

Inverclyde Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2020-2025

Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership

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Joint Foreword

The Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 requires the Local Authority and Chief Constable of Police Scotland to produce a strategy for dealing with antisocial behaviour. This strategy has been endorsed by the Inverclyde Alliance Board and the Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership, highlighting the breadth of partners in Inverclyde who respond to antisocial behaviour in Inverclyde.

This strategy sets out the legislative requirements of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004. In addition to this, the Community Safety Partnership will produce an Antisocial Behaviour Policy Document, which sets out in more detail, how agencies will respond to antisocial behaviour in Inverclyde.

Whilst overall incidents of antisocial behaviour reported to both Inverclyde Council and Police Scotland have reduced over the previous three years, partners do acknowledge that antisocial behaviour has a serious impact on the lives of our residents and can have a negative impact on communities within Inverclyde.

We therefore have a crucial role to play in tackling antisocial behaviour. Partnership working continues to be of importance, with the need to deliver better, more targeted responses and services, and continuing to build on using shared resources. The Inverclyde Alliance and the Community Safety Partnership are committed to the continuous development of coordinated, effective, efficient services which together, meet the needs of our communities and deliver better outcomes for all.

Councillor Stephen McCabe, Leader of Inverclyde Council and Chair of Inverclyde Alliance

Chief Superintendent Alan Murray, Local Police Commander for Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division.

1. Introduction

Antisocial Behaviour is defined in Section 143 of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 (The Act) if an individual “acts in a manner that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress; or pursues 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”. The legislation requires that “conduct includes speech; and a course of conduct must involve conduct on at least two occasions”.

Part 1 of The Act places a duty on the Local Authority and the Police to prepare an Antisocial Behaviour Strategy for the authority area. This strategy, in line with the legislation, will:

- Outline the key principles, strategic context and the aims and objectives of the local authority and the Chief Constable in dealing with antisocial behaviour in Inverclyde (Section 1(1) of The Act).
- Set out an assessment of the extent and type of occurrences of antisocial behaviour in Inverclyde (Section 3(a) of The Act).
- Specify local arrangements for consulting and engaging with community bodies and other people (including young people) in each area where there are (or likely to be) occurrences of antisocial behaviour, on how to prevent and tackle antisocial behaviour in Inverclyde (Section 3(c) of The Act).
- Specify the range of available services designed to prevent or tackle antisocial behaviour, which are available to all residents in Inverclyde (Section 3(d)).
- Set out the range of available services designed to support victims of antisocial behaviour in Inverclyde (Section 3(e) of The Act).
- Specify the ways in which members of the public can report antisocial behaviour in Inverclyde (Section 3(e) of The Act).
- Outline the provision of mediation in relation to disputes arising from antisocial behaviour (Section 3(e) of The Act).
- Describe how Inverclyde Council and the Chief Constable of Police Scotland will co-ordinate the discharge of the functions in relation to tackling antisocial behaviour in Inverclyde (Section 3(f) of The Act).
- Provide for the lawful exchange of information relating to antisocial behaviour between Inverclyde Council, the Chief Constable of Police Scotland, and any other relevant person (Section 3(f) of The Act).
- Outline the mechanism for keeping this strategy under review (Section 4(a) of The Act).

2. Context

National

The Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 is the primary legislation for dealing with antisocial behaviour in Scotland. The Act sets out a range of responses made available to local authorities and Police Scotland ranging from the requirement of Local Authorities to jointly prepare and produce an antisocial behaviour strategy, to the dispersal of groups, closure of premises, dealing with noise nuisance and the environment, the regulation and registration of certain landlords as well as the application of Antisocial Behaviour Orders. There are also a number of other pieces of legislation which supports responses to antisocial behaviour such as:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000
- Housing (Scotland) Act 2001
- Equality Act 2010
- Housing (Scotland) Act 2010
- Housing (Scotland) Act 2014
- Data Protection Act 2018

“Promoting Positive Outcomes: Working Together to Prevent Antisocial Behaviour in Scotland” (2009) is the Scottish Government’s national framework for tackling antisocial behaviour. The framework introduced four pillars to respond to antisocial behaviour- prevention, integration, engagement and communication. Key to achieving the aims of the prevention pillar was an update to a PIER (Prevention, early Intervention, Enforcement and Rehabilitation) model as introduced in national guidance in 2004. The Promoting Positive Outcomes document defined the components of the PIER model as:

