



## Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

### 21 January 2026

#### Report from the Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Community Development

#### Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion (Cllr Ishma Moeen)

### Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Brent

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
<b>List of Appendices:</b>	Appendix A – Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Appendix B – CMARAC Cases Jan - Dec 2025 Appendix C – BJAG Cases Jan – Dec 2025 Appendix D – Fixed Penalty Notice PSPO
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
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#### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

To provide a detailed account of the scale, nature, and management of antisocial behaviour (ASB) in the borough, enabling the Committee to assess performance, understand key responsibilities and identify areas for improvement.

## **1.1 Background and Overview**

Brent Council recognises the serious impact that ASB has on individuals, no one should have to suffer from ASB and the Council will take a swift and proportionate response where incidents that meet our definition of ASB are reported. The Council works in partnership with other agencies and uses appropriate tools and powers available to address anti-social behaviour.

## **1.2 Definition of ASB**

The definition of ASB that is contained within Part 1 of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014:

- (a) conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person,
- (b) conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises, or
- (c) conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.

This definition is different depending on whether the behaviour has taken place in a residential or non-residential setting and/or whether it is housing-related (meaning that it is affecting our housing management function as a social housing landlord).

- 1.3 Where the behaviour is housing-related or occurring in a residential setting (regardless of tenure), the definition is one of whether the behaviour is capable of causing nuisance or annoyance.
- 1.4 Where the behaviour is non-housing related and happening in a non-residential area, such as a town centre, the definition is one of whether the behaviour has caused, or is likely to cause harassment, alarm, or distress.
- 1.5 It is recognised that the harassment, alarm, or distress threshold is higher than the nuisance or annoyance threshold. There may, therefore, be behaviours that are affecting people in their home that we consider to be ASB, whereas if they were happening in a non-residential setting, we would not.

## **1.6 What is not anti-social behaviour**

- 1.7 The behaviours below are recognised as not being ASB. The Council would not investigate these unless there is evidence that the behaviour is deliberately

intended to cause damage, intimidate or is taking place at an unreasonable hour of the night or early morning:

- Behaviours that are acceptable everyday activities/household noise, including children playing in their gardens, use of domestic appliances etc
- Reports that amount to parking disputes, where the placement of the offending vehicle/s is not contravening any regulations or causing serious detriment.
- Reports about garden boundaries or over growing hedges
- DIY occurring at a reasonable time of day.
- Matters relating to lifestyle choices that are lawful, but the complainant takes exception to

- 1.8 The Council is also unlikely to intervene in neighbour disputes. Neighbour disputes is a situation, usually between 2 parties, where each party is taking exception to the other. As a local authority, our role is not to manage relationships like these and expect everyone to take some social responsibility by being courteous to each other.
- 1.9 If the Council decide that a report of ASB does not meet our definition we will inform the complainant at the earliest opportunity, clearly explaining our reasoning. The Council will also provide advice and guidance that may assist, such as referring them to local mediation services.

#### **1.10 Categories of Antisocial behaviour**

The National Standards for Incident Recording ([NSIR](#)) classifies ASB as falling into one of three general categories:

- Personal.
- Nuisance.
- Environmental.

Personal is designed to identify ASB incidents that either deliberately targeted at an individual or group or having an impact on an individual or group rather than the community. Its incidents that cause concern, stress, disquiet and/or irritation through to incidents which have a serious adverse impact on people's quality of life. For example, intimidation or harassment

Nuisance involves annoyance or suffering to the community rather than an individual victim. It captures those incidents where an act, condition, thing or person causes trouble, annoyance, inconvenience, offence or suffering to the

local community in general. These incidences can interfere with public interests including health, safety and quality of life. For example, drug or substance misuse, vehicle related nuisance.

Environmental – incidents where individuals or group impact their wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings. This includes environmental damage and the misuse of public spaces or buildings. For example, abandoned vehicles, unauthorised music events, criminal damage or vandalism such as graffiti, littering etc.

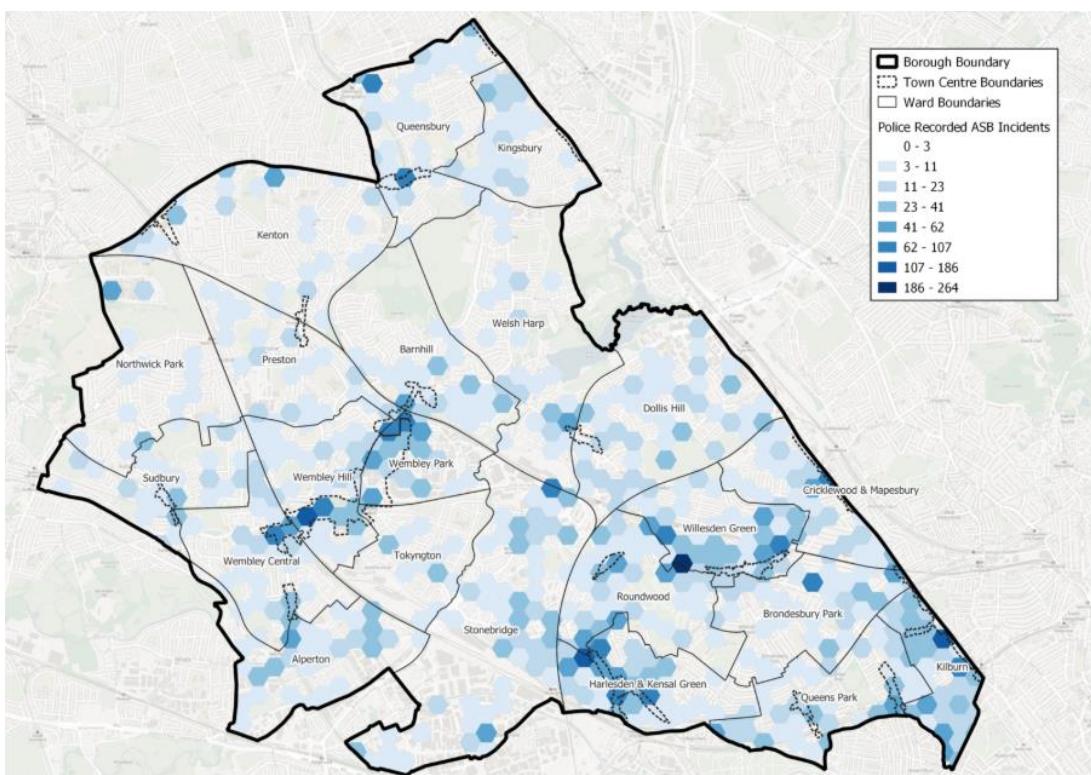
### **1.11 Why is tackling ASB important?**

