



Support for victims of ASB

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March 2015

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About Victim Support

- National charity across England and Wales
- Set up 40 years ago
- Help people affected by crime and **anti-social behaviour**
- Free, independent, confidential and non-judgemental service
- Provide emotional support, information and practical help

ASB reforms, Oct 2014

Victims can feel helpless, bounced from one agency to another...in many cases, the **behaviour is targeted against the most vulnerable** in our society and even what is perceived as 'low level' ASB, when targeted and persistent, can have **devastating effects** on a victim's life

...no longer **focusing** on the behaviour but on the **impact it has on the victim**

Our reforms are designed to **put victims at the heart of the response to ASB** and give professionals the flexibility they need to deal with any given situation.



What is anti-social behaviour?

- Causes distress, nuisance or harassment
- Persistent and frequent
- Criminal or civil
- Close proximity to the home



Misuse of public space	Disregard for community/personal wellbeing	Acts directed at people	Environmental damage
Drug use & dealing	Noise nuisance	Intimidation, harassment, aggression	Littering or dumping rubbish
Street drinking	Rowdy, noisy, loutish behaviour	Can be based on race: sexuality, religion, etc.	Graffiti
Begging	Animal related nuisance	Neighbour disputes	Fouling

The VS ASB project

- We are victim-focussed, putting them “at the heart of the response to ASB”
- We assess risks, identify needs & deliver services
- Our specially-trained volunteers are aware of multiple factors which affect victims of ASB
 - Persistence and repeat victimisation
 - Proximity
 - Secondary victimisation
 - Practical difficulties
 - The impact of ASB



Impact of ASB

- **Emotional/psychological impact**
- **Behavioural changes**
- **Fear of potential for future disturbance/crime can create ongoing anxiety**
- **Deterioration of physical and/or mental health**
- **Loss of personal freedom, feelings of safety and sanctuary**

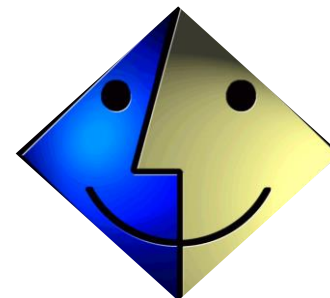


The service we provide:

Emotional Support	Information	Practical help
Someone to talk to in confidence	Relevant and useful so people can make a choice which best suits them	Assistance with forms (incident diaries, insurance claims, etc)
Support in dealing with emotional turmoil	About tools and powers that are available to them + their rights	Advocacy and help in dealing with other agencies
Safe place to offload fears, worries, concerns and emotions	Info that will help make sense of the CJS and how other agencies work	Provision of personal alarms and other security measures through our commissioned services
Empower people to cope and move forward	Crime prevention advice	Links to other sources of help

Referring to Victim Support

- Wider net of support
- Additional element to the service you have/will provide
 - E.g. emotional support from VS + legal advice from CAB
- Essential in providing (a gateway of) support that will meet the needs of the victim
- Is easy:



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Service User Comments:

Victim Support...are helping me just by being there and giving me whatever support is needed. For this I have to thank [my housing organisation]. My problems have not been solved by Victim Support but with their support I am able to cope with it better

After that meeting, I feel like I exist again

“I think of you and Victim Support before I go to sleep”



Questions or referrals

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