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Inverclyde Anti Social Behaviour Strategy 2025

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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. This strategy sets out the legislative requirements of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004.

While overall reports of antisocial behaviour to Inverclyde Council and related crimes and offences recorded by Police Scotland have decreased over the long-term, it's recognised that such behaviour significantly impacts residents' lives and negatively affects our local communities.

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 Robert Moran, Leader of Inverclyde Council

Chief Superintendent Rhona Fraser, 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 coordinate 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 approach

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.

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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 approach

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 which is made up of representatives from Inverclyde Council, Police Scotland, Inverclyde HSCP, The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Inverclyde Housing Association Forum, British Transport Police, CVS Inverclyde and other third sector agencies.

Delivery of the Inverclyde Antisocial Behaviour Strategy, and any associated improvement actions will be overseen by the Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership.

The Inverclyde Partnership Plan 2023-33 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 Partnership Plan focuses on the themes of Empowered People, Working People, Healthy People and Places, A Supportive Place, and a Thriving Place. 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.

Inverclyde Partnership Hub

The Inverclyde Partnership Hub is a collaborative initiative involving community safety partners aimed at enhancing community safety and addressing issues such as anti-social behaviour. The hub facilitates the sharing of information and coordination of actions among partners, which include police, fire and rescue, local authority, health and social care services, and local housing associations.

Key benefits identified from partners include increased engagement, expedited actions, improved understanding of local risks, and enhanced joint working. The hub meets regularly to discuss community incidents, share intelligence, and develop real-time solutions for emerging issues, particularly focusing on vulnerable individuals and early intervention strategies.

The meetings emphasise confidentiality and respect for individual rights, ensuring that information is handled appropriately among partners to build safer communities.

3. Strategic Themes

Community Safety Strategy

The Community Safety Partnership endorsed a Community Safety Strategy in 2023 which has four priority outcomes:

- There is a reduction in the level of violence and antisocial behaviour within our communities
- There is a reduction in the number of serious accidents at home and on our roads
- Communities in Inverclyde feel safe and are protected, particularly those most at risk
- Strong and effective joint working arrangements across the community planning partnership are developed to promote a holistic approach to community safety

The strategy is available to view at <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/csp-strategy>

Antisocial Behaviour Strategy

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;

- RSLs will have an appropriate Allocations Policy under the Inverclyde Common Housing Register (ICHR) covering ASB and suspension <https://www.thesehomes.com/files/other/ICHR-Allocations-Policy.pdf>;
- RSLs will have a relevant ASB Policy relating to the prevention, tackling and management of ASB;
- 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;
- regularly undertake joint training on ASB-related topics;
- 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;

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- 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;
- partner with Community Learning and Development Youth Work to offer young people diversionary activities.

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;
- 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) which is a planning framework for local authorities and their partners to 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;

- 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 charts show the extent of antisocial behaviour reports and crimes within Inverclyde

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

Figure 1 below shows the trend of ASB reports to Inverclyde Council during the 8-year period 2016-17 to 2023-24. There has been a slightly increasing trend in reports coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic, however the 2023-24 numbers are significantly lower than those reported in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Analysis of the the current financial year between 1 April 2024 to 31 December 2024 indicates that there has been a significant decrease in reports when compared to the same period in the previous two years, there has been a 31.5% decrease between 23-24 to 24-25.

It should be noted that these numbers reflect both complaints from members of the public and reports from proactive community warden patrols who may be tasked with spending time in areas experiencing antisocial issues. There will also be multiple complaints relating to the same incident occurrences, which can inflate figures if there has been a specific hotspot issue in an area.