ASB is a key driver for community confidence in public services. Failure to tackle ASB leads to increased crime, especially violence with injury and criminal related incidents. Anti-social behaviour may or may not constitute criminal activity. It is the impact of the behaviour on others that will determine whether or not that ASB is criminal.

Robust legislation, statutory guidance and related protocols are in place. These are used to inform, regulate and support action against anti-social behaviour

### **1.12 Areas of highest ASB activity within the borough**

Heat Maps (police and council data analysed Jan – Dec 2025)



1.13 A hotspot is classified as an area with six or more reports of ASB. The hotspots are often located near, town centres, transport hubs, and parks during summer. Both reports to the ASB team and reports to the Police were used to identify the hotspots areas, highlighted in deep blue above.

1.14 All the hotspots of ASB are in or adjacent to town centres with issues such as street drinking, illicit drug activity, graffiti and fly tipping having a detrimental impact on residents, businesses and visitors to the Borough.

1.15 There is a high proportion of vulnerable individuals who are either perpetrators or victims of anti-social behaviour, nuisance or low-level crime. These individuals often those with substance misuse, mental health and other complex needs and can fall below the threshold to access treatment from support services.

#### **1.16 Primary ASB concerns affecting local communities**

*Brent ASB Team Top reported Categories 2025:*

ASB Category	
Environmental ASB (Street Based)	1
Drug related activities	2
Neighbour Dispute	3
Non-Statutory Noise	4

#### **ASB Categories**

ASB Categories received By Brent Council	Number of reports made to the council	
	2024	2025
Environmental ASB (Street Based)	98	212
Hate Incident related ASB	0	1
Cuckooing	6	16
Dog Nuisance	8	7
Drugs	185	167
Intimidation/ Harassment	76	40
Neighbour Dispute	86	102
No ASB Present	15	80
Noise	94	73
Pet Animals	1	0
Rowdy Behaviour	29	33
Sexual	3	4

Vandalism	16	13
Vehicle Nuisance	25	26
Verbal Abuse	1	0
Violent & Criminal Activities	9	5

- 1.17 Environmental ASB or street based ASB such as street drinking, inappropriate use of fireworks, public health nuisance (defecation, urination, spitting and littering) are the most regularly reported incidents of ASB. These behaviours have visual effects which are having a detrimental effect on the local community's quality of life.
- 1.18 As a result of these behaviours, the council implemented the Public Space Protection Order. The order gives the council the power to address such behaviour that causes a nuisance and a breach of a PSPO prohibition without a reasonable justification is an offence which is enforced by serving a Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) or prosecution.

[View the Public Space Protection Order official notice](#)

- 1.19 Reports made regarding Environmental ASB (Street Based) doubled in 2025, this could be as a result of successful campaign of "Don't Mess With Brent"
- 1.20 Drug related ASB such as drug use and suspected drug dealing, is the second most reported ASB issue. This includes use in properties, estates or on the streets. Others include Neighbour Dispute and Non-Statutory Noise.

## **1.21 Relevant policy and operational framework**

The current antisocial behaviour policy is under review will be approved and signed off before the end of financial year 2025/2026 (Appendix A). Other strategic and operational frameworks are the Safer Brent-Community Safety Strategy 2024-2026, the terms and reference for the ASB & CCTV Delivery Group, Brent Joint Action Group and Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC).

- 1.22 A bi-weekly tasking meeting is held with Brent Police and Community Safety Team to review emerging hotspots and develop a partner response. The creation of the Wembley and Harlesden Town Centre Police Teams have also had a positive impact in reducing crime and ASB in those town centres.

## **2.0 Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities (Council and Police)**

- 2.1 The council's Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) team is dedicated to managing and addressing issues related to antisocial behaviour. We deal with all cases of

reports of ASB from residents and visitors to the borough. We investigate and respond to reports, including noise disturbances, harassment, vandalism, and other disruptive activities.

