

ITEM No ...8.....

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 25 SEPTEMBER 2023
REPORT ON: ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – APRIL – JUNE 2023
REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
REPORT NO: 244-2023

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview on the reporting figures to the Neighbourhood Services - Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Team for the period 1st April – 30th June 2023.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1. It is recommended that Committee notes the report.

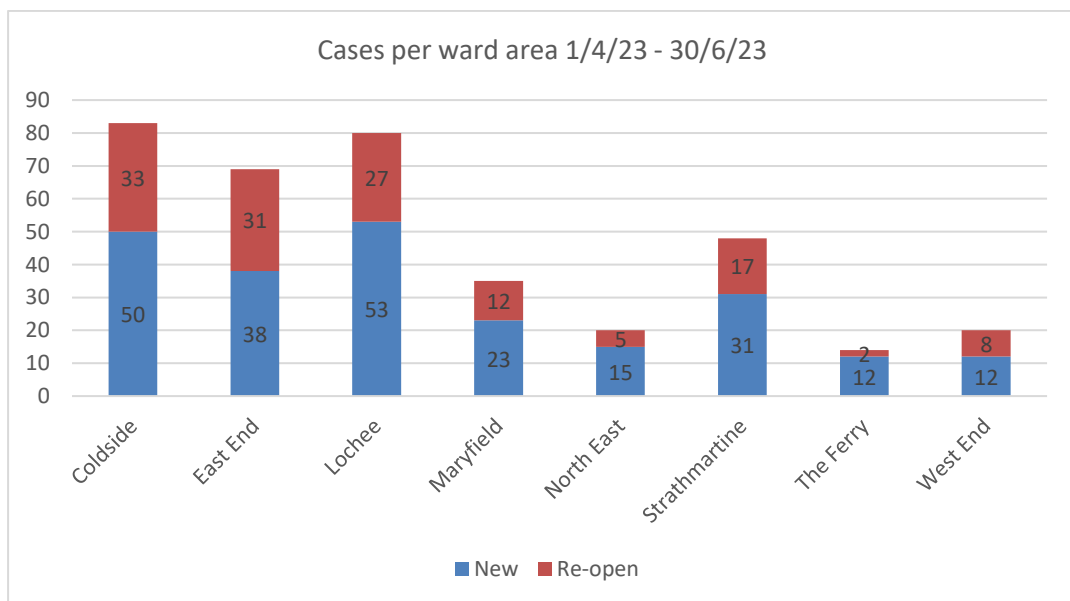
3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4 DATA RELATING TO REPORTING PERIOD

