



Inspecting policing
in the public interest



Anti-social Behaviour Inspection Report

Lincolnshire Police

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

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

Some neighbourhood inspectors and sergeants hold briefings with neighbourhood policing teams and response staff to discuss specific ASB problems in the area. But due to the size of the force area and the limited number of sergeants, neighbourhood policing staff more regularly brief themselves and response staff about local ASB problems. When ASB incidents are initially attended by response officers, information is not always passed on to neighbourhood policing teams in an effective way. Often details of the incident are circulated in the hope that someone will deal with it, rather than it being allocated to a particular officer or police community support officer.

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. The effectiveness of the action taken is assessed, but this process is not robust, in particular because it does not include information on repeat and vulnerable ASB victims. It is unclear how progress in resolving ASB issues is monitored by supervisors and kept on track. One of the local policing areas in Lincolnshire (covering the west of the county, including Lincoln) has recently started fortnightly assessments of repeat ASB victims. However, police resources are not then matched to areas where the ASB problem is the greatest. The other two local policing areas do not currently make such thorough assessments.

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 deal with ASB. However they have not received training in how to work with partners to solve the problems that are the root cause of ASB. This means teams do not always use tried and tested methods for solving long term ASB problems.

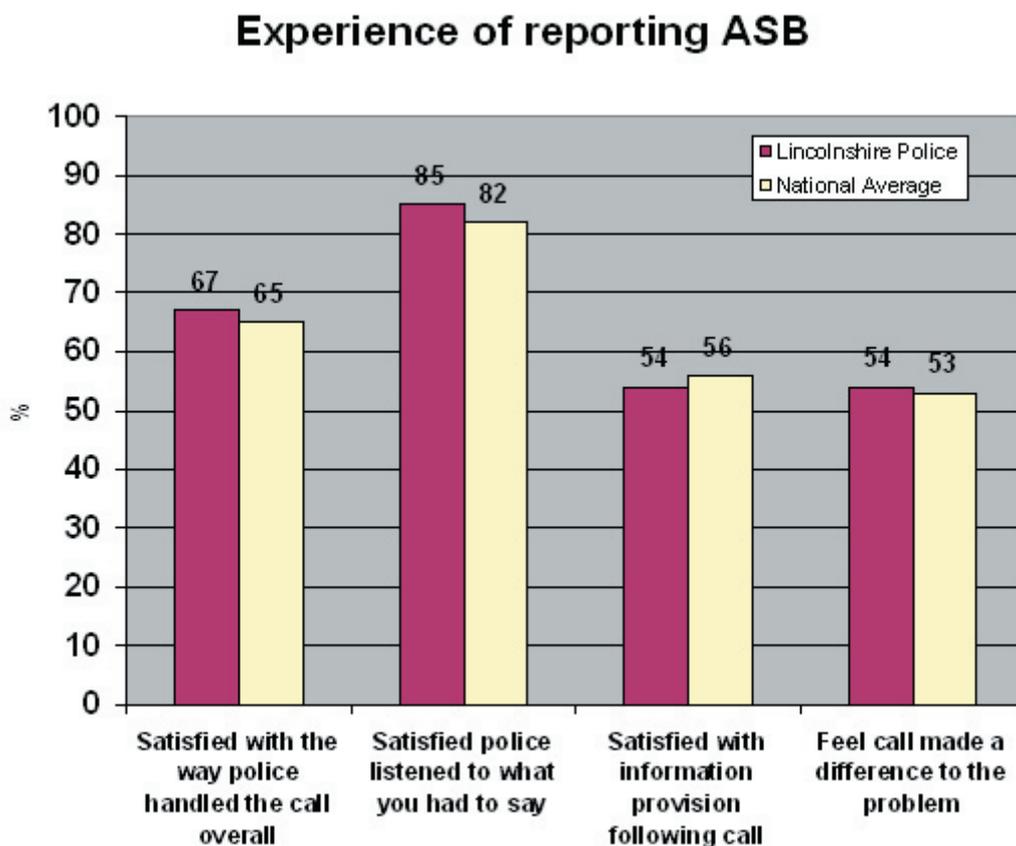
Regular meetings involving the police, local councils and other partner organisations are held, at which more difficult local ASB problems are considered. At these meetings plans are developed to address issues and progress is monitored. However, sometimes neighbourhood policing teams do not adopt a coordinated approach involving partners. This means problems are not always solved as quickly as they could be.

Is ASB a priority for the force?

ASB is a priority for the force and is included as such in the local policing plan. However, it is not clear that the level of resources devoted to ASB matches the force's commitment to treat ASB as a priority.

Results of the victim satisfaction survey

We surveyed 103 people who reported ASB in Lincolnshire 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.

