

ITEM No ...3.....

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE – 26TH SEPTEMBER 2022

REPORT ON: ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – APRIL – JUNE 2022

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 194-2022

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 2022.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1. It is recommended that Committee notes the report.

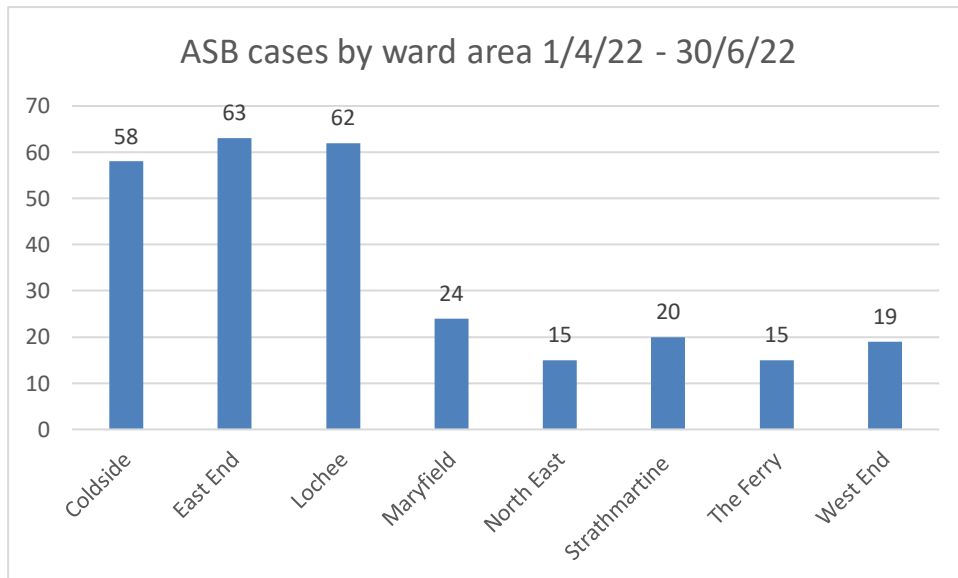
3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

