

Policy

Anti-Social Behaviour

1 General Statement

- 1.1. Sanctuary Trust will count any behaviour as anti-social if it:
 - 1.1.1. Is capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to any person (e.g. anyone living or working in the neighbourhood);
 - 1.1.2. Directly or indirectly relates to or affects the housing management functions of a relevant landlord (e.g. the landlord cannot carry out its duties)
 - Direct activities affecting housing management include: maintenance and repairs, rent collection, neighbourhood management, dispute resolution.
 - Indirect activities may include: social care and housing support, environmental health and refuse collection.
 - 1.1.3. Consists of or involves using or threatening to use housing accommodation owned or managed by a relevant landlord for an unlawful purpose.
- 1.2. Sanctuary Trust will endeavour to eradicate Anti Social Behaviour in line with other policies and procedures such as Anti-Discriminatory and Prevention of Harassment and Bullying, Whistle Blowing etc. Sanctuary Trust will use any appropriate outside agency and available legal remedies whenever possible.
- 1.3. If any behaviour is deemed as criminal in its nature, every attempt will be made to support the perpetrator in settling the issue by putting right that which has been wronged with the agreement of the victim and in line with Anti Discriminatory and Prevention of Harassment policy. E.g. if a service user is in possession of suspected stolen goods staff will attempt to liaise with the victim and encourage the service user to return the stolen goods and resolve the situation mutually for the benefit of all.
- 1.4. If we are aware of unlawful or criminal activity and all attempts to achieve mutual resolution have been exhausted, are not possible or due to urgency are not practical the police or other relevant authority will be contacted.
- 1.5. Any complaints resulting from any anti social behaviour within Sanctuary Trust properties will be dealt with according to the Complaints procedure.
- 1.6. The “House Rules” are set as a standard of behaviour for service users to adhere to within the respective project.

2 Mind-altering substances such as drugs or alcohol

- 2.1. Being under the influence of mind-altering substances will not normally be seen as ASB, however, Sanctuary Trust may refuse entry to the building under the Drugs and Alcohol policy.
- 2.2. If a person has a history of, or is developing a history of ASB when under the influence of mind-altering substances, then Sanctuary Trust reserves the right to treat being under the influence of mind-altering substances as ASB in the specific case as a precautionary measure.

- 2.3. Using housing accommodation to sell drugs, or for other unlawful purposes (See Drugs Policy) is anti-social behaviour.

3 *Weapons*

- 3.1. The possession of weapons such as knives, guns, CS gas, coshes or anything that could be used to cause harm, whether on the person, in the room occupied by the person in the case of residents or staff, or accessible by the person without good reason will be deemed as being ASB. Any items that are legally owned with a genuine reason and purpose for possession the service user will keep secure in the staff office when not being used for its lawful purpose.
- 3.2. Random searches will be made in
 - 3.2.1. all services users rooms to coincide with H&S room checks
 - 3.2.2. of service users on a weekly basis
- 3.3. Initial risk assessment – weapons found will result in automatic exclusion for 'repeat offenders'
- 3.4. Conditions of Stay need to state that clients must not bring knives into the premises- will ask clients on entry if they have a knife (would confiscate).

4 *Aggressive behaviour*

- 4.1. Aggressive language or behaviour is not acceptable but will not normally be seen as ASB unless the behaviour causes harm or vandalism, or is perceived as being a threat to cause harm or vandalism. In relation to self-harm or suicide see Self Harming policy In relation to harassment and bullying see Anti Discriminatory and Prevention of Harassment policy.
- 4.2. Hate behaviour that targets members of identified groups because of their perceived differences (e.g. race and ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, mental health or disability) is ASB. Violence is not accepted and will normally result in immediate termination of support and the relevant authorities called.

5 *Other areas*

- 5.1. Noise nuisance (e.g. loud parties, shouting, noise from TVs, radios, hi-fi's and burglar alarms). Any noise pollution that causes offence to any other person will be investigated under the terms of this policy.
- 5.2. Local environmental quality issues (e.g. litter, dog fouling, graffiti, and fly tipping and nuisance vehicles) are seen as ASB.

6 *Strategy*

- 6.1. Sanctuary Trust as a growing charity is constantly reviewing policy and procedures to improve the impact of services on service users and the community in general.
- 6.2. Our action plans directly challenge behaviours and suspicions of anti-social activities and our personal development programme along with key-work and encouragement meetings that occur several times per week positively empower service users to take ownership of their environment and respect it.
- 6.3. It is a duty of the Resident's Council to address community issues such as anti-social behaviour and as part of their Multi-Agency work they will liaise with similar projects on these issues.
- 6.4. Any service user, staff or volunteer who raises issues in relation to this policy is protected under Sanctuary Trust's Anti Discriminatory and Prevention of Harassment and Whistle

Blowing policies and every effort will be made to support victims and witnesses of ASB in seeking professional help and guidance.

7 Summary

- 7.1.* Sanctuary Trust does not accept anti-social behaviour and will always be pro-active in bringing speedy resolutions to any issues raised under this policy.
- 7.2.* Our aim is to prevent ASB before it begins through teaching and training and positive encouragement.