

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

MEETING DATE: 21 JUNE 2023

BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF 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 October 2022 to 31 March 2023) 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 808 bringing the aggregate number of complaints received during 2022 / 2023 to 1759. This represents a 3 % increase as compared to the preceding reporting year (1706). Comparisons with the 2020 / 2021 figure (2182) reveal a 19% decrease; thereby, suggesting that the level of complaints are beginning to stabilise 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 31 March 2023.

3.3 Of the 808 complaints received, 339 related to antisocial noise, 153 were youth related, 94 to drug misuse with the remaining 222 consisting of, *amongst other things*, shouting, swearing, neighbour disputes, harassment 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*, 36% of the complaints were from Musselburgh and the surrounding environs, 18% from Tranent, 16% from Dunbar, 12% from Prestonpans, 13% 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, 101 referrals were made to the mediation service. Following upon a previous review of the way in which lower level

antisocial behaviour complaints were being processed on receipt, cases continue to be, at first instance, referred to the mediation service with a view to diverting parties away from traditional enforcement interventions.

- 3.6 There are 12 live Antisocial Behaviour Orders in East Lothian. There are currently two live eviction cases 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 49 cases being so monitored, 16 of which are drug related.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 Officers continue to participate in the national Antisocial Behaviour Officers Forum, the Scottish Community Safety Network and the Scottish Mediation Network.
- 3.9 The Overview Group directed a review of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy in December 2022; a cross-service working group consisting of senior officers and police representatives met twice during March 2023 to begin the work of reviewing the strategy appropriate to current needs and reflecting priority local plans and outcomes e.g. Council Plan et al. Following upon those discussions, and having received initial feedback from the East Lothian Tenants and Residents panel, a first revised draft is due to be considered by the working group over the summer period. Further development of the revised Strategy, including appropriate consultation, will progress during 2023/24, ideally, for approval by 1 April 2024.
- 3.10 During the reporting period, 34 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 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, continues awaits approval from the council’s Data Protection Officer.

- 3.13 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 are participating in the multi-agency effort in managing the coastal areas throughout the summer months.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

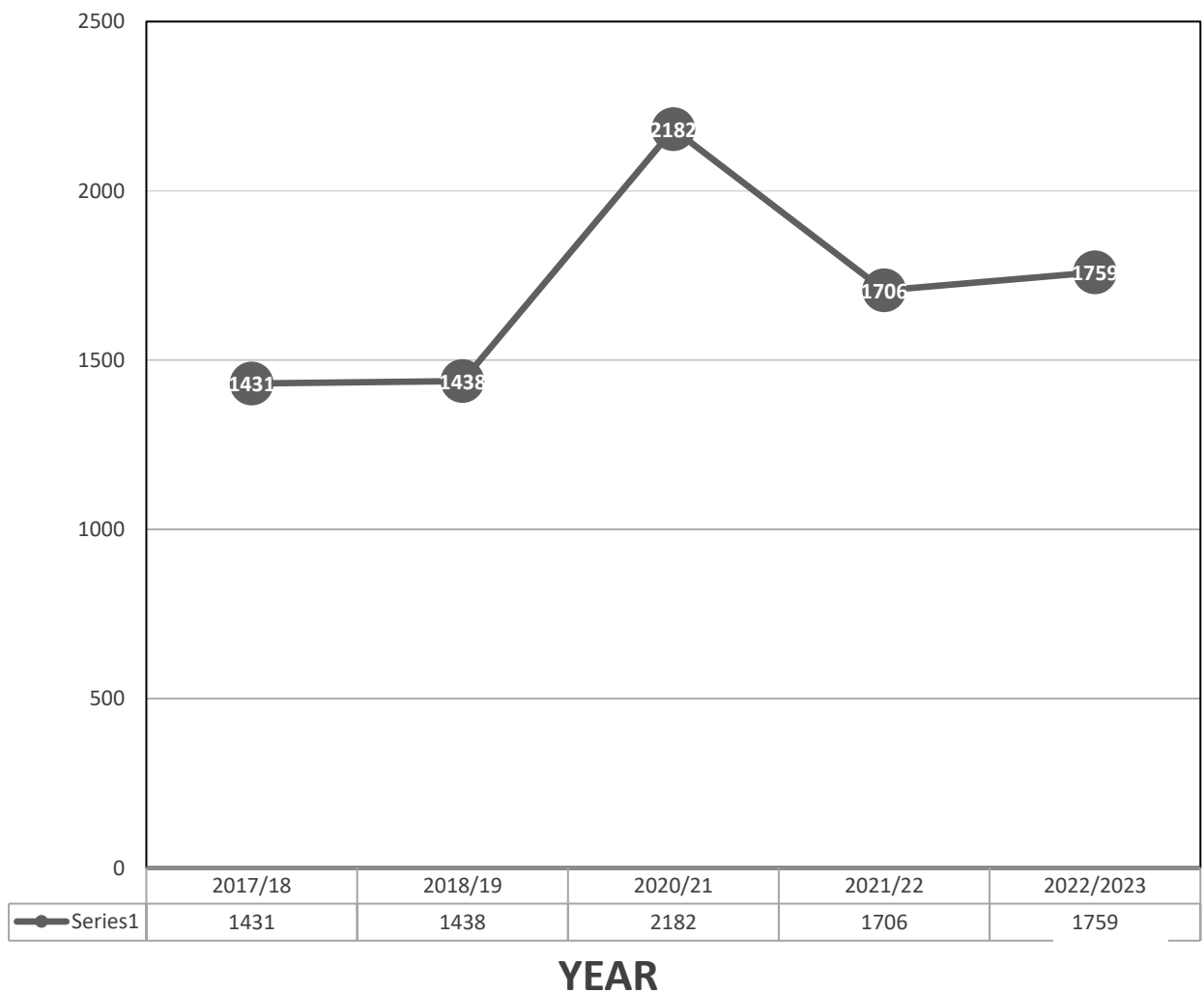
- 6.1 Financial – None
6.2 Personnel - None
6.3 Other – None