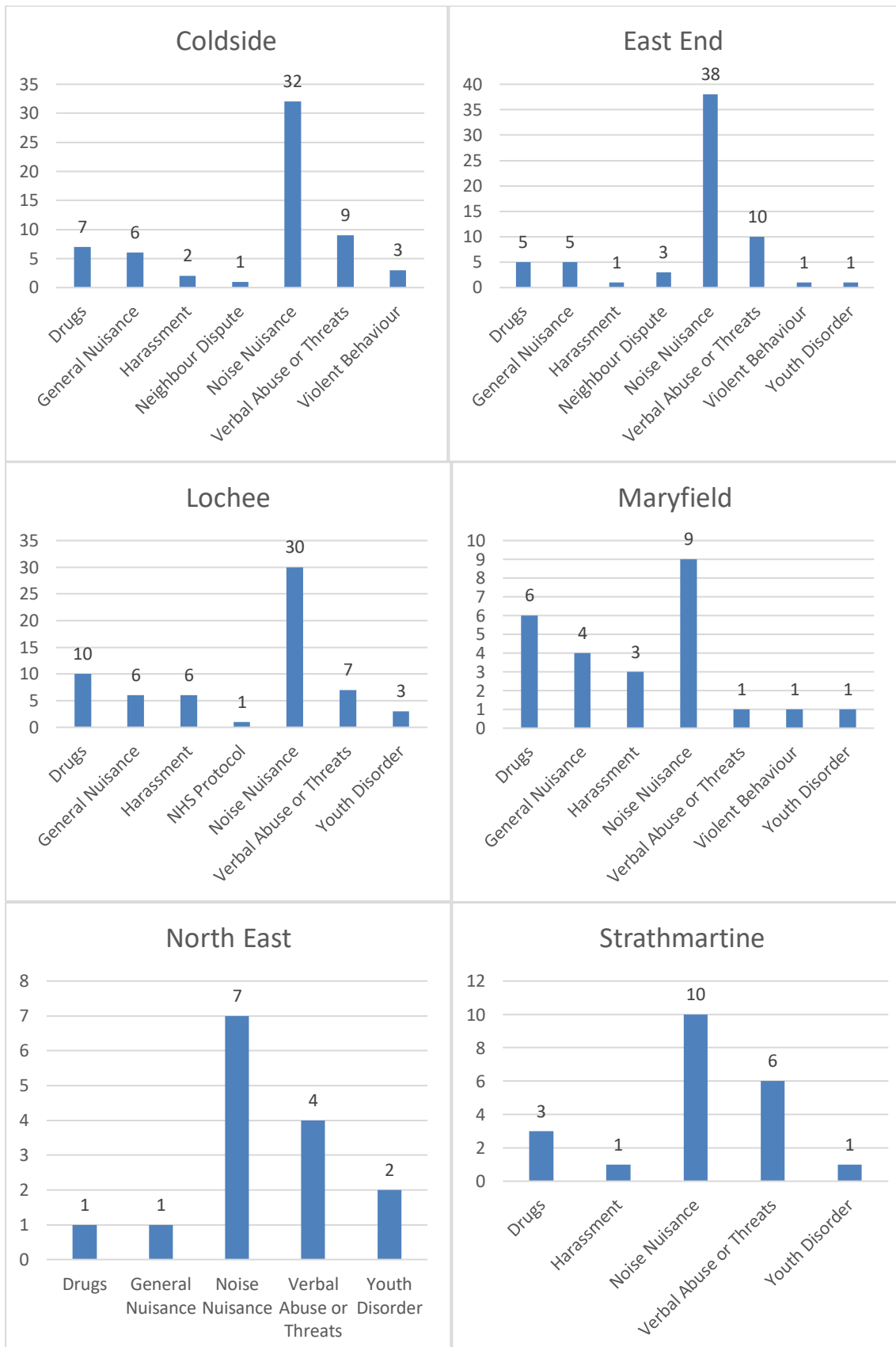
4 DATA RELATING TO REPORTING PERIOD

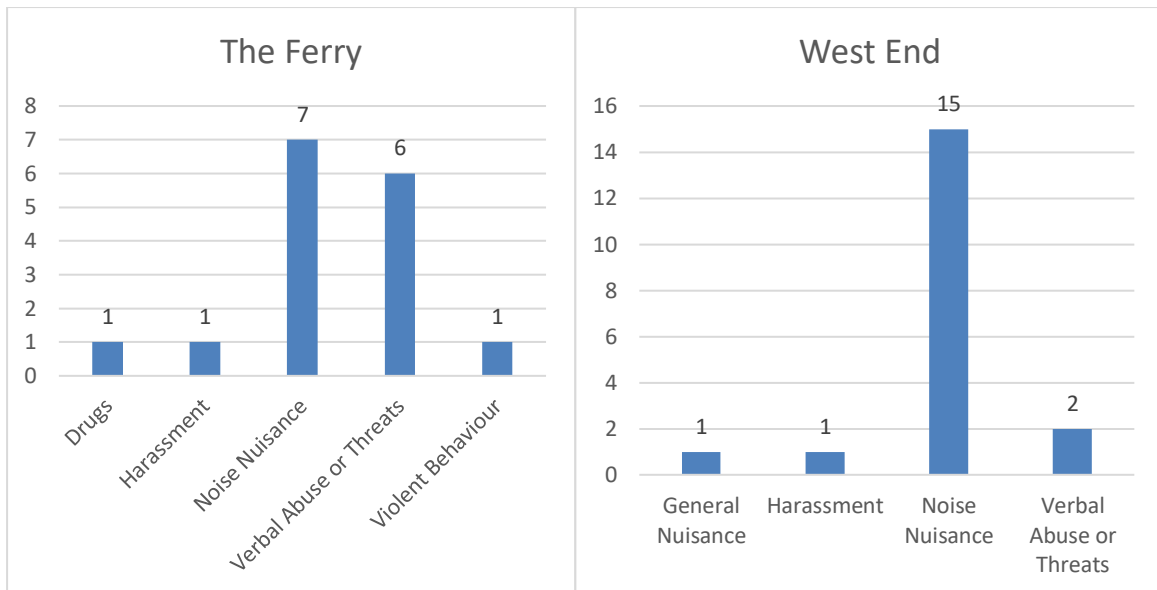
A total of 296 cases of antisocial behaviour have been recorded during this reporting period. Out of these 20 cases have been cancelled due to these being duplicate reports, leaving 276 cases to be dealt with by the Antisocial Behaviour Team.