- **Prevention:** requires foresight and planning in terms of putting measures which are likely to create a physical and social environment where antisocial behaviour is less likely to arise. Such measures can start before the antisocial behaviour is evident through a programme of proactive elements such as CCTV and a strong focus on education, support, community engagement and the creation of strong sustainable family environments.
- **Intervention:** Early and effective intervention includes putting in place measures that will help to address problems at the earliest opportunity both in relation to individuals and communities. A variety of approaches and services from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies are needed to provide the choices and chances required to offer opportunities to divert people away from antisocial behaviour.
- **Enforcement:** Enforcement should be considered when effective interventions have been tried, failed or deemed not appropriate. Enforcement requires to be appropriate, proportionate and timely and supported by intervention, education, support and rehabilitation.
- **Rehabilitation:** There is a need to understand and assess the needs of individuals and communities in order to provide long-term solutions. An understanding and perception of the impact of ASB is necessary to fully break the cycle of offending and to provide the focus for services to fully integrate to deliver long-term solutions.

Throughout the model education and support form a vital thread throughout and are crucial to the success of each individual component of the revised PIER model.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 placed 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 with broad measures of national wellbeing covering a range of economic, health, social and environmental indicators and targets. In respect of antisocial behaviour the relevant national outcome is communities, where 'we live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe'.

Local

The Inverclyde Alliance (Community Planning Partnership) provides the overarching strategic direction for tackling antisocial behaviour in Inverclyde. The Inverclyde Antisocial Behaviour Strategy will be scrutinised through the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Group which is made up of representatives from Inverclyde Council, Police Scotland, Inverclyde HSCP, The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, Inverclyde Housing Association Forum, CVS Inverclyde and Your Voice Inverclyde.

Delivery of the Inverclyde Antisocial Behaviour Strategy, the associated policy document and improvement action plan will be overseen by the Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership Coordinating Group and progress is reported regularly to its parent group the Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group.

The Inverclyde Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017/22 sets out the outcomes that the community planning partners in Inverclyde, known as the Inverclyde Alliance, will seek to improve. These outcomes aim to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of the residents of Inverclyde, with a particular focus on reducing inequality and poverty. The LOIP focuses on three key priority areas: Repopulation; Reducing Inequalities; and Environment, Culture and Heritage. This strategy will work in the context of these themes.

There are also a number of other local key policy documents which are set out in detail at Appendix 1 to this strategy.

3. Strategic Themes

The Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group endorsed a Community Safety Strategic Assessment in 2019 which has three outcomes of reducing violence, crime and disorder in our communities; reducing unintentional harm and injury in our communities; and promoting community resilience. There is an associated improvement action plan across the three outcomes with antisocial behaviour-related improvements featuring in two of these outcomes.

Inverclyde's antisocial behaviour strategy is arranged into four key themes: prevention; early intervention; enforcement and rehabilitation.

Prevention

The partnership will aim to:

- introduce resources designed to divert people from behaving in an antisocial manner;
- put in place measures that will create an environment where antisocial behaviour is less likely to occur. This includes the use of permanent and mobile CCTV facilities as well as inspections of areas where antisocial behaviour is occurring and opportunities to reduce antisocial behaviour;
- in terms of local housing providers have an appropriate Allocations Policy;
- make use of media designed to prevent and tackle antisocial behaviour.
- undertake, where appropriate, joint Police/Community Warden patrols in areas affected by antisocial behaviour;
- work with relevant bodies to encourage the responsible sale of age restricted products; and
- work with relevant bodies to deliver community safety/antisocial behaviour messages within schools and youth work settings.

Early Intervention

The partnership will aim to:

- identify those who behave antisocially at the earliest possible stage through effective information sharing;
- send advice letters to parents/carers if a child/young person has been found acting in an antisocial manner. The advice letter may be sent either by Police Scotland or Inverclyde Council;
- deploy resources via the use of multiagency tasking and coordinating arrangements;
- use community mediation whereby neighbourhood disputes can be dealt with and resolved at an early stage;
- work alongside and assist private landlords in addressing the antisocial behaviour of their tenants; and
- through the Community Learning and Development Youth Work Sub Group work with partners to provide diversionary activities to young people.

