

Background

Leeds City Council is committed to reducing anti-social behaviour using all the available tools and powers to achieve this.

Working with our partner agencies and the local community we will take a stand against anti-social behaviour, to move away from a situation where people tolerate problems, to one where everyone works together to tackle those problems, and improve their quality of life.

As outlined within Leeds City Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for Leeds, the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team (LASBT) will seek to tackle anti-social behaviour at the earliest opportunity through a combination of prevention, enforcement and support & resettlement activities.

All case participants will be treated with dignity and respect, with individual vulnerabilities and safeguarding needs identified and provided for.

What is anti-social behaviour?

- When someone does something that most people would say is unreasonable
- Something that causes harassment, alarm or distress
- Something that causes a nuisance or annoyance

Anti-social behaviour can be experienced:

- At home (because of the behaviour of neighbours)
- On a street or in a local area
- In public, communal areas such as parks
- On public transport

How to report anti-social behaviour

It is important that anti-social behaviour and nuisance are dealt with by the appropriate agency and not allowed to escalate. Someone who rents their home from Housing Leeds, a housing association, private landlord or agency should report the problem to them first. Anyone that owns their own home or if the problems are persistent or serious should report directly to Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

By telephone: 0113 222 4402 Monday – Friday 8am – 6pm

By email: LASBT@leeds.gov.uk

In person: Visit your local housing office or One Stop Centre

How is antisocial behaviour investigated?

There are five basic questions that are asked when someone reports anti-social behaviour or a noise nuisance:

Where? Is the problem in your home, outside your home, or somewhere else? Be as specific about the location as you can.

When?	When and how often does the nuisance occur? Is it day or night? Provide dates and times for each incident.
Who?	Are the person or people involved known to you? Can you describe them?
Why?	Is there a reason why you are being targeted? Has a relationship broke down? Is this an issue affecting other people in the community?
What?	What is the nuisance behaviour? How serious or persistent is the problem?

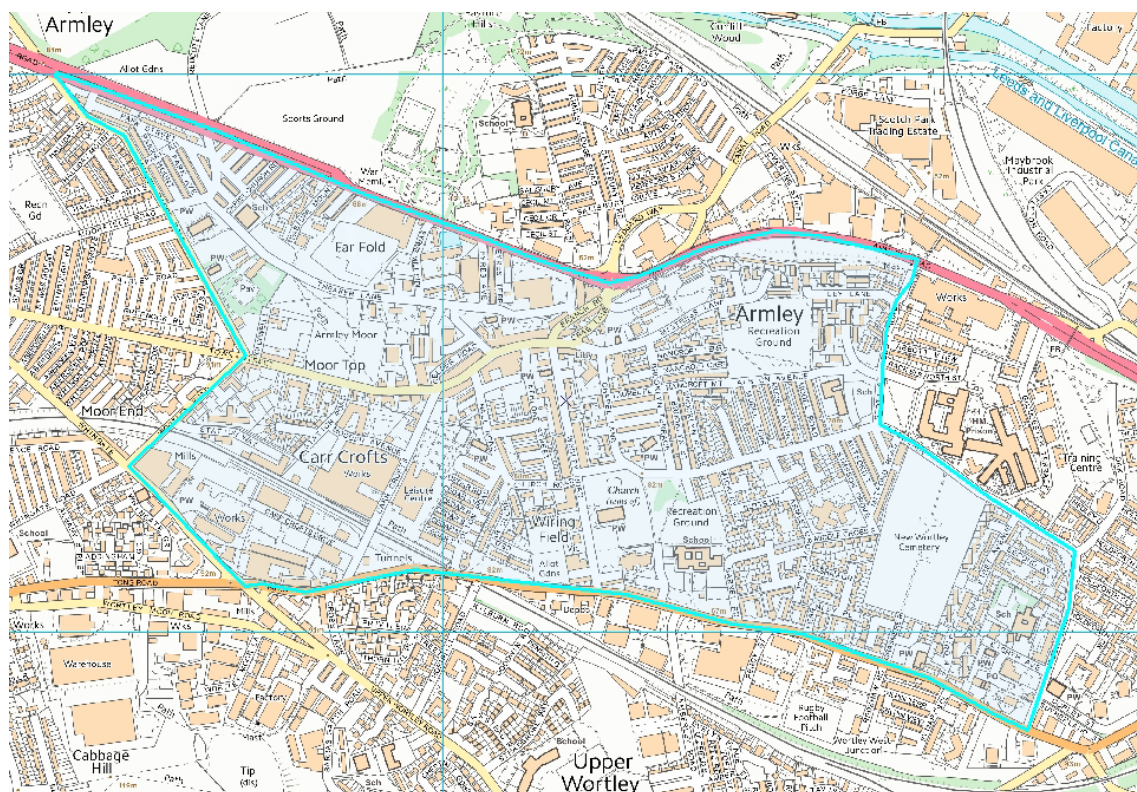
Once reported a LASBT Case Officer will explain the investigation process to the complainant. No action will be taken without their consent. The officer will update the complainant every 10 working days and will investigate and aim to resolve the problems at the earliest opportunity. They will consider the use of:

- Diversionary activities or support
- Restorative Conferences
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- ASB Warnings and Non Legal Remedies
- Referrals to Mediation
- Housing cautions
- Family Intervention Tenancy
- Injunctions
- Possession Orders or Eviction
- Premises Closure Orders
- Noise Abatement Notices
- Seizure of Noise Equipment

Anti-social behaviour in Armley

This report has been written to assess the level of antisocial behaviour being reported to LASBT with a view to supporting a proposed cumulative impact policy in Armley to stop the increase in off licensed premises.