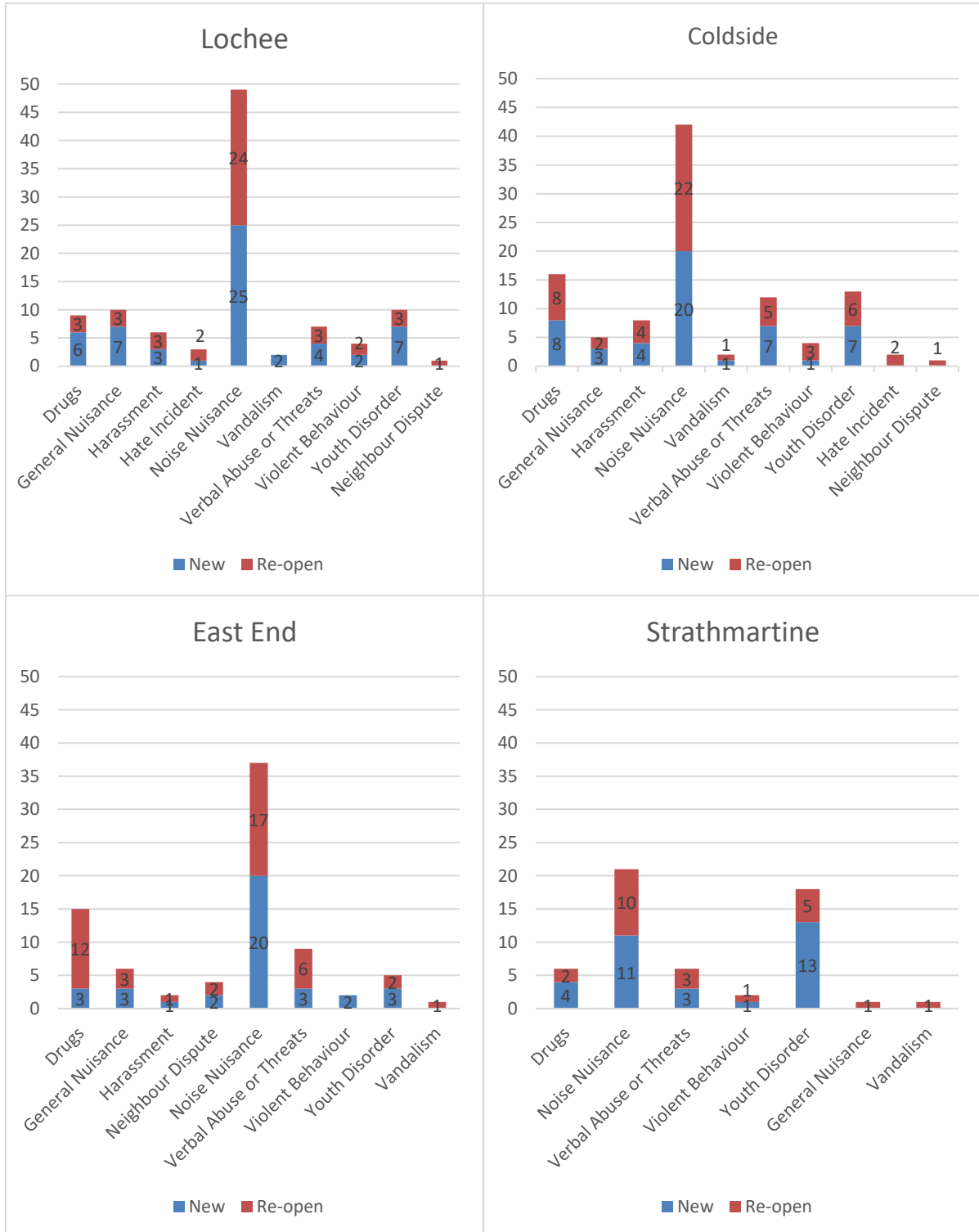
A total of 369 cases of antisocial behaviour have been recorded during the reporting period. Out of these 369 cases, 234 are new cases and 135 have been re-opened to the team. The cases re-opened are not necessarily cases which had been raised initially during this quarter and most likely from previous reporting periods. This compares to 401 cases last quarter (268 new and 133 re-opens). This is a slight reduction on last period (-32) and a slight reduction compared with the same period last year (-34).