Enforcement

The partnership will aim to:

- appropriately use the powers made available to partners under the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, the Housing Scotland Act 2014 and other relevant legislation;
- use the powers made available to Police Scotland by the Lord Advocate in respect of antisocial behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices and Recorded Police Warnings. Offences and legislation for which an antisocial behaviour Fixed Penalty Notice can be issued are listed under Part II of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004; and
- proportionately apply to the Sheriff Court for Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and evictions, serving Fixed Penalty Notices and using powers under Parts 7 and 8 of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 in respect of private landlords.

Rehabilitation

The partnership will aim to:

- use the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) is a new planning framework for local authorities and their partners to transition to a rapid rehousing approach. The RRTP and the Housing First options seeks to offer appropriate support to those people who experience homelessness in Inverclyde and are likely to experience complex support needs including those affected by of the perpetrators of antisocial behaviour; and
- Use the short Scottish secure tenancy for antisocial behaviour (Short SST) by social landlords to encourage tenants or members of their household who repeatedly engage in antisocial behaviour, to stop the behaviour and sustain their tenancy. This can be achieved by removing some tenancy rights without the need for court action. Conversion of a full Scottish Secure Tenancy to a Short SST will allow those responsible for of antisocial behaviour to receive support that will assist them to change conduct which may allow them and members of their neighbourhood to sustain their tenancies long term.

4. Assessment of Antisocial Behaviour in Inverclyde

The following graphs show the extent of antisocial behaviour complaints within Inverclyde made to Inverclyde Council and Police Scotland between April 2016 and March 2019, with a comparison made to the periods April 2017 to March 2018 and April 2016 to March 2017.

In terms of locations, the graphs are split into locality areas. For more information on localities please visit <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/localities>

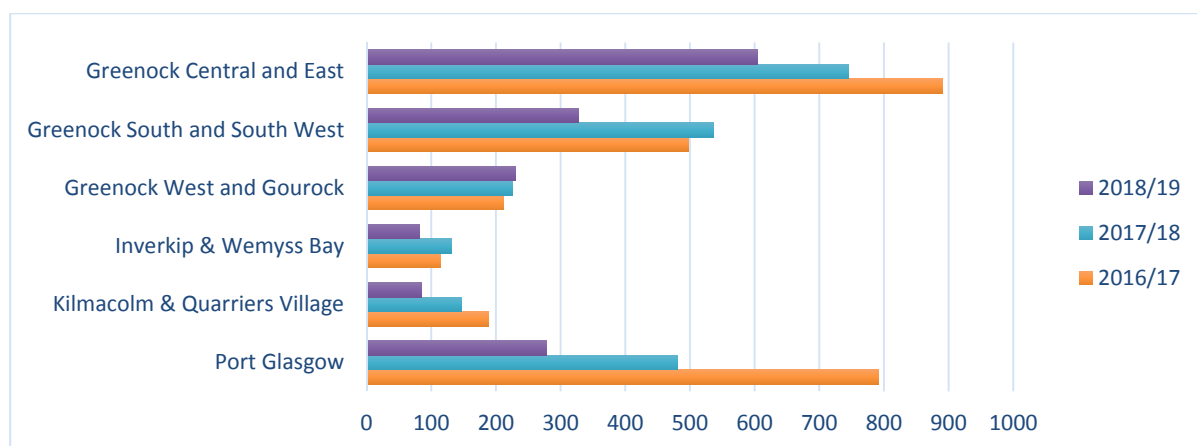


Chart 1 – Number of ASB incidents reported to Inverclyde Council, by locality area

