

ASBO's: Fact and Fiction

- Fiction:** ASBOs are only given to young people.
- Fact:** Statistics show more adults receive ASBOs than young people.
- Fiction:** ASBOs are badges of honour.
- Fact:** People who do not have an ASBO do not understand what it is like to live with one.
- Fiction:** If the ASBO is breached, it has failed.
- Fact:** If the conditions are broken more measures can be put in place to protect the public throughout the duration of the ASBO.

Who can you call?

- Neighbourhood Policing Team
0845 456 4567
- Anti-social Behaviour Unit
01263 516139/516207
- If you rent your property you should also contact your landlord.

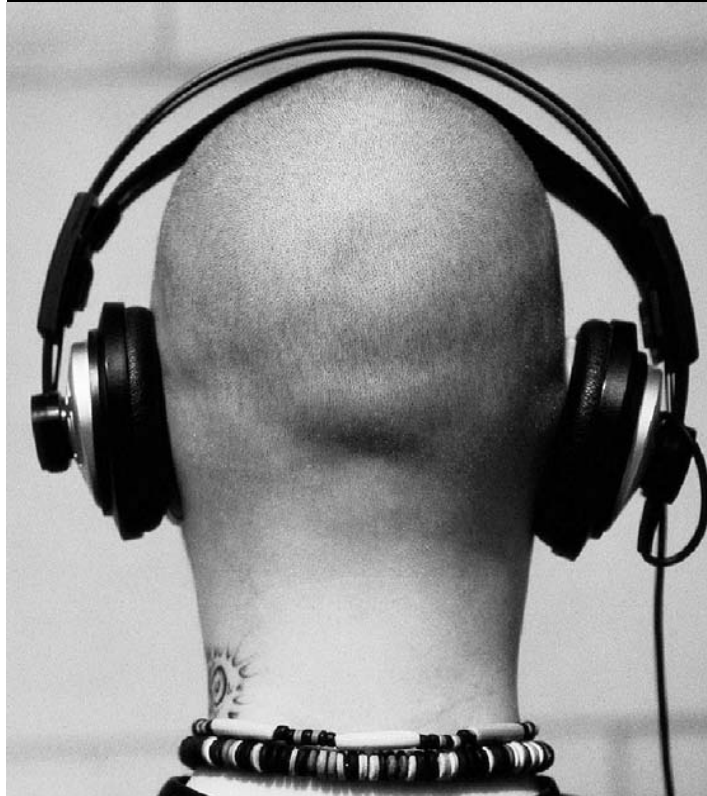
Who are the Safer Communities Partnership?

The North Norfolk Safer Communities Partnership is made up of many agencies, some of which you will recognise below. We work together, where appropriate, according to the needs of the individual to make sure the right support is given to all involved in anti-social behaviour. This includes the person causing ASB, the victim and anyone else affected by the ASB.



If you would like this leaflet in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please call the ASB Team on 01263 513811.

face the music



voluntary contracts & asbo's explained

What is an Acceptable Behaviour Contract?

A voluntary Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) is an agreement between an individual, their parent/guardian (if under 18 years) and the North Norfolk Safer Communities Partnership (NNSCP). The individual agrees that they will not act anti-socially and the ABC sets out conditions they agree to.

Why am I being asked to sign an ABC?

You have acted in a way which has caused harassment, alarm, nuisance or distress to others. NNSCP will not allow the behaviour to continue and want to make sure you understand why. Signing an ABC shows you understand what you have done and that you are willing to try and change the way you do things in the future.

What happens if I break the ABC?

If you break the agreement NNSCP can, as appropriate take the following action:

- Extend the conditions of the ABC;
- Apply to a Magistrates' Court for an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) against you;
- Take legal action against your parent/guardian which may result in the loss of their tenancy;
- Take other legal action in the form of an injunction against you and/or your parent/guardian.

The action that the NNSCP takes will depend on the type and seriousness of the behaviour

How long does the ABC last for?

An ABC usually lasts for 6 months but can be extended if you continue your anti-social behaviour.

Where must I behave?

The ABC will apply everywhere within the District of North Norfolk.

Who will be checking that I behave?

All agencies within the Partnership will have a copy of the ABC and this includes the CCTV Control Room.

What happens if I do not sign the ABC?

You do not have to sign this voluntary contract. The ABC gives you time to change your behaviour without the need for legal action.

An ABC is not legally binding but it can be used as evidence in court for ASBO applications or eviction/possession action. This applies whether you sign the contract or not.

If you continue to act anti-socially the Partnership will apply for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order or take other legal action.

What is an Anti-Social Behaviour Order?

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are court orders that protect the public from behaviour that causes, or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress. They have conditions that prevent you from doing certain things, going to certain places or spending time with certain people. They are designed to protect the public and to prevent an individual from acting anti-socially in the future.

Who can get an ASBO and how long does it last?

ASBOs can be given to anyone aged 10 years or over. They are for a minimum of 2 years, though can be made for life if the behaviour is serious enough, but are formally reviewed annually.

What happens if I break the conditions of my ASBO?

Breaking the conditions of an ASBO is a criminal offence, you can be arrested and attend court. If you are guilty the judge decides a punishment based on your age and how serious the breach was. If found guilty you will have a criminal record, as well as a combination of a fine, a community sentence or being sent to prison*.

*Adults can be sentenced up to 5 years and young people can receive up to 2 years in a Young Offenders Institute.