

**REPORT TO: POLICE, FIRE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING DATE: 10 November 2022

BY: Executive Director for Place

SUBJECT: Tackling Antisocial Behaviour

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1 PURPOSE

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 April 2022 to 30 September 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 951. This compares to a figure of 973 received during the equivalent period in 2021 and represents a 2 % *decrease* in the number of complaints received. Comparisons with the 2020 figure (1295) show a 27% decrease; thereby, suggesting that the level of complaints are stabilising following upon the unprecedented dislocation caused by the pandemic.

3.2 Appendix 1 provides a linear analysis of antisocial behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council from 2017 / 2018 to date.

3.3 Of the 951 complaints received, 417 related to antisocial noise, 154 were youth related, 127 to drug misuse with the remaining 253 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.

3.4 In terms of *loci*, 34% of the 951 complaints were from Musselburgh and the surrounding environs, 20% from Tranent, 12% from Dunbar, 17% from Prestonpans, 12% from Haddington and 5% from North Berwick. The

diagram at Appendix 3 offers a visual representation of geographical breakdown.

- 3.5 During the reporting period, 139 referrals were made to the mediation service. Following upon a review of the way in which lower level antisocial behaviour complaints were being processed on receipt, cases are now, at first instance, referred to the mediation service with a view to diverting parties away from traditional enforcement interventions.
- 3.6 Three multi-agency Problem Solving Partnerships (PSPs) closed during the period due to a reduction in the levels of antisocial behaviour in each of their respective areas of jurisdiction; the first had been established to address the antisocial behaviour being perpetrated by a small minority of young people within the Preston / Seton / Gosford ward, the second to address antisocial behaviour occurring in Haddington Town Centre and the third in relation to youth related antisocial behaviour issues in Dunbar. Actions taken included, *amongst other things*, joint police / council visits to the homes of youths identified as having behaved antisocially, 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 provision 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 included 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 Pennypitt Trust and “Heavy Sounds”).
- 3.7 There are 6 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 52 cases being so monitored, 23 of which are drug related.
- 3.8 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, of which there are now 6, to antisocial behaviour “hotspots”, with said deployments being made on an analysis of complaint levels and received intelligence.
- 3.9 Officers continue to participate in the national Antisocial Behaviour Officers Forum, the Scottish Community Safety Network and the Scottish Mediation Network.

- 3.10 The Overview Group is currently overseeing a refreshing of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy; a cross-service working group consisting of senior officers and police representatives is due to meet during November 2022 with a view to managing the consultation process through to final ratification in 2023.
- 3.11 During the reporting period, 87 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.
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 A review of the Night Time Noise Service, suspended in April 2020, has been incorporated in to the broader service review taking place within the council's Protective Services division. Police Scotland continue to 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 alternative method of capturing contemporaneous evidence continues in the form of noise monitoring devices. The planned use of the recently procured "Noise App", allowing complainers to contemporaneously record instances of noise and to send them to the safer communities' team for analysis, is in final stages of implementation subject to concluding data protection matters.
- 3.14 Within the context of formal antisocial behaviour investigations, normal face-to-face contact with complainers and perpetrators has resumed following upon the disruption caused by the pandemic.
- 3.15 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, officers participated in the multi-agency effort in managing the coastal areas throughout the summer months. Currently the team forms part of the multi-agency effort in promoting and protecting community safety in the lead up to both Halloween and Bonfire night.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and no negative impacts have been identified.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial – None.

