



# Angus Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2021-26



# Content

	Foreword	3
1	Introduction	5
2	National Legislative & Strategic Context	5
3	Angus Community Planning Partnership	6
4	Our Approach	7
4.1	Information Sharing	8
4.2	Partner Agencies and Their Roles	8
5	Key Statistics	15
6	Impact of COVID-19	20
7	Stakeholder and Community Consultation and Engagement	23
7.1	Antisocial Behaviour Issues Identified	24
7.2	Addressing Antisocial Behaviour in Angus	25
7.3	Challenges in Responding to Antisocial Behaviour	25
7.4	Areas for Development	26
7.5	Summary and Issues for Consideration	28
8	Moving Forward	29
	Appendix 1	32

# Foreword

We are pleased to present the Angus Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2021-26. This Strategy is the result of a wide range of partners coming together to agree our joint approach to dealing with antisocial behaviour in our area. We recognise and understand the impacts of antisocial behaviour on our residents. We also understand and accept that a multi-agency approach through a partnership strategy is essential to residents so they know who to approach and what action will be taken.

This strategy details the recorded occurrence of antisocial behaviour in our localities. It also provides residents with the actions we will take in future and how we will measure our success.

Angus Council, Police Scotland and other partner agencies, take a proactive approach to antisocial behaviour based on support and early intervention. All agencies appreciate and thank residents for their engagement with this important work.



Margo Williamson  
Chief Executive  
Angus Council



Leanne Blacklaw  
Local Area Commander  
Police Scotland



Cllr David Fairweather  
Leader  
Angus Council

A white rectangular sign with a black border is mounted on a tree trunk. The sign features the words "NO" and "DUMPING" in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The sign is secured to the tree with two screws. The background shows a natural outdoor setting with green grass, a concrete path, and a brown plastic bag on the left side.

**NO  
DUMPING**

# 1 Introduction

Antisocial behaviour is a complex, multi-faceted issue and requires a strong partnership approach to prevention and response.

Local authorities and Police Scotland are required to jointly produce a written strategy for tackling antisocial behaviour for the local authority area. This strategy will consider the legislative and strategic context; our current approach and roles and responsibilities of key partners; and local trends and issues to set out the actions that are required to meet the following shared outcomes:

- antisocial behaviour in Angus is reduced by adopting a preventative approach
- collaboration and partnership working is at the heart of our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour
- improved awareness and understanding of community needs through feedback and engagement of communities to address local antisocial behaviour issues

## 2 National Legislative & Strategic Context

Antisocial behaviour is defined by the Antisocial Behaviour etc.(Scotland) Act 2004, which states that a person engages in antisocial conduct if they:



***“Act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress; or pursue a course of conduct that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress to at least one person who is not of the same household”***



“Conduct” includes speech and a course of conduct must involve conduct on at least two occasions.

The Act does not list types of behaviour which are deemed antisocial and the reality is that antisocial behaviour means different things to different people. The following are generally accepted to be examples of antisocial behaviour:

- noise nuisance
- conflicts including harassment, domestic abuse, racial incidents
- aggressive and/or threatening language or behaviour
- actual violence against another person
- vandalism and graffiti
- litter, fly-tipping, dog fouling
- wilful fire-raising
- misuse and dealing of illegal substances

There are other types of behaviours that are not classed as antisocial. Examples of these are:

- domestic appliance noise - unless this is taking place late at night or in the early hours of the morning
- young people playing or gathering socially - unless they are causing disturbance or being intimidating to others
- being unable to park outside your own home
- DIY and car repairs- unless these are taking place late at night or early in the morning
- civil disputes between neighbours e.g. overgrown gardens, boundary disputes

The Act sets out a range of responses available to local authorities and Police Scotland, including; the dispersal of groups, closure of premises, dealing with noise nuisance, the regulation and registration of certain landlords, as well as the application of Antisocial Behaviour Orders.

In 2009, the Scottish Government's framework for tackling antisocial behaviour "Promoting Positive Outcomes: Working Together to Prevent Antisocial Behaviour in Scotland" marked a shift from the traditional focus on enforcement to a more preventative approach to address antisocial behaviour through early intervention, communication and resolution by changing behaviour.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a legal duty on community planning partners to demonstrate that they are making a significant difference to the lives of their residents through the planning and delivery of local outcomes and the involvement of community bodies at all stages of community planning.

The National Performance Framework (NPF) provides a clear vision for Scotland, tracking progress against a range of economic, health, social and environmental outcomes and indicators. Tackling antisocial behaviour can contribute to all of these outcomes but the key outcome relevant to antisocial behaviour is 'we live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe'.

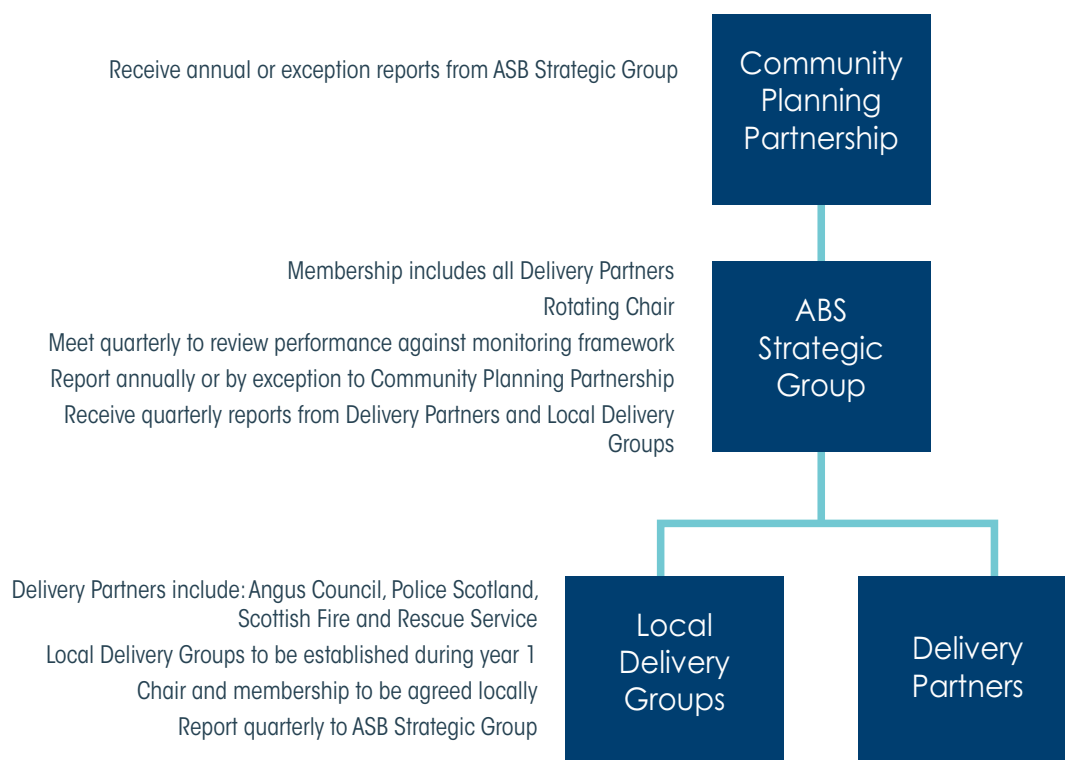
## 3 Angus Community Planning Partnership