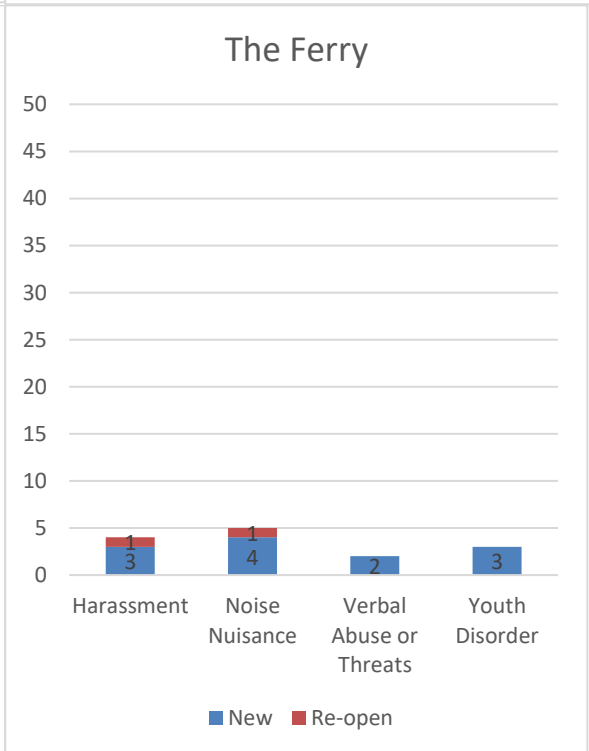
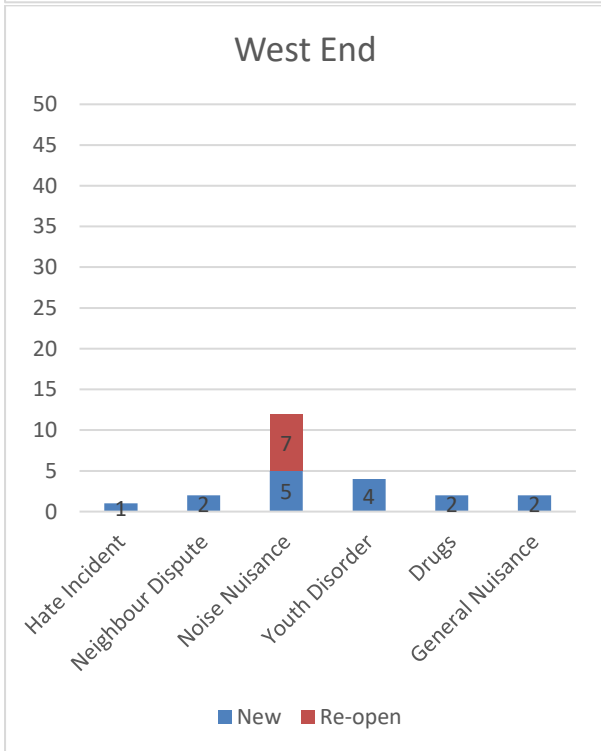
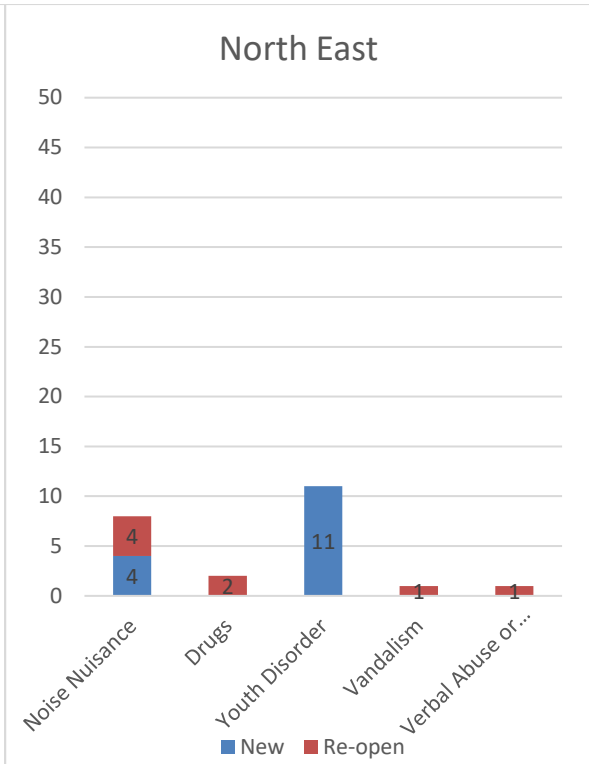
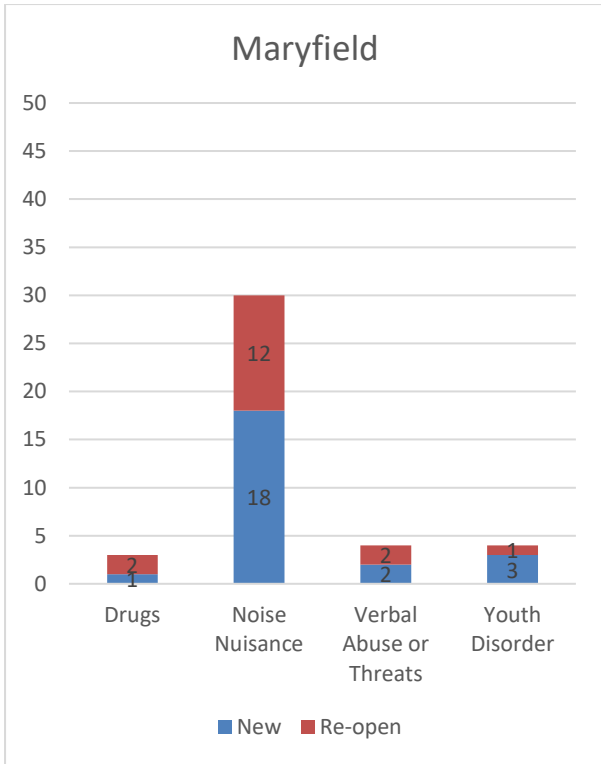
4.1 Number of cases recorded per multi member ward area between 1/04/23 – 30/06/23:



