

NOTES - SCRUTINY MEETING (ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR) - 20 FEBRUARY 2026

Cleveland in Context

- Around 18,000 incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) were reported in Cleveland over the past 12 months.
- The Force continues to have seasonal trends but the general direction of travel is increasing, with levels approximately 5% higher than in the previous year.
- Nuisance behaviour accounts for the vast majority of ASB, representing approximately 92% of all recorded incidents.
- Repeat incidents have fallen, with a repeat incident rate of 19% (a reduction of 3 percentage points), while the repeat victim rate remains stable at 10%.
- Cleveland has the second highest rate of ASB per 1000 of the population across England and Wales.
- The Force remains committed to tackling ASB, improving visibility, responsiveness, and problem-solving across communities.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) PEEL Inspection 2023-25

- Cleveland Police were rated good in the latest PEEL inspection for preventing and deterring crime, tackling antisocial behaviour, and reducing vulnerability.
- Inspectors highlighted significant progress since 2021/22, noting stronger problem-solving, effective partnership working, and more targeted neighbourhood policing that is helping to reduce harm across communities.

Local Governance Arrangements

- The Force operates cross-cutting processes and a structured governance framework to provide effective oversight.
- The Force has an Antisocial Behaviour Tactical Delivery Group, chaired by a Chief Inspector who also acts as the ASB Lead, ensuring clear ownership and strategic direction. This group reports to the Prevention and Problem-Solving Governance Group chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable, which in turn reports to the Force's IMPACT Board chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable, ensuring robust oversight at a senior/executive level.
- ASB is a core element of local performance frameworks and is routinely considered within a range of other tactical groups, many of which involve multi-agency partners.
- In terms of future governance arrangements, following the refresh of the Chief Constable's Strategic Plan, ASB will be overseen through the Executive Management Board and monitored via the Strategic IMPACT dashboard.

National Oversight Board

- The Force's ASB Lead sits on the National Oversight Board, which drives a coordinated, evidence-led, multi-agency response to ASB. The Board considers wider pressures (such as justice delays, rising mental health demand and community tensions) and promotes a whole-system approach, making clear that ASB is everyone's responsibility. Membership enables the Force to better align local and national plans, share best practice and anticipate emerging risks.