4.1 Number of cases recorded per multi member ward area between 1/4/22 – 30/6/22:



Types of complaints per multi member ward area between 1/4/22 – 30/6/22. Please note some cases have multiple categories applied, therefore the total numbers of categories are slightly higher than the number of cases, 276 cases with 283 categories recorded.



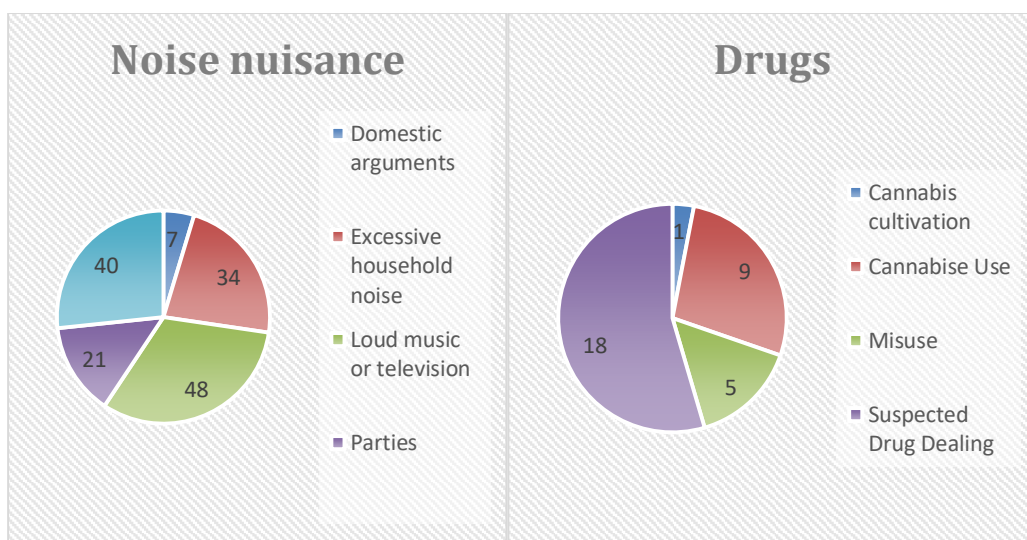


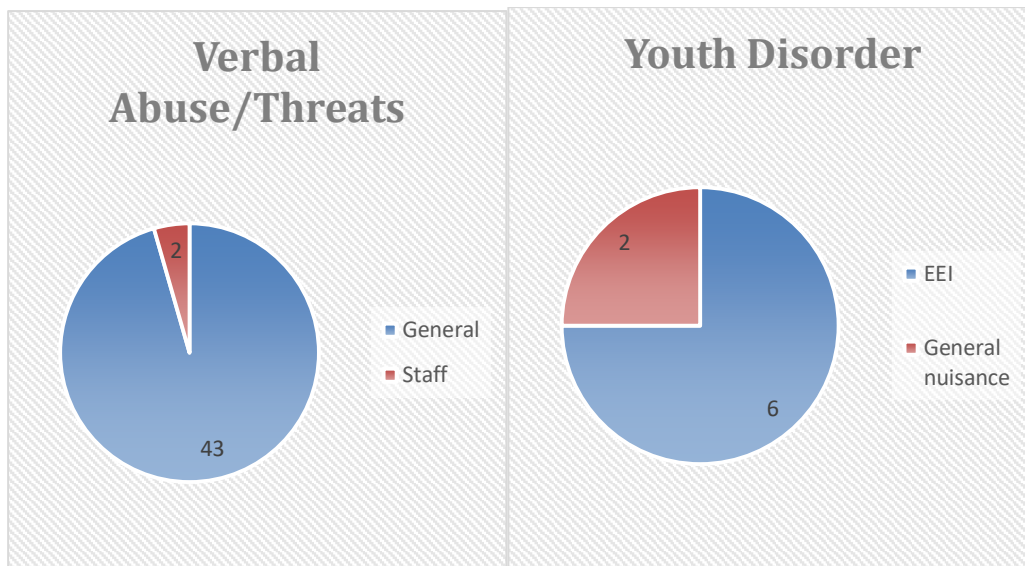
In this reporting period noise nuisance has been the highest reported complaint in all 8 multi member ward areas. Previous reports have shown noise nuisance as being the main type of complaint in the majority of ward areas but not often all 8. Preceding years do show a spike in complaints during June and July and given this report takes in June it may be this is why noise is highest in all 8 ward areas.

There were a total of 148 noise cases in quarter 1 of 2022. This is a slight increase from 133 noise reports in quarter 4 of 2021. The charts below show the other sub-types which are recorded for noise and some of the other categories. Please note the category total is 150, again due to multiple categories per complaint.

