

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

Equality Impact Assessment

Title of Policy/Service/Contract: MSDC Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

Division: Community Services, Policy and Performance

Lead Officer: Mandy Cunningham

Date Assessment completed: 11 April 2022

1. SCOPING

1.1 What are the aims of the policy, service/service change or contract?

The Council's anti-social behaviour policy was last updated in 2015 and is due for a refresh. Since the last policy update, the Council has adopted additional tools and powers contained within the 2014 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act.

This new policy reflects the powers within the Act and set out the Council's approach to tackling anti-social behaviour.

1.2 Who does the service/policy/contract affect? Who are the main customers (internal or external)?

It will affect all residents living within the District regardless of their background as well as businesses and other organisations operating in the District. Within the Council, this policy relates to the work of the community safety team (incorporating the anti-social behaviour team) and, to a lesser extent, legal services.

1.3 What equality information is available, including any evidence from engagement and analysis of use of services?

Where adults are involved in causing anti-social behaviour, there is evidence that shows that mental health issues can sometimes play a part in the behaviour.

Some ASB is caused by young people in the community. In many cases, these individuals are known to other statutory services and will often come from families where there are complex issues going on in the home.

We see occasionally hate-related issues, such as graffiti targeting a particular section of the community.

1.4 What does this information tell us about the equality issues associated with the service and implications for the protected groups?

There are no negative impacts on people with protected characteristics arising from this policy. The policy states that a multi-agency approach (with Police and on occasion, other partners where appropriate) will be undertaken if someone is victimised due to a protected characteristic and will be deemed a hate incident or

hate crime. Investigating officers are also required to satisfy themselves that any complaints are not motivated on any discriminatory grounds.

Victims of anti-social behaviour may sometimes be more vulnerable due to a protected characteristic such as age, disability and mental health, race, ethnicity or religion.

Perpetrators of ASB may sometimes involve those experiencing mental health issues or young people.

1.5 Are contractors or partnerships used to deliver the service? Y/N

If No go to section 2. **Yes**

If yes, please refer to the guidance notes for completing impact assessments and complete the next three questions.

Identify the contractors/partnerships used to deliver the service.

A multi-agency approach is essential when tackling anti-social behaviour and we recognise that we cannot do this alone. MSDC works closely with the Police and with registered social landlords where appropriate. We also often work with schools and WSCC Children's Services (where appropriate) when dealing with ASB involving young people.

What is their contribution to equality in service delivery and the promotion of equality?

As public organisations Sussex Police, WSCC Registered Social Landlords and schools will have a duty to ensure that they have robust equality and diversity policies and procedures.

How are equality issues addressed through contractual arrangements and service level agreements?

This is addressed through the Safer West Sussex Partnership's Information Sharing Protocol which was adopted in 2020.

2. Assessment of Impact on People with a Protected Characteristic; Analysis and Action Planning

Any gaps in information or provision, opportunities to promote equalities and good relations identified above need to be translated into SMART actions and recorded here. These actions need to be delivered and monitored through the service planning process.

Opportunity to promote equality, good relations and/or address barriers to service/differential impact	Current action taken to address these	Further actions required and timescales	Lead Officer	How will impact be measured
Age (older / younger people, children)				
ASB is sometimes caused by young people (under 18)	We engage with other professionals working in children's services where appropriate including Youth Justice Service, Early Help, REBOOT, Children's Social Care and Schools and agree appropriate action.		Mandy Cunningham	Regular review of ASB activities undertaken in respect of the policy and perpetrator/victim to ensure that this group is not being disadvantaged.
Disability (people with physical / sensory impairment or mental disability, including those with a non-visible disability)				
Mental health issues may impact upon their behaviour.	We engage with relevant professionals to understand any reasons for their behaviour and to address any issues relating to their capacity to control their behaviour or their understanding of measures undertaken to address the asb.		Mandy Cunningham	Regular review of ASB activities undertaken in respect of the policy and perpetrator/victim to ensure that this group is not being disadvantaged.
Gender reassignment (a transgender person is someone who proposes to, starts or has completed a process to change his or her gender)				
None identified				
Pregnancy & maternity (pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant & maternity refers to the period after the birth)				
None identified				
Race (ethnicity, colour, nationality or national origins & including gypsies, travellers, refugees & asylum seekers)				
Language barriers for some where English is not their first language	Where this is identified, work with relevant agencies to ensure that appropriate interpreter services are available.		Mandy Cunningham	Regular review of ASB activities undertaken in respect of the policy and perpetrator/victim to ensure that this group

				is not being disadvantaged.
Religion & belief (religious faith or other group with a recognised belief system or not having a religion)				
None identified				
Sex (male / female non-binary)				
None identified				
Sexual orientation (lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, questioning, heterosexual)				
None identified				
Marriage & civil partnership				
None identified				
Military families /veterans				
None identified				
People who are disadvantaged by socio-economic factors such as low incomes, skill or living in a deprived area				
Social housing tenants are sometimes targeted by homeowners as “problematic”	Investigating officers work closely with Registered Social Landlords when managing cases where their tenants are involved. As part of the investigations, officers need to satisfy themselves that complaints are not motivated on the grounds that individuals are targeted for being social housing tenants.		Mandy Cunningham	Regular review of ASB activities undertaken in respect of the policy and perpetrator/victim to ensure that this group is not being disadvantaged.
People who live in a rural area				
None identified				

3. Mid Sussex District Council Equality Impact Assessment Summary

Key Findings	Future Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The impact of the updated ASB Policy is minimal as there are effective existing multi agency information sharing practices in place with key partners agencies. Agencies are encouraged to consider the vulnerability of victims, the wider community and perpetrators and their families when looking at solutions and the policy reflects this accordingly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review of ASB activities undertaken to ensure that no group with protected characteristics are disadvantaged.

4. Signing off this assessment and action plan

Signature ...Mandy Cunningham.....
Person undertaking the assessment

Date ...11 April 2022.....

Signature
Head of Service



Date ...25/5/22.....

Please send your completed impact assessment to Neal Barton for publication on the website.