

Reporting incidents

Problems relating to crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) can only be tackled if agencies are aware of the issues. In some instances, people think others will report the problem, when in reality the problem has not been reported at all. This can then lead to a perception that 'nobody is doing anything'.

Agencies take an evidence led approach to dealing with problems and resources are allocated to those areas/problems which pose the greatest risk, threat and harm.

Where and when to report a problem

In an emergency, when a crime is in progress, or there is a risk to life or property ring 999.

If the situation is not an emergency but you need to speak to a local police officer, report information about a crime or incident, or need crime prevention advice either:

- call Dorset Police on 101 or go to <https://www.dorset.police.uk/contact/>
- Information can also be access on the Dorset police website through ASK Ned:
<https://www.dorset.police.uk/contact-us/ask-ned-how-can-we-help/>
- You can also contact the council to discuss concerns about ASB:
asbteam@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

All agencies will respect confidentiality, but if you are concerned about disclosing your personal details, you can report incidents anonymously by ringing Crimestoppers on: 0800 555 111 - <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Issues of an environmental nature, for example: fly tipping, noise, dog control/fouling, bins, should be reported to BCP council:

<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/Environment/Environmental-health/Environmental-crime.aspx>

There is a difference between reporting an incident/crime and passing on information which may be of interest to the police or other agencies.

Often members of the public may come across a situation or see something which they feel should be reported. No crime or incident has taken place but the information may help to inform agencies about a particular situation. This information needs to be sent to the appropriate agency by the person who witnessed the situation.

Information received is assessed according to its source. If it is third hand and has been passed on by a number of people its credibility will be lessened.

When making a report or passing on information this is what is required:

- When did the incident happen, date and time
- Any reference number you may have been given
- Where did it happen, house/flat number, road name, or area (please describe). Was it inside or outside?
- Who was involved - names and addresses if known, or descriptions if not known e.g. nicknames, approximate age, height, hair colour, build, clothes, vehicle make and registration Nos.
- What happened - to include exactly what happened and what was said. If verbal abuse or threats please write exact words used.
- Any witnesses - did anyone else see or hear the incident?
- Have you reported it - Police, local authority, community warden. To include who you spoke to, where and when.
- How it has affected you - how the incident made you feel and the effect on people who live with you?