



Inspecting policing
in the public interest



Anti-social Behaviour Inspection Report

Sussex Police

The area covered by Sussex Police experiences relatively moderate levels of crime, per head of population, but lower levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB).

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 Sussex Police is performing in these areas.

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

Neighbourhood policing teams are regularly and effectively briefed on ASB issues. Response teams receive similar daily briefings, and at some sites the teams are briefed together. Daily meetings, attended by representatives of all teams, were held where higher level ASB issues are raised. Response teams and CID officers do not always consider ASB to be an issue that they are responsible for.

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

The force holds regular meetings to monitor how well it is doing in tackling ASB and to make decisions as to where police resource should be allocated to address the most pressing priorities. The effectiveness of police action to address ASB is reviewed at daily meetings, but information on repeat and vulnerable ASB victims is not considered. Priorities are agreed for prevention and enforcement activity to tackle ASB, but it is unclear how progress is monitored.

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?

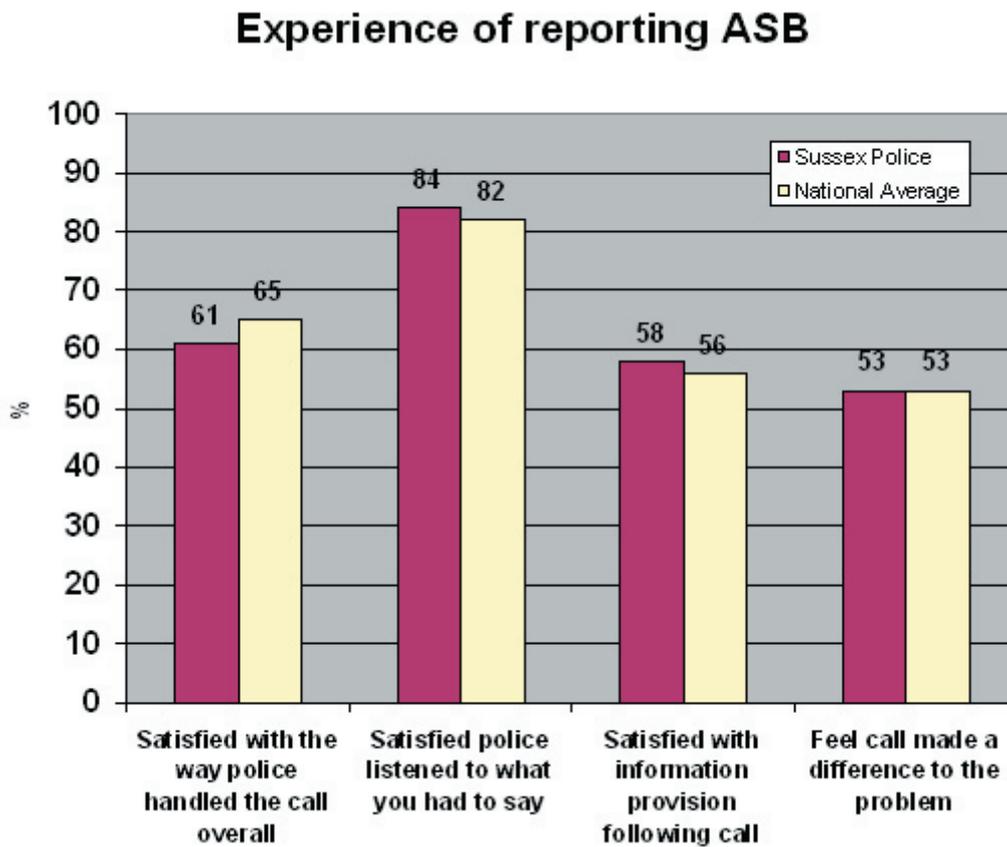
Neighbourhood policing teams use a wide range of methods to tackle ASB, including the use of anti-social behaviour orders, acceptable behaviour contracts and eviction powers. They work well with staff from local authorities and registered social landlords and are supported in this by ASB co-ordinators who are in place across the force. Co-ordinators have regular and effective contact with a range of partner organisations, in particular housing associations. As a result of these good working relationships, a number of housing and licensing issues have been addressed. While ASB offenders and locations are generally well known to neighbourhood policing teams, there is less focus on addressing the needs of ASB victims themselves.

Is ASB a priority for the force?

ASB is a force priority and features in the local policing plan. There is a clear commitment to tackling ASB demonstrated through the appropriate level of policing resources devoted to solving local ASB issues.

Results of the victim satisfaction survey

We surveyed 101 people who reported ASB in Sussex 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.