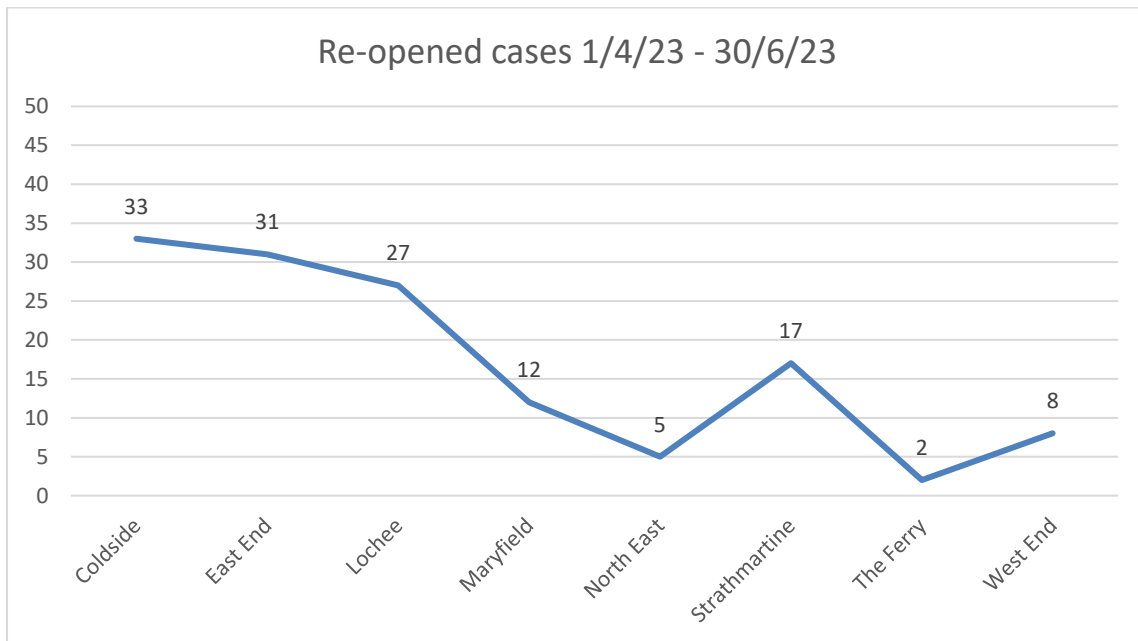
The above graph shows the number of new cases against the number of re-opened cases reported.

4.2 Types of complaints (new and re-opened) per multi member ward area between 1/4/23 – 30/6/23. Please note some cases have multiple categories applied, therefore the total numbers of categories may be slightly higher than the number of cases.