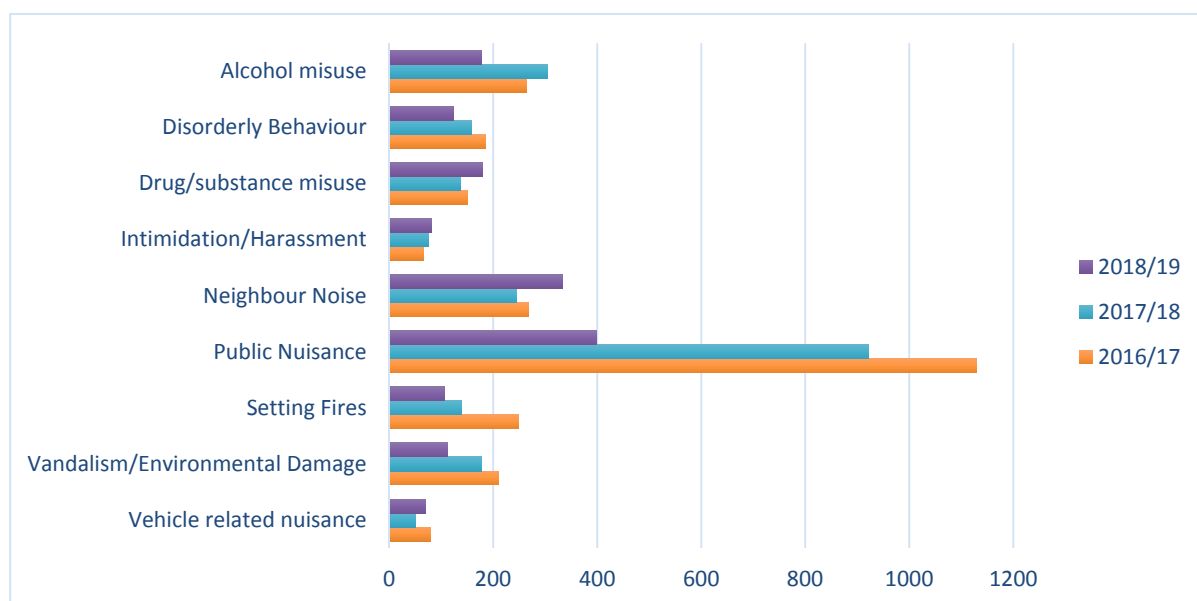


Chart 2 – Number of ASB incidents reported to Inverclyde Council, by type of complaint

All areas witnessed a reduction in antisocial complaints made to Inverclyde Council with the exception of Greenock West & Gourrock, which increased by 2% from 2017/2018 to 2018/2019. Both Kilmacolm & Quarriers Village and Port Glasgow recorded the biggest fall of 42% from 2017/2018 to 2018/2019. Overall, antisocial behaviour complaints reduced by 39% compared to 2016/2017.

Complaints of public nuisance reduced by 57% in 2018/19 compared to 2017/2018. Alcohol misuse calls reduced by 42% over the same period. Neighbour noise and drug/ substance misuse calls increased by 36% and 31% respectively over the same period.

