



Inspecting policing
in the public interest



Anti-social Behaviour Inspection Report

Leicestershire Constabulary

The area covered by Leicestershire Constabulary experiences relatively higher levels of crime, per head of population, and moderate 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 Leicestershire Constabulary is performing in these areas.

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

Local policing unit (LPU) inspectors hold daily meetings to ensure that neighbourhood policing teams, response teams and CID staff are briefed and up to date on current ASB problems. There are some excellent examples of effective briefing arrangements, for example in the Loughborough LPU. In some other parts of the force briefings are not quite so effective either because they are held less frequently or because attendance is limited.

Actions to tackle ASB issues are agreed at these daily meetings and allocated to an individual officer to complete. This ensures officers take ownership of the issue. Locally-based ASB coordinators review all incidents of ASB to identify repeat and vulnerable victims. They ensure that neighbourhood policing teams, response staff and relevant partner organisations that need to be involved in tackling problems are informed, so they can start working together to resolve them.

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

The force monitors how well it is doing in tackling ASB at regular meetings where updates on local ASB issues are provided and at which decisions are made on where police resources should be allocated. The force ensures that staff are moved around to tackle problems as they emerge.

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?

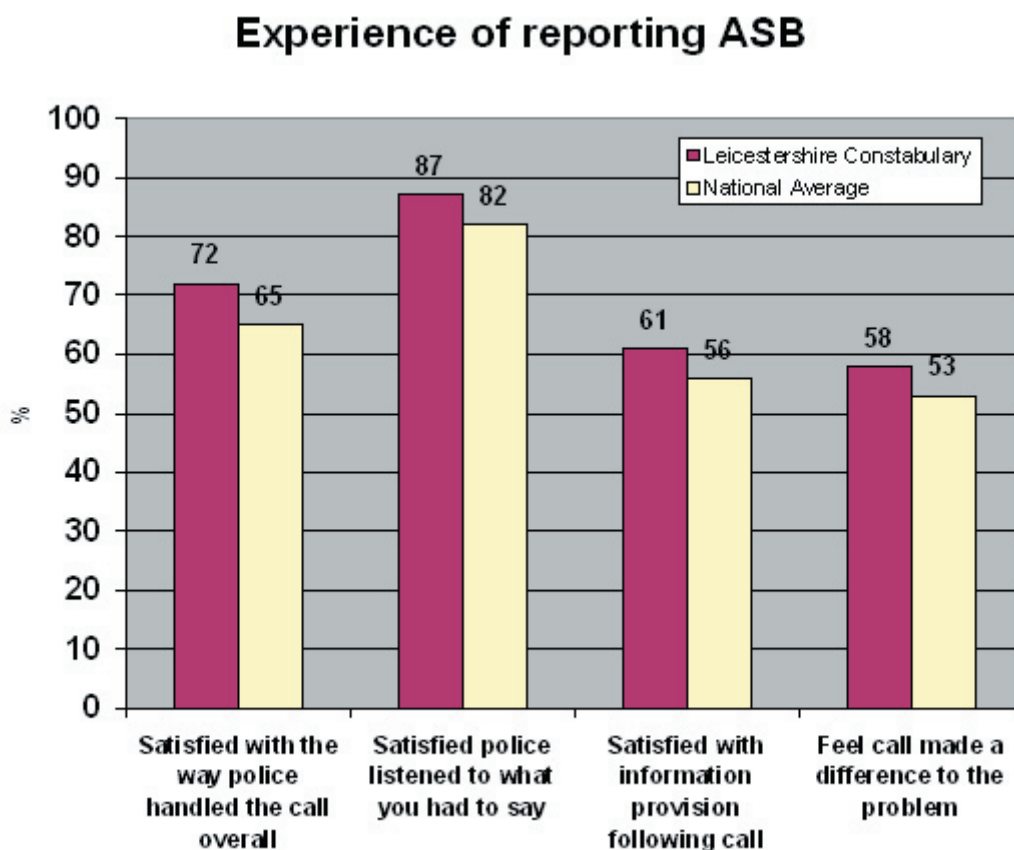
Neighbourhood policing teams work well with staff from local councils and some registered social landlords to tackle ASB. They are effectively supported in this by ASB co-ordinators who are based in every local policing area. This joint working means that a wide range of methods to tackle ASB are considered, such as the use of injunctions and eviction powers. Regular meetings involving the police, local councils and other partner organisations are held, at which more difficult local ASB problems are considered. At these meetings, plans are developed to address problems and progress is monitored effectively.

Is ASB a priority for the force?

Tackling ASB is a priority for the force. It features in the local policing plan and other relevant force documents. The level of police resources devoted to tackling ASB matches the force's commitment to treat ASB as a priority. The force ensures that information and intelligence on ASB is gathered, analysed and shared across the force. This is important as it enables the force to respond better to areas of local concern and to take steps to prevent ASB in the first place.

Results of the victim satisfaction survey

We surveyed 128 people who reported ASB in Leicestershire 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 doing well in the areas considered in the survey.