The Angus Community Planning Partnership (ACPP) brings together public bodies and local communities, businesses, charities and voluntary groups. The Angus Community Plan sets out how the ACPP will tackle the things that matter most to people and will make a positive difference to people in Angus, working towards the vision that 'Angus is a great place to live, work and visit'.

The framework sets out the building blocks to achieve this vision for Angus. It is based on the five national strategic objectives and three cross-cutting themes of economy, people and place. Tackling antisocial behaviour is fundamental to improving local outcomes in Angus and will help achieve this vision for the future.

The Antisocial Behaviour Strategy now sits within the remit of the Community Planning Partnership. It has always been the intention for locality planning groups to take a lead role in bringing partners together to identify and resolve local issues relating to antisocial behaviour and other community safety matters. However, in practice the groups have not sufficiently evolved to enable them to take on this role.

The table below provides the proposed structure for delivery of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy. The structure aims to ensure that the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy is well embedded in the Community Planning Partnership while recognising that the actions and priorities within the Strategy require a higher level of ongoing performance monitoring than it would be reasonable for the Community Planning Partnership Board or Executive Group to provide. Given the nature of work in relation to antisocial behaviour it is critical that there are forums for partners involved in the operational delivery of services to regularly review priorities for action.



## 4 Our Approach

Angus Council, Police Scotland and other partner agencies, continue to take a proactive approach to antisocial behaviour based on support and early intervention. In recent years there have been changes to the operational arrangements for teams involved in antisocial behaviour, however this has not altered the need for strong joint working relationships.

The Angus Safer Communities Forum (previously known as Angus Community Safety Partnership) was previously established as an information sharing and planning forum to ensure that people in Angus could live in confidence and without fear for their own or other people's safety and included representation from Police Scotland, Angus Council, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and third sector organisations. It was supported by a Joint Services Team with resources from the council and Police to address community safety in Angus. Following a service redesign in 2018, the Joint Services Team was disbanded, Police Scotland resources were relocated and a Community Investigations & Resolutions Team was established as a part of the Housing service.

## 4.1 Information Sharing

Partnership working and information sharing is essential to preventing and addressing antisocial behaviour. Angus Council, Police Scotland and Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners within Angus have developed an information sharing protocol to ensure that the sharing of the information meets the requirements of relevant legislation and provides a coordinated approach to the collection and exchange of relevant information.

## 4.2 Partner Agencies and Their Roles

A wide range of partners are involved in tackling antisocial behaviour in Angus. The list of partners below gives more details about their roles and responsibilities:

### **Community Investigations & Resolutions Team**

The Community Investigations & Resolutions Team investigate antisocial behaviour complaints across all tenures within Angus. The team carries out investigations into antisocial behaviour complaints and uses a range of interventions, including mediation and conflict resolution, to reduce and prevent antisocial behaviour.

### **Community Housing Teams**

The Teams take action to reduce and prevent antisocial behaviour including:

- offering mediation between relevant parties
- issuing notices of breach of tenancy agreements for antisocial behaviour

In cases where antisocial behaviour is more serious they may:

- issue Notices of Possession where antisocial behaviour does not stop
- evict tenants who continue to cause antisocial behaviour





Community Housing Teams will generally only seek to have someone evicted for antisocial behaviour if the behaviour is serious and persistent and all other interventions have failed. To evict an individual, they will need substantial evidence that can be relied on in court.

## **Community Justice Service**

The Community Justice Service seeks to prevent and reduce offending in a fair and effective way by addressing its underlying causes, to increase positive citizenship, increase public safety, and reassure communities, and reduce costs caused by offending. It also provides support to victims and witnesses of crime.

## **Communities Teams**

The Communities Teams' role is to engage with the community to improve the quality of life of residents and communities across Angus. The teams support communities to identify their own priorities and get involved in the design and delivery of services. This relies on building partnerships across and between communities and services, to help communities to do more for themselves through community engagement.

Within the Tenant Participation remit, tenants have the opportunity to contribute to and influence decisions about housing policies, housing conditions and other housing-related services. To achieve this, the teams engage with tenants and hear their views, and ensure that the delivered services meet their needs and expectations. The teams facilitate walkabouts in areas where tenants have expressed an interest in getting involved and developing tenant groups. In some areas, this may be prompted by antisocial behaviour or other tenant matters of concern.

The teams work with communities to make their areas better places to live – supporting with fund-raising, support to improve play facilities, community-led youth groups, digital literacy support, local events, and other activities.

## **Horizon (previously called Throughcare/Aftercare Team)**

The team is based within the Children, Families and Justice Service and provides support to Care Leavers. They work with young people from 15½ up to their 26th birthday if needed. The team also provides a Diversion service for young males aged between 16 and 18 and a Justice service for young males aged between 16 and 19.

Trauma informed and relationship-based practice is core to their work with young people.

