



Inspecting policing
in the public interest



Anti-social Behaviour Inspection Report

Derbyshire Constabulary

The area covered by Derbyshire Constabulary experiences relatively moderate levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and moderate levels of crime, per head of population.

Our ASB review

In Spring 2010, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) carried out a review of anti-social behaviour in England and Wales. This included asking victims about their experience of reporting ASB to the police, and inspecting the quality of the processes that forces use in tackling and responding to the problem.

Working with the Police Science Institute at Cardiff University, we then used these results to answer the question of how the police can best tackle ASB.

What works?

Forces have the best chance to give victims a good service if they do three key things:

- Brief all relevant officers and staff (including neighbourhood policing teams, officers who respond to emergencies and CID officers) regularly and thoroughly about local ASB issues;
- Regularly gather and analyse data and information about ASB places, offenders and victims in their area, and use this information to allocate resources to tackle the problems; and
- Provide their neighbourhood policing teams with the right tools and resources to tackle ASB, and then monitor the plans the teams put in place to resolve local ASB issues.

This is how Derbyshire Constabulary is performing in these areas.

Are all relevant officers and staff regularly and thoroughly briefed about local ASB issues?

Safer neighbourhood teams are regularly and effectively briefed on local ASB issues. CID and response officers are not briefed on ASB quite so regularly, although there is good information available on the force IT systems in relation to ASB, which these officers can use to brief themselves. CID and response officers have responsibility for specific neighbourhoods and are regularly allocated to deal with neighbourhood priorities, including ASB.

Is the force using ASB information to target its work in tackling ASB?

The force monitors how well it is doing in tackling ASB at regular meetings. It keeps track of the number and location of ASB incidents and then makes decisions to allocate more police resource to tackle specific ASB problems as needed. At a local level, the force also examines repeat and vulnerable ASB victims on a case-by-case basis. Recently, the force has placed a particularly high priority on supporting those people who are considered susceptible to harm, and this includes vulnerable ASB victims.

Do neighbourhood policing teams have the right tools and resources to tackle ASB, and are the plans they put in place to resolve local ASB issues monitored?

Safer neighbourhood teams use a wide range of methods to tackle local ASB issues such as injunction powers and anti-social behaviour orders. The force IT system that holds information on ASB can only be accessed by safer neighbourhood teams. This means that response officers may not have the full history available to them when they are sent to deal with incidents.

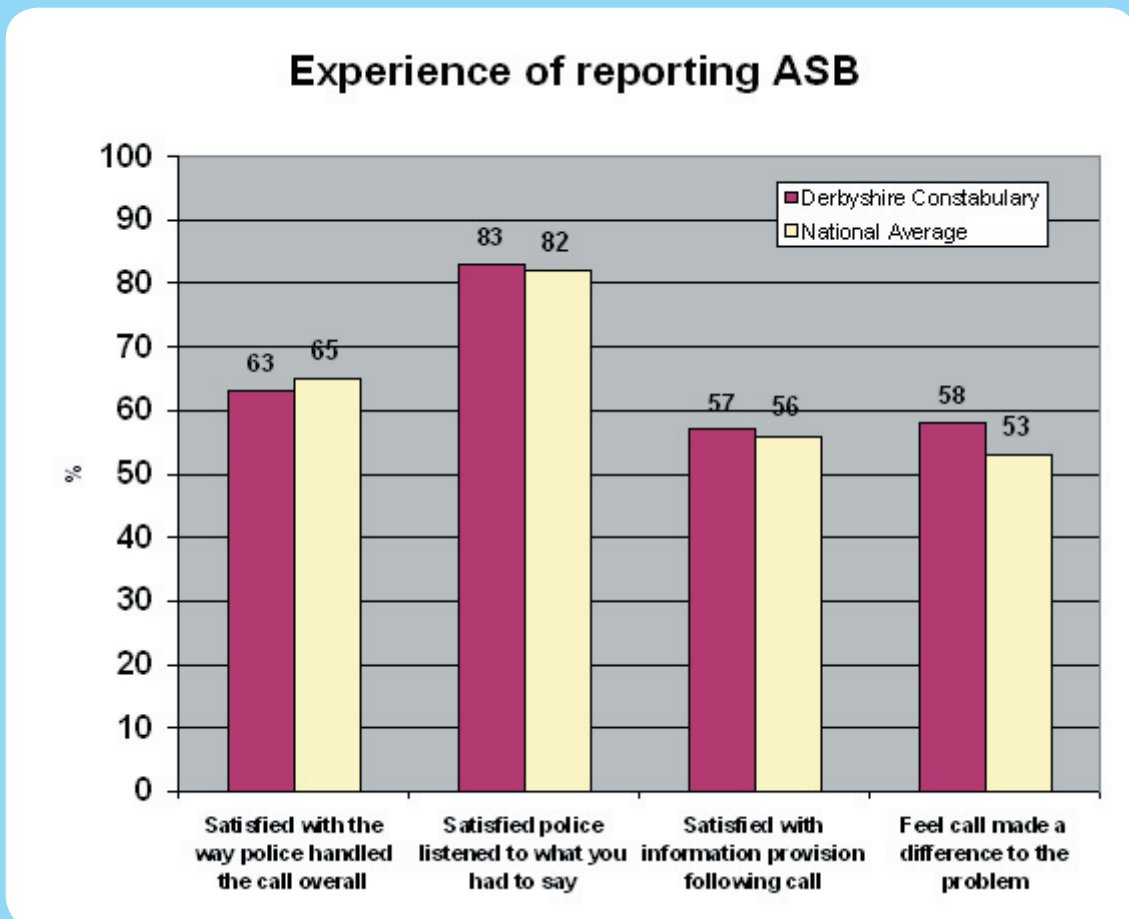
Safer neighbourhood teams work well with partners to develop plans to address long-term ASB problems. However, there are a number of different local arrangements in place to manage plans to deal with repeat or vulnerable victims of ASB. Supervision of these plans to ensure they remain on track is not always as consistent as it could be.

Is ASB a priority for the force?

ASB is clearly stated as a force priority within the local policing plan. Staff have a clear understanding of the importance placed on tackling ASB. The level of police resources devoted to tackling ASB matches the force's commitment to treat ASB as a priority. The force ensures that information and intelligence on ASB is gathered, analysed and shared across the force. This is important as it enables the force to respond better to areas of local concern, and to take steps to prevent ASB in the first place.

Results of the victim satisfaction survey

We surveyed 161 people who reported ASB in Derbyshire during September 2009. They were asked a range of questions about their perceptions of ASB generally and their experience in reporting ASB to the police.



From the results, it can be seen that the force is performing broadly in line with the national average for the areas considered in the survey.