When reports of ASB are received the initial contact with customers and service users is categorised as an enquiry. Once LASBT has established the enquiry has met the required criteria and is appropriate for further investigation, this then becomes an open investigation allocated to a LASBT Case Officer. This can then lead to a number of outcomes. Described below are the number of enquiries, investigations and specific actions that are related to Armley ward and the specific area around Town Street.



Enquiries

Enquiries within Leeds City Council are used to manage the initial contact with customers and service users. Enquiries are received from a number of sources such as:

- Council's telephone contact centre
- emails/web forms direct from customers
- via local ward members/MPs
- referred from agencies such as West Yorkshire Police and Stop Hate UK.

Enquiries relating to antisocial behaviour or criminality, once assessed as appropriate for further investigation, are then categorised as cases.

The below table shows enquiries received by Leeds City Council categorised as anti-social behaviour in the past 12 months for the Whole of Armley Ward area. For the purpose of the proposed cumulative impact policy, further analysis has been done relating to the area surrounding and including Town Street, Armley.

	Armley Ward	Armley Town Street and area
Abuse/Intimidation/Harassment	17	6
Criminal Damage & Vandalism	9	3
Drug/Substance Supply & Misuse	5	1
Hate Crime - Race	14	3
Hate Crime - Racial	1	0
Hate Crime - Sexual Identity	1	0
Neighbour Disputes	9	4
Noise Nuisance	158	36
Nuisance & Rowdy Behaviour	31	9
Property Alarm	3	2
Vehicle Related Nuisance	3	2
Violence	4	2
Grand Total	255	68

This shows that the area identified accounts for 26.7% of all ASB related enquiries for the Armley Ward in the preceding 12 months.

Within the enquiries for this area, there are a number of specific issues highlighting alcohol as a contributing factor to the ASB reported, a sample of which are below:

- **Burnsall Grange** - April 2015 – A resident of Burnsall Grange reports individuals sleeping in the communal areas and urinating in the lifts.
- **Westerly Rise** - April 2015 – A resident of Westerly Rise contacted the Council to complain about groups of people using the car park of the block to gather and drink alcohol. It goes on to say that

this results in rowdy behaviour and the car park being littered with smashed glass, cans and bottles making it unpleasant and hazardous for residents.

- **Armley Town Street** - May 2015 – A Male resident who resides outside this specific central Armley area, contacted the council to express his concerns about a group of males who are “drinking and congregating, blocking the pavements and making shopping on town street quite unpleasant.”
- **Sir Karl Cohen Square** - January 2015 and June 2015 (repeat) - A female resident at a Sheltered Housing Scheme which faces on to Armley Town Street was assaulted outside the complex by a female, known to her who was in drink
- **Eyres Terrace** - August 2015 – A resident on Eyres Terrace reported that a male identified as a persistent street drinker present on Armley Town Street had been sleeping rough adjacent to her house and littering the area
- **Athlone Grove** - October 2015 - A resident of Athlone Grove reported being intimidated by a male who was heavily intoxicated on Armley Town Street, was sat on the pavement and had let his dog off the lead. The caller said that they often see this male drinking on the street in the area of Town Street and in particularly at the rear of the shops on Town Street.

Investigations

Once an enquiry is assessed as meeting LASBT criteria, and being appropriate for further investigation, this then becomes an open investigation allocated to a LASBT Case Officer.

In the financial YTD 2015/16, LASBT have handled 97 case investigations in the whole of the Armley Ward area. At time of reporting, 33 are active investigations, and 64 are closed or finalised. For the purpose of the proposed CIP, further analysis has been done relating to the area surrounding and including Town Street, Armley. During 2015/16 YTD LASBT have managed 29 cases in the area in question, and at time of reporting, 8 are active investigations, 21 are closed or finalised.

	Armley Ward	Armley Town Street and area
Alcohol related	12	3
Criminality	8	2
Drug/Substance misuse/dealing	13	4
Hate Crime Race	7	3
Misuse of Public Space	5	2
Noise	23	6
Nuisance Vehicles	2	0
Rowdy Behaviour	9	2
Threats/Actual Violence	9	3
Vandalism/Damage to Property	2	2
Verbal Abuse	7	2
Total	97	29

This shows that the area concerned accounts for 29.9% of ASB casework in the Armley ward area during 2015/16 YTD.