- 2.2 The team is equipped with various tools and powers under Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 to address serious cases of ASB. This may include issuing warning letters, working with the police, and pursuing court action when necessary.
- 2.3 The ASB team provides support and guidance to victims, offering information, including support services and referral options.
- 2.4 In cases where ASB has criminal elements, the police lead on such cases however, through strong partnership work with the local authority, instances are reviewed collectively to ensure that the correct agency respond to the issues.
- 2.5 It should be noted where cases of ASB that are linked to mental health issues or substance misuse, individuals are referred to the appropriate support service - Via (New beginnings), the Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference, (CMARAC) or Council's Adult Social Care.

## **2.6 Council Partnership Working**

- 2.7 A Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a multi-agency strategic group set up following the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. In Brent, this partnership is called the Safer Brent Partnership (SBP). The partnership approach is built on the premise that no single agency can deal with, or be responsible for dealing with, complex community safety issues and that these issues can be addressed more effectively and efficiently through working in partnership.
- 2.8 The SBP is the governance body that ensure the delivery of the various delivery groups delivering the priorities contained within the Safer Brent Strategy 2024 – 2026. The SBP is made up of both statutory agencies and other non-statutory groups in the borough. The statutory agencies are:
  - i. Brent Police
  - ii. London Borough of Brent
  - iii. National Probation Service
  - iv. London Fire Brigade
  - v. NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB)
  - vi. Housing Association (by rotation)
  - vii. Non statutory bodies

The SBP sits quarterly and reviews activity on a Brent Connects Area locality basis.

2.9 There are two main partnerships working to tackling ASB in Brent: **Brent Joint Action Groups (BJAGs)** and **Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC)**.

2.10 **Brent Joint Action Groups** (BJAGs) which deal with locality- based problems through a multi-agency, evidence-led problem-oriented approach and individuals who cause the most alarm, harassment and distress to residents in Brent. This includes prevention through diversion and support, and utilising enforcement options where necessary. These are co-terminus with police cluster boundaries and cover Kilburn, Harlesden and Wembley localities. Currently the three police inspectors chair the BJAG. In their absence the ASB localities manager co-chair with a police sergeant.

2.11 **The Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference** (CMARAC) brings agencies together monthly to discuss those who are most vulnerable in Brent. This can include victims of ASB, cuckooing, hoarders, and those being exploited who do not reach safeguarding thresholds. A sergeant from each of the clusters co-chair the Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC) with the ASB localities manager. These meetings are held on monthly basis.

2.12 Information is shared to increase the safety, health and well-being of vulnerable individuals, including adults and children each partner agency to undertake research and bring relevant, proportionate and up-to-date information to support CMARAC in their decision-making.

2.13 Brent's Police Safer Neighbourhood Team have increased the number of inspectors covering the borough. Since 2024 there are now three inspectors with police boundaries realigned to local authority ward boundaries.

2.14 Other partnership working between the council and the police include.

- A daily Police, ASB and Community Safety partner call to discuss urgent issues in need of prioritisation.
- A weekly ASB and Police meeting to discuss complex cases, map hotspots using both Police and Council data.
- Biweekly cuckooing meeting for vulnerable individuals whose properties have been identified as magnet for ASB.
- Biweekly meeting of police inspectors and managers within Community Safety and Prevention
- Monthly Precision Crime Fighting Forum Meeting

2.15 There are also joint patrols held between the Safer Neighbourhood Police and ASB Officers.

### **3.0 ASB Team Activity**

3.1 The Council's ASB team consisting of 7 officers

- 5 X ASB localities officers, each covering one of the 5 Connects areas
- 1 CMARAC Co-ordinator
- 1 ASB Localities Manager

### **3.2 Core functions and priorities**

- **Identification of ASB Incidents:** Enable allegations of Anti-Social Behaviour to be reported in a complete and timely manner.
- **Management of ASB Incidents:** incidences of allegations Anti-Social Behaviour reported to the Council are managed in accordance with Council policy, legislation and best practice; and that information regarding each allegation is addressed in a timely and accurate manner. Where allegations are substantiated that appropriate action is taken.
- **Enforcement:** Effective enforcement actions taken in respect of Anti-Social Behaviour in compliance with legislative requirements and Council policy.
- **Multiagency Working:** Adopt a multiagency approach for the Anti-Social Behaviour where allegations are made working with partners (Internal and External) to address ASB.
- **Publicity & Awareness:** Appropriate arrangements for raising publicity and awareness of Anti-Social Behaviour.

### **3.3 Overview of ongoing work and initiatives**

#### ASB within private, social and council housing stock

3.4 We have a Service Level Agreement in place between the Council's Anti- Social Behaviour Team (ASB) and Brent Housing Services (BHS). The agreement was for all housing medium and high-risk cases to be managed by the Council's ASB team. The decision was taken in light of the core ASB team's established relationships with the Police, commissioned services and ability to utilise tools and powers under the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 to effectively deal with repeat offenders.

3.5 A Service Level Agreement was also signed with Private Housing Services in 2024 to jointly address ASB in private rented accommodation, particularly within

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Since the SLA was established, officers from ASB and PHS have been conducting joint visits to properties known for ASB, to carry out a review of licences and action ASB enforcement measures as necessary.

- 3.6 We also retain a service level expectation protocol, developed in partnership with Registered Housing Providers, who own and manage large housing stock in the borough. The protocol provides a greater focus on tenancy management under the Housing Act to help deal more swiftly with tenants displaying anti-social behaviours.

