



Inspecting policing
in the public interest



Anti-social Behaviour Inspection Report

Suffolk Constabulary

The area covered by Suffolk Constabulary experiences relatively lower levels of both anti-social behaviour (ASB) and 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 Suffolk Constabulary is performing in these areas.

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

Recent restructuring within the force has led to staff working from different locations, but the force has made good use of technology to ensure that safer neighbourhood teams, response teams and CID staff are well briefed and that they routinely consider ASB as part of their work.

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 information relating to ASB is reviewed, and decisions are made about how police resources can be best organised to address local ASB issues. Information and intelligence is shared with local authority partners in appropriate cases, and action to tackle ASB is reviewed at daily meetings. There is, however, insufficient focus at these meetings on the service provided to repeat or vulnerable victims of ASB. Police activity tends to focus on tackling the offenders, rather than also supporting 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?

Safer neighbourhood teams use a wide range of methods to tackle ASB including the use of anti-social behaviour orders, acceptable behaviour contracts and the banning of alcohol consumption in ASB hotspots. In using these, safer neighbourhood teams work effectively with partners and prioritise action according to identified neighbourhood priorities. Actions are consistently recorded and effectively supervised to ensure they are carried out. Police and local authority ASB co-ordinators are in place across the force and this has helped develop a number of effective joint projects.

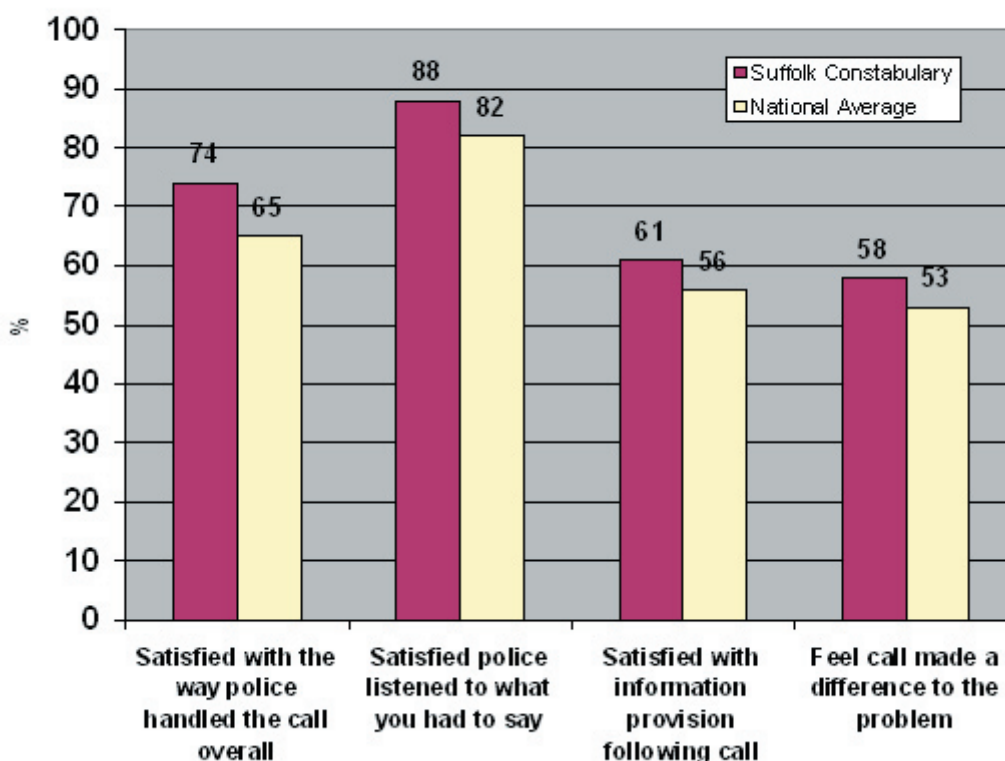
Is ASB a priority for the force?

ASB is a force priority and features in the local policing plan. The level of police resources devoted to ASB matches the force's commitment to deal with 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 101 people who reported ASB in Suffolk 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.

Experience of reporting ASB



From the results, it can be seen that the force is doing well in the areas considered in the survey. The survey also showed significantly fewer of the ASB victims in Suffolk felt that ASB was a big problem in their area than the national average. In addition the proportion of ASB victims who felt that ASB affected their daily routine was far lower than in most forces. This is a good result for the force.

