



Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Action Plan

Force: Devon and Cornwall

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Date of Plan Publication: April 2026

Geographical Coverage: Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Section 1: Local Context

ASB and Street Crime Profile

In Devon and Cornwall, Anti-social behaviour (ASB) remains the top concern for our residents, as consistently highlighted in the *Your safety, Your Say* surveys throughout 2025 and 2026. Whilst our region remains one of the safest in the country, we recognise that ASB is not a “low level” issue- it is a blight that degrades the quality of life, impacts the mental health, and erodes the sense of security in our unique mix of urban, coastal and rural communities.

Our local challenge is defined by geographic and seasonal complexity. We face a “seasonal surge” where our populations swell significantly during the summer months, placing an extraordinary strain on our front-line resources. In our urban centres like Exeter, Plymouth and Torquay, we are tackling rowdy behaviour and street-based nuisance; in our rural and moorland areas, we face distinct challenges such as fly-tipping and livestock worrying, and in our coastal towns, the nighttime economy demands a robust and visible presence.

Anti-social behaviour remains a persistent and locally variable demand driver across Devon and Cornwall. Expectedly, town centres and our densest populated areas experience the highest overall volume of ASB it is understood that repeat ASB affects all communities. While overall volumes fluctuate, ASB continues to have a disproportionate impact on public confidence, perceptions of safety and demand on neighbourhood policing.

The most common ASB themes within Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly include:

- Public place disorder linked to alcohol and drugs consumption.
- Retail-related ASB and acquisitive crime.
- Child related nuisance behaviour.
- Environmental ASB (Urban, coastal and rural, damage, fly-tipping).
- Vehicle-related ASB.

The Hotspot Policing Programme provides a key delivery mechanism for the Devon and Cornwall Anti-Social Behaviour Plan by translating its priorities into targeted, visible and preventative activity in the locations generating the greatest ASB-related harm.

Hotspots are identified through detailed analysis crime data, mapped across 150m² grid cells and refined through local operational knowledge and partner insight. This ensures patrols are focused on repeat locations and peak demand periods, enabling

early intervention, disruption of persistent nuisance behaviour, and proactive engagement with individuals at risk of escalating harm.

The model is intentionally flexible to reflect the unique geography and demand profile of Devon and Cornwall, where many town centres experience significant seasonal fluctuations in ASB linked to tourism, the night-time economy and population surges during the summer months. The Hotspots approach allows patrol intensity to be scaled accordingly, with targeted summer uplifts deployed where predictable increases in ASB occur. Each hotspot is supported by a bespoke partnership problem solving plan, ensuring enforcement activity is reinforced by longer term solutions such as environmental improvements, licensing interventions and safeguarding pathways. Enhanced intelligence gathering and analytical oversight enable earlier identification of emerging ASB trends and more coordinated multi-agency responses, supporting sustained harm reduction in line with the ASB Plan and the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.

Through this action plan, we are committed to ensuring that every resident and visitor across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly can enjoy our beautiful region without the fear of intimidation or disorder.

1.2 Partnership Landscape and Engagement

ASB is not primarily a policing issue and requires consistent, lawful and proportionate multi-agency activity. Devon and Cornwall Police will continue to operate within existing Community Safety Partnership (CSP) structures, recognising variation in local capacity and maturity.

No single agency can solve ASB on its own. Strong collaboration—especially through our Community Safety Partnerships—helps tackle the root causes of ASB and deliver long-lasting results. Positive outcomes are more likely when organisations share information, analyse problems together, and take coordinated action alongside sharing visibility of policies for tackling ASB, outlining what action will be taken and the processes and response that can be expected.

Engagement Approach

- Existing force and CSP governance remain the primary delivery mechanism.
- Police participation will be focused and proportionate.
- Information sharing will occur through agreed processes, recognising that each agency operates separate IT systems.
- Police will not assume lead responsibility where a statutory duty sits elsewhere.

1.3 Key Partners and Statutory Responsibilities

ASB is not only a policing issue and requires consistent, lawful and proportionate multi-agency activity. Devon and Cornwall Police will continue to operate within existing Community Safety Partnership (CSP) structures, recognising variation in local capacity and maturity.

