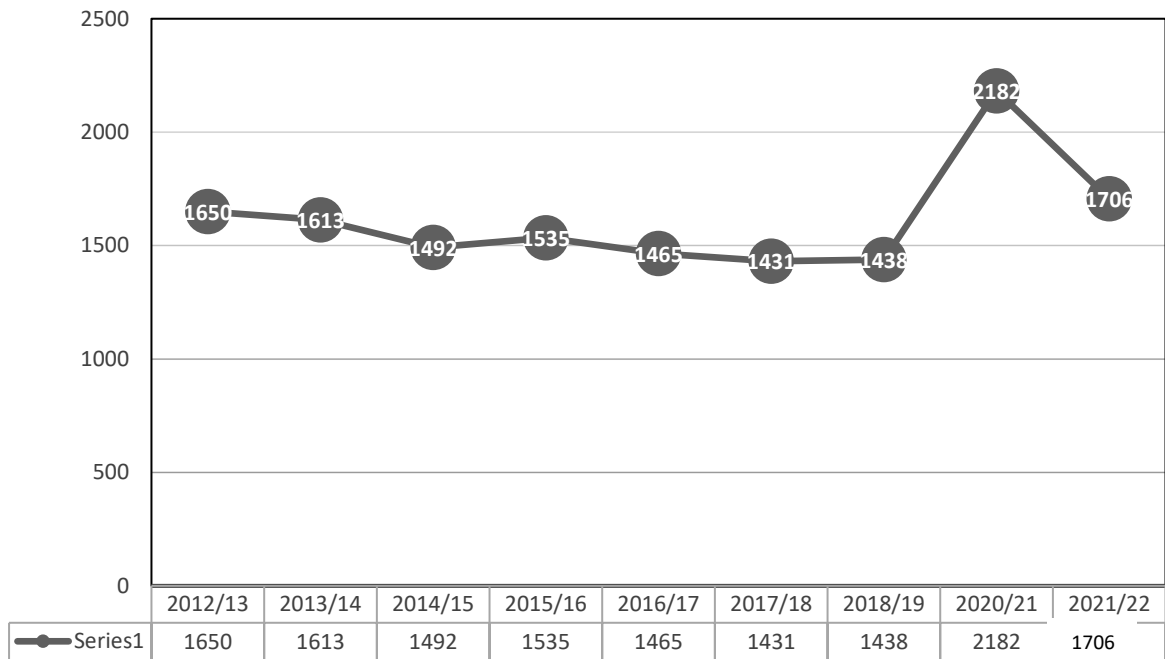
7.1 Appendix 1: Graph – Antisocial Behaviour Complaints made to East Lothian Council 2012-2022.

7.2 Appendix 2: Chart showing breakdown of case type (1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022).

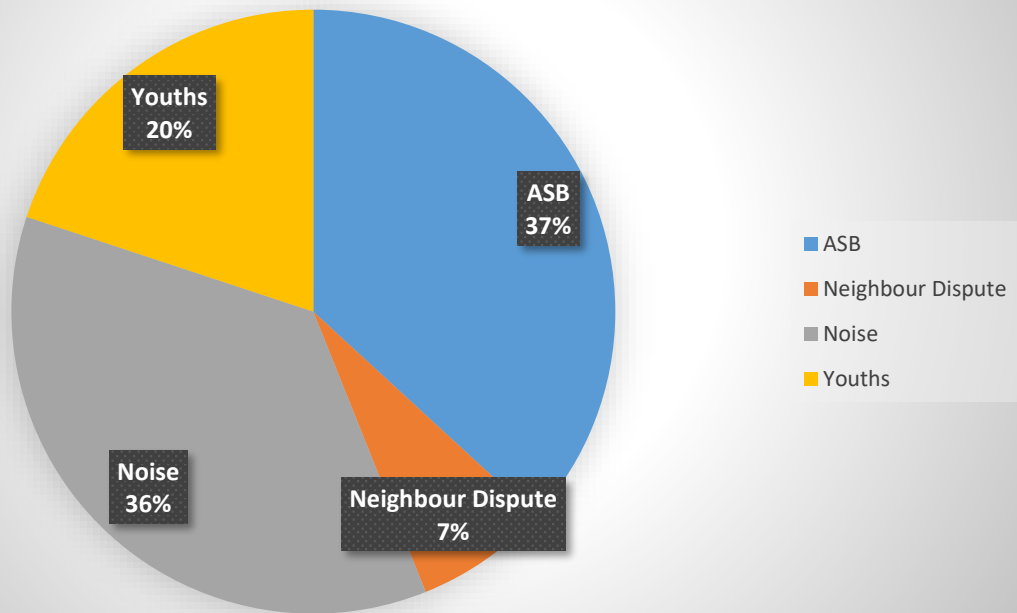
7.3 Appendix 3: Chart showing geographical breakdown (1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022).

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DATE	1 June 2022

ASB Complaints - ELC



Complaint Type % 1st October 2021 - 31st March 2022



Geographical Breakdown of Antisocial Behaviour Cases % 1st October 2021 - 31st March 2022

