

Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2016-19

Public Consultation

The Consultation for the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2016-19 occurred from 16 November until the 31 December 2016. The Consultation Questions were developed from the questions used for the last Antisocial Behaviour Strategy, as well as new input gathered from the October 2015 Key Stakeholders event.

This consultation aimed to gather feedback for the creation of the 2016-19 Antisocial Behaviour strategy. The Consultation was on behalf of the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership, and aimed to hear directly from individual respondents, visitors and interested parties about their experiences or perceptions of antisocial behaviour in Edinburgh.

The Consultation was hosted and collated on the City of Edinburgh's Consultation Hub, and was promoted and distributed by partners, using a combination of electronic surveys via e-mail, social media and web-links, as well as via more traditional methods including distributed paper copies at partner offices including local Police stations and Council Neighbourhood Offices.

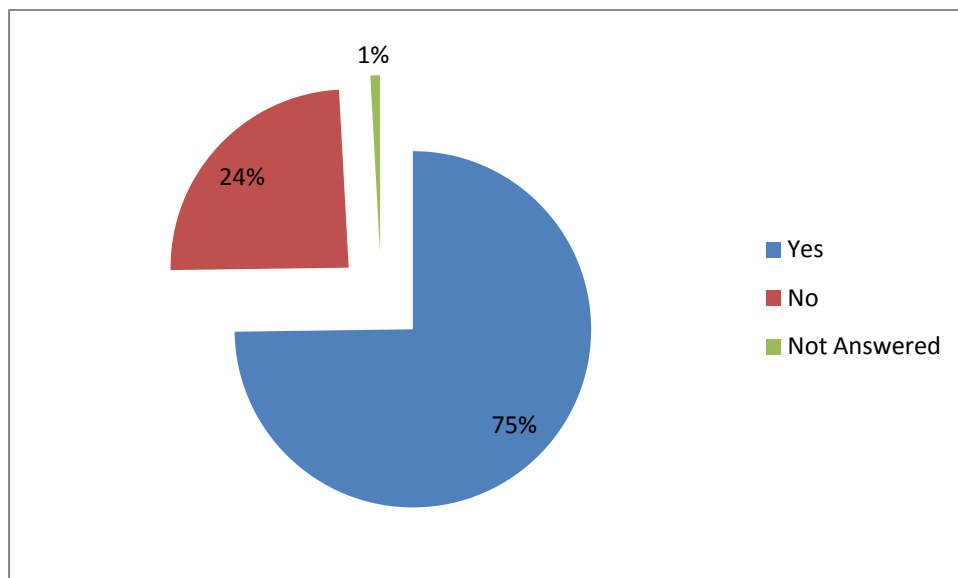
We asked the public about the issues that mattered to them, and what priorities they wanted us to focus on over a short series of 8 questions designed to capture the type, reporting, experience and knowledge of respondents about Antisocial Behaviour in Edinburgh.

Number of Responses Received

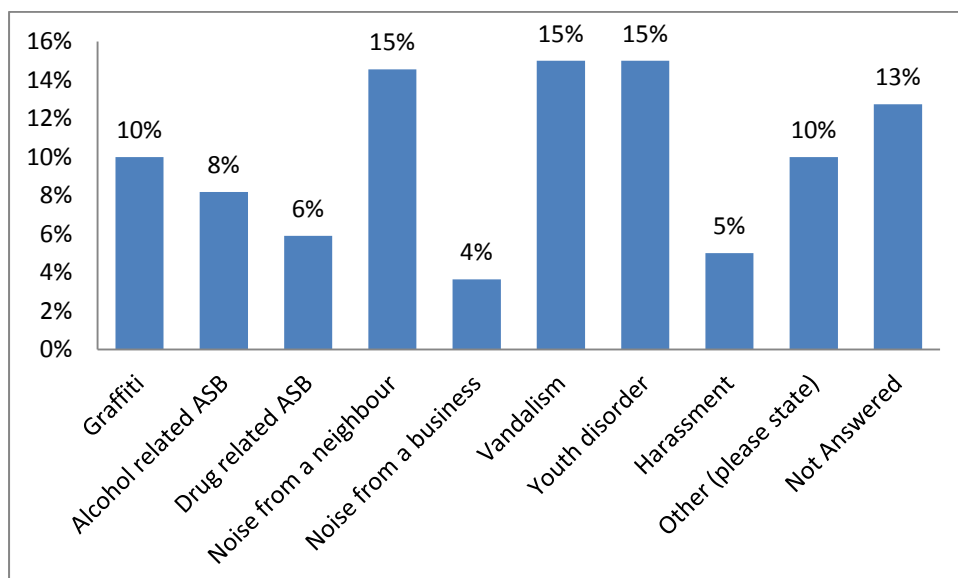
126 responses were received, comprising of 115 electronic and 11 paper based responses from both individuals and community groups or organisations. A full breakdown is provided below.