Partner	Statutory Responsibility	Expected Contribution
District / Unitary Local Authorities	ASB, Crime & Policing Act 2014; Environmental Protection Act 1990	Environmental enforcement, PSPOs, Civil powers (CPN, CPW, Closure etc.)
County Council (DCC / Cornwall Council)	Children Acts; Public Health duties	Early help, youth services, substance misuse
Housing Providers	Housing Acts	Tenancy enforcement, safeguarding
Probation Service	Offender management	Management of repeat adult offenders
Youth Justice Service	Crime and Disorder Act 1998	Diversion and intervention
Health Services (ICBs / NHS)	Health & Care legislation	Treatment and safeguarding support
Fire & Rescue Service	Fire & Rescue Services Act	Prevention and community engagement
Retailers / BIDs	Private sector	Reporting, prevention, evidence
Victim Support / VCS	Victims' Code	Independent victim support

Section 2: Delivery and Analysis

Problem-Solving Approach

2.1 Strategic Objectives

Objectives are modest, realistic and measurable:

1. Reduce repeat ASB demand at identified priority locations over a 12-month period.
2. Improve victim understanding and satisfaction with police ASB responses.
3. Increase appropriate use of early intervention and civil powers, where these sit with police or partners.

These objectives are scalable depending on resourcing and partner capacity.

2.2 Problem-Solving Activity

Problem-solving will be applied selectively, focusing on:

- Locations generating disproportionate demand.
- Victims experiencing repeated harm.
- Offenders known to multiple agencies.

Problem-solving plans will:

- Be time limited.
- Involve relevant partners only.
- Be reviewed regularly.
- Cease where outcomes are not proportionate to resource input.

2.3 Enforcement and Visibility

Visible patrols will be used where evidence indicates benefit, particularly in town centres and repeat locations.

Police will:

- Use ASB available powers proportionately and consistently.
- Monitor use of powers to ensure lawful and appropriate application.
- Support partner-led enforcement where police are not the lead agency.

2.4 Prevention and Early Intervention

Prevention activity will be partner-led wherever statutory responsibility sits outside policing.

In these cases, police contributions will focus on:

- Early identification and referral.
- Supporting (but not providing) diversionary activity where capacity exists.
- Information sharing to support partner decision-making.

Police will not create parallel prevention structures.

2.5 Reducing Repeat Victimisation

Where repeat victimisation is identified:

- Practical safeguarding measures will be prioritised and implemented.
- Police will support partners to lead longer-term interventions.
- Success will be measured by reduction in repeat demand, not short-term enforcement activity.

2.6 Repeat and Vulnerable Victims

The force will prioritise repeat and vulnerable victims, including businesses, where ASB creates ongoing harm.

This will include:

- Identification of repeat callers, locations and victims
- Use of structured risk assessment where appropriate
- Referral to partner agencies based on statutory responsibility
- Clear communication with victims about what police and partners can realistically deliver

ASB Case Review (Community Trigger) awareness will be maintained through neighbourhood teams and partner agencies. Victims will be provided with information on the process and their rights under the Victims' Code, without creating unrealistic expectations of outcomes.

2.7 Children and Young People

Our approach to Anti-Social Behaviour involving children and young people is governed by a “child first, victim focused” philosophy. Being child centred is about recognising the child first in every interaction, avoiding applying adult standards and ensuring their welfare and best interests are properly considered and recorded when undertaking policing activity, using police powers, or making decisions that affect them. It starts with a safeguarding attitude that prioritises the needs and vulnerabilities of children, regardless of their age, background or situation, including their previous encounters with the police or the nature of their behaviour.

We recognise that child ASB is often a symptom of underlying vulnerability therefore will deliver:

- A multi-agency problem solving approach which delivers support to young people at risk of being drawn into ASB and wider criminality.
- Reduce the flow of young people into crime and ASB through delivery of the Young Futures Programme.
- Proportionate and fair policing responses that consider the needs and wider context of the child and seek to signpost them to supportive intervention wherever possible.

2.8 Use of Data

The force will develop its analytical capability. Specifically, Devon and Cornwall will ensure business intelligence to ensure data is available to:

- Identify repeat demand and locations
- Prioritise repeat perpetrators and victims
- Support proportionate problem-solving activity
- Inform deployment decisions
- Understand neighbourhood policing abstractions
- Evidence community policing activity

Data will be drawn from police systems and partner contributions. No assumption is made regarding system interoperability; information sharing will rely on established lawful processes.

Devon and Cornwall police will utilise the strategic community harm problem profile- with a specific focus on Persistent and Severe ASB that utilises data to identify the following:

- Identify geographic and demographic patterns of P&S ASB within the Force, with a focus on the highest harm and repeat locations, repeat offenders, and repeat victims
- Explore the link between P&S ASB and wider Community Harm
- Examine the effectiveness of the current responses in managing and reducing high harm ASB
- Evaluate the socio-economic and environmental factors that contribute to Community Harm.