## **Trading Standards Service**

The Trading Standards and Consumer Protection Teams enforce a wide range of legislation which includes the age restricted sale of products such as aerosols, fireworks, lighter refills, tobacco, Nicotine Vaping Products, mini motors and other off-road vehicles. Age restrictions are designed to protect young people from the potential of serious harm and misuse of products, which can lead to antisocial behaviour. Trading Standards work in partnership with the local police and colleagues from other council services to resolve complaints, encouraging businesses who sell age-restricted products to have a robust system in place, which includes staff training, to ensure underage sales do not occur. In the past, officers have visited local schools and discussed the dangers of purchasing such products which received positive feedback from both pupils and staff.

## **Waste management**

Litter and flytipping cause damage to the environment and loss of visual amenity and can make an area appear uncared for. Waste management services investigate all reports of flytipping and where evidence allows, a fixed penalty notice (FPN) is issued to the offender. Where a littering offence is observed, an FPN is issued. Litter and flytipping are cleared from public ground by waste services and where reports of issues on private ground are received these are followed up with the landowner.

## **Community Enforcement Team**

The Community Enforcement Team has a remit and powers to tackle a range of issues, from enforcement of parking contraventions in Angus to dealing with environmental antisocial behaviours, primarily dog fouling, for which they can issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs). In addition, they support partners in tackling youth annoyance and antisocial behaviour by undertaking preventative patrols and community engagement in areas of concern to help reduce problems.

## **Dog Warden Service**

The dog warden service investigates reports of out of control dogs, seizes stray dogs, and responds where dogs are not micro-chipped. Fulfilment of these statutory functions helps communities feel safer.

## **Police Scotland**

The Police provide a wide variety of information, support and enforcement services across all neighbourhoods and communities. They assist this strategy with local neighbourhood policing, crime prevention/detection and community liaison, specialist care and protection for young people's safety, retail and home security, community intelligence and broader aspects of public protection.

## **Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)**

RSLs take action to tackle antisocial behaviour, including:

- offering mediation between relevant parties
- asking the victim to complete diary sheets
- drawing up 'good neighbour agreements' between the parties concerned
- formulating an action plan with the relevant parties
- issuing warnings to perpetrators
- installing sound monitoring equipment
- issuing notices of breach of tenancy agreements for antisocial behaviour

In cases where antisocial behaviour is more serious they may:

- involve other agencies such as the council or police
- issue Notices of Possession where antisocial behaviour does not stop
- take tenants to court to obtain Antisocial Behaviour Orders where antisocial behaviour does not stop
- evict tenants who continue to cause antisocial behaviour

They will generally only seek to have someone evicted for antisocial behaviour if the behaviour is serious and persistent and all other interventions have failed. To evict an individual, a landlord will need substantial evidence that can be relied on in court.

### **Private landlords**

Private landlords have a responsibility for antisocial behaviour that occurs in and around the properties they rent to tenants. Private landlords are required to investigate complaints about their tenant's behaviour and take action where appropriate. Landlords who refuse to deal with their tenants' anti-social behaviour, can lose their private landlord registration status.

### **Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS)**

The Fire Service provides a preventative fire safety service as well as dealing with incidents of fire raising and safeguarding the environment, along with working towards safer communities by providing home safety visits. They are proactively involved with local communities, with youth engagement programs and working alongside partner agencies, and offer a young fire setters rehabilitation programme to support young people that have been involved in wilful fire raising. They also work with schools to engage with pupils on various subjects such as the dangers of wildfires and bonfire safety. All of this is linked to SFRS Thematic Action Plan and seasonal risk calendar which is linked with the school holiday calendar.

### **Specialist Voluntary Organisations including Victim Support**

Specialist Voluntary Organisations deliver in partnership or are commissioned in part or whole to deliver a range of key services such as Victim Support and the Women's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre.

### **Scottish Children's Panel Reporter Administration & the Children's Reporters**

Scottish Children's Panel Reporter Administration & the Children's Reporters provide services and advice in relation to children and young people who are referred because they may be in need of compulsory measures of supervision.

### **Procurator Fiscal Service**

The Procurator Fiscal Service provides legal enforcement services within the Criminal Justice System.

## **Joint Services**

### **Angus Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (AIDARS)**

AIDARS is an integrated health and social work service incorporating Angus Council's Alcohol, Drugs and Blood Borne Virus Team and NHS Tayside's Substance Misuse Service. AIDARS provides a person-centred, whole family approach to assessment and intervention with adults who misuse drugs and alcohol.



AIDARS covers the whole of Angus through two locality-based teams. The North Locality Team covers Brechin, Montrose, Forfar and Kirriemuir. The South Locality Team covers Arbroath, Carnoustie and Monifieth.

Services provided include:

- motivational and enhancement therapy
- in-patient and community detox for alcohol, opiates and opiate replacement therapy
- recovery care planning and self-directed support
- overdose awareness (including Naloxone dispensing), harm reduction, and BBV testing and support
- relapse prevention in groups and one-to-one, supported by medication if required
- psychological interventions

### **Glenisla Project**

The project provides support for women in Angus who are going through the criminal justice system and seeks to improve outcomes for those women by:

- assessing need and risk (using specialist approved assessment tools) which help to identify underlying causes of antisocial behaviour
- using methods of intervention (behaviour change models, trauma responsive models and solution focussed approaches) to support women to change their behaviour
- liaising and working in partnership with partner agencies to improve outcomes for women and the community in relation to antisocial behaviour
- supporting women to be part of initiatives that reduce the likelihood of them becoming involved in antisocial behaviour

### **Community Mental Health Teams**

Provides assessment, support and counselling for people with mental health problems, and their carers.

This is a confidential service with information only provided to other agencies with the agreement of the service user. However, if there are any concerns raised regarding adults or children at risk. Appropriate actions are taken to safeguard their needs.

### **Angus Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP)**

The ADP is a multi-agency strategic planning and delivery group with representatives from statutory and voluntary sector organisations.

The group delivers key outcomes to address substance misuse in Angus; influences the planning and commissioning of substance misuse services and ensures that the provision of these services meets local needs and priorities.

## Locality Action Teams (LAT)

The LAT is a multi-agency team, including education, which aims to address emerging issues with specific youths who are presenting criminal or risk taking behaviour, with a view to undertaking early intervention before the risk causes harm.

## Youth Concern Group (YCG)

The YCG has a broader scope to include emerging trends and hotspots. Funding applications are pending in an attempt to secure outreach project workers, dedicated to working with youths in the Angus area.

