

What is a Dispersal Order?

A Dispersal Order is a Police Power used to combat anti-social behaviour committed by groups of people. They are used in consultation with Leeds City Council in areas where local people express concerns that they feel intimidated by groups of people who regularly cause a nuisance in the community.

Under a dispersal order, Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers have powers to order people out of a designated area, if they believe they are likely to cause people harassment, alarm or distress.

Anyone ordered out of the area is banned from returning for a period of up to 24 hours.

People refusing to leave the area or not following the rules of the dispersal order can be arrested with a maximum penalty of three months' imprisonment and/or a fine of £5,000.

Also as part of a designated dispersal "zone," young people aged under 16 are prohibited from public spaces within the area from 9pm through to 6am, unless they are accompanied by a parent or a responsible adult over 18 years of age.

Dispersal Orders have to be publicised, this is done normally by placing an article in the local press and also by means of posters placed around the designated dispersal area.