The second highest category in most ward areas was verbal abuse or threats which are often linked to neighbour disputes. In Lochee Ward the second highest reported complaint type was drugs. However, again these categories are in the main significantly lower in comparison to noise related complaints.

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





*EEI – the Early and Effective Intervention multi agency partnership

For noise complaints, the majority of these relate to loud music or television, followed by shouting/arguing and excessive household noise. Parties and domestic arguments account for the lowest number of noise related complaints.

This breakdown also shows suspected drug dealing and cannabis use as being the most common drug related complaints received.

The figures relating to verbal abuse and threats reports show that the majority of these relate to neighbour disputes with a minimal number of reports relating to behaviour towards staff.

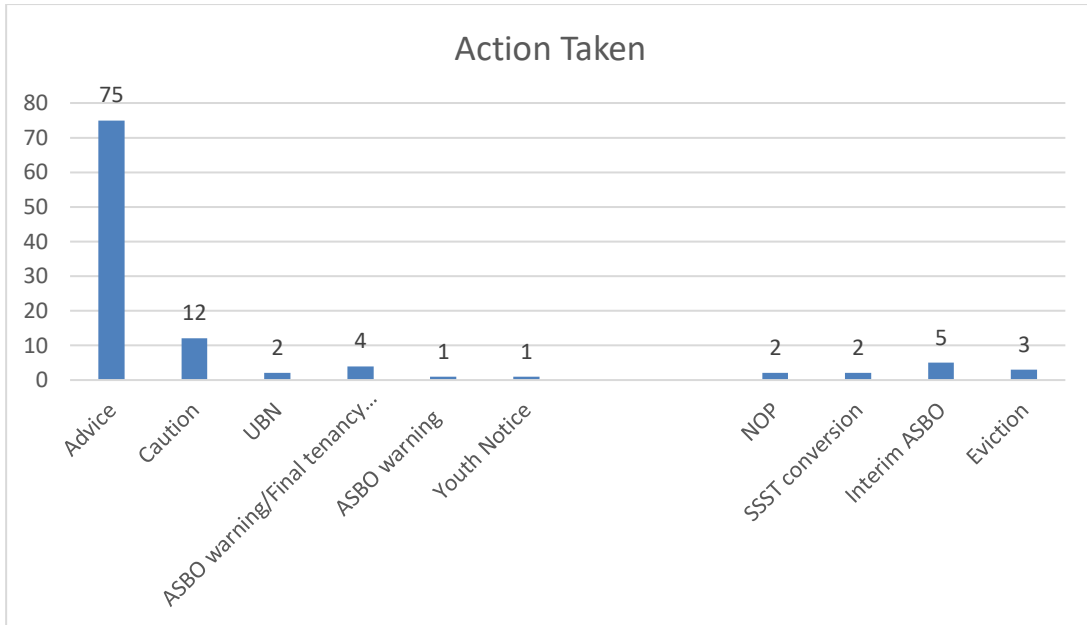
The Youth Disorder reports have reduced this quarter. However, moving into the school summer holidays staff in the Antisocial Behaviour Team will be working closely with colleagues in Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue, Community Safety and Communities to keep reports down. This will include visibility in hotspot areas and signposting young people to diversionary activities which are taking place in communities.