Question Breakdown

Question 1 - Have you been affected by antisocial behaviour in Edinburgh in the last 12 months?

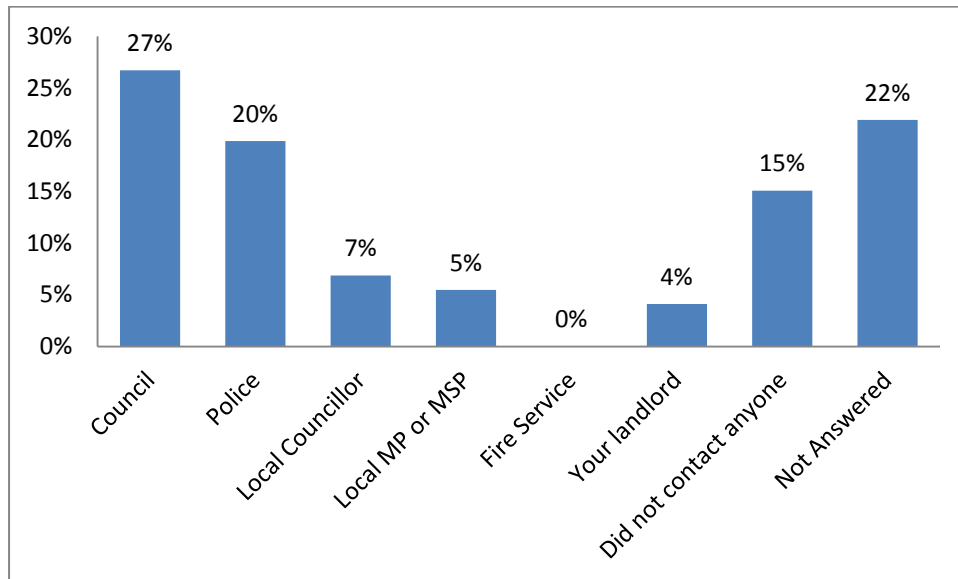


Question 2 - What type of antisocial behaviour have you been affected by? (Please tick all that apply)

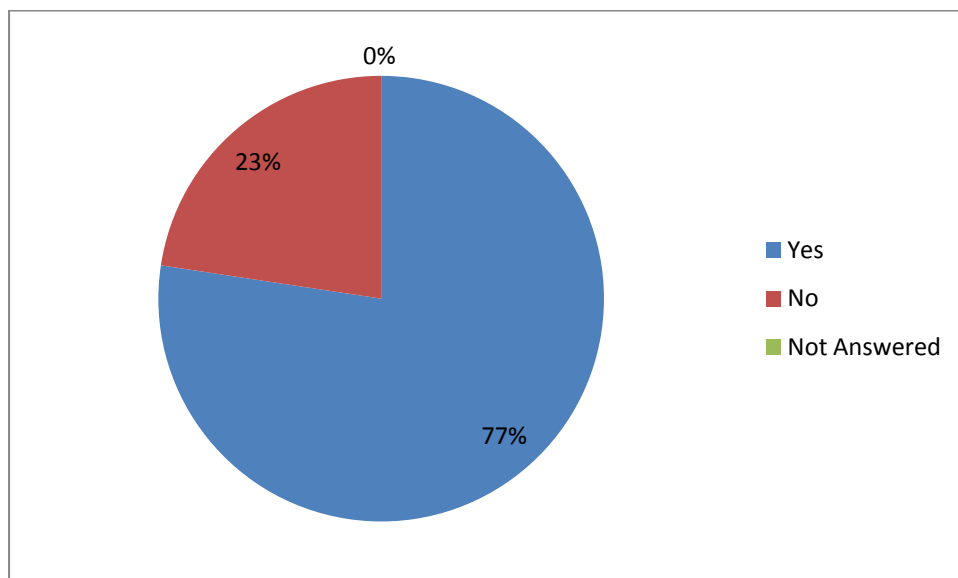


Noise from a neighbour, Vandalism and Youth Disorder accounted for 45% of ASB respondents experienced.

