# Community policing sheds light on anti-social behaviour hotspots across Wales



New data from community policing efforts has revealed significant insights into areas across Wales that are particularly affected by anti-social behaviour (ASB), prompting an analysis of how such behaviours impact daily life. The report, published by Wales Online, illustrates a concerning trend in both urban and rural settings where vandalism, noise nuisances, and gang intimidation have become prevalent issues.

At the forefront of the ASB statistics is Cardiff’s Cathays South & Bute Park neighbourhood, which recorded 725 reports of such incidents last year—marking it as the most troublesome area in Wales for this type of behaviour. Following closely behind are Central Swansea with 700 reports and Rhyl North, which documented 632 incidents. These numbers suggest that urban centres are under greater strain from youth-led behaviours deemed anti-social.

Noteworthy is Stow Hill in Newport, where the extent of reports reveals an alarming rate of 83 incidents for every 1,000 residents, meaning that approximately one in every 12 individuals in this neighbourhood has encountered ASB issues. This statistic identifies it as the area with the highest rate of anti-social behaviour in Wales. Central Swansea follows with a rate of 70 reports per 1,000 people, while Llandudno Town & Gogarth recorded 66 incidents per 1,000 residents, translating into a collective concern for these communities.

The mapping of ASB incidents illustrates not only the urban hotspots but also highlights residential areas that are equally affected. For instance, the Flintshire locality of Shotton & Garden City saw 304 reports of ASB, equating to 30 incidents per 1,000 residents, indicating a troubling presence of disorder in regions traditionally viewed as stable.

The figures sourced from neighbourhoods indicated large gaps in data; for example, reports from more than 7,000 neighbourhoods in England and Wales have been collated, excluding areas serviced by Greater Manchester Police, which did not provide crime data for the previous year. Additionally, the data captured does not include ASB incidents at train stations, which are tallied separately by British Transport Police.

Urban areas such as Swansea have faced increased challenges with anti-social behaviour, particularly in city centres where reports from shop owners reflect the distress caused by intimidating groups of youths. In response to these challenges, Swansea Council and South Wales Police indicated that a concerted push to implement extra patrols during peak hours, as well as engagement sessions aimed at young people, contributed to a reported decline of 39.5% in incidents last summer.

In Glynneath, the situation remains precarious, with community members expressing fears of venturing out after nightfall due to disturbances caused primarily by local youths. Increasing anxiety amongst residents has prompted discussions on effective strategies to rein in such behaviour.

The Labour government has made commitments to intensify efforts against anti-social behaviour, as articulated by Home Secretary Yvette Cooper in her announcement of new directives for police and local councils. These powers, aimed at combating persistent offenders, may include restrictions on their ability to congregate in public spaces or consume alcohol in town centres and parks. Cooper emphasised the detrimental impact of anti-social behaviour on community cohesion, local businesses, and the overall sentiment of safety within neighbourhoods.

Recent measures being adopted by councils include the prohibition of dangerous vehicle usage in pedestrianised areas, as witnessed in Guildford, and the banning of certain activities like begging and public drinking in Sheffield from April 7.

As these initiatives unfold, the focus remains on the continued provision of safe, enjoyable spaces for communities across Wales, amidst ongoing reports of antisocial behaviours that pose significant challenges. The emphasis on collaborative efforts between local authorities, police forces, and community engagement underscores the multidimensional approach needed to address and rectify the underlying issues contributing to ASB.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.plumplot.co.uk/Wales-antisocial-behaviour-crime-statistics.html> - This website provides data on antisocial behaviour crime in Wales, including the total number of incidents and trends over time, which supports the analysis of ASB impacts across different regions.
* <https://crimerate.co.uk/wales> - CrimeRate provides an overview of crime statistics in Wales, including a breakdown of different crime types, which helps to contextualize the prevalence of antisocial behaviour in the region.
* <https://www.plumplot.co.uk/Wales-antisocial-behaviour-crime-statistics.html> - This site also compares crime rates across various counties in Wales, highlighting areas with high crime rates, which is relevant to identifying hotspots of antisocial behaviour.
* <https://crimerate.co.uk/anti-social-behaviour> - This webpage offers insights into anti-social behaviour trends across England and Wales, discussing the impact of such behaviours and highlighting areas with high ASB rates.
* <https://www.britishtransportpolice.org/what-we-do/our-performance> - This British Transport Police site explains how they handle ASB incidents at train stations, which are tracked separately from other crime data, supporting the discussion on data gaps.