

Understanding what happens to victims of anti-social behaviour



**Easy
Read**

Easy Read



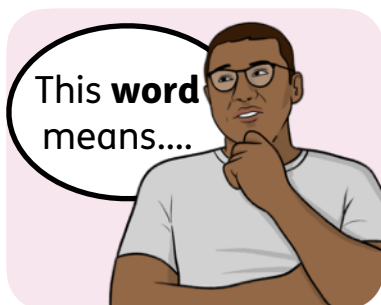
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



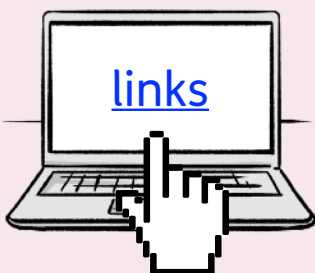
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

What is in this booklet

About this report.....	4
What we found out	6
What should happen now.....	11
Find out more	15

About this report



This report was made by the **Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales**.



The **Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales** works to make the **criminal justice system** better for people.



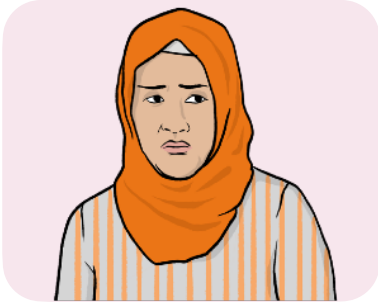
The **criminal justice system** is how the police and courts handle people who have committed a crime.



This report is about **victims of anti-social behaviour**.

A **victim** is someone who is harmed or injured because of a crime.

Anti-social behaviour is when someone does things to upset or harm other people, groups of people, or places.



The report looks at:

- How anti-social behaviour affects victims.



- What makes it hard for victims of anti-social behaviour to get help to stop anti-social behaviour.

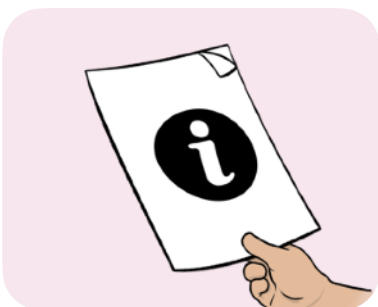


- The support that anti-social behaviour victims get.



In 2024 we did a **survey** and held interviews where victims of anti-social behaviour in England and Wales answered questions about what happened to them.

A **survey** is a set of questions for you to answer.



This report will tell you what information we found out.

What we found out

The main things we found out were that:

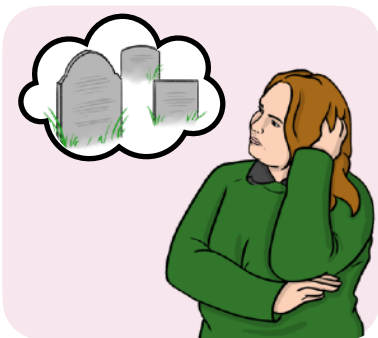


- Anti-social behaviour has a bad effect on victim's lives.



- Anti-social behaviour affected victims' **mental health**.

Mental health is the way you think, feel and behave. Having good mental health means being able to cope with your emotions.



- Anti-social behaviour made some victims have thoughts of **suicide**.

Suicide is when you kill yourself on purpose because you are finding life too difficult.



- For over half of the victims, the anti-social behaviour was still happening, even though they had reported it.

Reporting anti-social behaviour

We found out that:



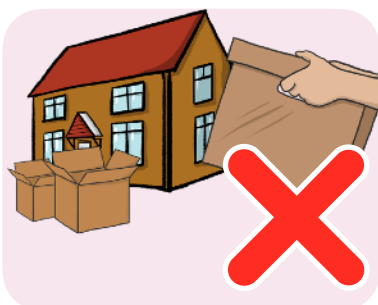
- Victims spent a lot of time collecting proof of what was happening to them.



- Victims were often ignored by staff who should have helped them.



- Some victims said that reporting the anti-social behaviour made it worse.



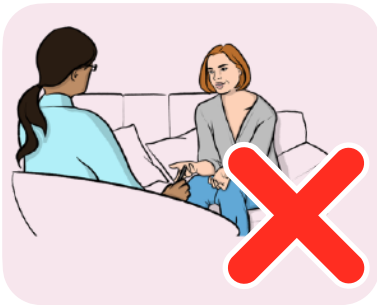
- Some victims said that they found it difficult to move or sell their house because of anti-social behaviour.