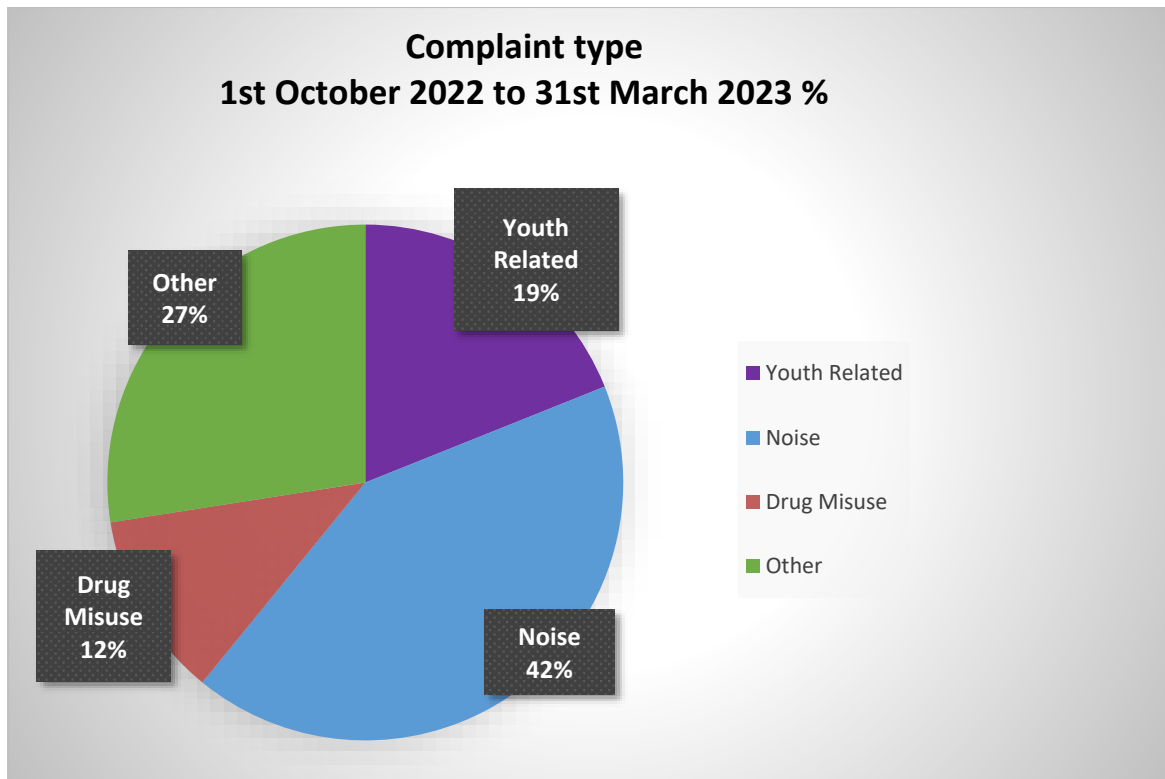
7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Appendix 1 Graph – Antisocial Behaviour Complaints made to East Lothian Council 2017-2023.
7.2 Appendix 2 Chart showing breakdown of case type (1 October 2022 – 31 March 2023).
7.3 Appendix 3 Chart showing geographical breakdown (1 October 2022 – 31 March 2023).

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Number of Antisocial Behaviour Complaints made to East Lothian Council





**Geographical breakdown of
antisocial behaviour cases %
1st October 2022 - 31st March 2023**