### 3.7 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)

The boroughwide, Wembley Park and Parks and Open Spaces Public Spaces Protection Orders end on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026, however these PSPOs will be extended on 1 February 2026 for another 3 years with increased prohibitions to tackle drug activity, street drinking, public health concerns such as spitting, urination and other behaviours.

- 3.8 PSPO orders are currently enforced by the Council's Neighbourhood Patrol Team, Neighbourhood Managers, ASB Team and the police. An enforcement protocol has also been developed between Brent Police and Brent Council Environmental Enforcement team to process any breach of the PSPO enforced by the police.
- 3.9 PSPO to tackle vehicle nuisance was extended on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 for another 3 years. CCTV cameras and intelligence led operations will be utilised to enforce any breaches.
- 3.10 Regular on-street engagement and enforcement operations across all wards in hotspot areas are planned and delivered. This programme of multiagency operations (MAOs) involves officers from Brent Police, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Neighbourhood Management, Environmental Enforcement, Patrol Team and Public Health Commissioned Providers such as via – New beginnings and St Mungos. Over 42 MAOs have been conducted in financial year 25/26.
- 3.11 The value of support services being part of these operations ensures a person - centred approach is taken to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals who are either perpetrators or victims of anti-social behaviour. Some of these perpetrators who meet the qualifying criteria are supported through our CMARAC.

3.12 In addition, a Cuckooing Protocol is being developed to ensure vulnerable individuals are not being taken advantage of in their own homes. Cuckooing is the practice of taking over the home of a vulnerable person to establish a base for illegal drug dealing or drug activity. These issues in Brent mainly occur in council owned homes or housing association owned properties, due to a higher proportion of vulnerable clients living in social housing.

**3.13 Key performance data for the past two calendar years**

**3.14 Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC).**

The CMARAC shows an improvement in effective partnership working between a range of agencies. The meeting is solutions-focused and considered how to achieve the best outcomes to complex cases. It enables access to services and improves agency collaboration.

3.15 Community MARAC meetings are held once a month within the 3 localities which are

Locality 1 - Brondesbury Park, Cricklewood & Mapesbury, Dollis Hill, Kenton, Kilburn, Kingsbury, Preston, Queens Park, Queensbury, Welsh Harp

Locality 2 - Harlesden and Kensal Green, Roundwood, Stonebridge, Willesden Green

Locality 3 - Alperton, Barnhill, Northwick Park, Sudbury, Tokyngton, Wembley Central, Wembley Hill, Wembley Park

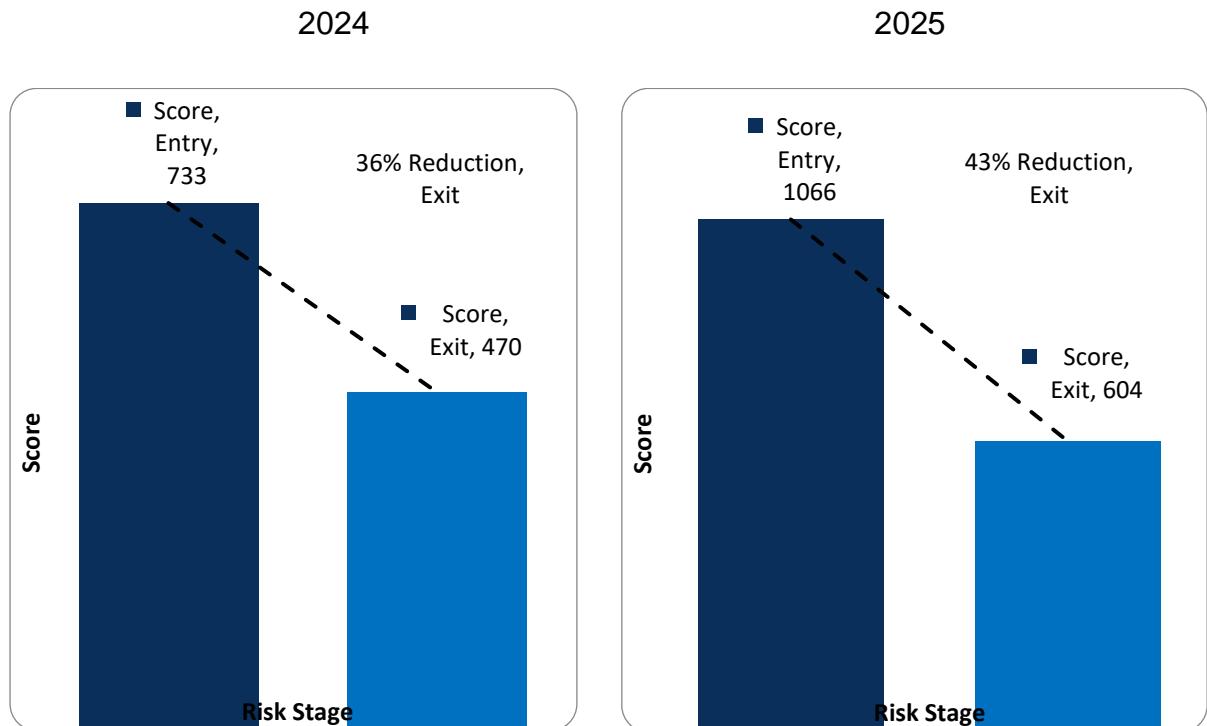
3.16 Appendix B gives a snapshot of case discussed in CMARAC from Jan – Dec 2025

3.17 Early intervention pathway for cuckooing cases. This could include a dedicated worker who can monitor cases and offer support to individuals who are likely to be cuckooed.