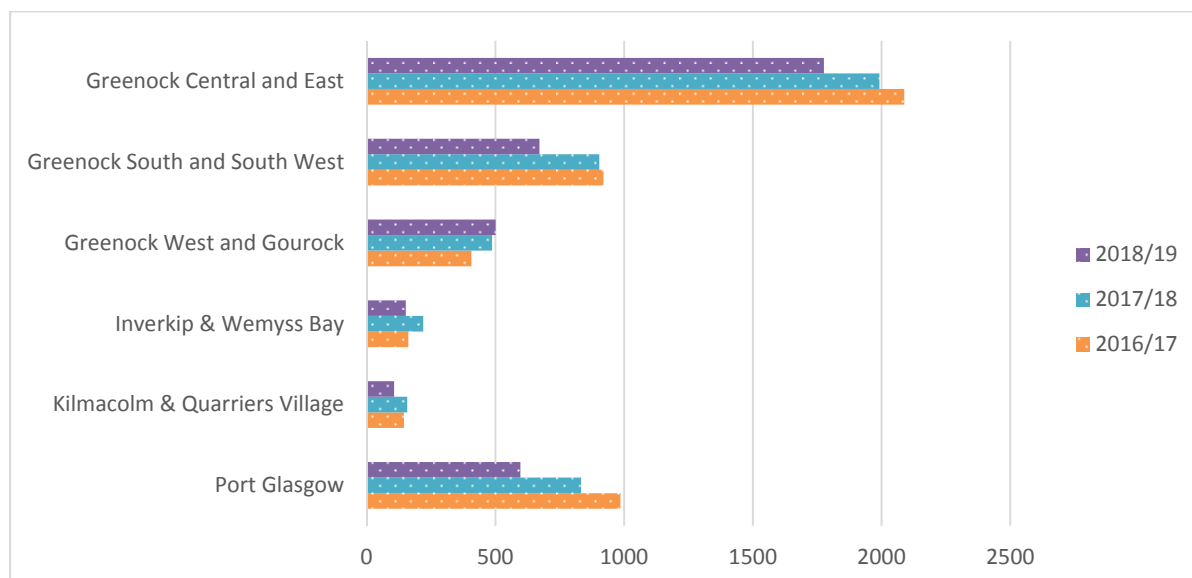


Chart 3 – Number of ASB incidents reported to Police Scotland, by locality area

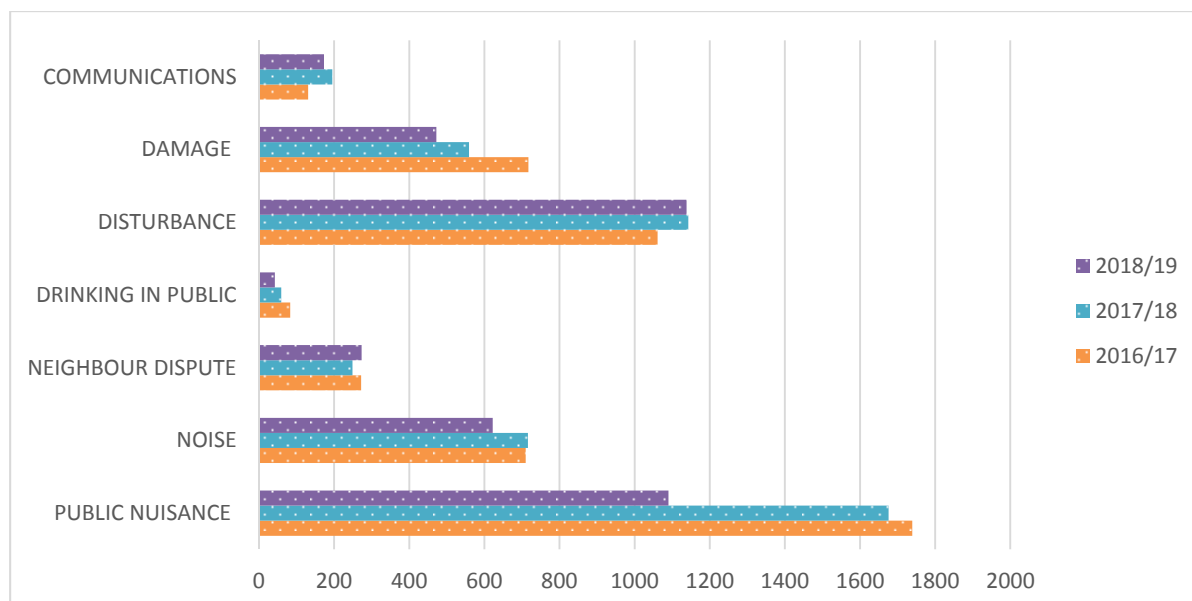


Chart 4 – Number of ASB incidents reported to Police Scotland, by type of complaint

All areas witnessed a reduction in antisocial complaints made to Police Scotland with the exception of Greenock West & Gourock, which increased by 3% from 2017/2018 to 2018/2019. Kilmacolm & Quarriers Village recorded the biggest fall of 32% followed by Inverkip & Wemyss Bay with a reduction of 31% from 2017/2018 to 2018/2019. Overall, antisocial behaviour complaints reduced by 19% compared to 2016/2017.

Complaints of public nuisance reduced by 35% in 2018/19 compared to 2017/2018. Noise reduced by 13% over the same period. Neighbour disputes increased by 10% over the same period.

5. Community Engagement

Across Inverclyde there is provision for 11 Community Councils, with representatives from Police Scotland and Inverclyde Council's Community Warden Service attending meetings. This allows both services to provide an update of activity within the community council area as well as giving the Community Council the opportunity to raise issues. Inverclyde Council's Community Safety Unit produces a monthly community safety report which is available on the Council's website.

