

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in Torbay

We all want the community in which we live to be free from anti-social behaviour. When anti-social behaviour happens, we all want it dealt with so that we can feel safe in our community. When anti-social behaviour happens, Safer Communities Torbay can help.

Safer Communities Torbay is part of Torbay Council and we work with a number of local agencies including the police, youth offending teams and residential social landlords to tackle anti-social behaviour. We use a range of tools and powers and will take enforcement action through the Courts to protect the community, if necessary. For this to be effective, the community needs to take an active role. All complaints of anti-social behaviour need to be evidenced should we need to use enforcement powers to stop it. This is why, when we receive complaints of anti-social behaviour, we issue diary sheets for people to record what they see, when they see it, who they see and where they see it. This information is vital. By taking a stand against anti-social behaviour, together we can stop it.

It's your Community take a stand - Call 01803 207900

Safer Communities has a dedicated hotline number to report incidents of anti-social behaviour. By calling 01803 207900 you can report an incident of anti-social behaviour, which will then be passed onto the appropriate Local Agency or Officer.

Enforcement action in Practice

Safer Communities recently successfully applied for and obtained Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) against four people who were causing a lot of anti-social behaviour in a specific community, which was adversely affecting many people.

The males had particularly been targeting the local supermarket and a local convenience store whereby they had threatened staff and abused customers.

Despite a series of warnings and offers of support in relation to accessing further education and employment services their behaviour did not change.

Further reports were received that the four individuals had continued to behave anti socially particularly at the local supermarket which CCTV footage also proved.

Due to the severity of the complaints and the need to protect the community it was decided that enforcement action was needed.

Torbay Council gathered sufficient evidence to apply for ASBO's that were eventually granted by the courts for the four males and are in place until 2011.

These orders mean that the four males cannot enter a marked area, associate with each other and other named individuals, ban them from wearing hooded clothing, hats and caps and also prohibit them from drinking alcohol in a public place.

Since this action has been taken, reports of anti-social behaviour have dramatically reduced and there has been a marked decrease in criminal activity.

The success of this case was due to the community coming forward to take a stand. By reporting the incidents, completing diary sheets and giving statements to the police Torbay Council were able to put together a robust case for Court which resulted in the granting of the ASBO's.

Andy Evans, a security guard employed by one of the company's affected by these individuals said

"These individuals were causing a lot of problems to the business community, and a lot of people were getting fed up with their anti-social behaviour. The ASBO's secured against these individual has made a tremendous difference to where I live and work. I was supported throughout the case and would happily come forward again to report anti-social behaviour".

Safer Communities understands that residents may be apprehensive about coming forward to take a stand against anti-social behaviour, so we will support you throughout the process.



**Safer
Communities
Torbay**

Working with you for you