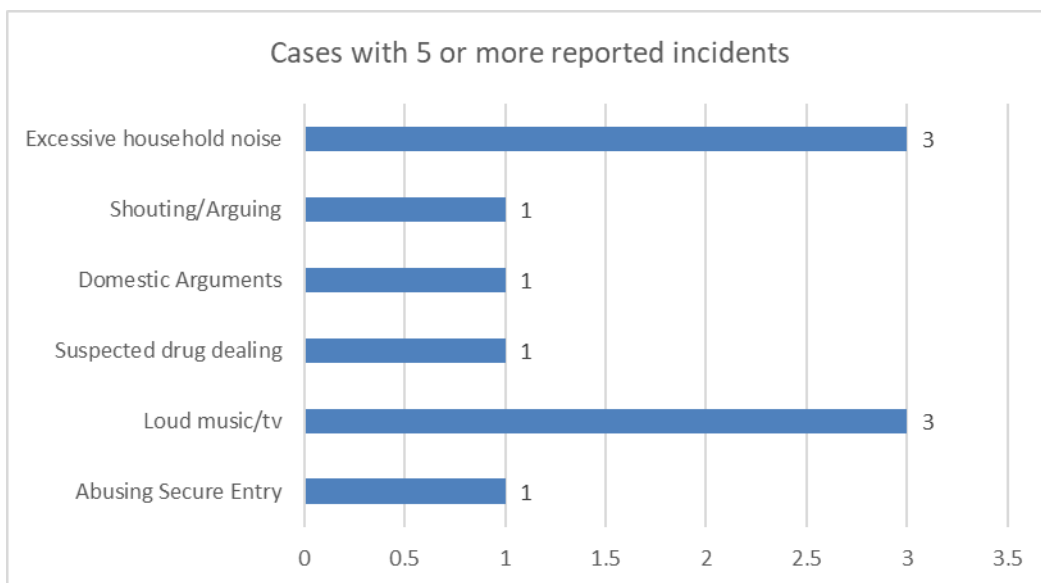


4.3 The graph below shows the number of re-opened cases in each ward area:

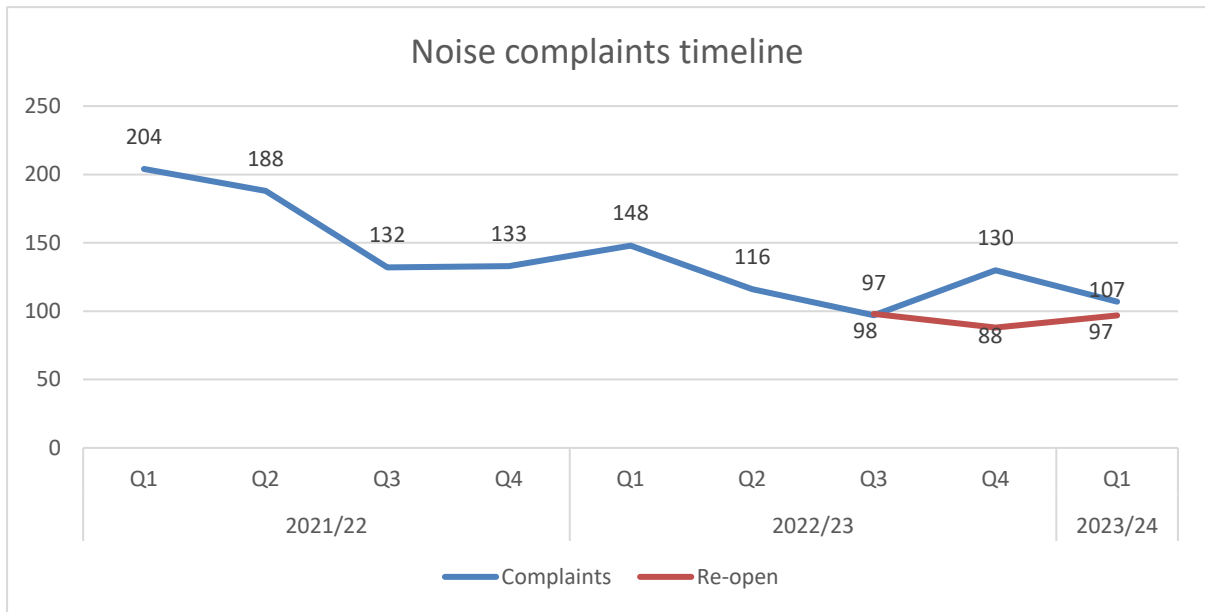


As with the ward specific graphs above, this shows the majority of re-opened cases remain in the areas with the highest number of over all complaints. Noise complaints account for the majority of re-opened cases (74%) and have increased this quarter compared to last quarter (+2)

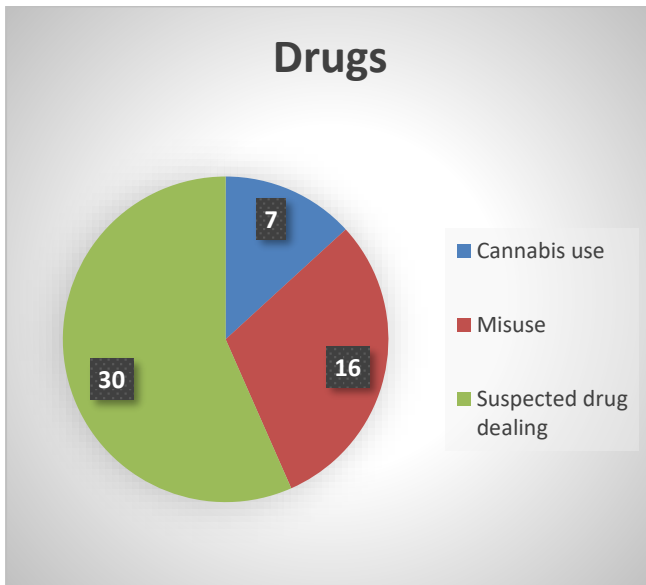
Below are the cases received during the reporting period, where 5 or more incidents have been reported. This shows only a small amount of cases where there are repeated issues, and the main causes of repeated incidents being noise: loud music/television and household noise.



