



Inspecting policing
in the public interest



Anti-social Behaviour Inspection Report

North Yorkshire Police

North Yorkshire 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 North Yorkshire Police is performing in these areas.

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

The briefing received by safer neighbourhood team staff (SNT, the North Yorkshire Police term for neighbourhood policing team) was good but less consistent for response and CID staff. In a number of neighbourhoods, HMIC found that response and CID officers saw ASB as solely the responsibility of the safer neighbourhood team. Response staff often felt that they did not have a part to play in tackling ASB; in fact, if they were sent to an address where they knew the SNT already had some involvement, generally they dealt with the bare basics of the call and arranged for the case to be passed on to the SNT to deal with properly.

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

Daily management meetings at the local neighbourhood level and meetings at the wider district level (at which decisions are made about where police resources should be allocated) include consideration of information about repeat and vulnerable victims of ASB. The force assesses data on ASB provided by partners, including the use of ASBOs, acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) and dispersal orders.

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 most neighbourhoods, SNT officers were fully aware of the plans in place to tackle long-term ASB problems, and the sergeants confirmed that they monitored these and signed them off when they were completed, although they relied on the officer to decide when this should happen. However, plans to solve problems relating to repeat or vulnerable ASB victims were often not completed.

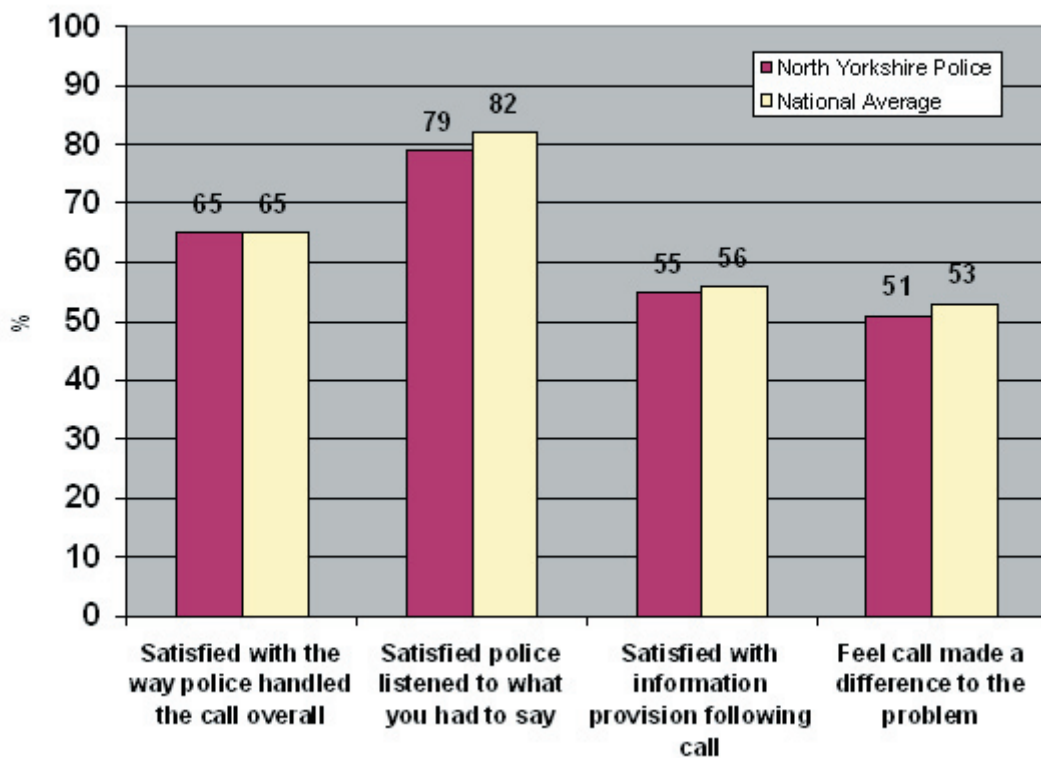
Is ASB a priority for the force?

ASB is a force priority and features in the policing plan. The senior management team chair several meetings with ASB as a main component, with an ASB steering group driving the response to ASB across the force. The resources directed towards ASB, such as through the Get a Grip campaign demonstrates that the commitment to tackling ASB is high.

Results of the victim satisfaction survey

We surveyed 101 people who reported ASB in North Yorkshire 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.

Experience of reporting ASB



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.

