

Working with partners to tackle ASB

February 2011



We believe you should be able to enjoy peace and quiet in your own home, feel safe and secure and not have to suffer the anti-social behaviour of others.

The term anti-social behaviour (ASB) includes all types of behaviour, which affect the quality of life of local people. It is the bad behaviour of a few that seriously affects those around them who experience it.

We:

- take all reports of anti-social behaviour seriously
- are determined to address unacceptable behaviour
- will look to work with organisations such as the council, police and other partners and agencies to develop and deliver solutions to reduce anti-social behaviour.

This factsheet outlines a range of tools and powers that the Police, the Council and other agencies can use to tackle criminal and anti-social behaviour. It is important to be clear that HFI does not have the power to use these tools, but we will support other organisations who are equally committed to eliminating ASB in our communities.

The following types of actions (also called tools or powers) are used by the Police or the Council:

Drug Closure Orders

If a property is associated with persistent drug related nuisance or disorder the police can use a Drug Closure Order to close the property down. Initially the order will last for three months, and can be extended for a further three months. During this time the property will be sealed, and it is an offence to enter or remain in the property. This type of order can be used on any type of property regardless of tenure type.

Premises Closure Order

Premises Closure Orders can be used by, the police or the Council to close a property or premises that is the focus of severe and persistent ASB. The Premises Closure Order is a power that can be used on any property, regardless of the type of tenure. It is used to offer communities immediate respite by closing a premises for up to three months where there has been:

- significant and persistent disorder, or
- persistent serious nuisance to a community

This power is used as a last resort after a number of important factors, such as the welfare and vulnerability of the occupier, have been carefully considered.

Dispersal of groups

Dispersal powers are used in public spaces such as shopping arcades or parks. In an area where groups gather and intimidate and harass the public, the Council and the police have the power to make the area a dispersal area. Once designated as a dispersal area the police can direct groups of two or more people to leave if they are causing a nuisance, and if they don't live in the area. They may be excluded from the area for up to 24 hours.

Designated public places orders (DPPO)

This is a power which allows the Council to apply restrictions on public drinking in a designated area of their choosing. It is used to address alcohol related nuisance or disorder. It is not an offence to consume alcohol in the area but the police and community support officers have powers to control the consumption of alcohol within the designated area. If someone, with out a reasonable excuse, fails to comply with an officer's request they can be issued with a fixed penalty notice or face arrest and prosecution.

Noise abatement notices

Noise nuisance is one of the most common forms of anti-social behaviour and it is the responsibility of Islington Council to protect local communities from excessive noise. A noise abatement notice is a power that the Council can use to order a person to stop causing noise nuisance. If the person does not follow the instructions of the notice they can be fined up to £5,000 in addition to £500 for each day that they continue to cause the nuisance. In certain circumstances the Council can remove any equipment that has been used to make the noise.

Penalty Notices for Disorder

Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) are fines for more serious offences and disorderly behaviour that threaten other peoples' safety and well-being, for example throwing fireworks or being drunk and disorderly. PNDs can be issued to anyone over the age of 16 years old by the police or community support officers. Fines are either £50 or £80 depending on the severity of the behaviour.

Receiving a penalty notice this does not mean someone has been convicted of a crime; and paying a penalty does not mean they are admitting they are guilty. However, if someone fails to pay a fine after it has been issued they could face prosecution.

Who to contact

Reception telephone numbers for area housing offices are provided below:

Old Street	020 7527 6250	Holland Walk	020 7527 7480
Lyon Street	020 7527 6880	Upper Street	020 7527 5300