

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

MEETING DATE: 15 November 2023

BY: Executive Director for Place

SUBJECT: Tackling Antisocial Behaviour

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 2023 to 30 September 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 927. This represents a 3 % decrease as compared to the number of complaints received during the same period in 2022. Comparisons with the 2021 figure (973) disclose a 5% decrease; thereby, suggesting that the complaint numbers 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 2018 / 2019 to 30 September 2023.

3.3 Of the 927 complaints received, 260 related to antisocial noise, 213 were youth related, 93 to drug misuse with the remaining 361 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*, 38% of the complaints were from Musselburgh and the surrounding environs, 15% from Tranent, 11% from Dunbar, 15% from Prestonpans, 13% from Haddington and 8% from North Berwick. The diagram at Appendix 3 offers a visual representation of geographical breakdown.

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- 3.5 During the reporting period, 133 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 14 live Antisocial Behaviour Orders in East Lothian. There are currently two live eviction cases before Edinburgh Sheriff Court with a further two actions waiting to be raised. The Antisocial Behaviour Case Monitoring Group continues to meet on a four weekly basis to ensure that the more *serious, complex, and persistent cases* are addressed from a multi-agency perspective; there are currently 56 cases being so monitored, 13 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 Protection Officers, 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. Following upon those discussions and having received initial feedback from the East Lothian Tenants and Residents panel, work has continued on the preparation of a pre-consultation draft during the reporting period. Work will continue on this strategy review, within available resources, ensuring appropriate public consultation before finalising the strategy through Council governance during 2024.
- 3.10 During the reporting period, 61 joint Police / Council letters were sent to the parents of children and young people 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 On 25 September 2023, the recommendations made by the service review of the council’s Protective Services division were implemented. The Safer Communities Team is now known as the Community Protection Team with officers known as Community Protection Officers. The remit of the newly

named team continues to have responsibility for addressing antisocial behaviour.

- 3.13 The Community Protection Officers, previously the Community Wardens, have maintained a high-visibility street presence throughout the reporting period attending to fly-tipping, littering, graffiti, dog fouling and lower-level antisocial behaviour complaints, *amongst other things*.

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.

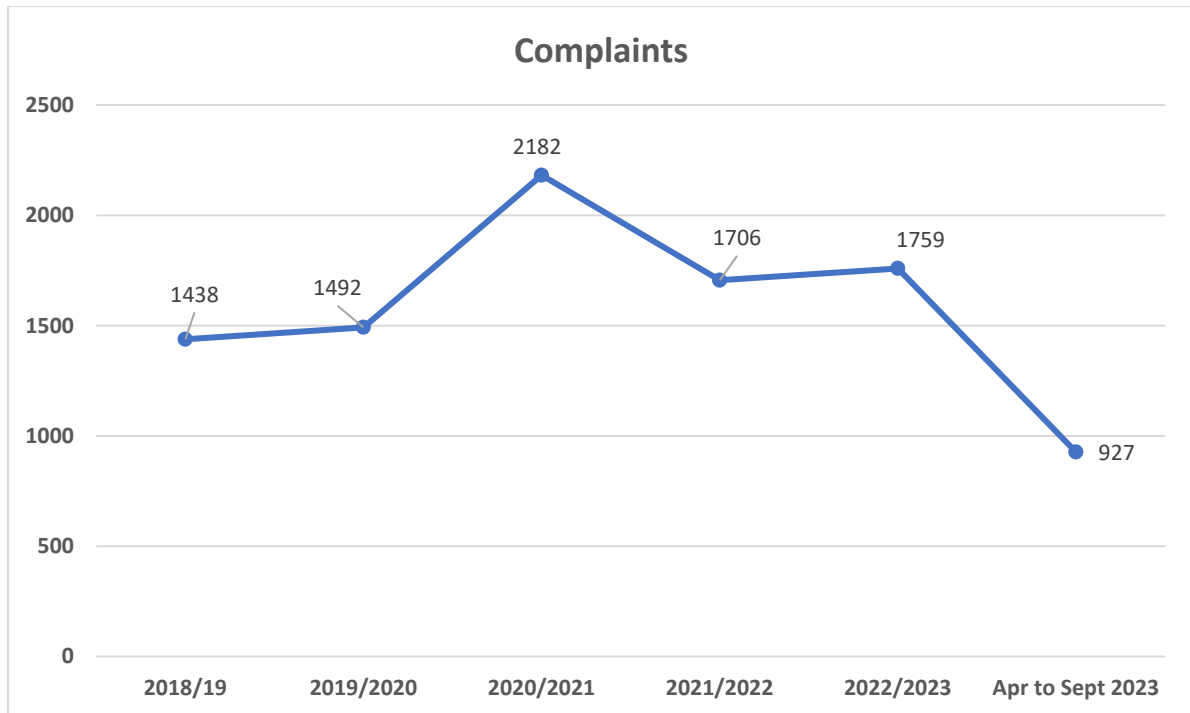
7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Appendix 1 Graph – Antisocial Behaviour Complaints made to East Lothian Council 2018- 30 September 2023.
7.2 Appendix 2 Chart showing breakdown of case type (1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023).
7.3 Appendix 3 Chart showing geographical breakdown (1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023).