Question	Brief Summary of Evidence	Decision of PCC
<p>1. How will the Force's anti-social behaviour (ASB) strategy deliver measurable reductions in ASB, particularly in protecting vulnerable residents, tackling nuisance vehicles and youth-related disorder?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of the ASB Strategic Action Plan, the Force's plan prioritises high-visibility patrols, strong victim care, intelligence-led and targeted interventions and effective multi-agency partnership working. • The four districts (Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton) face different community-specific challenges, but common issues include vehicle nuisance, weapons linked to bike-enabled ASB, and groups of youths causing intimidation. The Force's ASB Strategic Action brings together a broad range of activity and coordinated programme of work, which underpins each district's local action plans. • The Force's Strategic Action Plan objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce town-centre ASB and crime during peak times • Tackle vehicle nuisance and off-road bike-related ASB • Increase immediate consequences to deter ASB • Reduce repeat victimisation and prolific offending • Strengthen safeguarding for vulnerable ASB victims • The Force's objectives support key deliverables, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee • PCC's Police and Crime Plan • Hotspot Patrol/Grip funding • Victims' Code compliance • HMICFRS ASB spotlight report • Victims' Commissioner report • Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 • The Force's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Action Plan focusses on three areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Protecting Vulnerable Residents</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive identification of risk through enhanced risk assessments • Robust use of Public Protection Notices (PPNs) • Close partnership working to deliver tailored interventions • Use of innovative support pathways, such as the public-health-led clinic model in Middlesbrough • Reducing repeat victimisation 2. <i>Tackling Nuisance Vehicles</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised as a significant and persistent concern for local communities • Robust intervention through Op ENDURANCE and Op DETERRENCE • Targeted, intelligence-led high-visibility patrols 	<p style="text-align: center;">Assured</p> <p><i>Based on the evidence presented, the PCC was assured by the Force's work in this area and was confident that effective measures and robust problem-solving approaches are in place to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB). The PCC emphasised, however, that tackling ASB is not solely policing's responsibility and strong partnership working is fundamental to delivering effective prevention and early intervention, particularly for young people.</i></p> <p><i>The topic will be reviewed again in a year to ensure ASB levels are reducing.</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint operations with partners • Seizure of uninsured or illegally used vehicles • Reassuring communities through engagement activity and social media updates <p>3. <i>Reduce Youth Related Disorder:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A combined approach of prevention, diversion, and enforcement • High-visibility patrols in known hotspots such as parks, shopping areas, and transport hubs • Targeted outreach and early diversion in partnership with key agencies • Proportionate use of enforcement tools • Evidence of significant impact, for example focused operations on York Road and Victoria Road in Hartlepool 	
<p>2. How are intelligence-led tactics applied to identified ASB hotspots and repeat offenders, and what evidence demonstrates their impact on reducing harm and improving community confidence?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intelligence underpins every element of the Force’s response to ASB, ensuring activity is targeted, evidence-based and aligned to local need, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Hotspot and Repeat Offender Analysis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ASB analytical profile offering detailed insight into key locations, repeat victims and offenders, and the underlying drivers of ASB. • Robust use of technology, including iMap with heat-maps and repeat-location layers, to support accurate evidence-based enforcement and engagement activity. • Multi-agency intelligence briefings and information sharing, supported by local multi-agency hubs such as the Hemlington Collaboration and Project Orme, to ensure a coordinated partnership response. 2. <i>Targeted Patrols, Problem-Solving and Enforcement</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted patrols driven by live intelligence, including both pre-planned proactive operations and reactive rapid deployment to emerging issues. • Structured OSARA (Outcome, Situation, Action, Result and Assessment) problem-solving, with bespoke plans developed for each hotspot area agreed through partnership tasking arrangements. • Swift and proportionate enforcement activity, utilising tools such as use of AS12s, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), Closure Orders and tenancy interventions. • The local evidence base demonstrates that the Force’s intelligence-led approach is reducing harm, reducing repeat demand and strengthening public confidence. The Force is seeing consistent, measurable impact, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reductions in ASB within targeted hotspot areas, supported by local profiles and live intelligence 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middlesbrough's Clear, Hold, Build area has seen a 35% reduction • Stockton's Clear, Hold, Build area has seen a 19% reduction <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. High volumes of enforcement outcomes, such as vehicle seizures, warrants, Closure Orders and tenancy-related interventions 3. Positive qualitative feedback from councillors, partners and local communities 4. Visible, intelligence-driven patrols and problem-solving activity, delivering reductions in harm 	
<p>3. How does the Force evaluate the effectiveness and value of resources dedicated to ASB and nuisance-vehicle enforcement, and what do the findings indicate about visibility, deterrence, and follow-up?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force does not have dedicated ASB specific resources, however, this builds and strengthens resilience across the organisation and partners. • The Force's ASB response is delivered through multiple disciplines, ensuring a consistent, joined-up and collaborative approach across the Force and partner agencies. • The Force's evaluation methods use a holistic approach that brings together performance data, intelligence insight, contextual factors, enforcement outcomes, and feedback from partners, victims and local communities. • Monitoring arrangements are established before, during and after targeted activity, ensuring a robust evidence base to assess the impact of policing interventions. • By capturing a clear 'pre ' and 'post ' intervention picture, the Force is able to determine whether its responses to specific and systemic issues are sustainable, meaningful and an effective use of resources. • To date, from the insights identified through evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High visibility patrols are a strong driver of public confidence. • Public confidence increases when the Force communicates its actions, outcomes and results. • Follow-up activity is important. • Regular contact with victims, communities and partners delivers better results. • Understanding displacement and shifts in demand is essential for identifying genuine improvement. • There are currently 11 live problem-solving plans actively addressing ASB. • The Force maintains consistent deterrence patrols and closely monitors displacement, visibility remains a key element of its approach. • To help tackle nuisance vehicles, the Force has introduced a QR code that directs road users to Cleveland Connected, enabling quick and easy reporting of vehicle-related ASB. 	
<p>4. Which enforcement powers are being used to address ASB and illegal vehicles,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad range of enforcement powers is deployed in partnership with local authorities and housing providers, including dispersal powers, AS13s, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), Community Protection Warnings and Notices (CPWs/CPNs), Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs), Closure Orders, and Section 59 and 165 vehicle seizures. 	