Work focused through these forums has directed partner-agency support to problematic youths who were on the cusp on criminal behaviour, resulting in effective engagement and intervention activities being instigated with those identified as being at risk however the work of this group has stalled and activities have been limited as a result of the pandemic.

# 5 Key Statistics

Data on antisocial behaviour incidents reported to Angus Council and Police Scotland are the most significant sources of information to inform the picture of antisocial behaviour in Angus. The profile focusses only on those incidents and crime that can be evidenced to be directly linked to antisocial behaviour. It should be noted that people may report incidents to both the council and Police Scotland. The Fire and Rescue Service were asked for statistics in relation to this strategy but were unable to provide any data.

We have separated the statistics into 2017 – 2020 since the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21 is likely to have skewed the figures for that period making them incomparable with previous years. This is explored in more detail in section 6.

The table below shows the number and type of incidents related to antisocial behaviour reported to Angus Council's Community Investigations and Resolutions team over a three-year period.

<b>Antisocial behaviour incidents (number)</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b> <i>Discriminati</i>
on	0	3	1
Violence or Threat of Violence	27	46	52
Harassment or Intimidation	143	257	224
Fire Raising or Vandalism	7	20	13
Drugs or Alcohol	15	3	1
Noise Nuisance	1297	1039	1197
Youths Causing Annoyance	2	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>1368</b>	<b>1489</b>

The number of antisocial behaviour incidents reported overall has remained fairly constant however there have been some changes in the profile of type of incidents reported. The main cause of complaints continues to be noise nuisance however reports of harassment or intimidation, violence or threats of violence and fire raising or vandalism have increased significantly in the last three years showing that the nature of complaints are increasing in seriousness and likely to require a more joined-up response.

The table below shows the number of antisocial behaviour incidents reported to Police Scotland. 6013 antisocial behaviour incidents were reported to the Police throughout Angus in 2019/20, a -9.6% decrease compared to the previous year.

Year	ASB Incidents	Change from Previous Year
2017/18	6703	-
2018/19	6671	-0.5%
2019/20	6031	-9.6%

The table below shows the type of antisocial behaviour incidents reported to Police Scotland over a three-year period.

Initial Incident Type	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Public Nuisance	1957	1722	1426
Disturbance	1437	1426	1251
Noise	1218	1258	1234
Drinking in Public	20	16	11
Neighbour Dispute	398	470	441
Communications	922	1080	1027
Damage	751	699	641
<b>Total</b>	<b>6703</b>	<b>6671</b>	<b>6031</b>

Public Nuisance<sup>1</sup> remained the most frequently reported antisocial behaviour incident type despite a year-on-year decrease in the number recorded. Communications incidents increased from 13.8% in 2017/18 to 17.0% in 2019/20, and noise incidents increased by 18.2% to 20.5% in the same period. All other incident types have maintained similar proportions each year.

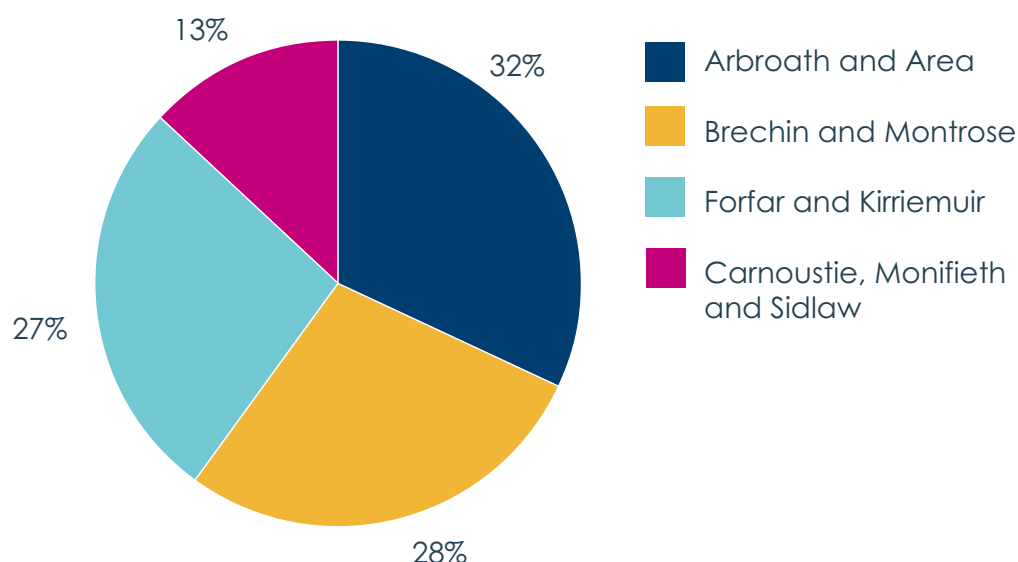


The table and chart below show the number of antisocial behaviour incidents reported to Angus Council and Police Scotland by locality area.

Town	Population	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Arbroath	23,210	402	328	314
Forfar	14,180	264	356	399
Montrose	11,810	305	262	366
Carnoustie	11,360	88	64	91
Monifieth	8,490	36	38	48
Brechin	7,230	264	153	84
Kirriemuir	6,020	90	159	159
Muirhead	2,000	42	8	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,300</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>1368</b>	<b>1489</b>

The definition of complaint types used by Police Scotland is contained in Appendix 1.

### ASB Incidents in Angus LPA by Locality, 2019/20



Forfar and Kirriemuir have seen a significant increase in antisocial behaviour incidents reported to the Community Investigations & Resolutions Team and although these towns make up 24% of the Angus population, they accounted for 37% of antisocial behaviour incidents reported to the council and 27% of incidents reported to the Police.

Montrose has also seen a significant increase in antisocial behaviour incidents reported to the council in 2019/20 compared to the previous year (increased by 28%)

whereas both Arbroath and Brechin have seen reductions in antisocial behaviour incidents reported. A breakdown of incidents reported to Angus Council by town and reason is shown below however further analysis is required to understand why antisocial behaviour incidents are increasing in some areas but reducing in others.

