

Dispersal Orders

What is a dispersal order?

Section 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 provides local authorities and the police with a powerful tool to tackle anti-social behaviour by groups of people.

The order is designed to reduce anti-social behaviour problems in defined areas. By empowering the police and police community support officers (PCSOs) to take action to disperse groups of two people or more, if they believe that their presence or behaviour has resulted, or is likely to result, in any member of the community being harassed, intimidated, alarmed or distressed. Individuals can be directed to leave the locality and may be excluded from the area for up to 24 hours. A dispersal order does not prevent people from entering the designated area.

The police can also return young people under 16 to their home, if they are out on the streets and not under the control of an adult, after 9pm if they are causing, or at risk of causing, or being the victim of anti-social behaviour.

How long can it last for?

The decision to designate an area must be published in a local newspaper or by notices in the local area; the order can last for up to six months. The designated area must be clearly defined, usually by a description of the streets or roads bordering the area. This is not a sustainable solution in the longer term without other activity and is a small part of a wider action plan, which includes, a range of community focused projects and activities designed to engage the community in a positive way.

How do I find out more?

For further information, please contact Wiltshire Council on 0300 456 0100 or Wiltshire Police on; 0845 408 7000 or: or visit the Home Office, Respect website, www.respect.gov.uk.