Surveillance

The team have several options for deploying surveillance to assist with investigation into reports of antisocial behaviour. These include sound recording equipment, the noise app and covert cctv. Over the period 1/4/22 to 30/6/22 surveillance has been used on 14 occasions. Of these 14 deployments 4 are yet to be reviewed. From the 10 cases surveillance has been used evidence has been found in only one case. However, this has allowed the team to resolve all 10 cases due to no evidence of antisocial behaviour being established.

Actions taken:

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



5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. There are no major issues.

6 CONSULTATIONS

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

Elaine Zwirlein
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Tom Stirling
Head of Community Safety & Protection

30 August 2022

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APPENDIX 1

Case Study 1 – Conflict Resolution

A complaint and counter complaint were made to the team in April 2019 from two neighbours. The complaint related to grievances the neighbours had with one another. One neighbour believed the other to be responsible for various issues in the area and the other reported harassment from the neighbour. This culminated in a large argument between the two which caused them to contact the Antisocial Behaviour Team.

Officers immediately recognised this as a neighbour dispute and that there was possibly no antisocial behaviour actually occurring. Both neighbours quickly agreed to discuss their concerns at a conflict resolution meeting.

To prepare for the conflict resolution meeting the officers spoke to both neighbours individually to note their key concerns and ask them to think about how this could be resolved and to think about the outcome they want. Although heated to begin with, the meeting was successful and the neighbours in this case developed a friendship. No repeat complaints have been made to the team.

Case closed in April 2019 as resolved.

The success in such a meeting is to guide the participants to resolve the problem themselves. If officers were to put suggestions forward or tell them what to do any agreement is more likely to break down.

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APPENDIX 2

Case Study 2 – Assisted Move

Complaint received August 2016

A young woman succeeded a tenancy after her mother passed away. She was 17 years old and had never lived alone. Quickly the property became a party house and a magnet for large numbers of young people in the local area. The property was in a very poor state and it was clear she could not manage. The behaviour quickly escalated and a large number of residents were affected by the all night parties at the address. Unfortunately, the tenant refused to engage positively with the officer assigned to the case despite repeated offers for support and assistance. The officer referred the tenant to Action for Children who worked along with the officer to offer help.

Evidence of the disturbance was gathered from neighbour reports and police information.

Summary of Action:

Advice and AFC Referral September 2016

ASBO Warning October 2016

Interim ASBO granted Spring 2017

Tenancy Transfer Summer 2017

Ultimately the team required to seek an Antisocial Behaviour Order to prohibit the number of people attending at the property and to provide respite for the neighbours. The ASBO was sought 8 months into the complaint after constant discussions with the tenant about consequences of the behaviour and offers of support. Although legal action was required, officers still persisted to offer support and the offer of a move into a smaller more manageable property.

When the Court granted the Interim Antisocial Behaviour Order the tenant eventually agreed to a move into another property. She admitted that she could not manage the house nor the people coming but was scared as it was the only home she had known.

Officers helped her move into a one-bedroom property. Assistance was given to help her move and help her tidy up the family home. Action for Children continued to work with her as she transitioned to her new home. She found a new group of friends and settled in well. There was no further need for the ASBO so this was revoked.

There have been no repeat issues of antisocial behaviour from this tenant.