3.18 The CMARAC success is measured through evidence of risk reduction.

CMARAC	Year	
	2024	2025
<b>Entry Score</b>	733	1066
<b>Exit Score</b>	470	640

<b>Percentage Risk Reduction</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>43.34%</b>
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## Case Study 1

### Background

D is a 75-year-old woman with paranoid schizophrenia, diabetes, and substance use issues. She was referred to CMARAC in March 2024 due to concerns of exploitation. Despite a Partial Closure Order issued in February 2024, drug users continued to access her home, with one violent individual arrested after breaching the order.

### Intervention

D remained socially isolated and insisted that the individuals exploiting her are friends. Despite multiple offers of support and relocation, she refused assistance. An initial mental capacity assessment deemed her to have the capacity to make choices. Her property was linked to ongoing criminal activity, including drug use and suspected sex work.

### Outcome

Legal action was pursued with a court hearing scheduled for July 2025. D's care package was reviewed as a safeguarding measure while the case was under the Court of Protection. Her son supported the process due to escalating risks. Despite these measures, unwanted individuals kept being found at the

property. Several violent criminals were found inside the property by the police on various occasions. Drug paraphernalia and a knife were also found; a full closure order was applied for April 2025, and D was housed in supported living accommodation as it was found she lacked capacity to keep herself safe from unknown individuals gaining access into her accommodation.

## Case Study 2

### Background

X is a vulnerable individual facing physical and mental health issues with opioid dependence. Following the death of her partner, X's flat was taken over by drug dealers. As a result, she became financially dependent on one of the dealers, which led to her exploitation, erratic lifestyle, poor physical health, and suicidal thoughts. The case was referred to CMARAC in March 2025, for coordinated multi-agency support. The key risks observed were cuckooing, financial abuse, substance misuse, mental health crisis, homelessness, poor physical health and risk to violence from the perpetrators.

### Intervention

Emergency accommodation was arranged with referral made to substance misuse service and adult social care for care and support needs assessment to include a capacity assessment. Regular police checks were also conducted to ensure X was not explored by the dealers.

### Outcome

X is currently in safe accommodation engaging with support services. In November 2025, X was offered a place in a supported accommodation and mental capacity assessment was also completed. An application for appointeeship is being progressed as social worker is gathering the necessary documents to support the application.

The overall goal is to ensure holistic safeguarding for X, stabilise accommodation, and support recovery.

## 3.19 Brent Joint Action Group (BJAG)

Information is shared via the Brent Joint Action group where statutory and non-statutory partners discuss locality-based problems. The information seeks to understand ASB generally, considering what could be driving ASB and how it might be addressed. The intelligence provides information on

- **Time** – when is ASB taking place and how does it align to contextual factors.
- **Place** – where are incidents taking place

- **Person** – who is affected. Is there evidence that different groups of people, perpetrators or victims affected by ASB.

3.20 Seventy - one locations were heard from Jan – Dec 2025, thirty-nine cases were closed with further multiagency meetings to collaboratively resolve the issues at these locations see Appendix C.

## Case Study 1

### Background:

In November 2024, Ethelred Court came to the attention of Brent Anti-Social Behaviour team due to complaints of anti-social behaviour and drug related activities reported by the Housing Association (Hyde Housing) who are the landlords. A referral was made to BJAG, Ethelred Court was accepted with follow up actions.

A door knock exercise was conducted encouraging residents to report the ASB and was followed by a letter drop to the residents by the Housing Association as the CCTV had also been damaged. At the BJAG meeting held on 04.12.2024 it was decided a Closure Order would be explored to address the ASB and drug related issues.

A consultation meeting was held on January 2025 with relevant stakeholders on the intention of the police seeking a Closure Order which included the police, council and Hyde Housing Association, the landlords to support the 3-month Closure Order being put in place.

The Closure Order was successfully obtained in January 2025 for the communal areas within the block of flats in Ethelred Court for a 3-month period which gave respite to the residents locally that were experiencing intimidation, gang activity including drug dealing (Class A drugs).

### Closure Order Extension:

In April 2025 the Closure Order was extended for another 3-month period to all the communal areas, roofs, corridors, landing and stairs including the resident car parks for Ethelred Court, The Mall, HA3. The reason for the extension was that during onsite visits to the block, the police, council and landlord were coming across drug paraphernalia, weapons and litter that was left behind or stashed in communal areas. The Closure Order has been well policed with regular routine patrols combining a variety of resources and tactics therefore the extension would allow the same level of patrolling tactics and continued sharing of information with partners.

## **Current Situation**

The ASB Team, Hyde Housing and the police are concentrating on an address in Ethelred Court which may be the magnet for the ASB / drugs at the location and will be looking at any enforcement action that can be used in order to deal with the problems / issues.

## **Case study 2 Café – ASB & Enforcement:**

### **Background**

February 2023, complaints received about café involved in shisha smoking indoors, noise nuisance and parking contraventions. Community Protection Warning was issued however this did not stop the activities as a petition was received from residents living within the vicinity of the café in Jan 2024 citing noise nuisance, ASB and parking issues.

### **Interventions**

In April 2024 a joint late-night inspection was conducted by the Police and Council. Large quantity of khat were seized and two individuals were arrested for possession of the khat with three vehicles issued Penalty Charge Notice for parking violations. The café ceased trading and relocated to Park Royal.

