

Going to Court

We do not take action lightly, but we understand that in some situations it may be the only way to stop anti-social behaviour and protect residents from it.

The idea of going to court can be frightening for many people, particularly for those who have never been before. We will give you as much support as we can through the court trial process.

How we can support you

We will provide a dedicated officer who will be responsible for making sure that we support witnesses before, during and after the court case.

What will the outcome of going to court be?

The outcome of any court hearing depends on the details of the individual case. Our trained officers and legal representatives are experienced in attending court. They will be able to discuss the possible outcomes with you, explaining what would be appropriate in your case. They will also answer any questions you may have.

You can report anti-social behaviour by:-

- Reporting it online on the Council website by visiting www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk
- Reporting it by emailing the Neighbourhoods Team direct at EMTeam@cannockchasedc.gov.uk
- Reporting it by visiting the Housing Office
- Reporting it by telephoning the Housing Office on 01543 462621
- Telephone the anti-social behaviour out of hours service on 01543 462621

Useful telephone numbers

Cannock Chase Council 01543 462621
Staffordshire Police (non-emergency) 101
Victim Support 0300 303 1977

Call us with confidence
Make a stand against anti-social behaviour and crime

This leaflet can be provided in Braille, on audio cassette tape/disk and **large print** on request to Cannock Chase Council on 01543 462621.

Cannock Chase Council

Civic Centre,
PO Box 28,
Beecroft Road,
Cannock, WS11 1BG

Tel: 01543 462621
Fax 01543 462317

Email: customerservices@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

? =  **01543 462621**

Revised April 2018



Support for witnesses suffering from anti-social behaviour

What we can do to help



Make a stand against anti-social behaviour

What can we do to help?

This booklet will provide you with information for tenants and residents who are prepared to give evidence against perpetrators of anti-social behaviour.

What we can do to support you

Our Commitment

If you are prepared to make a stand to tackle anti-social behaviour on your estate, then by giving us the evidence to take action, you may also be required to give evidence in court.

We can provide a Support Package that will assist you in making a stand.

We are determined to address anti-social behaviour and we will support you.

By working together your quality of life will be improved.

We have created a Support package and are working closely with our Anti Social Behaviour Victim Support Champion to ensure that you feel more secure. Cannock Chase Council and Staffordshire Police treat witness intimidation very seriously and work together with victim support to support victims of anti social behaviour.

Witness intimidation is a criminal offence and carries with it a power of arrest and upon conviction, a maximum prison sentence of 5 years.

The Support Package

This package is provided for a defined period of time before, during and after the trial.

- Personal attack alarm
- Partnership working with the Police
- Regular contact from staff
- Advice on how to record and present evidence
- Diary sheets/dictaphone
- Pre-trial court visit
- Possible use of CCTV cameras
- Use of injunctive powers to address witness intimidation
- Provide you with regular contact from a Neighbourhoods Officer

What can we do to help you?

Your complaint will be handled by one of our specialist case officers who have experience in dealing with anti-social behaviour. We also have set timescales to deal with complaints of anti-social behaviour, an officer will contact you to find out more information about the complaint.

Your responsibilities

- Please assist us by answering our calls and letters
- By collecting information on the nuisance
- Be available for arranged meetings and or home visits if agreed.

What action can we take?

- Any action Cannock Chase Council takes has to be just, proportionate and necessary
- The type of action we take will depend on the amount and quality of the evidence
- Evidence can be provided by the Police, and most importantly YOU
- Non-legal measures like warning letters, visits, mediation or acceptable behaviour contracts can be considered initially
- Legal action can be considered against the individual to address the problem. Injunctions or anti-social behaviour orders can be applied for to control specific behaviour. A judge can impose strict conditions
- Alternatively legal action may be considered against the tenancy
- Tenancy Demotion takes away secure rights and makes it easier for the Council to obtain possession if problems persist
- Possession can be applied for in certain cases, where problems persist or are severe