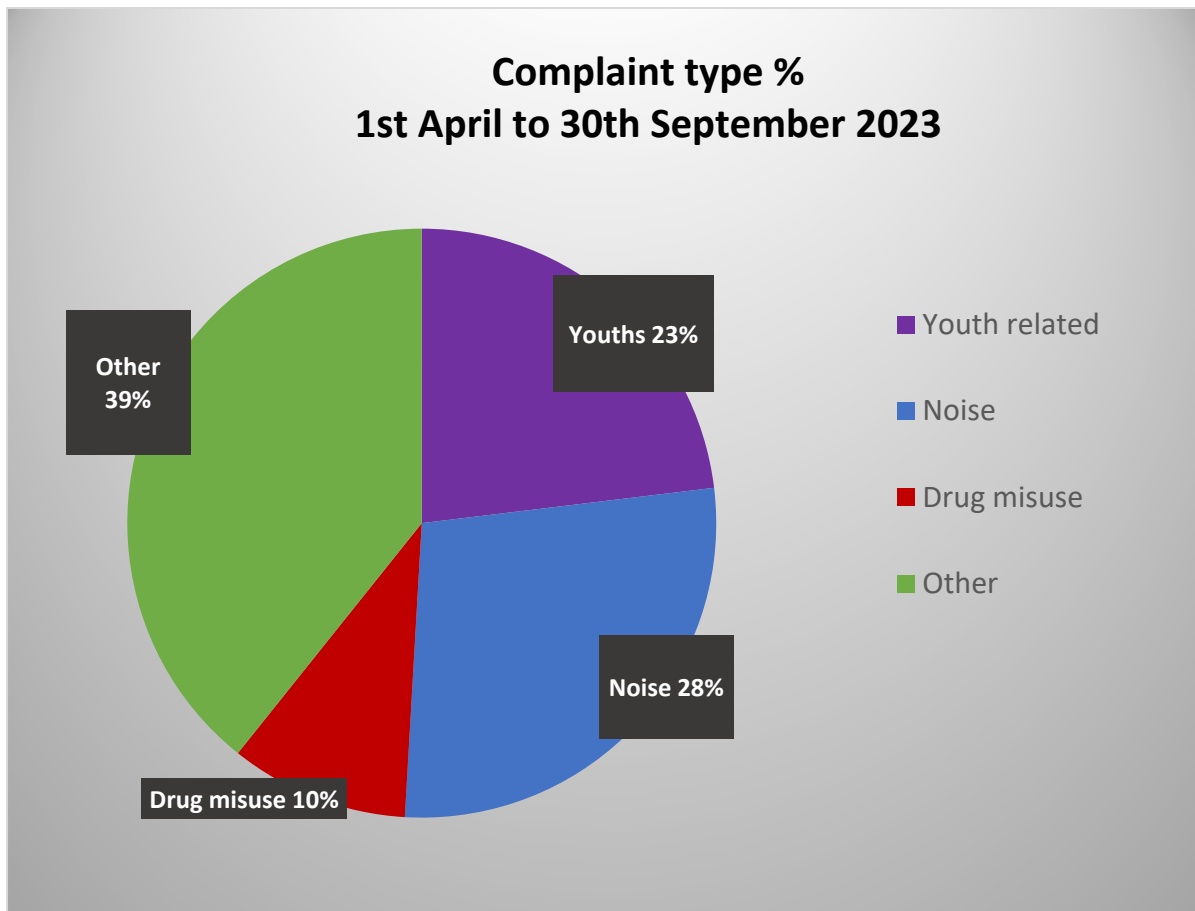
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DATE	03 November 2023

Appendix 1

Number of antisocial behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council 2018 – 2023 (Sept)



Appendix 2



Appendix 3

**Geographical breakdown of antisocial behaviour cases %
1.4.23 to 30.9.23**