4.4 Consistent with previous reports, noise nuisance has been the highest reported complaint over all. The noise timeline below shows the current pattern for noise complaints. It should be noted that data up to Q2 of 2022/23 did not illustrate how many complaints were new and this was applied from Q3 of that year onwards. Over all noise complaints remain consistently high, with a total of 207 reported in Q1 of 2023/34.

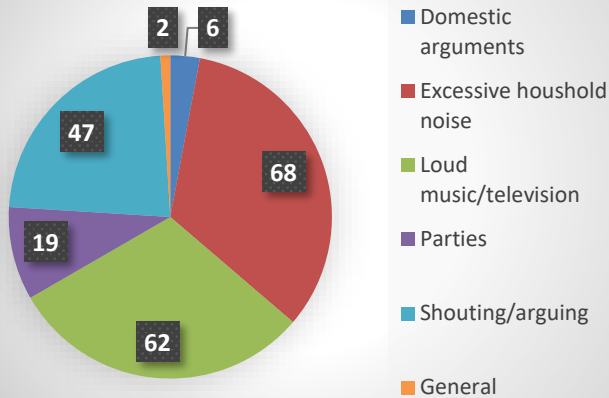


4.5 The graphs below show further breakdowns of all complaints in terms of sub-categories:



Drugs cases have increased since last quarter from 46 to 53. Figures for each sub-category have, however, remained fairly consistent with suspected drug dealing remaining the most reported type of drug related antisocial behaviour.

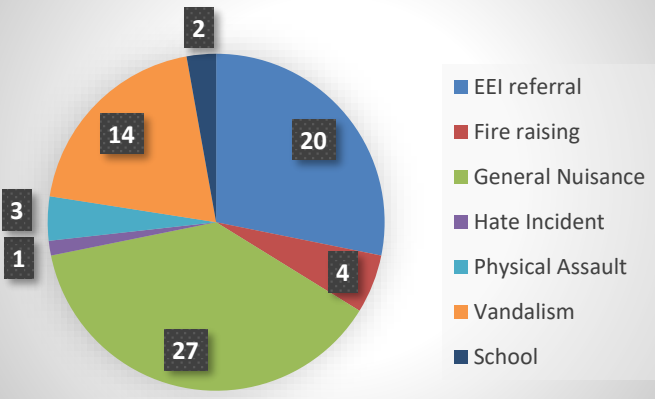
Noise nuisance



There have been 204 reported noise related complaints which is slightly lower than the number of noise related cases reported last quarter (237).

As in previous periods reports of excessive household noise dominates the complaints received. Again, this is followed by loud music or television consistent with previous reports.

