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FOR ABERDEENSHIRE

## Antisocial Behaviour

info for  
young  
people  
and parents



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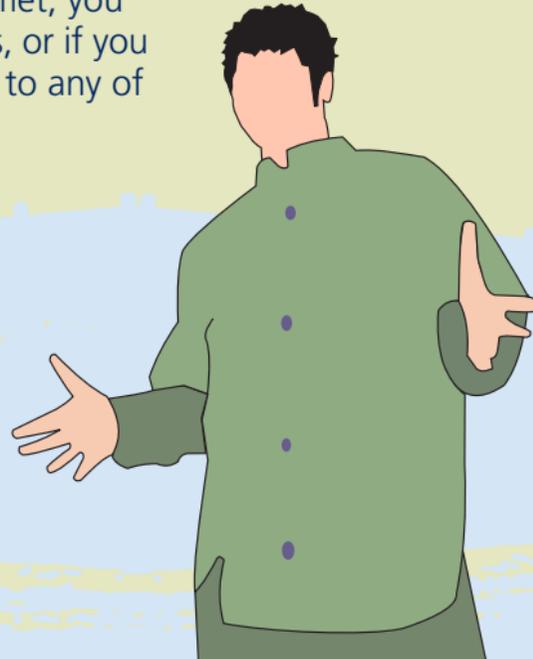
## useful phone numbers



## what if i don't understand?

If, after reading the information in this leaflet, you are still unsure of any part the ABC process, or if you want to know more about it, you can talk to any of the following people:

- A social worker
- A teacher
- A police officer
- A youth worker
- A housing officer
- A friend or relative
- Or any other person that you trust.



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## what is an acceptable behaviour contract?

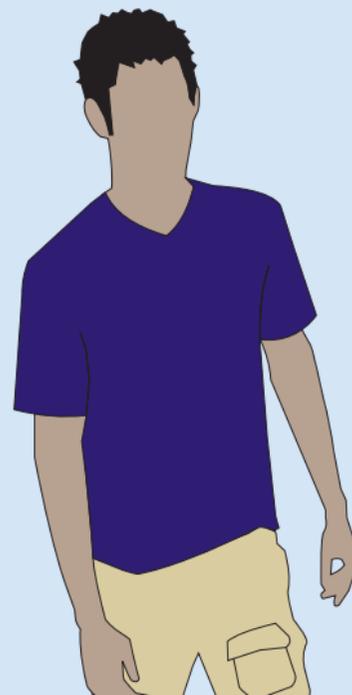
An ABC (Acceptable Behaviour Contract) is a written agreement between a person who has been involved in antisocial behaviour and one or more agencies whose role it is to prevent such behaviour. ABCs are a voluntary measure – they are not legally binding - and can be used in a wide variety of circumstances.



## what happens if a person successfully completes an abc?

After an ABC has been completed satisfactorily, the person who was displaying the antisocial behaviour will be interviewed and thanked for their co-operation and encouraged to continue to take responsibility for their own actions. A further meeting will be arranged after a suitable period to review the continuing good behaviour and identify any action or ongoing support the person may require.

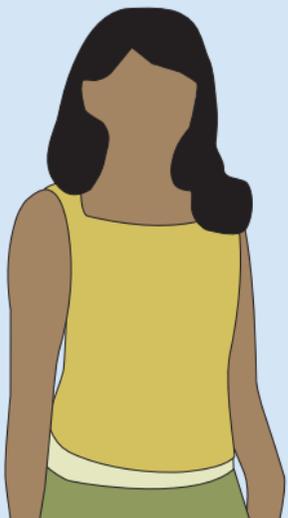
All agencies involved will be notified that the ABC has come to an end and thanked for their assistance.





## who do we tell about the abc?

Community Police Officers, Community Wardens, Social Work and Schools, if involved will be informed so that they can help to monitor the individual's behaviour and report any incidents. Information about ABCs will be available to any person that is affected by the agreement. Details of the individual(s) will not be given to the community, but they will be made aware that ABCs are being used within their area.



## what is an antisocial behaviour order (asbo)?

An ASBO is an order issued by the court that lasts for a set amount of time. A person with an ASBO must follow certain rules. For example, an ASBO might say that someone is not allowed to go to a certain part of town at certain times of the day. Breaking or ignoring an ASBO is a criminal offence. For adults, that could mean going to prison. A child can't be sent to prison for breaking an ASBO, but it is still a criminal offence. The case might be sent to court or be referred to the children's hearing system.

ASBOs were previously only available for people over 16 but now anyone over 12 could get an ASBO, although this doesn't happen very often. ASBOs will only be used as a last resort, when other options aren't working, or where the behaviour is so serious that an ASBO is the only suitable option.

why an abc and not an asbo?

An ABC is a means of encouraging young people, their parents and adults to take responsibility for their unacceptable behaviour. ABCs are not designed to replace ASBOs but to intervene early in cases to prevent the need for legal action. If the behaviour is persistent and serious, legal action (such as an ASBO) will be considered.



will we use the failure of the abc in future legal proceedings?