<p>and what evidence shows these powers are delivering effective, meaningful and consistent outcomes?</p>	<p>These powers are used proportionately and form part of an intelligence-led, problem-solving approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past 12 months, 708 vehicles have been seized and 371 vehicles have been crushed/disposed of. • Decision-making is supported through structured problem-solving plans, ensuring that enforcement activity is continuously reviewed based on outcomes. • The most effective results are achieved when enforcement is delivered as part of a multi-agency, place-based approach. Notable examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced repeat offending in Clear, Hold, Build areas of Middlesbrough town centre following the coordinated use of ABCs, CPNs and AS13s. • Fewer reports of nuisance vehicle use following the use of Section 59 warnings, Section 165 seizures, and the publicised destruction of seized off-road bikes. • Reductions in calls from chronic addresses following the use of Closure Orders and CBOs. • These case studies highlight how multi-agency partnership work has been used to tackle complex issues of ASB, vulnerability and community safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Case Study One - Tackling ASB in Hemlington</i> The multi-agency hub has achieved a significant reduction in ASB through coordinated action, shared intelligence and the benefits of co-location, enabling faster decision-making and more effective problem-solving. • <i>Case Study Two - Addressing a repeat caller issue in Middlesbrough</i> A repeat-caller case linked to drug activity prompted swift multi-agency intervention, enabling children's services to safeguard a child and remove them from risk. • <i>Case Study Three - ASB and homelessness in Stockton</i> Persistent ASB linked to homelessness led to focused local authority enforcement, clear resident updates and the use of Closure Orders that were well received by communities and ultimately transformational for the area. 	
<p>5. Recognising that ASB is not just a police issue, how does the Force collaborate with local partners (including councils, housing providers, youth services and criminal justice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-agency approach is vital to tackling ASB because it brings together enforcement, support and local insight to deliver faster, more effective action that protects communities and reduces harm. • The Force recognises that the most effective way to tackle ASB is through strong partnership working, something previously acknowledged by HMICFRS that the Force does well. A multi-agency approach brings together shared resources, clearer accountability, and faster interventions that prevent issues from escalating. Examples of good practice include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Joint working through co-location</i> 	

<p>partners) to prevent ASB, safeguard vulnerable residents, and deliver long-term, sustainable solutions and meaningful outcomes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-location of teams enables real-time conversations, quicker decision-making, and a unified response. • Live information sharing and direct tasking reduce delays, strengthen accountability, and allow early intervention before harm escalates. • Use of virtual workspaces and technology, including platforms like Teams, ensures partners remain connected and responsive even when not physically co-located. • There is a multi-agency hub in Hemlington and co-location with local authority ASB and enforcement teams in Hartlepool. <p>2. <i>Shared responsibility through joint use of ASB powers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A balanced approach is achieved by combining police and non-police levers, ensuring the most proportionate and effective response. • Local authority-led tools, such as Public Space Protection Orders, give officers additional powers to address behaviour that falls below the criminal threshold but still causes significant community impact. <p>3. <i>Place-based, multi-agency problem solving</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unified problem-solving plans ensure all partners are working to the same objectives and tackling the underlying drivers of ASB in each locality. • The focus is on sustainable improvements, creating long-term change rather than relying on short-term enforcement or criminal sanctions alone. 	
<p>6. How is the Force working to improve public confidence in reporting ASB, including drug-related activity and nuisance vehicles? Additionally, can members of the public report these incidents anonymously to reduce any fear of reprisal?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These actions demonstrate how the Force aims to be consistently visible, accessible and responsive to the communities it serves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being visible, responsive and transparent - maintaining high-visibility patrols, responding swiftly to reports of ASB, and proactively gathering intelligence. • Providing a named, contactable officer and PCSO for each ward area. • Undertaking in-person engagement - holding ward surgeries, drop-in sessions to listen to communities and provide meaningful feedback. • Working closely with trusted partners - collaborating with local agencies and organisations to ensure community concerns are understood, shared and acted upon. • Promoting confidential reporting routes - encouraging the use of anonymous routes such as Crimestoppers, COPA and Single Online Home to increase community confidence. • Using social media and other local platforms - Cleveland Connected provides reassurance to communities by seeking feedback and sharing updates. • The Force is refreshing and reinvigorating Operation Artemis to sharpen its focus on local priorities. 	

<p>7. How does the Force communicate ASB enforcement outcomes and ongoing activity to ensure residents feel informed, listened to, and safer, including those who rely on anonymous reporting?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Force’s communication strategy combines visibility, digital engagement, partner-led communication, and targeted local messaging to ensure communities, including those who report anonymously, can see that their concerns are acknowledged and acted upon. The approach focuses on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear, consistent, multi-channel communications. • Visible communications on enforcement activity, including ‘you said, we did’ feedback where appropriate, to demonstrate tangible action. • Working with trusted partners and community figures to relay information, provide reassurance, and amplify key messages from the Force. • Strengthening support for anonymous reporting, with an emphasis on closing the feedback loop even when direct contact with the reporter is not possible. • Rapid responses to identify and challenge misinformation and emerging public concerns, such as clarifying recent police search activity in Grangetown. 	
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Actions

1.	That the Force’s ASB problem solving plan be shared with the PCC/OPCC.
2.	That CURV work jointly with the Force to better understand how nuisance vehicles are being sourced and supplied.
3.	That the topic of Anti-Social Behaviour be revisited in twelve months to assess progress and confirm that reductions in ASB levels are being achieved.