Youth Disorder

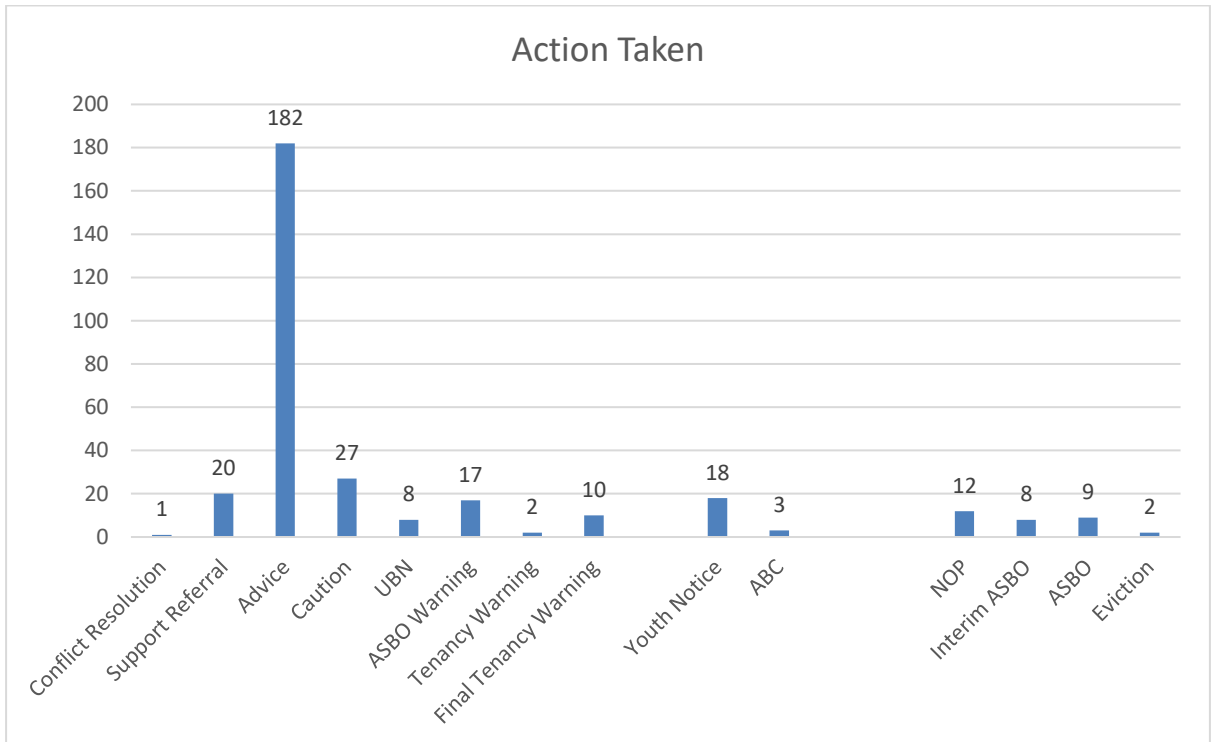


Reports of youth disorder are continuing to increase (+13). Close working links with partners continues to allow ASB officers to positively identify young people involved in antisocial behaviour. Serious incidents remain low (10 cases) with the majority of reports relating to general nuisance (27).

The majority of reports relating to youth related antisocial behaviour are received from partner agencies.

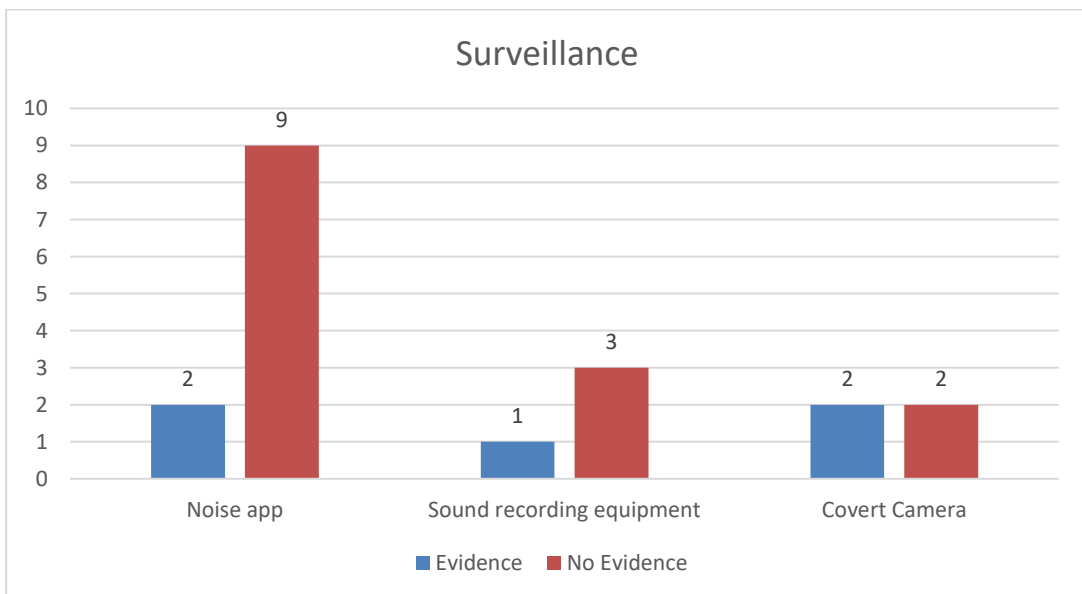
4.6 Actions taken:

Given the small number of legal actions required, this report will provide figures on a citywide basis to ensure anonymity.



