



# Anti-Social Behaviour

Widespread, underreported and damaging communities

Sharon McLoughlin  
Head of Professional Practice

# The Scale of the Problem



## More than 4 million incidents per year across UK

- 1 million incidents reported to police last year in England + Wales. (Crime Survey)
  - *NB: Police recording of ASB has changed (some crimes previously recorded as ASB now recorded separately).*
- Only **1 in 4** (26%) victims/witnesses of ASB report it to the police. (YouGov 2024)
- 57% of victims/witnesses do not report it to anybody. (YouGov 2024)
- 43% say ASB has increased in their neighbourhood – 60% say more needs to be done to tackle ASB where they live. (YouGov 2024)

# Impact on Communities

- 1 in 4 people (26.9%) say that ASB has made them feel unsafe in their local area.
- 1 in 10 (10.3%) say that ASB has forced them to move home.
- 1 in 7 (14.4%) say that ASB has impacted on their mental health.
- 17% of people say that ASB has made them not want to go to their local shops.
- 1 in 20 people have had to take time off of work because of anti-social behaviour.

# Not Reporting ASB – Why?

1 in 5 didn't know how to report the ASB.

50% thought nothing would be done.

37% thought it wasn't serious enough to report.

27% not direct victim / didn't want to get involved.

# Increasing Reporting



We asked those who didn't report ASB, what would make you more likely to report ASB in the future?

38%: Clear info on how to report



39%: More visible agencies



39%: Anonymous reporting



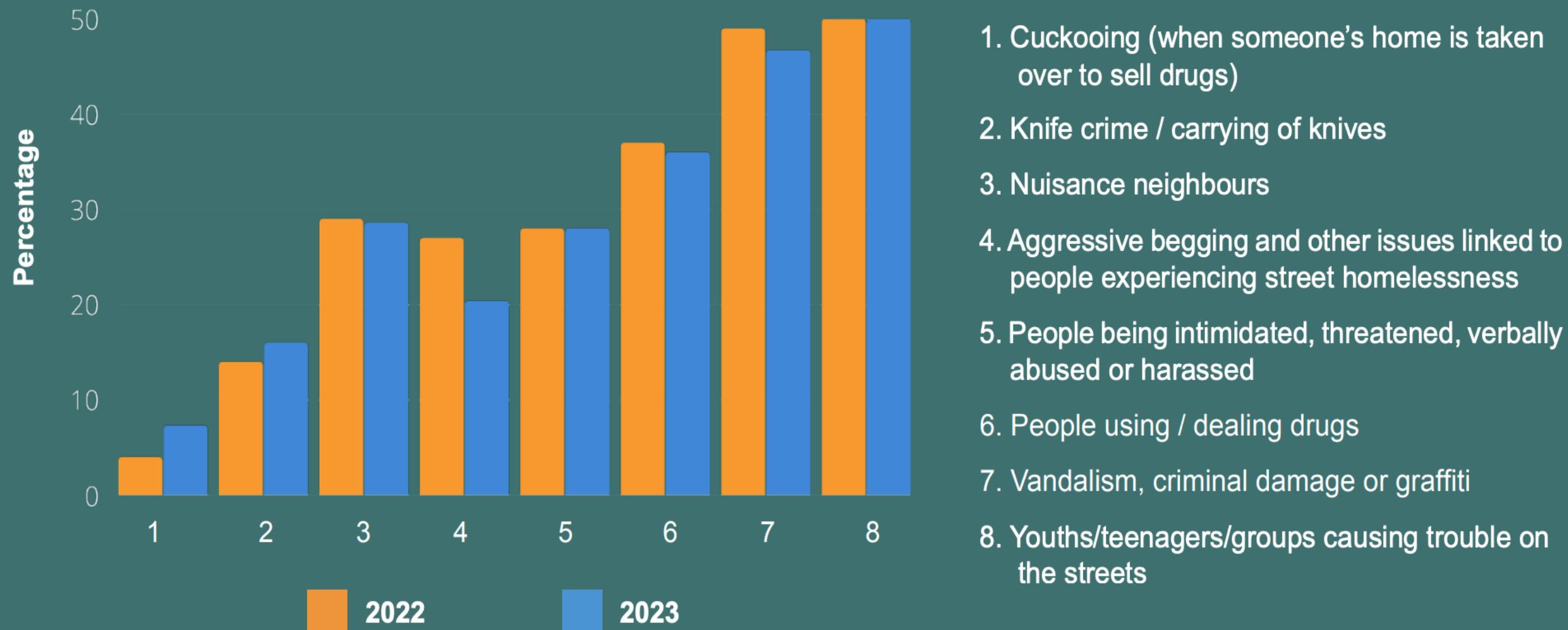
18%: One single standard approach/number