<b>Arbroath</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Discrimination	0	1	1
Violence or Threat of Violence	3	6	10
Harassment or Intimidation	26	61	63
Fire Raising or Vandalism	3	3	3
Drugs or Alcohol	3	0	0
Noise Nuisance	367	257	237

<b>Brechin</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Discrimination	0	2	0
Violence or Threat of Violence	8	4	2
Harassment or Intimidation	22	29	12
Fire Raising or Vandalism	2	5	0
Drugs or Alcohol	1	0	1
Noise Nuisance	229	113	69
Youths causing annoyance	2	0	0

<b>Carnoustie</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Discrimination	0	0	0
Violence or Threat of Violence	4	6	2
Harassment or Intimidation	13	26	12
Fire Raising or Vandalism	0	1	0
Drugs or Alcohol	0	0	0
Noise Nuisance	71	31	77

<b>Forfar</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Discrimination	0	0	0
Violence or Threat of Violence	1	14	29
Harassment or Intimidation	14	65	67
Fire Raising or Vandalism	1	6	4
Drugs or Alcohol	5	2	0
Noise Nuisance	243	269	299

<b>Kirriemuir</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Discrimination	0	0	0
Violence or Threat of Violence	4	3	1
Harassment or Intimidation	17	36	7
Fire Raising or Vandalism	1	2	1
Drugs or Alcohol	1	1	0
Noise Nuisance	67	117	159

<b>Monifieth</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Discrimination	0	0	0
Violence or Threat of Violence	0	1	4
Harassment or Intimidation	4	9	12
Fire Raising or Vandalism	0	0	1
Drugs or Alcohol	0	0	0
Noise Nuisance	32	28	31

<b>Montrose</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Discrimination	0	0	0
Violence or Threat of Violence	5	10	4
Harassment or Intimidation	41	31	48
Fire Raising or Vandalism	0	3	4
Drugs or Alcohol	5	0	0
Noise Nuisance	254	218	309
Youths Causing Annoyance	0	0	1

<b>Muirhead</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Discrimination	0	0	0
Violence or Threat of Violence	2	2	0
Harassment or Intimidation	6	0	3
Fire Raising or Vandalism	0	0	0
Drugs or Alcohol	0	0	0
Noise Nuisance	34	6	25

The table below presents the most reported antisocial behaviour incident types to the Police, by locality area.

Locality	Most Recorded	2nd	3rd
Forfar/Kirriemuir	Public Nuisance 201	Disturbance 193	Noise 142
Brechin/Montrose	Public Nuisance 201	Communications 158	Disturbance/Noise 154/154
Arbroath and Area	Public Nuisance 247	Noise 213	Disturbance 192
Carnoustie/Monifieth and Sidlaw	Noise 104	Public Nuisance 86	Disturbance 59
<b>Angus Total</b>	<b>Public Nuisance 735</b>	<b>Noise 613</b>	<b>Disturbance 598</b>

## 6 Impact of COVID-19

Restrictions relating to COVID-19 have changed the way people interact, socialise and live. Antisocial behaviour reports have increased significantly since April, largely driven by alleged breaches of COVID-19 restrictions, neighbour disputes and complaints of noise nuisance. During the first lockdown from April to August 2020, Angus Council received 752 reports of antisocial behaviour — a 10% increase on the 677 reports received over the same period in 2019.

The table below shows the number of antisocial behaviour incidents reported to Police Scotland between April and August 2020. 3863 antisocial behaviour incidents were reported across Angus, a 30% increase from the same period in the previous year.

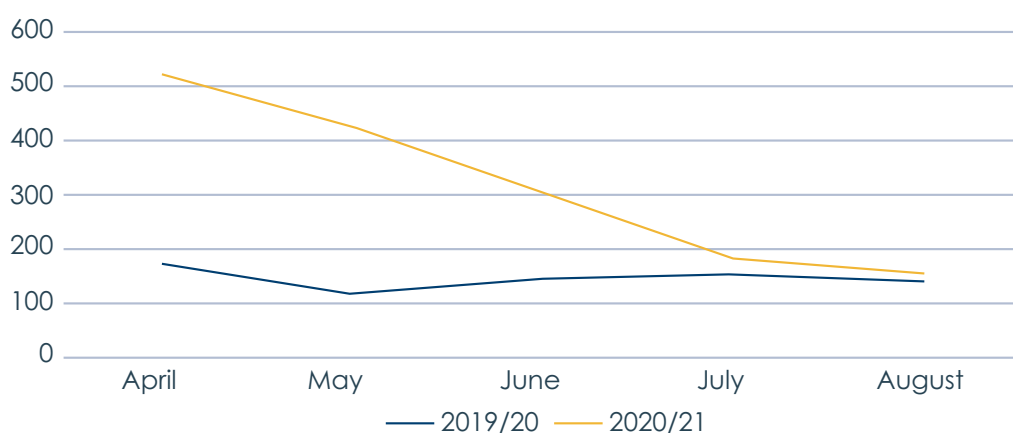
Locality	2019/20	2020/21	% Change
Forfar/Kirriemuir	816	1117	+36.9%
Brechin/Montrose	808	947	+17.2%
Arbroath and Area	962	1229	+27.8%
Carnoustie/Monifieth and Sidlaw	385	570	+48.1%
<b>Angus Total</b>	<b>2971</b>	<b>3863</b>	<b>30.0%</b>

The table below shows the increase was largely driven by an increase in the number of public nuisance reports. Across the five months, 31.3% of Public Nuisance incidents reported were as a result of perceived COVID-19 breaches. There has also been a significant increase in neighbour disputes and noise complaints have also increased.