6.2 Personnel - None.

6.3 Other – None.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

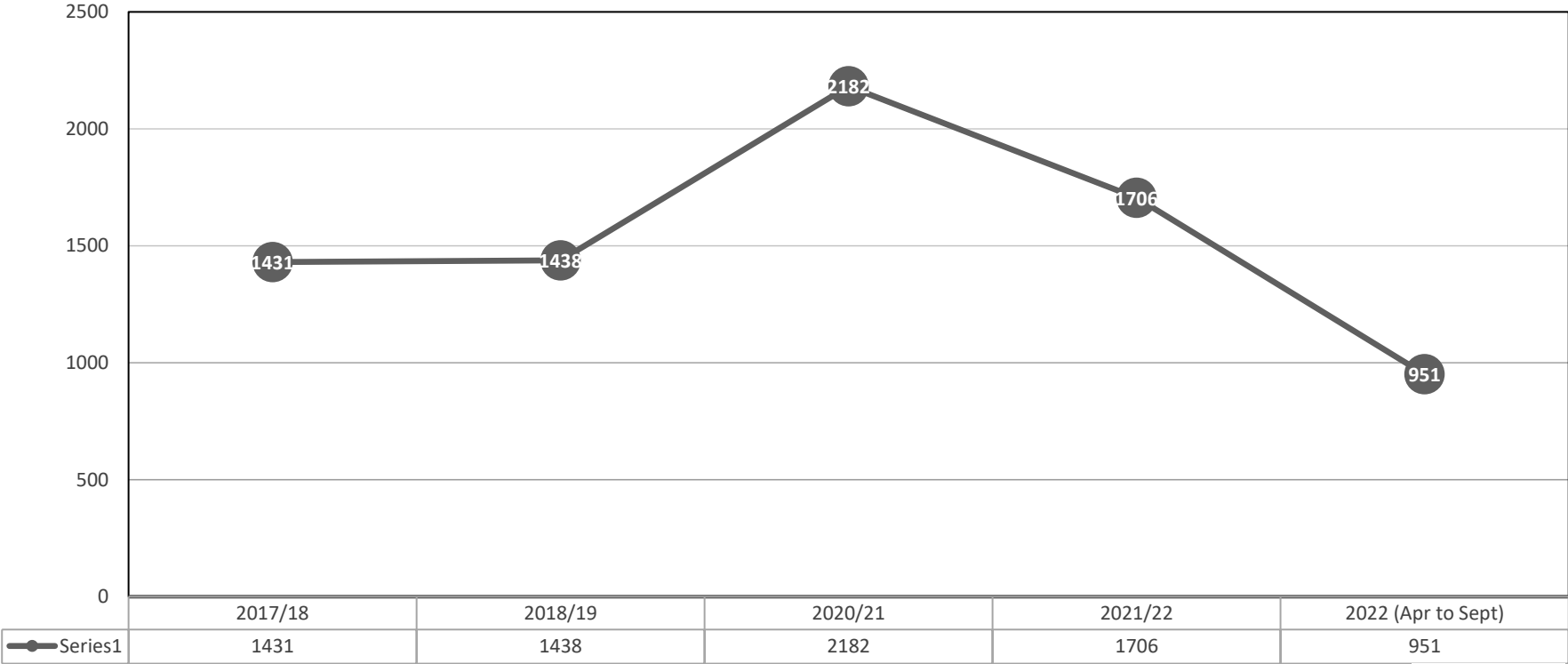
7.1 Appendix 1 Graph – Antisocial Behaviour Complaints made to East Lothian Council 2017-2022.

7.2 Appendix 2 Chart showing breakdown of case type (1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022).

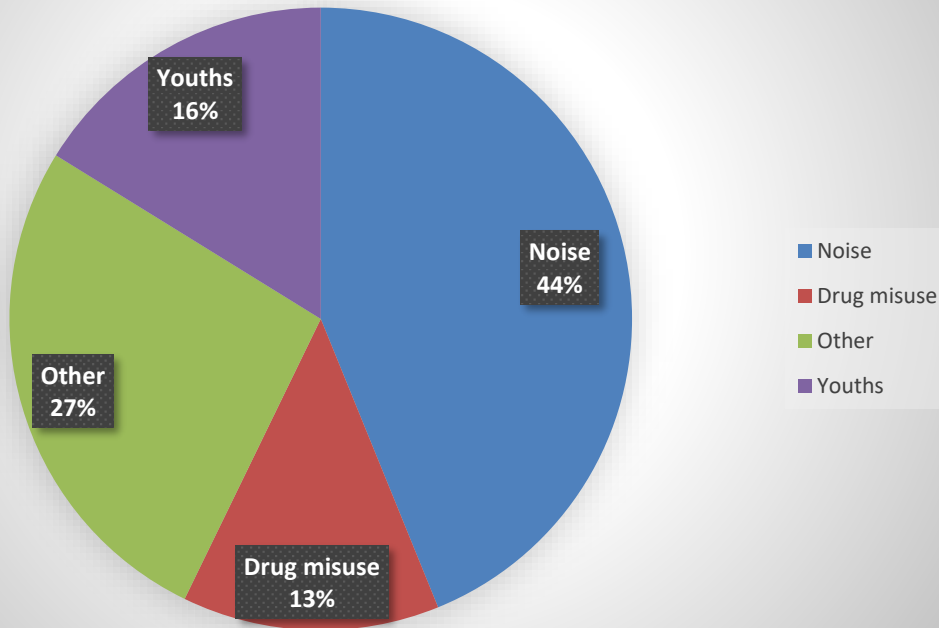
7.3 Appendix 3 Chart showing geographical breakdown (1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022).

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Number of Antisocial Behaviour Calls made to East Lothian Council



Complaint Type % 1st April - 30th September 2022



**Geographical Breakdown of
Antisocial Behaviour Cases %
1st April 2022- 30th September 2022**

