



Inspecting policing
in the public interest



Anti-social Behaviour Inspection Report

South Yorkshire Police

South Yorkshire experiences a relatively higher level of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and a higher 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 South Yorkshire Police is performing in these areas.

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

Staff in safer neighbourhood teams (SNTs, the South Yorkshire Police term for neighbourhood policing teams) are briefed regularly about ASB issues in the local policing area, and in detail about specific local neighbourhood ASB issues, although this is not as frequent for response staff and even less so for CID staff. Efforts have been made to make response staff more accountable for tackling ASB (as opposed to it being seen as the sole responsibility of SNTs). However, this was not yet recognised across the force; in some areas, response staff have been allocated to SNTs for six-week periods, patrolled on foot with SNT officers and attended meetings where they were updated about local ASB issues. In contrast, the force recognises that CID staff do not feel involved with the work to tackle ASB in their local area.

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

The force uses a standard method of managing data and information to monitor ASB, and there is some focus on considering information about repeat and vulnerable victims and ASB hotspots to decide where resources should be allocated. However, this is done neither consistently nor sufficiently across the whole force. At a local policing area level, daily management meetings are attended by SNT inspectors; and a meeting observed by HMIC as part of the inspection included analysis of information about repeat and vulnerable ASB victims and consideration of recent ASB incidents. However, across the force as a whole most SNT staff HMIC spoke to described these daily management meetings as being focused on crime rather than ASB.

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?

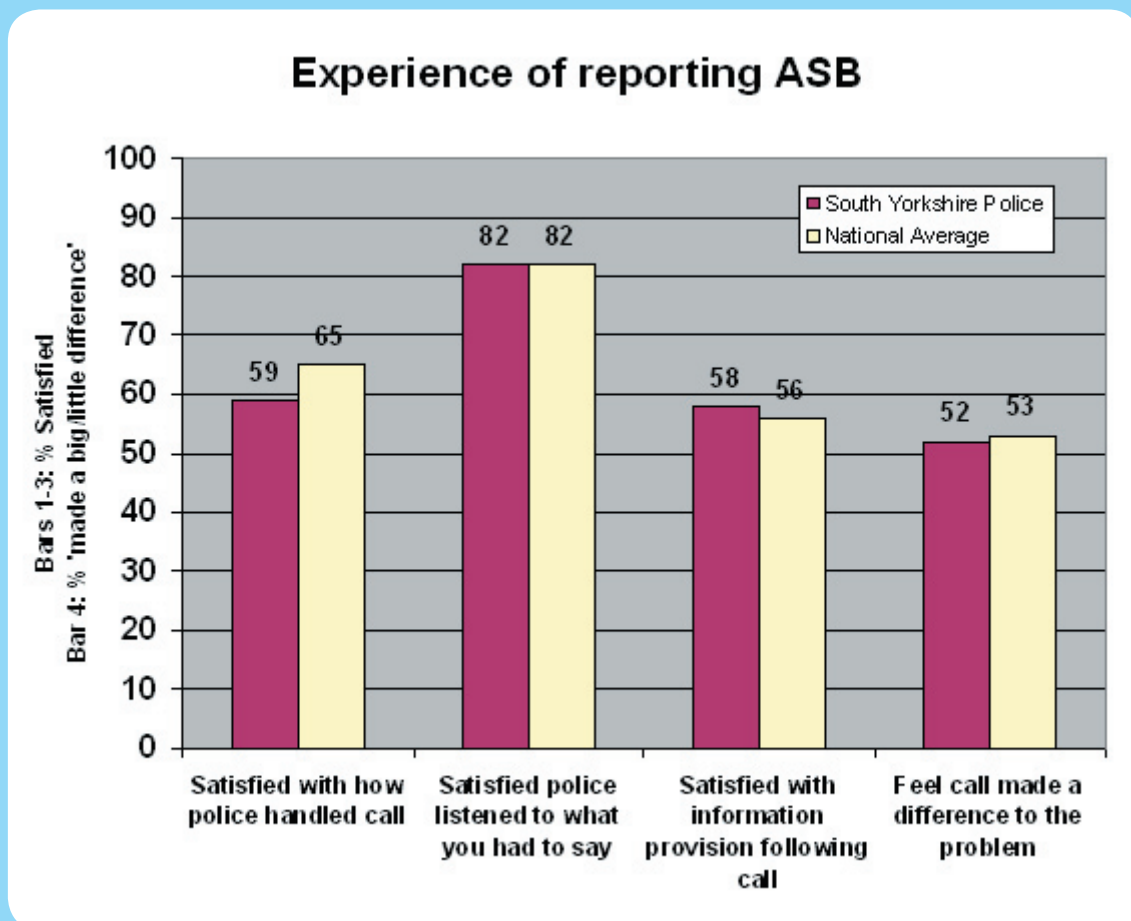
SNTs use a wide range of tactics to tackle ASB, and there is clear evidence of good and effective working with partners to solve ASB problems. For instance, SNTs have effective day-to-day contact with staff from local councils and good relationships with a range of other partners, such as registered social landlords. Local ASB problems are solved by neighbourhood action groups, made up of relevant partners. SNTs consistently use a set approach in how they plan to solve long-term local ASB problems, although one of the teams HMIC visited did not back this up with formalised plans.

Is ASB a priority for the force?

ASB is a force priority and features in the policing plan. The senior management team's high level of commitment to tackling ASB is shown by the amount of resources being applied to the problem at a local policing area level – such as Operation Cohesion in Rotherham and Total Policing in Sheffield.

Results of the victim satisfaction survey

We surveyed 101 people who reported ASB in South 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.



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.