Figure 1. Number of ASB incidents reported to Inverclyde Council, 2016-17 to 2023-24

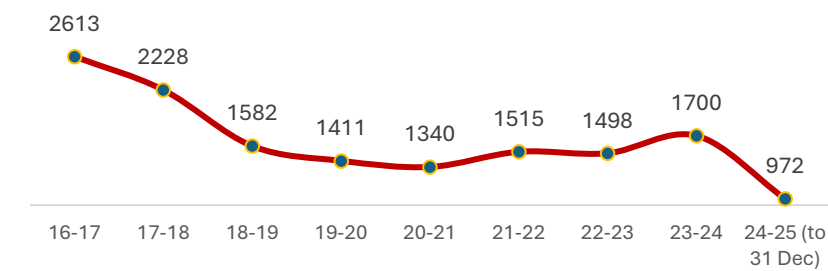


Table 1. Number of ASB incidents reported to Inverclyde Council 21-22 to 23-24

ASB Category	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	% change 21-22 to 23-24
Alcohol-related nuisance	86	38	54	-37.2%
Disorderly behaviour	88	48	53	-39.8%
Drug/substance-related nuisance	130	110	162	24.6%
Intimidation / harassment	66	61	107	62.1%
Neighbour noise	313	341	322	2.9%
Public nuisance	557	616	629	12.9%
Setting fires	136	114	162	19.1%
Vandalism / environmental damage	63	95	87	38.1%
Vehicle-related nuisance	76	75	124	63.2%
Total	1515	1498	1700	12.2%

Over the past three years, public nuisance (38%) and neighbour noise (21%) accounted for most antisocial behaviour reports to Inverclyde Council. While reports of alcohol-related nuisance and disorderly behaviour decreased, there were notable percentage

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increases in intimidation/harassment, drug/substance-related nuisance, vandalism/environmental damage, and vehicle-related nuisance between 2021-2022 and 2023-2024.

Figure 2. Number of ASB Incidents reported to Inverclyde Council by Locality area, 21-22 to 23-24

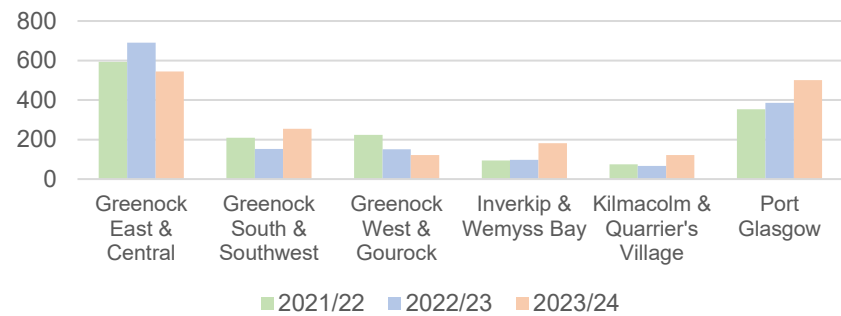
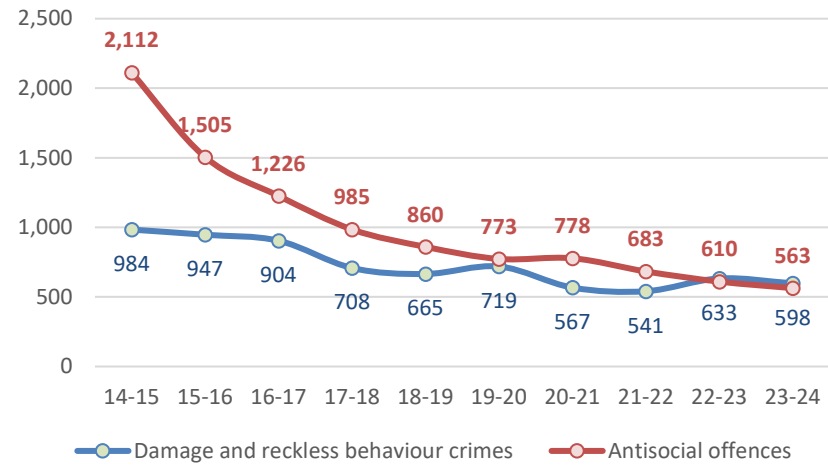


Figure 2 above shows that two locality areas, Greenock East & Central and Greenock West & Gourrock, witnessed a reduction in antisocial reports made to Inverclyde Council between 2021-22 and 2023-24. The four other locality areas experienced an increase in reports during the same 3-year period.

Police Scotland recorded antisocial offences and crimes of damage and reckless behaviour have both been on a long-term downward trend within Inverclyde as shown within Figure 3 below¹.