2.9 Measuring Success

Success will be assessed using:

- Trends in repeat ASB demand
- Targeted intervention via orders/notices/warnings for those individuals who are causing high levels of community harm- particularly those in the “Power few”.
- Victim satisfaction and feedback
- Increased systems recording of ASB tools and powers
- ASB Case Review activity
- Expand community messaging surveys to enable greater understanding and track community perception of ASB.
- Utilise qualitative insights from the D&C Community Messaging to compliment the findings from the Public Confidence Survey.

Measures will be reviewed periodically and adjusted where they do not add value.

Section 3: Comms and Sustainability

3.1 Community Engagement

Community engagement will remain routine, locally led and proportionate, aligned to neighbourhood policing arrangements.

Key principles:

- Named neighbourhood officers and community safety leads remain the primary point of contact.
- Engagement will focus on listening, explaining constraints and setting realistic expectations.

- A mix of in-person and digital engagement will be used, depending on local context.
- Anonymous reporting routes will continue to be promoted where appropriate.

Engagement with seldom-heard groups will be targeted and needs-led, rather than universal, recognising resource limitations.

3.2 Communications

The overarching action plan is translated into a simple corporate designed 5-point delivery plan for communication internally to officers and staff and externally to partners and the public.

The force will use existing communications arrangements to:

- Explain what action has been taken.
- Manage expectations.
- Reinforce shared responsibility between police, partners and communities.

Partnership intensifications will be subject to strategic communications via force corporate comms by local arrangement.

Communications will avoid overstating outcomes.

3.3 Ongoing Engagement

Ongoing engagement will focus on:

- Authentic feedback and reassurance on local priorities.
- Transparency around constraints.
- Supporting partner-led engagement activity where appropriate.
- Increasing awareness of D&C Community Messaging across the entire Force to ensure representation coverage

3.4 Sustainability

We will ensure the sustainability of this plan by transitioning from short term initiatives such as “hot spot” funding into a “business as usual” model that is heavily anchored and supported by the Police and Crime Plan 2025-29. This plan seeks to embed tried

and tested specialist roles, such as dedicated ASB legal advisors, into the Force's infrastructure alongside ASB case reviews and mediation services.

This plan will:

- Embed ASB within neighbourhood policing priorities.
- Avoid reliance on short-term initiatives.
- Leverage partnership structures already in place.
- Keeping ASB visible within force and OPCC governance arrangements.

Appendix – 5 Point Plan

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in Devon & Cornwall

Anti-social behaviour has a real impact on people's lives and on how safe communities feel.

Devon & Cornwall Police are strengthening neighbourhood policing to ensure we **listen to communities, target problems, and work with partners to deliver long-term solutions.**

Our Aim

Safer neighbourhoods where people feel confident that anti-social behaviour will be addressed.

Our Plan:

1. We Will Listen to Our Communities

Neighbourhood policing starts with understanding local concerns.

Our commitment:

- Named neighbourhood officers working with communities.
- Regular engagement with residents, businesses and local groups.
- Easy ways to report anti-social behaviour, including anonymous reporting.

Outcome:

Local policing priorities shaped by community concerns.

2. We Will Target the Places Where ASB Happens Most

Police patrols will focus on the areas experiencing the greatest harm.

Our commitment:

- Data-led identification of ASB hotspots.
- Targeted patrols at the times and places problems occur.
- Increased visibility in busy town centres and seasonal hotspots.

Outcome:

Visible policing where communities need it most.

3. We Will Act Against Persistent Offenders

We will act proportionately against those responsible for repeat ASB.

Our commitment:

- Use of warnings, notices and enforcement powers.
- Focus on repeat offenders causing the greatest community harm.
- Support partners to take enforcement action when they hold the lead powers.

Outcome:

Persistent anti-social behaviour is challenged and disrupted.

4. We Will Protect Victims and Reduce Repeat Harm

Victims experiencing ongoing anti-social behaviour will be prioritised.

Our commitment:

- Early identification of repeat victims and locations.
- Safeguarding and practical support for those affected.
- Promotion of the ASB Case Review (Community Trigger).

Outcome:

Better protection and support for those most affected.

5. We Will Work with Partners to Prevent ASB

Lasting solutions require a coordinated response.

Our commitment:

- Work with councils, housing providers and community safety partners.
- Share information to identify and address root causes.
- Support early intervention and diversion for young people.

Outcome:

Long-term reduction in anti-social behaviour.