Initial Incident	2019/20	2020/21	% Change
Public Nuisance	735	1605	+118.4%
Disturbance	598	566	-5.4%
Noise	613	679	+10.8%
Drinking in Public	9	4	-55.6%
Neighbour Dispute	241	369	+53.1%
Communications	484	443	-8.5%
Damage	291	197	-32.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2971</b>	<b>3863</b>	<b>30.0%</b>

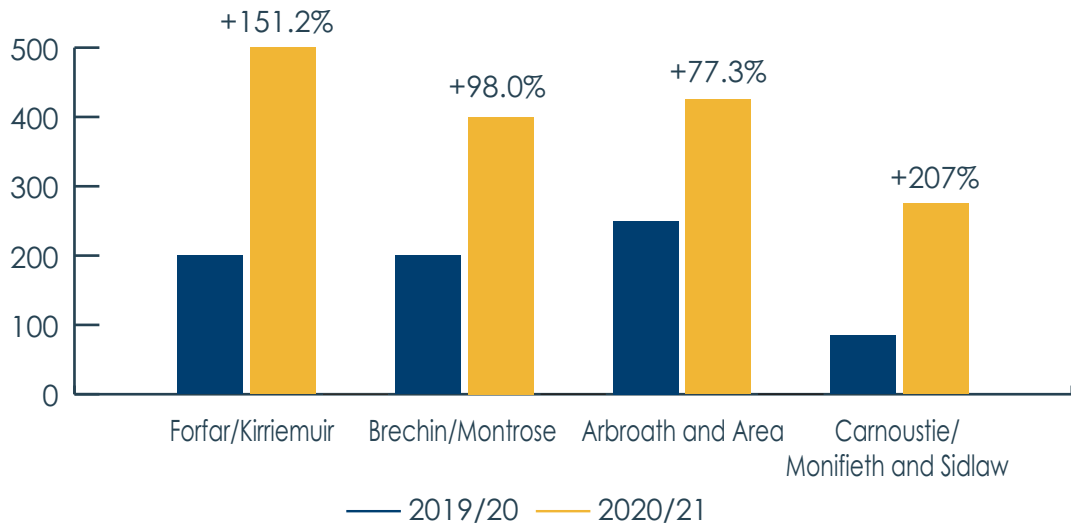
A breakdown by month shows that the number of public nuisance incidents reported to the Police remained relatively stable between April and August in 2019/20. In 2020/21 the number of reported incidents peaked in April however have reduced as restrictions were relaxed.

Public Nuisance Incidents by Month



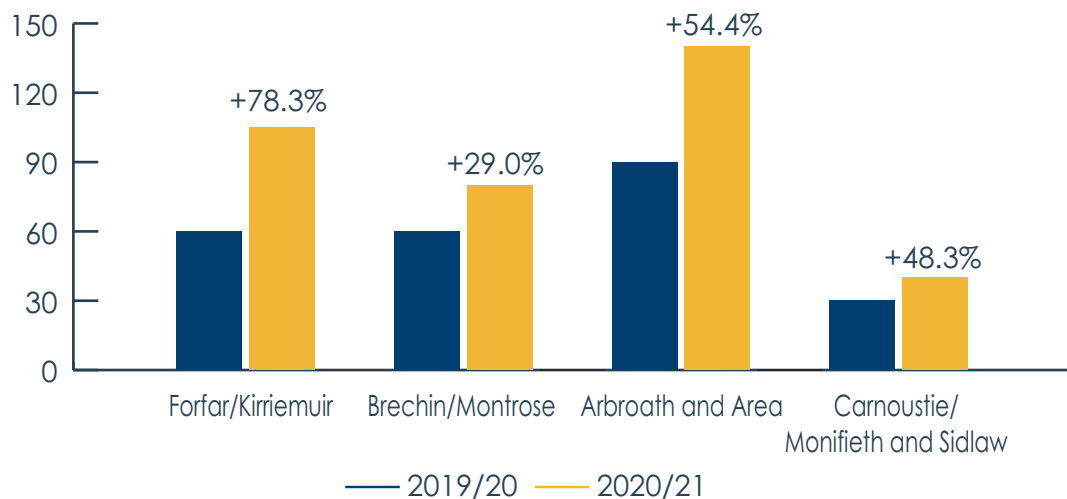
All localities have seen an increase in public nuisance incidents reported to the Police compared to the same period in 2019/20, most notably Carnoustie/ Monifieth & Sidlaw and Forfar/ Kirriemuir areas.

### Public Nuisance Incidents 01/04 - 31/08 by locality



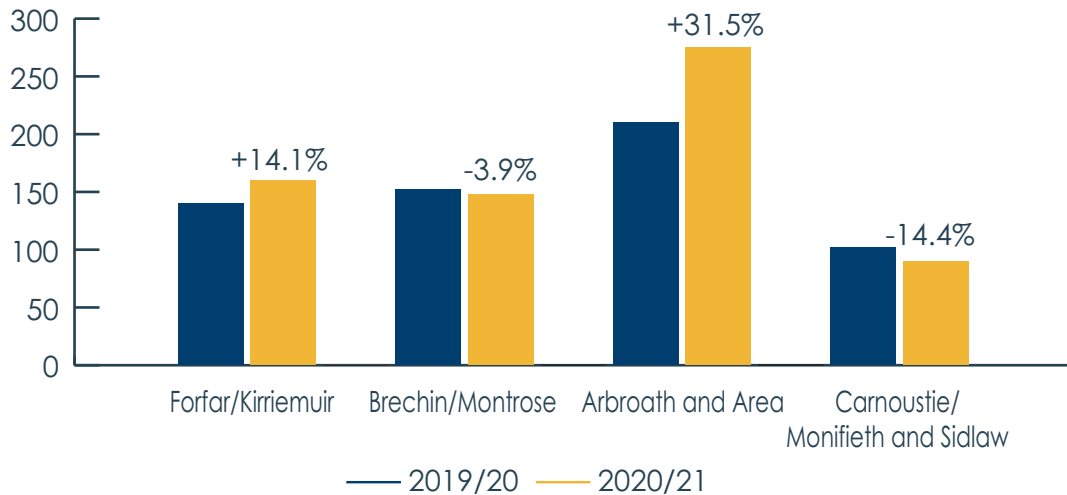
All localities saw an increase in neighbour dispute incidents reported to the Police, compared with the same period in 2019/20, with the Forfar / Kirriemuir area again seeing the largest increase.

### Neighbourhood Dispute Incidents 01/04 - 31/08 by locality



Noise incidents reported to the Police increased by 10.8% across Angus in 2020/21 compared to the previous year, driven by increases in Arbroath and Forfar/ Kirriemuir areas.

Noise Incidents 01/04 - 31/08 by locality



The Community Investigations and Resolutions team continue to be working from home, only completing home visits where there is an urgent need and other methods of contact have failed. Investigating antisocial behaviour complaints remotely has been particularly challenging. The volume of anonymous complaints has also increased making investigations difficult.