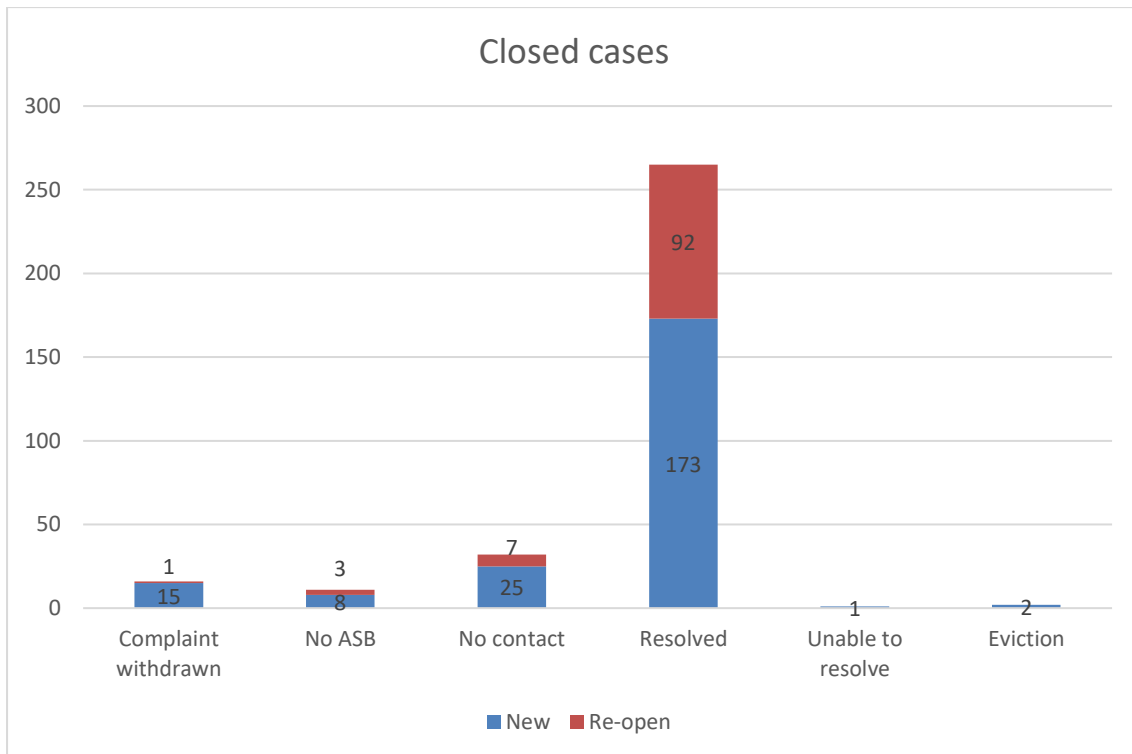
4.7. Surveillance:

To assist with investigating complaints of antisocial behaviour, the team has access to various surveillance options. The table below shows the use of surveillance over the reporting period and outcomes:



All outcomes provide a resolution to the case. Use of surveillance will either allow the team to progress appropriate action or to feedback that the complaint does not constitute antisocial behaviour.

4.8 327 cases have been closed within the reporting period. The graph below shows the case closure reasons, the majority of cases shown are resolved, with only a nominal portion being closed as unresolved (1). There is also a portion which have been identified as no antisocial behaviour (11).



4.9 Case Study:

As can be seen from the above data, a number of cases are resolved at a very low level, however, there are some cases where more punitive action is required. Evictions are sought as a last resort in all asb cases and the team will work with partners and those engaging in antisocial behaviour to do all they can to avoid this.

The team have recently resolved a case which was heading towards eviction by this method. The complaint had first come to the teams' attention several years previous. The pattern of behaviour was that after intervention the behaviour would desist, then over time start up again. The main cause of the complaints was noise. The property formed part of a block of 6 flats and often there was more than one other resident affected by this.

In 2020 an Antisocial Behaviour Order was sought and granted against the tenant prohibiting her from acting in the manner they had been which was causing the disturbances. Throughout the duration of the complaint the Officer persisted in attempting to engage with the tenant which was on some occasions successful and other times not.

Despite the ASBO being granted, complaints did continue. As referred to above, this complaint had been ongoing for a considerable period of time and the team were considering eviction action as a conclusion to this case. The officer persisted in contact with the tenant and they did engage again. The tenant agreed to a support referral and also sought out additional support from local services. The Officer decided not to progress the eviction action and re-considered the case deciding a more suitable action which was to convert the tenancy to a Short Scottish Secure Tenancy (SSST). The SSST places a duty on landlords to ensure support is continued to be offered or provided during the term of the SSST.

This has now resulted in the tenant being willing to seek the assistance they need. The complaints have now stopped and the aim will be to ensure this tenant sustains the tenancy.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team were consulted on the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

Elaine Zwirlein
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17 August 2023

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