



Inspecting policing  
in the public interest



## **Anti-social Behaviour Inspection Report**

**Dyfed-Powys Police**

Dyfed-Powys experiences a relatively lower level of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and a lower level 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 Dyfed-Powys Police is performing in these areas.

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

ASB is not always included in daily staff briefings, but is highlighted when required. These briefings are carried out by supervisors but staff can brief themselves in the absence of a supervisor. CID, Response and neighbourhood policing team (NPT) officers are sometimes briefed together about ASB issues. There are detailed examples where specific local ASB issues have been shared among staff, although this occurs less frequently for CID and response teams.

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

Work to tackle repeat ASB offenders and location hotspots is effectively managed by analysing data and information to identify problem areas. However, decisions on how resources should be allocated and coordinated are not targeted at addressing the needs of repeat or vulnerable 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?**

In general, HMIC found highly motivated and enthusiastic staff, and some excellent examples of work with partners to solve long-term ASB problems. Tactics to tackle ASB include the use of ASB orders (ASBOs), crime-related ASBOs (CRASBOs), acceptable behavioural contracts (ABCs), fixed penalty notices (FPNs) and dispersal orders, all as part of a clear intervention process.

There was evidence that tactical options are sometimes discussed between neighbourhood teams and with other staff (such as CID or traffic officers), when developing action plans to solve particular ASB problems. Although no formal process was identified, these problem-solving plans are used to deal with ASB incidents and local priorities, and neighbourhood teams often get together to discuss good practice, innovation and new ideas. However, the progress of actions against these plans could be monitored in a more consistent way.

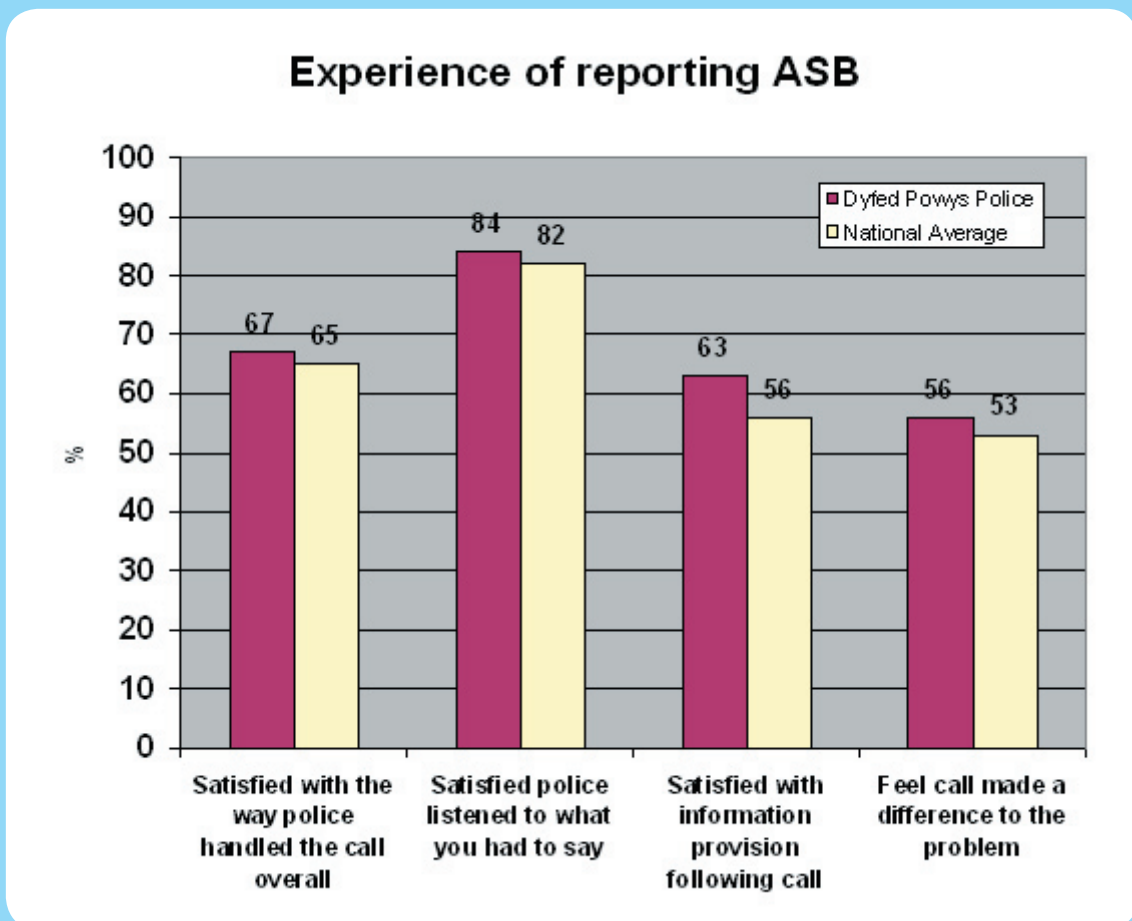
Good examples of solving problems included confiscation of alcohol by NPTs and setting-up alcohol-free zones, which in turn have reduced the number of ASB complaints. Ceredigion has recently worked closely with partner agencies to create an alcohol-free zone within Aberystwyth.

### Is ASB a priority for the force?

ASB is a clearly stated force priority and features in the local policing plan and relevant documents. The level of resources devoted to ASB and the data and information analysed demonstrates a clear commitment to tackling ASB.

### Results of the victim satisfaction survey

We surveyed 102 people who reported ASB in Dyfed-Powys 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.