In March 2025, the Café reopened with subsequent complaints received in relation to noise nuisance. Nuisance Control Team executed a warrant in May 2025 to seize amplified sound equipment. A multi-agency meeting was held with the owners in July 2025 to advise them about ASB reports and apply for planning permission. However, the nuisance persists so in September 2025, another joint late-night visit was conducted by the Police and Council. Shisha pipes, khat, and amplified sound equipment were seized during the visit.

A 600-page evidence bundle prepared and presented in court for a closure order application which was contested by the café, however Brent Magistrates Court granted a full closure order in November 2025 for 3 months.

### **Outcome & Next Steps**

Closure Order is monitored for compliance, and an extension will be considered if the order is breached. In addition, the evidence obtained have been shared with planning enforcement team as it seems, planning permission was not obtained by the café for change of use.

## **3.21 Public Space Protection Order**

The reporting period has seen an increase in use of tools and powers such as in fixed penalty notices (FPN) issued under the PSPOs in Brent, led by the Neighbourhood Patrol Team enforcement team.

3.22 During the period 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2025, 3370 FPNs were issued for failure to comply with the various prohibitions. See Appendix D.

### **3.23 Assessment of impact and effectiveness of ASB Tools and Powers**

#### Non-legal and quasi-legal tools

3.24 There are several non-legal tools available that can be used to try to resolve cases of ASB. These include, but are not limited to:

- Practical problem-solving steps, such as encouraging parties to put rugs on laminated flooring or wear headphones if listening to music late at night.
- Encouraging parties to discuss the situation between each other.
- Referring parties to mediation
- Warning letters
- Meetings and interviews with the perpetrator
- Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABAs)

#### Legal tools

3.25 We use several legal powers, including but not limited to tools and powers under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014:

3.26 **Community Protection Notice** – a notice that is issued by an officer in the Community Safety Prevention Team and requires the offender to do certain things. It can be issued to a person over the age of 16 or a business. A breach can result in a fixed penalty notice or prosecution

3.27 **Injunction** – an order against a person over the age of 10, which requires them to do certain things (positive requirements) or stop doing certain things (prohibitions). Breaching the order can result in a fine, custodial sentence or youth sanctions (depending on the age of the respondent)

3.28 **Public Spaces Protection Order** – after extensive consultation, we can apply a PSPO to a specific area, meaning that certain behaviour is prohibited in that area (such as drinking alcohol) and/or certain behaviours mandated (such as putting a dog on a lead). A breach of this order can lead to a fixed penalty notice being issued.

3.29 **Criminal Behaviour Order** – an order that can contain similar provisions to an injunction but must be applied for alongside a criminal prosecution. We may ask the Police/Crown Prosecution Service to consider an application where we

know a perpetrator has been charged with a criminal offence, or we may make our own application if we are prosecuting in relation to breach of noise abatement powers or a community protection notice.

- 3.30 **Closure Powers** – we can issue a closure notice (and apply for a closure order) against a ‘premise’ that is causing serious ASB, nuisance, disorder, or criminality. This includes residential property, non-residential property, and open space. The closure order prohibits access, making it a criminal offence to enter the premises unless permitted by the order.
- 3.31 **Closure Orders** are an effective way to order a premises causing severe anti-social behaviour, nuisance, or crime (like drug dens or prostitution) to remain closed for three to six months to protect communities by quickly restricting entry, even for owners/tenants, to stop disorder. The order is granted by the magistrate court after an application is made by the police or council within 48 hours after the service of a closure notice.
- 3.32 Closure Order could either be a Full or Partial Closure Order.
- 3.33 Full closure order prohibits everyone including the tenant access to the premises at all times during the duration of the order.
- 3.34 Partial Closure Orders are an effective way to manage behaviours where the main tenant or landlord appears to have lost control of activity within their premises. This prohibits everyone except the tenant and specified persons only on the order.
- 3.35 Where a vulnerable individual whose regular visitors to the property engaged in antisocial behaviour, but the tenant appeared to have no control over who visited the address or their disruptive ASB. The effect of the partial closure order is that the defendant can now use this to refuse access to all visitors to his flat and enables him to call the police if they do not listen.

#### Case Study

#### **Ryde House – ASB Intervention Summary**

In June 2025, Ryde House came to the attention of Brent’s Anti-Social Behaviour Team following a referral from the Area Tenancy Manager within Brent Housing Services. The referral highlighted concerns about non-tenants gaining access to the car park and communal areas to consume drugs and engage in ASB. Reports also indicated that a vulnerable male tenant might be a victim of possible cuckooing. Ryde House was referred to Brent Joint Action Group in October 2025.

A joint visit/walkabout was arranged involving the ASB Officer, Area Tenancy Manager, and Housing Performance Manager. Subsequently ASB officer with the Kilburn Safer Neighbourhood Team did a follow up visit to the block to scan the problems associated with the estate. During the visit, several security issues were identified, including vandalised doors and windows. Residents spoken to on-site confirmed concerns about drug-related activities, break-ins, and vandalism. An attempt was made to visit the property of the suspected cuckooed victim, but there was no response. However, discussions were held with a neighbouring friend acting as the victim's carer.

Following consultation with the local police ward sergeant, it was confirmed that the victim was being cuckooed, with drug dealers and users using his flat to store drugs and weapons.

