

Reducing neighbourhood crime and ASB, including in the night- time economy

SCP Strategy 2022-2025

Why is this a priority?

- It is important that residents, students, workers and visitors to the City should feel safe and be free from fear of victimisation.
 - To support this, we will focus efforts on reducing anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime³, with a focus on maintaining a safe night time economy in the City.
 - We will seek to focus on issues identified through data analysis, reported issues, community concerns and issues raised by effective partnership engagement. This will help us develop localised commitments to tackle the problems residents are most concerned about in partnership – for example, antisocial street drinking, aggressive begging, anti-social cycling, bicycle theft and other acquisitive crime offences (in particular around small portable goods such as mobile phones).
 - Reducing ASB is pivotal in maintaining a safer, cleaner City of London. The impact of ASB can be devastating to residents, businesses and visitors. For victims and the wider community, it can become a destructive, cumulative issue leading to a poor quality of life. It often overlaps with more serious crime, and this can contribute to communities feeling unsafe where they live and work.
1. ASB is a conduct that:
 - has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household
 - is capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises is capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person”
 2. Given the broad definition, we recognise people will have difference thresholds and tolerances for anti-social behaviour. All agencies will take reports of anti-social behaviour seriously. Some of these examples can also be criminal offences, and when that is the case, we maintain a strong partnership approach to deal with those causing the problems.
 3. We also know that often those responsible for ASB are often vulnerable themselves. We recognise that ASB-related behaviours can be symptomatic of other issues which require support and care. We are committed to working in partnership to safeguard, support and protect vulnerable residents and provide meaningful opportunities for behaviour change.
 4. We know that ASB is a concern for people visiting or living in the Square Mile. Of those who responded to our survey, 37% of residents reported that anti-social behaviour was a concern; this is the third highest concern noted. Whilst 96% of those surveyed felt safe in the City in the day, this drops to 71% at night.

5. There is an overlap between hotspots for violent crime and hotspots for anti-social behaviour in the borough. Whilst the link is not necessarily causal, there are benefits in aligning approaches to tackling both. Addressing anti-social behaviour in the Square Mile is a complex matter that requires the attention of many different agencies.



ASB hotspots in the Square Mile

6. With the development of the Culture Mile and the “Destination City” strategy, the City’s increasing night time economy brings a range of benefits and associated issues such as noise and other ASB, alcohol-related violent crime, theft, sexual offences and issues around the supply of drugs. A firm strategy to reduce these risks will be vital to support the safe growth of the City as a night-time destination.

7. Key issues include:

- Drug and Alcohol related antisocial behaviour and crime
- Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour
- Sexual violence⁴
- Street drinking and begging

8. Our aims and strategic intentions

- Continuously deliver a victim-focused response to ASB
- Address the full spectrum of ASB, from littering and graffiti, to alcohol and drug-related ASB
- Deliver our licensing objectives as outlined in the City of London Licensing Policy, namely:
 - the prevention of crime and disorder
 - public safety
 - the prevention of public nuisance
 - the protection of children from harm
- Ensure the City’s Night-Time Economy is a safe, thriving, and prosperous venue

- Safeguard vulnerable victims and perpetrators of ASB, working in partnership with the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children's Partnership.
- Improve our understanding of ASB to deliver a more informed approach to tackling the underlying drivers of demand.

How will we achieve this?

9. We have agreed five objectives to deliver this priority:

Inform

10. We will work with partners to undertake communications campaigns with regard to the night-time economy, focusing on issues such as safer drinking, sexual and gender-based violence, and nuisance behaviour.
11. We will use communications campaigns to promote messaging around steps people can take to reduce the likelihood of being victims of acquisitive crime.
12. Responsible partner members will deliver a communications campaign which will seek to reassure residents regarding issues around fear of crime. This will be combined with opportunities to advertise ASB services to help residents access support when required. A focus on countering negative messaging around anti-social behaviour will also be undertaken by relevant partners, in order to improve perceptions around safety in our communities.

Identify

13.
 - Responsible partner members will also work with partners to identify:
 - Hotspot locations for night-time economy issues, acquisitive crime, and ASB
 - Profiles of likely victims and offenders
 - Premises of concern
 - An understanding of the time of incidents
 - Community priorities to address

14.

The partnership will use this information to inform operational interventions and activities. We will take a problem-oriented approach using analysis to inform interventions. This will include the development of local multi-agency tasking groups. These groups will listen to issues raised by each community and seek to address them, working with the communities and being transparent and accountable on progress. We will work to continually improve our ASB reporting systems and

share information to identify repeat locations and vulnerability.

Prevention

15.

Responsible partners will seek to prevent acquisitive crime and ASB by strengthening communities and the environment to make them more resilient:

- Ensuring a strong CCTV service is in place and is visible to residents.
- Continue the Work with licensed premises to help them manage crime and ASB more effectively and reduce the opportunities
- We aim to continue with our intelligence led area based approach using analytical products and reports

Protect and Support

16.

When ASB does occur, partners will act quickly and appropriately to minimise the impact through multi-agency working and utilising a range of powers available to partnership members such as:

- Rapid communication with victims and perpetrators (where known)
- Warning letters
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- Community Protection Warning
- Premise Closure Notices

17.

Being either a victim or perpetrator of ASB can suggest that someone is vulnerable and in need of support. We will seek to:

- Signpost access to Drug and Alcohol Support services including:
 - Introduction to Change
 - Alcohol Resolution Clinic
 - Managing Alcohol Programme
 - Recovery Skills
 - Acceptance and Commitment Therapy
- Report Rough Sleepers to the Homelessness Service
- Provide effective support to ASB victims in a neighbourhood setting
- Make referrals to the Community Mental Health team as appropriate
- We will provide access to the Community Trigger process for those who are repeat victims of ASB

Pursue and Prosecute

18.

Enforcement is a last resort but will sometimes be necessary in order to effectively manage a problem. Where problems are ongoing and consistent we will make robust use of crime and ASB enforcement powers.

19.

We will seek to identify and bring to justice perpetrators of violence and in particular sexual violence.