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/community-safety-and-resilience/community-safety/community-safety-reports>

In addition, there are a number of other community-based groups across Inverclyde who regularly engage directly with Police Scotland and Inverclyde Council's Community Warden Service.

There is also the opportunity to engage with a number of communities of interest groups across Inverclyde such as youth related groups, health based groups and other groups within Inverclyde.

6. Resources and Services

The list below provides examples of the resources and services in Inverclyde who can respond to antisocial behaviour.

Inverclyde Council Community Warden Service	Police Scotland Community Policing Team
Inverclyde Council Antisocial Behaviour Investigations Team	Police Scotland Response Teams
Inverclyde Council Environment and Enforcement Team	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Inverclyde Council CCTV	Cloch Housing Association
Inverclyde Council Environment and Public Protection Team	Larkfield/Link Housing Association
Inverclyde Council Community Mediation Service	Oak Tree Housing Association
Inverclyde Council Community Learning and Development (with a focus youth work)	River Clyde Homes
	Victim Support (Scotland)

7. Support for Victims of Antisocial Behaviour

All partners recognise the impact that antisocial behaviour can have on those who are experiencing it.

Inverclyde Council operates a Community Warden Service who will respond to calls as well as proactive patrols relating to community safety issues and antisocial behaviour.

Community Wardens are operational from 13:00hrs to 23:30hrs and can be contacted on 0800 01 317 01.

Members of the public can also speak to an antisocial behaviour investigator to discuss options or seek advice and can be contacted between 09:00hrs and 17:00hrs on 01475 714204.

Reports of antisocial behaviour can also be made via email to ASBINT@inverclyde.gov.uk

Inverclyde Council has a duty to investigate and control noise nuisance and does this through the Environmental Protection Team. The Team works in partnership with the Social Protection Team in providing an Out of Hours Service which allows officers to visit complaints out with office hours. Other partnership links exist with the Social Protection Team, the Community Wardens and Police Scotland in order to provide a joint approach towards reducing antisocial behaviour.

8. Information Sharing

Section 139 of The Act contains provisions that allow agencies involved in tackling antisocial behaviour to share relevant information. There are a number of relevant information sharing protocols as well as meeting forums where relevant information can be shared.

9. Review of the Strategy

The Community Safety Partnership Coordinating Group has responsibility for the delivery of the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment which includes the provision of responding to antisocial behaviour. The Coordinating Group will provide an annual update to the Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group (parent group).

The Coordinating Group has identified a need for a policy document which sets out how services and agencies respond to antisocial behaviour in Inverclyde particularly when a partnership response is required. This policy document has been identified as an improvement action and will be progressed during year one of the strategy. In addition to this, other responses to antisocial behaviour have been identified within the Community Safety Strategic Assessment and are subject to regular review as well as regular scrutiny by the Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group.

APPENDIX 1

Associated Strategies, Plans and Policies

The following is a list of associated strategic and plans for Inverclyde. The author of the report is in brackets.

Local Police Plan (Inverclyde) 2017/20	(Police Scotland)
Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017/22	(Inverclyde Alliance)
Inverclyde Strategic Needs Assessment 2017	(Inverclyde Alliance)
Local Fire & Rescue Plan for Inverclyde	(The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service)
Inverclyde Council Corporate Plan 2018/22	(Inverclyde Council)
Inverclyde HSCP Strategic Plan 2019/24	(Inverclyde HSCP)
Inverclyde HSCP Strategic Needs Assessment 2019	(Inverclyde HSCP)
Community Learning and Development in Inverclyde 19/22	(Inverclyde Council)
Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2017/22	(Inverclyde Council)
Inverclyde Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategy	(Inverclyde HSCP)
Oak Tree Housing Association Estate Management Policy	(Oak Tree Housing Association)
Cloch Housing Association Antisocial Behaviour Policy	(Cloch Housing Association)
Larkfield Housing Association Anti-Social Behaviour Policy	(Larkfield Housing Association)
River Clyde Homes Antisocial Behaviour Policy	(River Clyde Homes)
Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	(Inverclyde Council/ HSCP)