BJAG requested a task and finish multi-agency meeting to be convened which was attended by Met Police Officers, Brent Council's Safeguarding Team Manager, Social Worker, ASB Manager, and ASB Localities Officer. At the meeting it was agreed a Partial Closure Order application for a flat in Ryde House identified to be source of the ASB and a Closure Order for the communal areas.

During a door-knocking exercise, additional concerns were raised about another flat where a family member appeared to be contributing to ASB. After further discussions with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Brent's CPT agreed to pursue a closure order for this second flat.

November 2025, Brent Magistrate's Court granted closure orders for both flats and the communal areas of Ryde House which is due to expire on **February2026**.

The block is included in the footprint of Operation Terminos for regular visits and patrols in policing the closure orders.

A community-led approach shows when residents, local council and police, work together to address ASB and Crime in their estate, strategies are developed to address ASB and crime in a way that respects and supports the people who live in estate or surrounding community

- 3.36 Anyone who is found by the police or council to be in the flat who are not authorised to be in the property are committing a criminal offence and, if found guilty, are liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for up to 51 weeks or an unlimited fine.

3.37 In legal terms the defendant is not committing the offence, the visitors are by entering the property, ignoring notices on both the front door and on the flat itself, indicating that to enter is an offence.

### Enforcement Outcome

Enforcement	2024	2025
Community Protection Warnings	19	17
Community Protection Notice	3	2
Fixed Penalty Notices	1111	2259
Criminal Behaviour Orders	0	10
Closure Notices	29	37
Closure Orders	29	37
Closure Order Extension	8	3
Breach of Closure Order	0	1
Mandatory Grounds for Possession	4	0
Community Triggers	4	11

3.38 The last 12 months have seen a significant increase in the use of tools and powers under the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014.

3.39 The Public Space Protection Orders period saw an increase in fixed penalty notices (FPN) issued by the Neighbourhood Patrol Team to provide visible evidence showing disorder is been challenged by the Council to ensure a clean and safe environment which is the Council's responsibility to keep the local environment clear of litter, anti-social behaviour, including other local environmental quality issues affecting the lives of residents and other members of the public.

3.40 Closure Orders on premises are being used as disruptive and intervention mechanism to stop drug related activities such as drug dealing or use in premises where neighbours are experiencing the effects of associated crime and ASB. Closure orders are also helping to safeguard individuals as an effective tool for complex cases where vulnerable individuals have been cuckooed, and premises becomes a hub of antisocial behaviour

3.41 Developing communications on ASB issues may help to build trust and confidence that action is being taken as some residents did not have a clear understanding of what might happen when they report ASB, what enforcement action might look like, or how long it would take.

## **4.0 Resident Reporting Routes**

4.1 Residents can report ASB through email, telephone, or the online web-form.

4.2 Email continues to be the most common method of communication, however web-form reporting is positively increasing. Currently the team is reliant on manual processing, which is time-consuming. However, as part of the Council's Change Programme the whole department are reviewing ways in which a better system would ensure more efficient use of officer time, and improved collaboration with other services. For example, the ASB team are exploring a new case management system with better functionality to track and resolve issues, including nuisance related issues where audio and visual evidence can be submitted with their report.

4.3 ASB officers aim to contact residents within 7 working days, a slight shift from the current policy, which is due to be updated, and which states 3 - 5 working days (Appendix A). The reason is due to the work demand placed on officers who have seen increasing caseloads, including complex ASB cases. The caseload of the team had effectively increased by 25% over the 3 years.

## **5.0 ASB Reports received by council ASB Team**

5.1 ASB Reports received by council ASB Team

<b>ASB Report</b>	<b>Number of reports made directly to the team</b>	
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>795</b>

<b>ASB Report</b>	<b>Number of reports made via Members Enquires</b>	
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>442</b>

<b>ASB Report</b>	<b>Number of reports made via Service Request</b>
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	2024	2025
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>81</b>

## 5.2 ASB Case Reviews

The ASB Case Review is a multi-agency case review process which involves various agencies such as local police, local authority, housing provider to review their responses to complaints of anti-social behaviour (including incidents of hate). A review meets the threshold if you have made three reports of ASB to either the local police, local authority or a registered housing provider and no effective action has been taken to address the ASB report or no response from the agencies.

- 5.3 All ASB case reviews were raised via the web form on the Brent Council webpage.
- 5.4 All ASB case review applications were evaluated from information obtained from the respective organisations to ensure there is an effective action plan in place to address the ASB concern reported.

ASB Case Review Applications	2024	2025
Total number of applications received	4	11
Cases met threshold	0	0
Case review carried out	0	0
ASB Case Appeal Applications	0	0

- 5.5 All applications for the ASB case reviews showed effective plans were in place and did not meet the threshold for review.

## 6.0 Future Challenges and Opportunities

- 6.1 Most housing estates in Brent need to be supported by efforts to structurally design out crime and anti-social behaviour which requires financial commitment.
- 6.2 Lower cost, to medium scale measures might involve installation of gates in estates to restrict access or strengthen weaker boundary access points.
- 6.3 Police reprioritisation of resources might also have significant impact in responding to ASB. The Met police launched “Right Care Right Person” in

November 2023, however, the Police no longer respond to mental health related callouts unless a person is at risk of harm.