# Where Does Anti-Social Behaviour Happen?

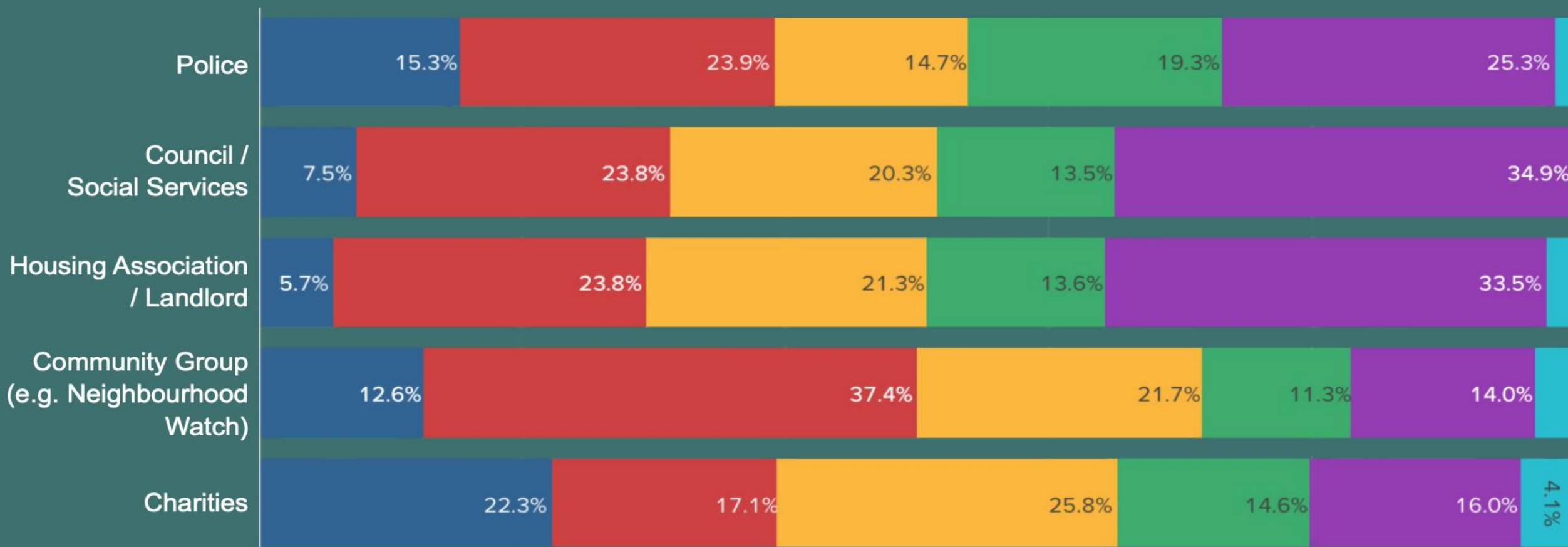
- In town/city centres (56%)
- In local parks (34%)
- Around the local shops (32%)
- On public transport (29%)
- In or around the home (10%)



# Biggest ASB Issues According to the Public



# Satisfaction After Making a Report





# Government Response:

## **Safer Streets**

Seeks to reduce serious harm and increase public confidence in policing and the criminal justice system.

Aims to half knife crime, and half violence against women and girls within a decade.

# The Way Forward?

- Police back on the beat (13K more police officers)
- Community led policing (named officer)
- Clear performance standards and professional excellence
- Career pathway for neighbourhood policing
- Crackdown on ASB
- Safer town centres

# The Way Forward?



The Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales, Baroness Newlove, said:

I welcome the return of dedicated neighbourhood policing and the introduction of named ASB leads in each area.

Persistent anti-social behaviour blights lives and communities, and these new roles will be vital in ensuring victims' concerns are taken seriously by officers they know and trust.

Some of the most harmful and enduring anti-social behaviour takes place in residential communities  
- away from the town centres and out of sight.

The Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee has real potential, but its impact will depend on trained officers who have the support and skills to be able to respond to every report – whether from a busy high street or a quiet cul-de-sac.

# Crime & Policing Bill

## Respect Orders (Pilot)

- Civil standard of proof
- Harassment Alarm and/or Distress
- Power of Arrest
- 2-year order
- Positive requirements
- Criminal sanction – fines, community service or up to 2 years in prison



# Crime & Policing Bill cont'd

## Housing Injunction

- Tenure blind nuisance and annoyance
- Will include a risk assessment/tick list

## Youth Injunction

- Stays the same apart from addition of risk assessment

## Closure Powers

- Available to HPs

## CPW/N

- Not 10 years old!
- New powers to seize vehicles that are used to cause ASB e-scooters, off road bikes, cars used for racing.



# Crime & Policing Bill cont'd

## ➤ ASB Case Review

- Independent chair, mandated victims voice?
- Review of stat guidance. One national threshold?
- Not intention of the legislation to stop a review even if it's still live.
- Involvement of the PCC in the process – right to convene can be used.

## ➤ More Powers to Tackle Fly Tipping

## ➤ Mandate Data Collection



# Our Asks of Government



- **National Comms Campaign around ASB** – 1 in 5 people don't know how to report ASB.
- **Specialist Housing Court**
  - ASB is complex – mental health, drug and alcohol misuse – vulnerabilities are main drivers.
  - Judges not mandatorily trained.
  - Needs specialist courts to deal with sanction and positive requirements.
- **Early Intervention and Prevention** – working with Youth Endowment Fund
  - £ match funding for evidence-based intervention projects (YEF toolkit - useful for funding bids to PCC/CSPs).
- **Nationwide, Guaranteed Support for Victims of ASB**
- **One Single, Nationwide Information Exchange Protocol**



# **ASB Awareness Week**

**30 June – 6 July**