It is recognised that there are many challenges facing partners and therefore it is necessary to prioritise activity. The most vulnerable people and communities will continue to be a focus and any contact with victims or perpetrators of antisocial behaviour will continue to be completed in line with Scottish Government guidance and each agency's health and safety requirements

Each agency needs to consider how they can effectively respond to not only conventionally recognised antisocial behaviour but new and emerging antisocial behaviour issues resulting from the pandemic.

## 7 Stakeholder and Community Consultation and Engagement

To help inform the development of the strategy, research was undertaken with partners and stakeholders from February to September 2020. A survey was developed and participants were asked a series of questions about their experiences of antisocial behaviour in Angus, what approaches they felt would best address the issues identified and challenges in responding to antisocial behaviour.

The survey was completed using a combination of face to face interviews, as well as video call and telephone conversations. A number of partners participated in the survey, including Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Community Housing Teams, the Community Investigations and Resolutions team, Communities teams, Justice teams and our RSL partners Hillcrest Homes and Angus Housing Association.

We also issued a survey to Angus citizens to obtain their views about antisocial behaviour and offered to meet with individuals to get more detailed feedback.

We also consulted with the Children's Reporter and other Registered Social Landlords to inform the development of this Strategy.

## 7.1 Antisocial Behaviour Issues Identified

Due to the range of responses received, the key themes emerging from the survey responses have been summarised below. The range of antisocial behaviour issues identified by stakeholders can be broadly categorised into four main categories:

### Noise Nuisance:

- Mainly **neighbour disputes** brought about by a chaotic or different lifestyle, mental health and/or drug and alcohol issues (noisy neighbours, litter, dog fouling, antisocial parking, bins left out, drug dealing, fly-tipping around houses - occupants discarding household waste into shared gardens, burning garden waste causing a nuisance to their neighbours).
- **Low tolerance towards neighbours** - people complain about normal day-to-day living: hearing dogs barking, heavy footfall in neighbouring properties, kids playing.
- Antisocial behaviour issues from **town centres** (pubs, clubs)

### Youths Causing Annoyance:

- Youngsters in cars
- Youths congregating, especially around parks
- Setting fires
- Litter

### Fire Raising or Vandalism:

- Fire raising on farms in and rural areas such as setting fire to hay bales
- Vandalism

### Drug Misuse

- Cannabis smell, cultivation and dealing of the drug in rented properties, particularly those with communal areas



## 7.2 Addressing antisocial behaviour in Angus

Stakeholders recognised that tackling antisocial behaviour is not the responsibility of one single agency and identified the importance of working together and sharing relevant information at a local level. This ensures that those individuals or groups whose behaviour is considered antisocial are identified as early as possible and action is taken and that those individuals, groups or communities who become victims of antisocial behaviour are given the support and assistance that they need. Increasing collaborative working with mental health services was identified as a particular requirement as a result of increasing antisocial behaviour incidents linked to mental health issues.

Stakeholders strongly supported a focus on prevention and early intervention and identified a number of measures that they felt are successful in tackling antisocial behaviour:

- Use of social media to raise awareness of antisocial behaviour and engage communities
- Increased Police patrols and use of CCTV in areas affected by antisocial behaviour.
- Delivering education around community safety/antisocial behaviour within schools
- Increasing support and interventions to children identified as at risk of participating in antisocial behaviour
- Joint visits
- Youth diversionary activities (street football, Café Project)
- Community engagement (including tenant participation and community groups)
- Tenancy management
- Housing support
- Mediation
- Engaging victims of antisocial behaviour with support services

## 7.3 Challenges in responding to antisocial behaviour

The main challenges experienced by stakeholders were lack of a clear definition of what constituted antisocial behaviour, clash in tenants' lifestyles, different understandings of antisocial behaviour by complainers, high expectations and a low tolerance among complainers and old housing stock and insulation/inadequate noise proofing that are causing issues between neighbours. In practice, antisocial behaviour can mean different things to different people. Behaviour regarded as acceptable by some can be seen as antisocial and completely unacceptable to others. Expectations of standards of behaviour can also vary between communities. Being aware of different tolerance levels and awareness of people's needs is an important part of addressing antisocial behaviour.

Stakeholders identified confusion around the role of Police and the council, particularly for incidents of antisocial behaviour where a crime may have been committed, e.g. misuse of drugs.

Another challenge identified by stakeholders is around engaging communities. The National Antisocial Behaviour Framework recognises the importance of capturing community voices, utilising community intelligence and realising that communities have useful insights when it comes to understanding community dynamics, identifying problems, developing workable solutions and judging the success of outcomes.

Stakeholders also identified a lack of effective partnership working across some agencies and complexities around sharing information following introduction of the Data Protection Act 2018. Stakeholders felt that partnership working and information sharing was reactive to incidents and that a proactive approach would be more successful in addressing antisocial behaviour. Although regular multi-agency meetings are taking place, involving other social work services and schools was suggested as a way of strengthening partnership working. Systems access was also identified as a challenge to accessing and sharing information.

The changes to the role of community wardens was also highlighted as a barrier to tackling antisocial behaviour in Angus.

## 7.4 Areas for development

Stakeholders suggested a number of areas and actions for consideration for the development of the antisocial behaviour strategy:

- Using agencies' social media channels to promote positive behaviour, engage communities, raise awareness and improve understanding of antisocial behaviour and approaches to tackling antisocial behaviour issues
- Exploring solutions for addressing information-sharing difficulties such as the introduction of a shared system or communication platform that all partners can access
- Having a consistent approach to regular meetings between partners to discuss emerging issues and concerns
- Encouraging local people to be actively involved in community groups to help identify problems and develop workable solutions
- Exploring good practice examples from other local authority areas
- Developing an Angus wide directory of services to help access support and improve communication
- Developing shared procedural guidance, setting out roles and responsibilities for different antisocial behaviour issues
- Improving partnership working with social work, health and social care services and schools
- Increasing support and interventions to children identified as at risk of developing antisocial behaviours
- Increasing diversionary activities for young people



## 7.5 Summary and Issues for Consideration

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, there had been a reducing trend in the number of antisocial behaviour incidents reported in Angus. However, there have been some changes in the profile of type of incidents reported to the council. The main cause of complaints continues to be noise nuisance however, reports of harassment or intimidation, violence or threats of violence and fire-raising or vandalism have increased significantly suggesting that the nature of complaints to the council are increasing in seriousness and likely to require a more joined up-response.