- 6.4 Since the pandemic people's working patterns have changed as more people work from home. This has resulted in an increase in high – demand for the service for investigating and resolving complaints of statutory noise nuisance including instigating prosecution proceedings against persistent offenders.
- 6.5 Technology for dynamic processes such as good case management systems can support more efficient and effective ways of working and contribute to better outcomes through the use of robust data.
- 6.6 Sharing emerging trends, concerns, and insights with reflective lessons learned from complex or high-impact cases.
- 6.7 Digital Escalation Process: Implement a tech-enabled escalation system to ensure timely responses to urgent cases and emerging risks.
- 6.8 ASB team operates 9 - 5pm, Monday to Friday. However, ASB often occurs after office hours, and therefore we successfully bid for NCIL funding to commission patrol officers from 5pm - 1 am, Mondays – Sundays to support efforts to reduce ASB occurring at night. Although the funding is for 12 months.
- 6.9 The project will be reviewed at the end of the 12 months with a business case made should we need the council to continue with this ASB suppression approach.

## **7.0 Financial Considerations**

- 7.1 The budgets held within the Children, Young People and Community Development Directorate for ASB primarily fund staffing costs and supplies and services, with a total value of £592k.
- 7.2 This budget includes funding for two ASB officers to meet the requirements of the service level agreement (SLA) with BHS. The ASB officer who support the PHS contract are funded directly by the Housing Services Department.
- 7.3 The FPNs issued by the Neighbourhood Patrol Team (NPT) are based on a prescribed statutory rate £100 which cannot be increased. The income generated contributes towards the cost of the NPT team.

## **8.0 Legal Considerations**

8.1 As required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Safer Brent Partnership (SBP) brings agencies and organisations together to develop and oversee ASB reductions strategies. Wider legislation underpinning this activity is Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

8.2 Article 11 of ECHR (Freedom of assembly and association) states the following:

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.
2. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of these rights other than such as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This Article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces, of the police or of the administration of the State.

8.3 The Human Rights Act 1998 requires the Council (and anyone exercising Council functions) to act compatibly with Convention rights. Article 11 is relevant, but so are Article 8 (private/family life and home) and Article 1 of Protocol 1 (peaceful enjoyment of possessions), particularly where actions affect access to premises, living arrangements, or the use of land/property.

8.4 The Council must act lawfully, rationally and fairly when using ASB powers. Decisions should be evidenced, recorded, and proportionate to the impact and risk.

8.5 Where restrictions are imposed (for example, through enforcement in public space or restrictions on access), the Council must be able to show a clear legal basis, a legitimate aim (e.g. prevention of disorder/crime), and that the measure is necessary and proportionate in the circumstances.

8.6 The report already identifies a suite of tools and powers, and these should be treated as the primary “legal toolkit” for managing ASB, applied case-by-case: informal interventions (problem-solving, mediation, warning letters, ABAs) and formal powers (CPNs, injunctions, PSPOs, CBOs, closure powers).

8.7 For PSPO activity, there are specific statutory requirements around consultation and publication. This is important where enforcement is used as part of a wider hotspot strategy.

- 8.8 Multi-agency working (SBP / BJAG / CMARAC) involves sharing personal data. Information sharing must be necessary and proportionate, and handled consistently with the UK GDPR / Data Protection Act 2018. Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 provides a power to disclose information for community safety purposes, where the legal tests are met.
- 8.9 The report highlights vulnerability and complex needs. Where enforcement action is considered against or around vulnerable individuals, safeguarding duties and capacity issues should be actively considered and evidenced, including referral routes and support options alongside enforcement

## **9.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

- 9.1 The public sector equality duty, as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requires the council, when exercising its functions, to have “due regard” to:
  - a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act,
  - b) advance equality of opportunity and
  - c) foster good relations between those who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not share that protected characteristic. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 9.2 Consideration must also be given as to how the proposals contained within this report might impact adversely on those persons with protected characteristics as set out in the Equalities Act 2010 and whether there should be any mitigated actions proposed in relation to any potential adverse impacts of such proposals.
- 9.3 Management of antisocial behaviour (ASB) in the borough is in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. There will be no discrimination in line with our Public Sector Equality duty.
- 9.4 Initiatives ensure compliance with the Equality Act and address health inequalities by:
  - a) Supporting marginalised groups with protected characteristics through tailored outreach and partnerships with organisations like AWRC, Young Brent Foundation and Plias.
  - b) Addressing systemic issues, including racial injustice and barriers to reporting ASB, with culturally sensitive programs.

## **10.0 HR & Property Considerations**

- 10.1 Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing act 2014, gives powers to a police constable or a person authorised by the local authority to enforce on the tools and powers within the legislation.
- 10.2 Brent Police and Brent Council Staff will jointly enforce against all prohibitions as referenced, while the Council Neighbourhood Patrol officers will be the lead agency to enforce against PSPO prohibitions.

## **11.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

- 11.1 ASB supports environmental objectives by:

- Reducing ASB & crime hotspots linked to environmental neglect.
- Promoting sustainable practices during community events and projects.

## **12.0 Communication Considerations**

- 12.1 The strategy includes:

- Publishing key findings and outcomes through Council channels and local media.
- Utilising social media to promote awareness of ASB
- Engaging with community groups, educational providers and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners to disseminate information and promote safety initiatives.

- 12.2 A communications exercise and awareness with residents will also be undertaken across the borough to outline the Brent enforcement policy. Enforcement will be data driven and targeted in hotspot areas as outlined in the report.

**Report sign off:**

***Corporate Director***

Nigel Chapman, Children, Young People and  
Community Development