



Inspecting policing  
in the public interest



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

**West Yorkshire Police**

West 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 West Yorkshire Police is performing in these areas.

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

The briefings received by neighbourhood policing team (NPT) staff are good, and provide a comprehensive picture on ASB issues. HMIC found some evidence that response and CID officers were briefed on, or engaged in, local ASB issues. However, generally, this took place because the different teams were based in the same place (not because there was a special effort to keep all staff up to date). The force acknowledges that it needs to make tackling ASB a routine part of response officers' work.

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

HMIC reviewed some of the documents being used by the force, but these showed only one local policing area focusing on repeat or vulnerable ASB victims. There is an ongoing review of how the force uses information about particular crimes, incidents, hotspots or victims, which will result in better analysis of ASB issues in West Yorkshire. At a neighbourhood level, there is evidence of NPTs using specific computer software to analyse ASB to help decide where resources should be allocated and to monitor cases that involve repeat and 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?**

In one NPT visited by HMIC during the inspection, plans were hand written and then transferred to a computer system weekly. This could mean that the NPT is working on a plan that other staff would not be aware of and could not access. The force intends to standardise the method used by NPTs to create and act on plans to solve long-term ASB problems and to involve response officers more fully in this process. This has already been tested in Airedale and Bradford North.

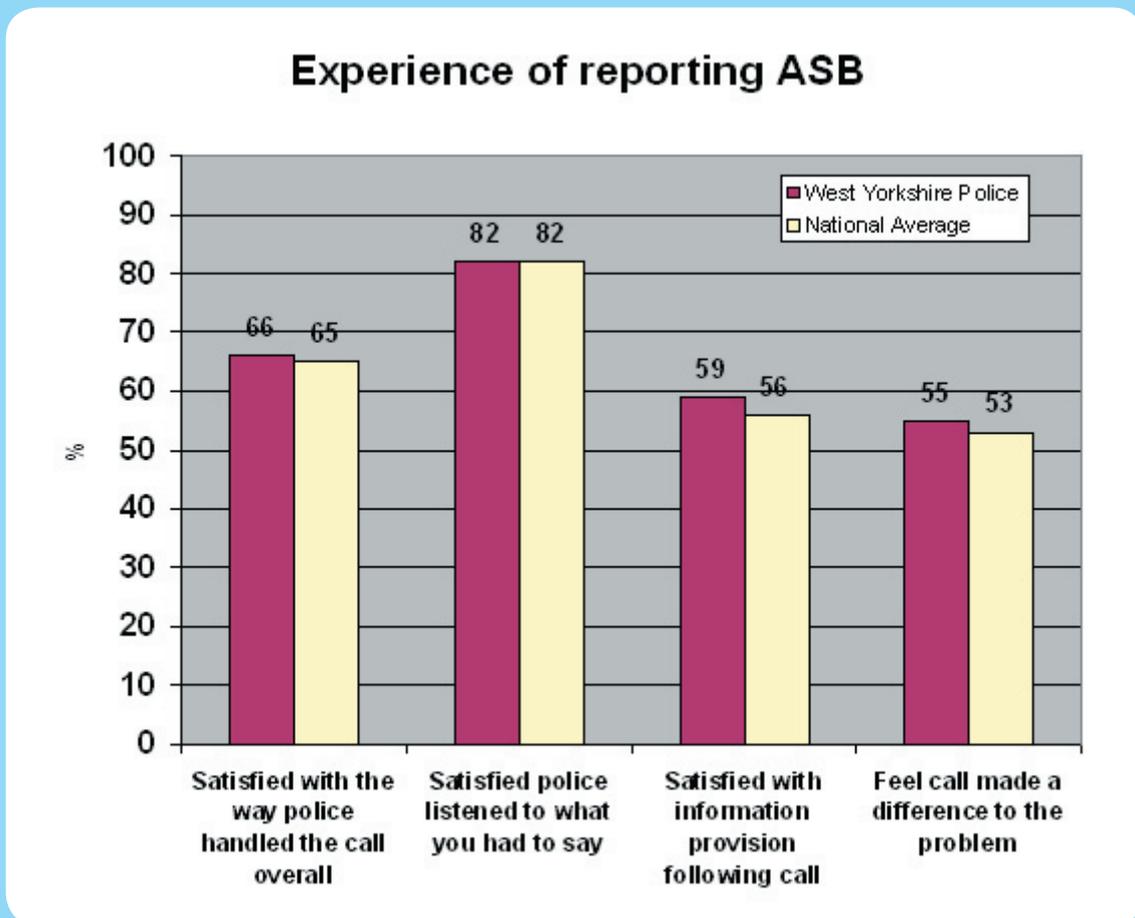
HMIC found strong evidence at Ossett of a successful ASB patrol plan which provides locations for general patrol and allocating NPT staff to specific problems on a daily basis. This plan appears to be routine within the NPT, and previous patrol plans have been kept since the beginning of 2010. This method had been developed locally by an NPT officer who demonstrated a thorough understanding of all force computer systems, and it works very well.

### Is ASB a priority for the force?

ASB is a force priority and features in the policing plan. The high level of commitment to tackling ASB is clear, with messages from the Chief Constable, and ASB performance being monitored as a core performance indicator, as well as significant development of computer systems to help the force use suitable resources where they are required.

### Results of the victim satisfaction survey

We surveyed 407 people who reported ASB in West 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.