Question 3 - Who, if anyone, did you contact about this antisocial behaviour? (Please tick all that apply)



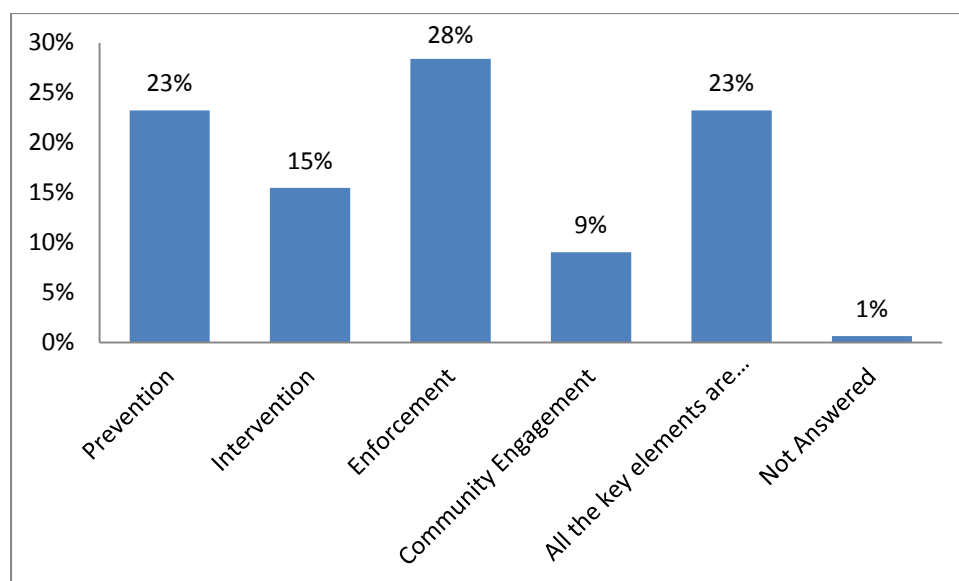
Question 4 - Antisocial behaviour in Edinburgh is dealt with by a number of partners working together. Were you aware that you could report antisocial behaviour to the Police, the Council or to your Housing Association?



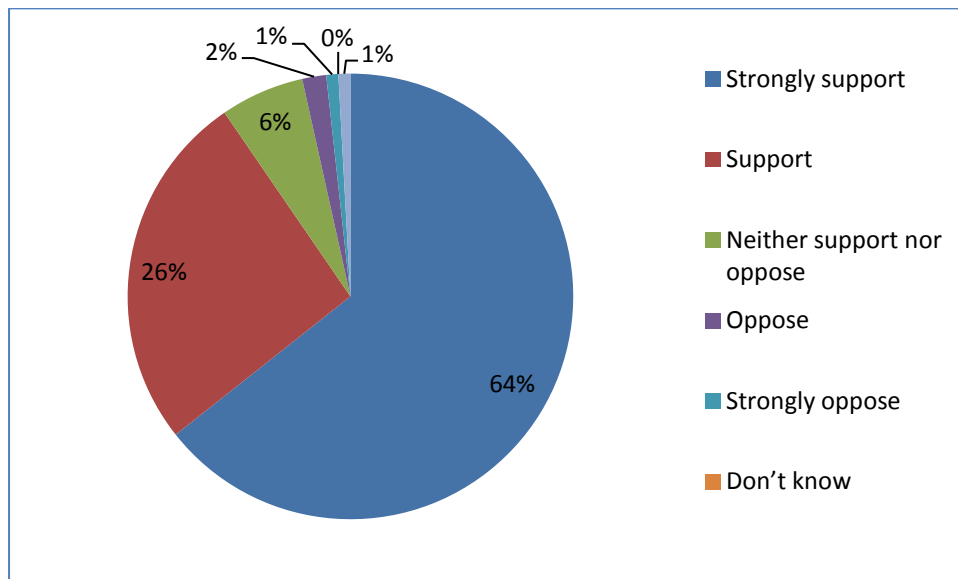
Question 5 - What actions do you think the Council and the Police should be taking to tackle antisocial behaviour in Edinburgh? What should the priorities be?

