

This policy details how we manage cases of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Neighbourhood Management (NM); what may constitute ASB or NM; how we work with partners to seek an effective resolution; and how we aim to support complainants and deal with respondents, in line with effective use of legal tools at our disposal in line with our tenancy agreements.

# Anti-Social Behaviour and Neighbourhood Management Policy

## Document management

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<b>Directorate</b>	Operations
<b>Policy sponsor</b>	Chief Operations Officer
<b>Policy owner</b>	Director of Customer Operations
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## Review process

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<b>Approval route</b>	Customer – Directors Team – Executive Leadership Team - Board
<b>Approved by</b>	Executive Leadership Team
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## Part 2

# Overview

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### Policy statement

This policy supports Amplius' values and is a commitment to improving lives and supporting colleagues by:

- Delivering the prompt and effective management of the ASB and NM service, ensuring our customers feel supported, safe in their homes, are kept updated and are confident their issues will be dealt with.

In responding to reports and allegations of ASB or NM we will:

- Work in partnership with the Police, Local Authorities and other partner agencies to respond effectively to reports.
- Provide a supportive and safe environment to customers to encourage reporting and to make reporting accessible and easy.
- Treat people fairly and sensitively during our investigations and base our response on the evidence available.
- Ensure any information provided to us in respect of a report made is treated in the strictest confidence, for example from witnesses and via court action (however it should be noted that in certain circumstances this principle may not apply, for example in cases of child protection).
- Assess the vulnerability of customers (complainants and respondents) and offer assistance if appropriate and available, including a safeguarding referral if appropriate.
- Enforce tenancy and lease conditions, using effective case management interventions and a balance of prevention and support measures to include legal and non-legal remedies.
- Encourage customers to resolve their disputes amicably by communicating with each other and offer mediation where appropriate.
- Be realistic with the response that we are able to offer.
- Manage expectations of customer by being transparent with what is dealt with as ASB and what would be responded to as a Neighbourhood Management case.
- Publicise our successes to raise awareness of our work and to encourage further reporting.
- Monitor our performance to assess the quality of our service and compliance with this policy, the ASB and Neighbourhood Management procedure, Noise procedure; and
- Ensure customers are made aware of the terms and conditions of their tenancy agreement.

This policy sets out how we manage anti-social behaviour (ASB) and neighbourhood management (NM) in our neighbourhoods and localities across Amplius.

This Policy details our approach and commitment to tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) and neighbourhood management (NM) in order to provide safe, secure and clean neighbourhoods and to create sustainable communities. Amplius recognises that everyone

has a right to enjoy their own lifestyle but only when it does not interfere with the rights and quality of life of other residents.

Amplius recognises that ASB and NM can have a detrimental effect that can seriously affect the lives of individuals and communities. It is also recognised that what is perceived as 'low level' anti-social behaviour, when targeted and persistent, can have devastating effects on a victim's life. Amplius is therefore committed to treating all reports seriously and will take timely, effective and consistent action to tackle all forms of ASB at the earliest opportunity.

Amplius, however, also recognises that not everything can be deemed to be ASB despite it being perceived as such. In these circumstances we would encourage customers to resolve their disputes amicably by communicating with each other to reach a mutually agreed resolution.

The key objectives of this policy are to:

- Understand and define what ASB and NM is.
- Differentiate the cases that are either ASB or Neighbourhood Management by triaging at initial contact.
- Detail the legal and regulatory framework that provides us with the tools to respond to ASB and with which we are required to comply.
- Outline our approach and commitment to dealing with ASB and NM effectively and efficiently.
- Outline how we will assess the risk to complainants and undertake a victim centred approach; and

Monitor performance to assess the quality and effectiveness of service.

This policy is a Day 1 provision for Amplius as a newly established company, it is subject to review as we develop and review our policies over the next 18 months.

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## **Scope**

The term Amplius incorporates all member companies and subsidiaries.

The policy applies to:

- All parts of Amplius including any subsidiaries.

The policy will provide a clear and consistent approach across Amplius. This policy relates to the management of rented homes (including Care and Support), shared ownership and other leasehold homes, however some of the remedies available to tackle reported issues are only available for rented homes.

Operational responsibility for the Anti-Social Behaviour and Neighbourhood Management policy is held by the Director of Housing and Healthy Communities.

The policy does not form part of any colleague's contract of employment and the policy may be amended at any time.

## Part 3

# Policy details

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## Legal and Regulatory Framework

The Regulator of Social Housing Regulatory Framework, specifically the Neighbourhood and Community Standard, requires registered housing providers:

- To co-operate with relevant partners to help improve social, environmental and economic wellbeing in areas where they own properties; and
- To work in partnership with other agencies to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour in the neighbourhoods where they own homes.
- In tackling ASB we will ensure that we comply with all appropriate legislation and regulations. We will make full use of all powers made available to us and work in partnership with other agencies to ensure the effective use of any powers available to them to ensure a swift and effective response to any incidents of ASB.

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## Definitions

'Anti-social behaviour' is the broad term used to describe a range of nuisances, disorder and crime that affect people's lives. It covers many types of behaviour that vary in nature and severity, many of which are open to interpretation.

Issues that could constitute ASB are listed in Appendix B and within our ASB Toolkit on our website.

There is currently no single definition of ASB which is commonly used nationally. However, the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which is the most recent legislation for ASB, introduced a series of different definitions for different purposes. These definitions are:

- 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; and
- Conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person. ("housing-related" means directly or indirectly relating to the housing management functions).