¹ [Supporting documents - Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 - gov.scot](#)

Figure 3. Recorded antisocial offences and crimes of damage and reckless behaviour in Inverclyde, 2014-15 to 2023-24



The vast majority (95%) of antisocial offences are threatening and abusive behaviour incidents. Whereas the crime group of damage and reckless behaviour is made up of vandalism, reckless conduct, and fire-raising.

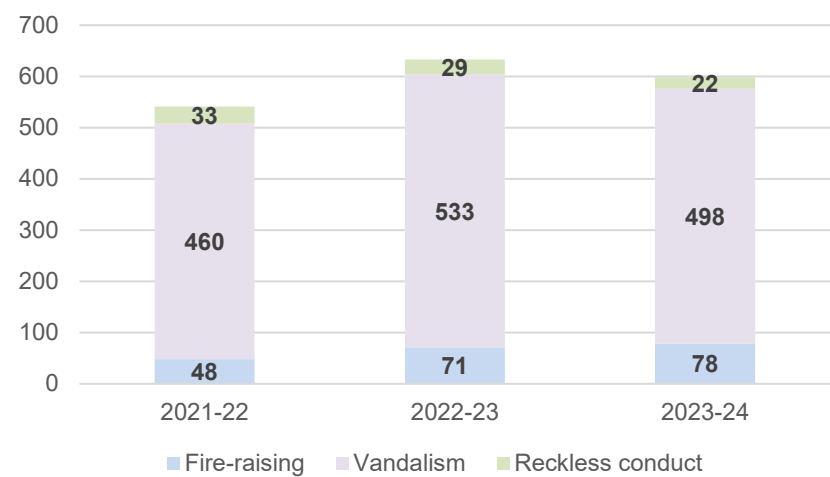
Crimes involving damage and reckless behaviour decreased by 5.5% between 2022-23 and 2023-24, with crimes of vandalism decreasing 6.6%. Wilful fire-raising crimes increased by 7 crimes between 2022-23 and 2023-24 (+10%). The most recent Police Scotland report to Inverclyde Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel in February 2025 indicates that crimes of these type have all decreased into the period of April to October 2024 when compared to that same period in 2023².

² [21 November 2024 - Inverclyde Council](#)

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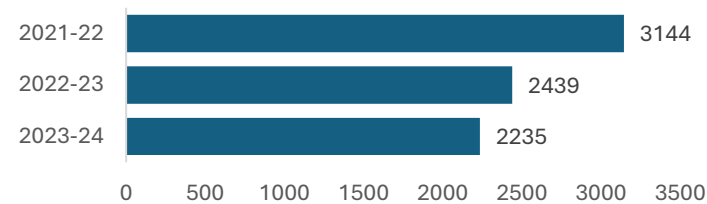
Antisocial offences recorded by Police Scotland reduced by 8% between 22-23 and 23-24.

Figure 4. Number of crimes involving damage and reckless behaviour recorded by Police Scotland in Inverclyde, 2021-22 to 2023-24



Disorder complaints made to Police Scotland in Inverclyde decreased by 8% between 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Table 2. Police Scotland disorder complaints 21-22 to 23-24³

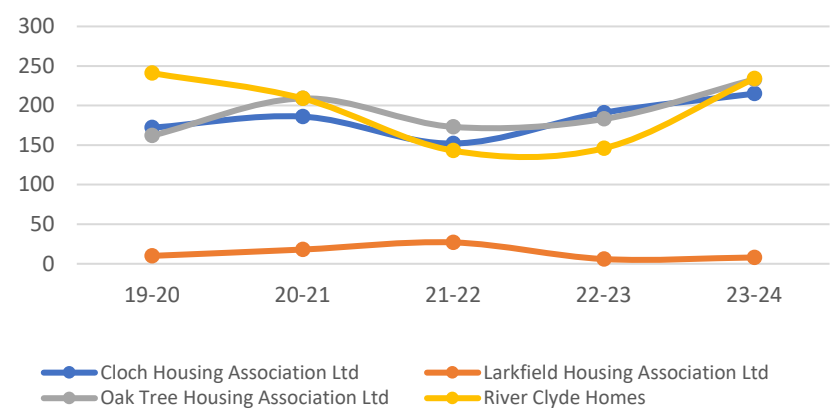


³ Police Scotland, 2025

A similar downward trend is shown in the recent Police Scotland report to Inverclyde Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel in February 2025 which indicates that disorder complaints decreased 12.4% into the period of April to October 2024 when compared to that same period in 2023

The chart below show antisocial behaviour statistics reported to the Scottish Housing Regulator by four of Inverclyde’s local housing associations⁴.