Top Five issues recorded	%
More effective action taken by Police	20.87%
Repercussions for those who commit crimes	17.39%
More effective action taken by Council	15.65%
More Police presence required	13.91%
Youth Antisocial Behaviour	9.57%

Question 6 - Which of the four key elements mentioned above do you feel is most important?



Question 7 - The Council and Police believe that regular communication with respondents and communities should be a vital part of the approach to reducing antisocial behaviour in Edinburgh. To what extent do you support or oppose this approach?



Question 8 - Please use the space below to make any comments on the way antisocial behaviour is dealt with in Edinburgh. We would also like to hear any ideas or comments on the current version of the Strategy. For example, is there anything missing?

Top five comment issues recorded	%
Lack of effective action taken by Council	11.30%
Lack of effective action taken by Police	11.30%
No repercussions for those who commit crimes	10.43%
Resolving ASB at an earlier stage	6.96%
Lack of resources	6.09%
Youth Antisocial Behaviour	6.09%

Summary Outcomes

Out of the 126 respondents in Edinburgh who completed the survey, 75% (94 people) advised that they had been a victim of antisocial behaviour in the last 12 months. 'Noise from a neighbour', 'Youth Disorder' and 'Vandalism' accounted for 45% (42 people) of antisocial behaviour experienced by this group.

The main themes identified during the consultation were as follows:

Communications and Engagement

90% of respondents either strongly support or support a focus on Communication and Engagement with local Communities. There was also a general lack of understanding about exactly what constituted ASB, as well as was a lack of publicity of the services available and information on how to access them. For example, 23% of respondents were not aware they could report ASB to the Council, Police or their Housing Association, and 15% of respondents did not contact anyone to report ASB.

Respondents also want to see an increased presence within their communities, with Council and Police staff engaging more to encourage "pro-social living".

"More staff are required working within communities which is the key to changing the mindset of future generations and encouraging better living together communities" (Respondent)

It was also suggested that proactive engagement and education of young people should be increased, covering the effects of antisocial behaviour, as well as carrying out preventative work such as providing more diversionary activities. Youth disorder was a common theme mentioned by respondents, many suggesting that parents should be held accountable for their children's behaviour.

"To address and resolve then the parents need to be more engaged, which I appreciate may be difficult, but there should be consequences for them if they refuse to keep their children under control" (Resident)

This echoed the view of a number of others who suggested that more emphasis needs to be placed on the responsibilities of landlords and the behaviour of their tenants.

Increased focus on Partnership Working

Respondents identified issues relating to a perceived lack of partnership working to resolve ASB. These included varying response times, a lack of consistency regarding the officers, partners, measures taken or feedback received in response to a report of ASB. 28% of respondents felt that enforcement was the most important element in dealing with antisocial behaviour, and many stated that they felt that there was a lack of repercussions for those who committed crimes or were involved in acts of antisocial behaviour.

"I don't believe that offenders are held to task for their various acts. If they were actually made to pay or carry out unpaid work in the community where acts occurred they may not be so keen to vandalise. There is no deterrent as especially when it comes to under 16's they know what their rights and likelihood of punishment is."
(Resident)

Respondents also highlighted more powers for Police and the Council would allow perpetrators to be dealt with faster and more effectively. 22.6% of respondents felt that more effective action is required by the Police and Council. Many respondents also reported an acknowledged lack of resources for partners, as well as a desire for more effective powers for dealing with ASB.

There was a general feeling that changes should be made to legislation in order to enable the appropriate authorities to take effective action.

"The response I have had from local police has been fantastic and very helpful, unfortunately due to the time issue it is very difficult to liaise more closely with officers to come up with a more bespoke, long-term solution" (Resident)

"One episode of vandalism was reported to the police but it took a week for this to be followed up... I'm sure it isn't a case of the police not caring, but rather not having the time and resources to respond quickly" (Resident)

20% respondents felt that an increase in the presence of Police or the Council in their community should be a priority.

"If there were more visible police on the beat, in the communities not just in the city centre this may also act as deterrent - it would make residents feel a bit safer"
(Resident)