ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, OR JUST UNMET SUPPORT NEEDS? HOW INTERVENING IN NUISANCE BEHAVIOUR IMPACTS UNDERLYING VULNERABILITIES.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACROSS THE GLOBE APPEARS TO BE BECOMING HARDER TO ACCESS, WITH SOCIAL HOUSING STOCKS DEPLETING AND FACING DECADES OF RESIDUALISATION AND FUNDING CUTS IN MANY COUNTRIES. LANDLORDS MANAGING THESE PROPERTIES HAVE ALWAYS ENACTED SOCIAL CONTROL MECHANISMS ON THEIR TENANTS THROUGH TENANCY AGREEMENTS, BUT CONTROL AND PUNISHMENT OF BEHAVIOUR PERCEIVED AS ANTISOCIAL HAS ARGUABLY INCREASED IN RECENT DECADES. THOSE ALLEGED TO BE ENGAGED IN NUISANCE BEHAVIOUR OFTEN HAVE MULTIPLE, OVERLAPPING VULNERABILITIES, INCLUDING MENTAL ILL-HEALTH, DISABILITY, ADDICTIONS OR POVERTY, AND FREQUENTLY HAVE UNMET SUPPORT NEEDS.

THIS PAPER IS DRAWN FROM ONGOING DOCTORAL RESEARCH INTO THE IMPACT OF INTERVENTIONS USED TO CHANGE OR CONTROL THE BEHAVIOUR OF SOCIAL HOUSING TENANTS ALLEGEDLY ENGAGED IN NUISANCE BEHAVIOUR. QUALITATIVE LONGITUDINAL INTERVIEWS ARE CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN WITH ALLEGEDLY ANTISOCIAL TENANTS OF SOCIAL HOUSING, ALONGSIDE QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS WITH KEY INFORMANTS WORKING IN THE SECTOR TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH QUESTIONS:
• How do social housing tenants subject to antisocial behaviour (ASB) interventions define and perceive antisocial behaviour, in relation to themselves and others?
• How are ASB interventions perceived by those alleged to be engaged in ASB and does this change over time?
• To what extent are they impacted, or their behaviour changed, by these interventions and how does this change over time?

The focus of this paper is to explore how these interventions take into account (or sideline) the unmet support needs of social tenants, and the impact of interventions on those with disabilities, victims of domestic violence or with addictions. The findings from this UK study can offer insight into wider, international housing issues. Early findings from first wave interviews suggest vulnerabilities are overlooked in favor of punitive interventions, with little support given to perpetrators, and significantly negative impacts on tenants' mental health as a result, including the exacerbation of existing conditions and increased suicidal thoughts.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

I am a current Social Policy and Social Work doctoral student at the University of York, England, funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council, with a first-class degree in Social Policy and MA in Social Research. Prior to this study, I have undertaken two research projects on antisocial behaviour interventions and tenancy sustainability respectively, both related to social housing. Prior to starting my PhD, I worked in the social housing sector for approximately eight years, managing tenancies and neighbour nuisance complaints. Through my earlier studies and in this work, I discovered a lack of current research into antisocial or nuisance behaviour and specifically, those who are perceived to be antisocial. The voices of those whose behaviour is regularly intervened with by their landlord or the police, despite the behaviour itself often being legal, is missing from academic and political discourse. This prompted my decision to leave the social housing sector and embark upon doctoral study.