The increase in antisocial behaviour complaints from April 2020 has been largely driven by reported COVID-19 breaches and an increase in neighbour disputes and noise complaints as a result of the restrictions and people spending more time at home.

Antisocial behaviour has a significant impact on individuals, neighbourhoods and communities. We need to continue to focus on addressing the causes of the problem through preventative work, support and education; by working together better to achieve shared outcomes and engaging with communities in a more meaningful way.

### **Key issues for consideration:**

- Reports of antisocial behaviour are increasing in some areas and reducing in others, further analysis is required to understand why.
- The main cause of complaints to the council continues to be noise nuisance however reports to the council of harassment or intimidation, violence or threats of violence and fire raising or vandalism have increased significantly in the last three years.
- The impact and challenges introduced by the pandemic has changed the way people interact, socialise and live and how we investigate and respond to reports of antisocial behaviour.
- Requirement for clarity around the roles and responsibilities of Police Scotland and Angus Council, particularly for incidents of antisocial behaviour where a crime may have been committed, e.g. misuse of drugs and reports of youth annoyance.
- The need to communicate with and engage more effectively with communities to capture their views and insights, identify problems and develop workable solutions.
- The importance of effective partnership working and information-sharing across all agencies.
- The role of the Community Enforcement Team in preventing and addressing antisocial behaviour.
- Support, education and diversionary activities, particularly for young people.

## 8 Moving Forward

Following the consultation and engagement with the various partner agencies and the citizen survey, whilst accepting that not everything can be done at the same time, we have identified a number of key outcomes and priorities to work towards during the lifetime of the Strategy. The following table outlines these outcomes, how we will achieve them and how we will measure the success. A more detailed action plan which identifies responsible agencies and timescales will accompany this document as an Appendix ( The detailed action plan will be added following consultation).

OUTCOME	WE WILL DELIVER THIS BY	WE WILL MEASURE THIS BY
<b>Reduction of antisocial behaviour in Angus by adopting a preventative approach</b>	<p>Demonstrating a clear commitment to preventing antisocial behaviour, through pre-emptive actions and coordination.</p> <p>Tackling antisocial behaviour through early intervention by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective policy &amp; procedure</li> <li>Use of legislation</li> </ul> <p>Improving our response at an early stage, to reduce the number of repeat antisocial behaviour victims</p>	<p>Number of antisocial behaviour related complaints</p> <p>Number of repeat victims of antisocial behaviour</p> <p>Proactive education work undertaken to help improve understanding and awareness of antisocial behaviour issues and influence positive changes in behaviours</p> <p>Effectiveness of patrolling work undertaken</p>

<p><b>Collaboration and partnership working is at the heart of our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour</b></p>	<p>Improving multiagency working to tackle antisocial behaviour and its causes.</p> <p>Agreeing defined roles and responsibilities to map out each partner's/stakeholder's function</p> <p>Maximising the use of limited resources and specialist expertise to respond to changing community profiles and behavioural trends</p> <p>Developing Information Sharing Agreements between services</p> <p>Providing training for all partners to improve awareness of who does what when</p> <p>Gathering best practice recommendation among partners and stakeholders</p> <p>Sharing current and relevant information in accordance with legal frameworks to both prevent and respond to antisocial behaviour.</p>	<p>Partners/stakeholder and resident consultations and service satisfaction results (to improve services across Angus)</p> <p>Cross-departmental collaboration survey - to measure how the teams work together to deal with antisocial behaviour issues.</p>
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<p><b>Improved awareness and understanding of community needs through feedback and engagement of communities to address local antisocial behaviour issues</b></p>	<p>Engaging communities in our work to understand and address the issues affecting local people, and encouraging people to lead engaged lifestyles within their local communities (public events, educational programmes).</p> <p>Providing awareness sessions – speaking to communities, to show how we are trying to help and being clear in explaining what we expect from residents.</p> <p>Promoting mediation as effective way of resolving neighbour disputes</p>	<p>Input from the council's experts on community engagement</p> <p>Develop Community Engagement Platform-Social Pinpoint</p> <p>Citizens Survey feeling safe in communities indicator</p>
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# Appendix 1

Definitions of incident types reported to Police Scotland:

**Disturbance** - usually has an element of aggressive or threatening behaviour; e.g. fighting, hostile shouting, kicking at a door to intimidate those within etc.

**Noise** - noise is the main issue; could include complaints such as loud music being played, shouting (if aggressive/ intimidating shouting it is more likely to be recorded as a disturbance), revving vehicle engines, banging/ DIY sounds at antisocial times etc.

**Drinking in Public** - alcohol being consumed in a public place is the primary complaint (as opposed to the behaviour of those consuming it).

**Neighbour Dispute** - Where antisocial behaviour is occurring between people living in close proximity. This is usually used if there have been multiple complaints and counter complaints - a one-off incident would likely be recorded based on the type of event.

**Communications** - abuse, threats or harassment. Includes verbal and written (includes social media, text messaging etc.).

**Damage** - Vandalism/ graffiti etc.

**Public Nuisance** - a bit of a "catch all" term for incidents which are causing the reporter distress/ annoyance, but don't easily fit in the other categories; most commonly used for incidents such groups of youths gathering, aggressive begging, snowballs being thrown etc. Recently is also used for potential breaches of COVID-19 restrictions, e.g. gatherings within houses/ garden etc.

These incident types are assigned when the incident is first raised (usually by a call handler in the contact centre) and is based on the description of events presented by the person reporting. Often multiple categories could be applicable, so professional judgement is used to choose which is the main basis of the complaint; e.g. someone phones the Police and says there is shouting coming from within a neighbouring property;

- If the main complaint is that the shouting is annoying/ loud, it would be recorded as **Noise**.
- If there is a concern for persons, e.g. if the shouting sounds aggressive, it would be recorded as **Disturbance**.
- If there have been previous complaints between the involved persons, or it appears this is one incident amongst longer running issues, it would be recorded as **Neighbour Dispute**.

Designed and produced by the communications team, Angus Council