Figure 5. Number of ASB cases reported to local Inverclyde housing associations



⁴ [Statistical information | Scottish Housing Regulator](#)

5. Community Engagement

Across Inverclyde there is provision for 11 Community Councils, with representatives from Police Scotland, Inverclyde Council's Community Warden Service, and RSLs 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. In addition, there are several 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.

In 2023 Inverclyde Alliance approved a new approach towards community engagement on Locality Plans. The approach promotes an Inverclyde-wide engagement network, based on a mixture of online and face-to-face engagements, that will drive the priorities in the six locality plans. The model, "Inverclyde Community Choices", supports and compliments the work of existing formal and informal community groups, community planning partnership groups, and Inverclyde Alliance Board. The digital platform that supports the approach launched in October 2024 and is available at <https://inverclyde.communitychoices.scot/>

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
- Inverclyde Council Antisocial Behaviour Investigations Team
- Inverclyde Council Environment and Enforcement Team
- Inverclyde Council Public Space CCTV
- Inverclyde Council Environment and Public Protection Team
- Inverclyde Council Community Mediation
- Inverclyde Council Community Learning and Development (Youth Work)
- Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership
- Police Scotland Community Policing Team
- Police Scotland Response Teams
- British Transport Police
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- Cloch Housing Association
- Larkfield/Link Housing Association
- Oak Tree Housing Association
- River Clyde Homes
- Victim Support (Scotland)
- Sanctuary Housing

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

While the legislative requirement for the completion of the strategy lies with the local authority, the Community Safety Partnership has responsibility for the coordination of the delivery of responding to antisocial behaviour in Inverclyde. Partnership responses to antisocial behaviour have been identified within the Community Safety Strategy and associated action plan and are subject to regular review as well as regular scrutiny by the Community Safety Partnership.

In 2021 the former Minister for Community Safety asked the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) and the Scottish Government to undertake a review of antisocial behaviour.

During 2022, SCSN and Scottish Government held engagement sessions with a representative cross-section of stakeholders in Scotland. 'Reviewing Scotland's Approach to ASB' report was published in 2023 with two main recommendations:

1. That Scottish Ministers, and statutory, non-statutory and voluntary sector service providers and communities themselves recognise that our approach to preventing and tackling antisocial behaviour needs to be a long-term approach (that recognises societal changes and evolves) and

that we need to make a commitment to a programme of activity which will provide a framework that will guide us in taking forward this agenda in alignment with other linked national policies

2. An independently chaired group of experts, potentially including statutory, non-statutory and voluntary service providers, community representatives and other key interests should be brought together to develop a long-term framework for addressing antisocial behaviour. This should have a strong focus on steps that can be taken to prevent antisocial behaviour from occurring as well as considering the effectiveness of current approaches to tackling the antisocial behaviour which occurs.

Following the publication of this report an independent working group was established, tasked with developing a long-term framework for addressing antisocial behaviour, focusing on prevention and evaluating the effectiveness of current approaches.

The work of this group is due to be reported to Scottish Government in November 2024. It is expected that there will be a period of analysis and review before publication of findings and recommendations during 2025.

Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership will undertake a full review of this strategy when these findings and recommendations have been published and considered.

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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) 2023-26	(Police Scotland)
Inverclyde Partnership Plan 2023-33	(Inverclyde Alliance)
Inverclyde Strategic Needs Assessment 2022	(Inverclyde Alliance)
Local Fire & Rescue Plan for Inverclyde	(The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service)
Inverclyde Council Corporate Plan 2023-28	(Inverclyde Council)
Inverclyde HSCP Strategic Partnership Plan 2024-27	(Inverclyde HSCP)
Inverclyde HSCP Strategic Needs Assessment 2022	(Inverclyde HSCP)
Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan 2024-27	(Inverclyde Council)
Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023-28	(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)