Case Management - Specific Issues Arising

Within the LASBT case investigations for this area, there are a number of specific issues highlighting alcohol as a contributing factor to the ASB reported, a sample of which are below:

- **Theaker Lane** – A resident in the area of Theaker Lane made complaints about 2 disused buildings “The Old Chapel” and the medical centre on Theaker Lane. The complaints were that there were groups of people gathering on the corner of Theaker lane, and the junction of Town Street/Gelder Road who were drinking excessively, and whilst in drink were behaving in a rowdy fashion, urinating in public and making inappropriate advances towards lone females. The group of drinkers were also gaining access to the derelict buildings identified for the purposes of sleeping/drinking. Through partnership working the buildings were secured and the area cleaned. Upon cleaning, one of the staff members doing the work managed to fill a standard sized wheelie bin with nothing but empty vodka bottles that had been found on the public grassed areas and the nearby undergrowth.
- **Town Street (residential property)** – Complaints received about council owned domestic properties on Town Street where the resident of one property, whilst in drink, was causing excessive noise nuisance, throwing items out of the flat windows and setting them alight, and the tenant was alleged to have threatened another resident. Alcohol was identified as a factor, and the accused would regularly visit another property which was used like an “open house” for people to drink alcohol, visitors were regularly seen attending with large amounts of alcohol throughout the day and this caused noise disturbance to the neighbours.
- **Burnsall Grange** - numerous residents made complaints that related largely to vagrancy and misuse of the communal areas of the block by people unknown which included sleeping, drinking alcohol, using drugs and urinating/defecating in communal areas.

One specific further issue was highlighted in relation to a male who was the partner of a resident who would continually attend the block at all hours of the day and into the early hours of the morning shouting foul abuse, causing damage and assaulting his partner, all of which whilst in drink.

- **Street drinking around Armley Town Street** – as identified below, concerns from residents and businesses became apparent in relation to groups of males gathering on Armley Town Street openly drinking alcohol on street within the DPPO area and whilst in drink behaving in a disruptive and anti-social way. This involved assaults on shop staff, verbal abuse, fighting, public urination and littering. This led to successful court action being taken against a core of individuals identified as involved (see “Injunctions against street drinkers” below).

Offender Management/Legal Orders:

LASBT Caseloads are within 3 categories, Open, closed and Offender Management. The LASBT Teams have a dedicated Offender Management Officer, one of their duties is managing cases where court orders are in force. They monitor the cases, engage with the victims, witnesses and accused as well as liaise with relevant partner agencies. They also have responsibility for the enforcement of court orders such as injunctions and possession orders including applications for committal upon breach of injunction.

There are currently 7 injunction orders that are in force in relation to the area in question. 1 order, which is tied to a suspended possession order relates to a male in the Hall Lane area, and involves numerous breaches of tenancy. The other 6 relate to ASB where the use of alcohol is a major contributing factor.

Injunctions against “Street Drinkers”

During the Spring months of 2015 an issue was identified through partnership working in the vicinity of Town Street, including analysis of police calls for service and intelligence, complaints to the Council (enquiries – see above), and engagement with local residents and businesses. The issue of concern related to a group of predominantly white British adult males gathering on Armley Town Street and drinking alcohol to excess in public despite there being a Designated Public Places Order in place prohibiting drinking alcohol in public.

The information received indicated that whilst in drink this cohort of street drinkers engaged in anti-social behaviour including public urination, littering, loud and rowdy behaviour, sleeping in the street, fighting and disturbing not only shoppers/residents but interfering with the smooth running of a number of businesses in the area.

The main areas where this behaviour played out were around the William Hill Bookmakers on town Street, at the bus stops outside the Co-Op and Greggs stores on Town Street, at the disused medical centre on Theaker Lane and at the rear of shop premises such as the Co-Op on Town Street and Wilkinsons on Stanningley Road. Further complaints were also received from residents, predominantly from Council owned multi-storey flats just off Town Street, most notably Burnsall Grange, and Westerly Rise (See enquiries above)

Through local partnership working, a core of 6 individuals was identified and evidence gathered in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour. Within the evidence used for the 6 injunctions, there were a total of 106 incidents, all of these incidents were in the area concerned, that being Armley Town Street and it's immediate vicinity. The behaviour perpetrated either individually or as a group included drinking on street/having alcohol seized under DPPO rules, public urination, being incapacitated through drink, verbal abuse, fighting and shop theft.

In one particular case, the behaviour was more widespread and involved acts of violence. This individual was involved in numerous incidents of ASB at Burnsall Grange whilst in drink including shouting, swearing and other disorderly conduct at the block and in the car park at various times of day including the early hours of the morning. He also engaged in theft from Shops at ALDI on Kirkstall Road, and the Greggs and Co-Op stores on Armley Town Street, and when challenged he became verbally abusive and was violent towards the staff which in one case involved kicking and punching a shop managers head whilst he was on the floor after he had rugby tackled him to the ground. This occurred on Armley Town Street and the area will have been busy with shoppers at that time. There then followed incidents specifically targeted at shop staff at the Co-Op on Armley Town Street, including foul verbal abuse of a female member of staff whilst in drink.

All 6 cases against those identified as problematic street drinkers in this area were successful at court and the defendants are now being offender managed within LASBT.

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Safer Leeds
Working in partnership to keep communities safe