Yes. If a person presenting with antisocial behaviour(s) is unwilling to change their behaviour the evidence gathered for the ABC and/or the breach of the ABC can be used to provide further evidence for an ASBO. It also demonstrates the steps the agencies have taken to remedy the behaviour before seeking legal action.



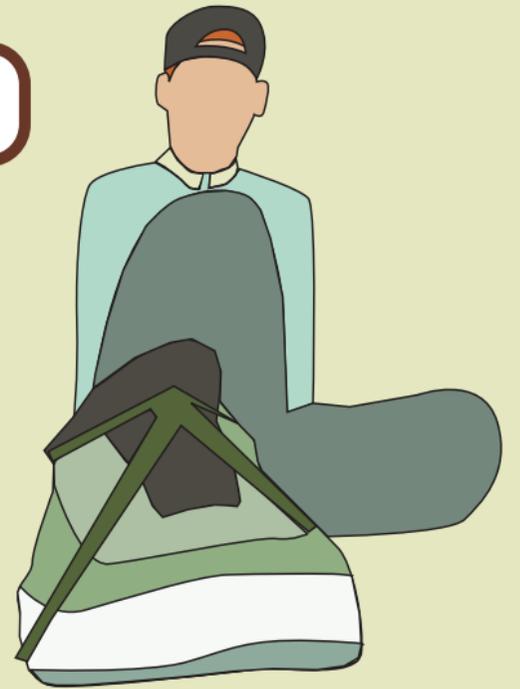
what happens if the abc does not work?

There is a set process that will be followed if the ABC is breached. The process includes issuing verbal warnings, written warnings and having a formal review of the ABC with the person presenting the antisocial behaviour to reiterate the terms of the ABC. If the breach procedures fail to remedy the behaviour, the Council may consider applying to the Court for an ASBO.



who will be signed up for an abc?

ABCs are designed to be used mainly with young people but can be used for anyone who is willing to work together with agencies to change their behaviour





who decides if an abc will be used?

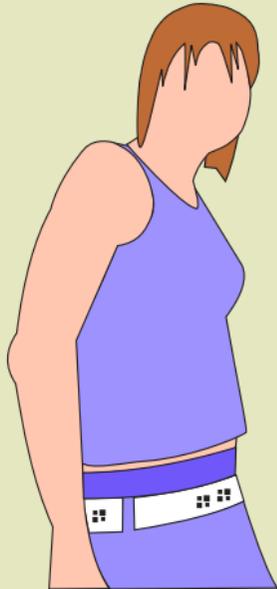
Any agency concerned about a person's antisocial behaviour could recommend the use of an ABC. Usually the person will have come to the attention of Police, Youth Workers, Social Work or School and everyone will work together to implement and monitor the ABC.

how long should the contract be in place for?

A minimum timescale for effective remedying of behaviour should be at least 3 months, although this may vary from case to case.



## who monitors the abc and how is it monitored?



Regular meetings will take place between the agencies signed up to the ABC to share information in order that positive progress or breaches are addressed with the person presenting the antisocial behaviour. Regular meetings will also take place with the person presenting the antisocial behaviour to encourage them to stick to the agreement and deal with any problems quickly.

Someone from one of the agencies will be in charge of each case and they will record the details of all meetings, incidents, breaches and interviews. The Scottish Executive requires an annual report on the use of ABCs within each local authority area across Scotland. For this reason, a copy of the ABC and information on any breaches / amendments will be passed to the Council's Antisocial Behaviour Strategy Coordinator.

## what types of behaviour can abcs be used to address?

A wide range of behaviour can be classed as 'antisocial', including, but not restricted to:

- Vandalism
- Verbal abuse
- Harassment of residents
- Noise nuisance
- Graffiti
- Racial abuse
- Substance misuse
- Under age drinking
- Throwing missiles
- Threatening behaviour in large groups

The ABC will be very specific to the type of behaviour the individual has been involved in. It is important to remember that some types of criminal behaviour, such as vandalism, graffiti and taking drugs, can also be classed as 'antisocial behaviour'.



## who should be involved in an abc?

A number of different people can be involved in implementing an ABC. The flexible nature of the ABCs allows all relevant agencies to be included in every stage of the agreement. Any agency involvement will also be outlined within the terms of the ABC, to ensure you are aware of who has agreed to do what and when. Some of the agencies that might be a party to an ABC include the police, social work, housing, youth work staff, etc.



## who draws up the terms of the abc?

The individual will be closely involved in drawing up the contract, by identifying themselves what areas of their behaviour is unacceptable. If the ABC is for a young person, their parent / guardian will be encouraged to take part in the drafting of the document. The person displaying the antisocial behaviour and every one involved in the ABC (including parent(s)/guardian if the person is under 16) will be asked to sign the agreement. Everyone involved will also receive a signed copy of the agreement. We will make sure that the person presenting with antisocial behaviour understands the purpose and terms of the ABC and also the possible consequences if it is breached.