Finding help

We found out that:



- The organisations who were meant to stop anti-social behaviour did not share information with each other well.



- Very few victims of anti-social behaviour were given any help or support.



But we did find that when victims were given the same person to support them throughout their case, this was helpful.

Using the anti-social behaviour Case Review



The **anti-social behaviour Case Review** is when different groups like the police, local councils and landlords work together to solve problems with anti-social behaviour.

We found out that:



- Lots of staff at important organisations did not know what the anti-social behaviour Case Review was.



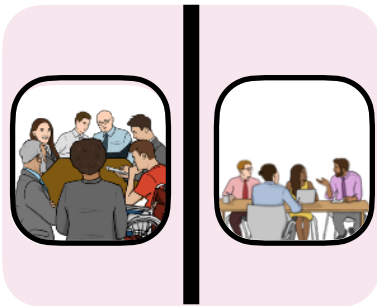
- Many victims had to **research** to find out what the anti-social behaviour Case Review was.

Research means collecting information about something to find out more about it.

We also found that:

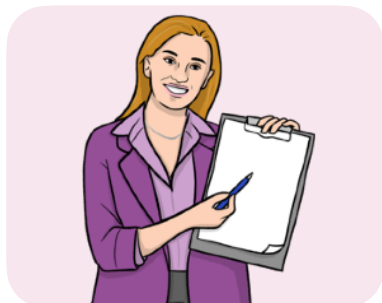


- Many victims were not invited to the anti-social behaviour Case Review meeting and were not told what was decided about their case.



We also found that the people who did the Case Review were not separate enough from the groups that victims had already asked for help.

What should happen now



We have some ideas about how organisations can get better at supporting victims of anti-social behaviour.

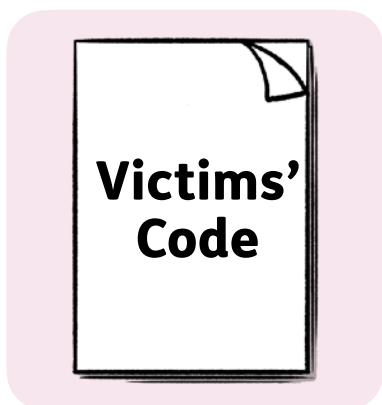


There needs to be a better understanding of anti-social behaviour that keeps happening and more support for the victims.

To do this:



- The **rights** of people who are victims of anti-social behaviour need to be clearer in the **Victims' Code**.



Rights are things that every person should have by law. Like the right to be safe, the right to education, the right to be respected.

The **Victims' Code** is a document that explains a victim's rights.



- The Police need to be more aware of how to support victims of anti-social behaviour that keeps happening.



Government bodies with legal powers, like the police and local councils, need to work together and talk more.

This means that:



- **Community Safety Partnerships** need to work together better to stop anti-social behaviour.

Community Safety Partnerships are groups like the police, fire and rescue, councils and health partners.



- Victims should have the same person to talk to throughout their case.

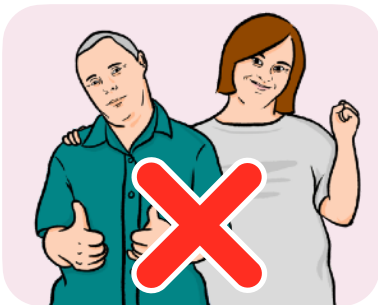


More staff and victims should know about the Anti-social Behaviour Case Review and be able to use it.

This means that:



- Victims should be able to understand and take part in the Case Review.



- The people who do the Case Review should be separate from the groups that victims have already asked for help.



There should be more help for victims to stop anti-social behaviour.

This means that:



- All places in England and Wales should have the same rules for starting an Anti-social Behaviour Case Review.



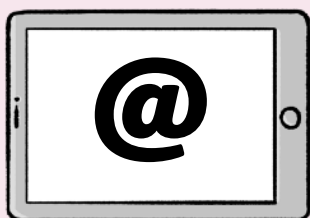
- Organisations that are in charge of stopping anti-social behaviour should be able to share information with each other better.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:
www.victimscommissioner.org.uk

The best way to contact us is by:



- Email:
victims.commissioner@victimscommissioner.org.uk

You can also contact us by:



- Post:
Office of the Victims' Commissioner
Clive House 5th Floor
70 Petty France
London
SW1H 9EX

This Easy Read booklet was produced by easy-read-online.co.uk