'Vulnerable Person' – a vulnerable person is one whose experience and / or effect of harm as a result of the incident is likely to be more significant because of their individual personal circumstances and the conduct causes an adverse impact on their quality of life. Adverse impact includes the risk of harm, deterioration of their health, mental and / or emotional wellbeing or an ability to carry out normal day to day routine activities due to fear and intimidation.

'Repeat Victim' of ASB – repeat victimisation occurs when the same person or address is subjected to a third incident of ASB within a rolling 12-month period.

'Hate Crime Repeat Victimisation' is where a person or immediate family member suffers more than one hate incident in a 12-month period following the date the first crime was reported.

Neighbourhood management' cases are defined by Amplus as cases that do not meet the threshold of anti-social behaviour. Please refer to Appendix C for a non-exhaustive list of these case types

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## **Managing Anti-Social Behaviour and Neighbourhood Management**

Amplus will make it easy to report ASB and Neighbourhood Management issues and we have adopted a range of methods to ensure we are accessible to all customers.

We will:

- Respond to high-risk incidents of ASB within 1 working day for example arson and assault; and
- Respond to all other reports of ASB and Neighbourhood Management issues within 5 working days.

## **Case Management**

We will provide complainants with a named Officer and/or case reference number.

As part of the initial assessment, we will establish if the report is ASB or Neighbourhood Management issue. We will establish if the complainant(s) are a repeat victim and consider this in any response. We will also review any potential vulnerability and the risk of harm to the complainant by completing a vulnerability matrix. Further risk assessments will then be completed throughout the case in accordance with the ASB and Neighbourhood Management procedure. We will also complete a vulnerability matrix for respondents where appropriate.

An initial action plan will be agreed with complainant(s), taking into account their specific needs, and further action plans will then be completed as and when appropriate until case closure. Referral and signposting to support agencies will always be considered and completed where available and appropriate. A referral to our Safeguarding Team may be made depending on the circumstances of the case and if there are any changes of circumstance throughout the duration that the case is open.

## **Multi-Agency Partnership Working**

Amplus recognises that the responsibility for dealing with ASB and Neighbourhood Management is not the sole responsibility of one agency, although the role of Amplus could be critical. Successful and effective management and prevention depends on the freedom to exchange information between different organisations and the willingness to tackle issues in partnership in line with GDPR guidelines.

We will participate appropriately in local area partnerships and protocols with a view to addressing issues at a local level.

## **Information Sharing and Confidentiality**

Any information provided to us will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not be used or shared for any other purpose without the consent of the person who has provided it. However, there are certain circumstances where these principles might not apply, for example in cases of Safeguarding.

### **Equality, diversity and inclusion**

Amplus is committed to ensuring that no person or group of persons will be treated less favourably than another person or group of persons and will carry out our duty with positive regard for the following protected characteristics; Age, Disability, Race, Gender Reassignment, Sex, Sexual Orientation, Religion or Belief, Marriage and Civil Partnership and Pregnancy and Maternity.

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### **Additional needs (addressing vulnerabilities)**

Amplus recognises that, for various reasons, some of our customers and service users may be vulnerable. Policies therefore will take account of the recommendations made by the Housing Ombudsman and Regulatory recommendations on vulnerabilities. Amplus will take a proactive approach when making a decision relating to a customer or service user and where practicable, tailor and adapt our services to suit the needs of customers and support vulnerable people.

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### **Summary of local variations**

None.

## Part 4

# Compliance and administration

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## Legal and regulatory compliance

This policy fully complies with Amplus' legal and regulatory obligations.

- Regulator of Social Housing Neighbourhood and Community Regulatory Standard
- The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- The Data Protection Act 2018.

This list is not exhaustive, and policy authors will undertake thorough research and/or seek professional advice to ensure that Amplus meets its obligations and complies with the current and relevant legislation and regulations.

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## Evaluation, review and performance monitoring

This policy will be reviewed on a Triennial basis to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. A policy review may also be required earlier, in response to internal or external changes for example changes in legislation. Prompt and effective action will be taken where improvements are identified.

We will monitor our performance in managing ASB and Neighbourhood Management through regular case audits and reports..

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## Related policies

- Customer Conduct Policy (GU)
- Customer Conduct Procedure (LG)
- Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy
- Domestic Abuse Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Hate Crime Policy
- Safeguarding Adults and Children Policy



Part 5

## Appendices

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### **A. Associated documents – Internal procedural documents, colleague use only**

- Risk Management Framework and Policy
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### **B. List of issues that could constitute ASB**

Issues that could constitute ASB include (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Noise nuisance (Please refer to the Noise Procedure)
  - Verbal abuse/ harassment/ intimidation/ threatening behaviour
  - Hate related incident (based on race, sexual orientation, gender, disability, religion age, etc.)
  - Vandalism/ graffiti/ other deliberate damage to property or vehicles
  - Using or dealing drugs/ substance misuse
  - Alcohol related.
  - Domestic abuse
  - Physical violence
  - Misuse of communal areas
  - Nuisance from vehicles
  - Pets and animal nuisance
  - Criminal behaviour
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### **C. List of issues that would not constitute ASB**

Issues that would not constitute ASB include (this list is not exhaustive):

- Noise transference between properties
- Noise caused by:
  - Babies crying
  - Children playing
  - People talking
  - DIY (at reasonable hours)
  - General living noises i.e., toilet flushing, walking on floor.
  - Vacuuming and Washing Machine (at reasonable hours)
- Garden condition.
- Property condition
- People congregating in communal/public spaces.
- Cats going into gardens.
- Children playing
- Parking issues including resident parking (not involving element of ASB)
- Littering or fly-tipping
- Garden nuisance

Part 6

# Changelog

Amended date	Summary of changes	Version №