CONSILIUM
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# WASTE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK

05 – 11 OCTOBER 2026

## FROM FLY TIPPING TO FEAR OF CRIME: Q&A SHEET



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**How significant is the impact of fly-tipping and waste crime on residents' perceptions of safety compared to other forms of anti-social behaviour?**
The impact can be considerable. Whilst fly-tipping may not initially appear as threatening as issues such as harassment, vandalism or substance misuse, persistent environmental crime can significantly influence how safe people feel within their communities.

Large accumulations of waste, abandoned items and poorly maintained environments can create visible signs of neglect and disorder. Residents may interpret these signs as evidence that offending is occurring unchecked, leading to reduced confidence in the area's safety and management. In some cases, residents report feeling just as concerned about persistent environmental degradation as they do about more traditional forms of anti-social behaviour because it affects their daily experience of the neighbourhood.

**How can repeated fly-tipping incidents affect residents' trust and confidence in local agencies?**
Residents often judge local agencies not only on outcomes but also on their visible response.

Where fly-tipping occurs repeatedly and appears to remain unresolved, some residents may conclude that:

- Nobody is taking responsibility.
- Reports are not being acted upon.
- Enforcement action is not being taken.
- Their concerns are not being taken seriously.

Over time this can reduce reporting, increase frustration and create a perception that local agencies are ineffective. Even where significant work is taking place behind the scenes, failure to communicate actions and outcomes can damage public confidence.

**How can practitioners better understand the lived experiences of residents affected by persistent waste crime?**
One of the most effective approaches is to move beyond incident reports and enforcement statistics.

Practitioners should:

- Speak directly with residents.
- Conduct estate walkabouts.
- Attend community meetings.
- Gather resident feedback.
- Consider how incidents affect daily life.
- Focus on outcomes rather than simply incident numbers.

Questions such as: "How does this problem affect you?" or "What has changed since this started?" often reveal impacts that are not immediately obvious through formal reporting systems.

Understanding residents' experiences helps practitioners develop more proportionate and effective interventions.

**What impact can long-term exposure to environmental crime have on vulnerable residents?**
The impact can be significant.

Older residents, disabled residents, people with underlying health conditions and those already experiencing anxiety may be particularly affected by persistent environmental crime and disorder.

Potential impacts include:

- Increased feelings of isolation.
- Reduced willingness to leave home.
- Heightened anxiety.
- Fear of victimisation.
- Reduced quality of life.
- Increased concerns about community safety.

For some individuals, environmental crime can become a daily reminder that their concerns are not being addressed, which may have a cumulative effect on wellbeing over time.

**How can practitioners support residents who feel their concerns are not being addressed?**
Communication is key.

Residents are more likely to remain engaged when they understand:

- What action has been taken.
- What action is planned.
- What agencies are involved.
- What limitations may exist.
- What outcomes can realistically be achieved.

Good practice includes:

- Providing regular updates.
- Managing expectations.
- Explaining decision-making.
- Offering opportunities for resident involvement.
- Demonstrating visible action where possible.

Even where an immediate resolution is not available, residents often appreciate transparency and being kept informed.

**How can environmental enforcement teams and ASB practitioners work more effectively together?**
Environmental crime and anti-social behaviour frequently overlap.

Opportunities for joint working include:

- Shared problem-solving meetings.
- Joint estate inspections.
- Shared intelligence gathering.
- Joint action plans for hotspots.
- Coordinated engagement with residents.
- Early intervention activity.

ASB practitioners may bring expertise in victim support and behaviour change, whilst environmental enforcement officers often bring specialist legislative knowledge and investigative skills. Bringing these perspectives together can result in more effective and sustainable solutions.

**What practical interventions can practitioners implement to reduce fear of crime in areas affected by repeated fly-tipping?**
Interventions should focus on both the physical environment and resident reassurance.

Examples include:

**Environmental Improvements**

- Rapid clearance of waste.
- Better lighting.
- Improved landscaping.
- Removal of graffiti.
- Secure bin stores.
- Fencing and access controls.

**Communication**

- Informing residents about action being taken.
- Sharing successful outcomes.
- Publicising enforcement activity.
- Providing regular updates.

**Community Engagement**

- Resident meetings.
- Community clean-up events.
- Estate walkabouts.
- Feedback opportunities.

**Enforcement and Prevention**

- Targeted surveillance.
- Intelligence-led operations.
- Partnership working.
- Visible enforcement activity.

Research and practical experience consistently suggest that reducing visible disorder and maintaining communication with residents can significantly improve perceptions of safety and confidence within communities.

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