

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

What constitutes an anti-social behaviour?

Anti-social behaviour describes any action by any individual that causes another person distress, harm or harassment. It doesn't necessarily have to be physical. It can also be foul and abusive language, threatening behaviour, assault, shouting, criminal damage, theft, disorderly conduct, vandalism, intimidation and bullying, graffiti or littering - there are many forms. Addressing behaviour that blights people's right to a safe and peaceful life is a national priority. Anti-social behaviour is not tolerable.

What is an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABCs)

An ABC is a written agreement, which aims to tackle anti-social behaviour such as vandalism, threats or aggression. When this is signed the subject agrees to cease specified anti-social actions. An ABC is not a punishment, nor is it a legally binding document or something which means the recipient gets a criminal record.

However compliance with the terms of an ABC is monitored. Failure to stick to the agreement will result in further action perhaps including seeking an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO), where non-compliance becomes a criminal offence.

How does someone get an Anti-social Behaviour Order (ASBOs)?

These are made to the Magistrate's Court and can be made against a person or group of individuals who display and use anti-social behaviour. An order can be applied for against any individual who is over the age of 10 years old.

The minimum length that an ASBO needs to be in place is for two years. Before an ASBO can be applied for there must be evidence of some form(s) of anti-social behaviour.

If a person who is subject to an ASBO is seen to break the conditions, they can be arrested and brought before the Magistrates' Court again. Breaching an ASBO is a criminal offence and these cases can be brought before a Magistrates Court or the Crown Court. Penalties imposed can range from six months to five years imprisonment.

ABC's and ASBO's are essential tools in the armoury now at the disposal of local authorities across the country to tackle these issues. They enable them to take appropriate and progressive steps to make people accountable for their own behaviour, and stamp out the blight of anti-social behaviour.

To find out more about Anti Social Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts telephone 08450 450 500 or email us at scdc@scambs.gov.uk.

The [New Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003](#) came into force in 2004. You can view both the [Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003](#) and the Council Guide booklet at the following sites:

- www.legislation.hmsso.gov.uk
- www.scambs.gov.uk