

Rother Owned/Leased Accommodation

Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

1. **Aims**

Rother District Council (RDC) are committed to preventing, tackling and managing anti-social behaviour (ASB), at properties they own and lease, in line with the Housing Regulator's Neighbourhood and Community Standard.

RDC have a duty, as the landlord, under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 to respond to ASB in an effective and efficient manner at properties they manage. Under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, we also have additional powers to take action against those causing ASB.

2. **Scope**

This policy applies to anyone living in a property owned or managed by RDC.

3. **Definition of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

Anti-Social Behaviour is described in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 as:

'Conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person. Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises. Or conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.'

4. **Objectives**

Our core objectives include:

- Making people feel safer
- Preventing offending by children and young people
- Reducing adult re-offending
- Take a balanced approach to manage ASB cases
- Developing community cohesion
- Reducing crimes of all types
- Reducing the harm caused by children and young people
- Be fair and proportionate in any action taken
- Work in partnership with other agencies
- Send a clear message that we do not tolerate any form of intimidation, harassment, discrimination or victimisation because of a person's age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, nationality, ethnic origin or religion

5. **Reporting ASB**

RDC tenants, or people affected by their behaviour, can report ASB directly to RDC housing staff. Reports can be made via phone, in writing or in person. We will not disclose the details of those making a complaint about ASB to the alleged perpetrator, without prior consent.

When you report ASB, we will consider your needs and the harm the ASB causes you and others. We will consider the risks to you and work with other agencies to protect your immediate safety, provide you with support, investigate the ASB and take action to stop further incidents.

6. **What action will we take to deal with ASB?**

We will work in partnership with a wide range of agencies such as Police, Children's Services, Adult Social Care and Environmental Health. We will use a wide range of preventative measures, early interventions and legal action to tackle ASB.

The actions we may take are proportionate to the following:

- Seriousness, impact and frequency of the behaviour
- Level of risk the ASB poses
- Evidence available to support the case

Where a tenant causing ASB needs additional support, we will take reasonable steps to help them access that support. Their needs will be assessed against the impact of their behaviour on others.

If the tenant is housed for temporary accommodation (TA) purposes, any eviction as a result of ASB will be investigated by the Housing Needs Team. As a result of this investigation, this could result in the Duty the Council has to provide both TA and the final offer of accommodation being ended.

7. **Recording and Monitoring**

The Housing Solutions team hold a database where they maintain records of anti-social behaviour, harassment and intimidation. All information is confidential.

8. **Review**

We will carry out a review of this policy every three years or sooner, subject to any legal, regulatory or internal changes. We will consult and involve our tenants at these reviews through satisfaction surveys and feedback groups.

9. **Data Protection**

RDC collects, holds and uses a considerable amount of information, including personal data, so that it can provide its services to you. RDC is fully committed to protecting your personal data. You can find a copy of our Privacy Policy at www.rother.gov.uk/data-protection-and-foi/privacy-policy/