

The policing response to antisocial behaviour: PEEL spotlight report – Response from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire

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Report Summary

It was reported that most forces need to improve how they identify and record antisocial behaviour (ASB) particularly when antisocial behaviour was connected to criminal behaviour. Also, forces need to identify and record whether someone is a vulnerable person when antisocial behaviour is reported. Some forces were reported to make good use of technology to encourage antisocial behaviour reporting, making changes to online reporting websites, to make them more user-friendly. Examples of innovative practice include QR codes and apps to help the public report persistent antisocial behaviour but this type of technology must be robustly supervised and subject to ongoing review, so that victims are both safeguarded and receive an effective service.

Many forces made good use of data to tackle antisocial behaviour. This meant action could be taken to tackle problems, and the forces could plan effectively to address future demand. However, there were too many forces who didn't understand the level of antisocial behaviour in their area and had difficulty obtaining data from partner organisations which hampers efforts to identify immediate risks and vulnerabilities, as well as long-term trends.

A lack of analytical support undermines efforts to tackle antisocial behaviour effectively, however many forces now have central teams to manage complex antisocial behaviour data, which helps to update and assign work to local neighbourhood teams. These central teams provide expert and technical guidance. Most forces were good at using problem-solving approaches making sure preventative policing becomes a core part of policing to prevent harm. Also, examples where identifying antisocial behaviour had helped to reveal wider criminal activity such as drug dealing.

Many forces are using early intervention approaches to prevent antisocial behaviour. The use of warning letters, early intervention schemes and diversionary activities can help to reduce reoffending and the harms of antisocial behaviour in communities. The report also urges forces to continue to invest time and resources into making good use of all statutory powers available to them. Also, continuity within neighbourhood police teams was needed to help tackle antisocial behaviour and build trust and should be protected from abstractions.

Specialist antisocial behaviour advisers can help make effective use of antisocial behaviour powers and can provide clear information to their personnel on available powers and legislation. High-quality training is essential for personnel to understand what antisocial behaviour is, how it links to other crime, the harm it can cause and the available interventions.



Taking a joint approach to problem-solving increased the likelihood of effective actions by the police and partners. Often, police teams were co-located with other organisations, which increased the speed and agility of any response to antisocial behaviour issues.

Response from Dan Price, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire

I welcome the thorough analysis and valuable insights provided by HMICFRS in the thematic report (which was not specific to Cheshire). I acknowledge the recommendations made and have asked the Chief Constable to provide an outline response to these, which has provided reassurance that there is commitment to improving the response to ASB. I will continue to monitor progress against these but will keep a continued focus on ASB through the commitments I am making in my Police and Crime Plan.

I will hold the Chief Constable to account in ensuring there is positive community engagement between local communities and police, backed up by my work with local people to ensure their voices are heard and concerns are addressed promptly. I look forward to seeing the impact of locally informed policing plans on tackling ASB that are being developed with local people through the citizens' assemblies that are be happening across the county.

One of the key priorities in my plan is to maximise the use of technology and innovation and this objective chimes with the recommendations made in the report. I have already supported investment in analytical technology and have ambitious plans to maximise potential in this area.

I am developing strong partnerships and will work closely with partner agencies, including local authorities, housing associations, and community groups, alongside the Constabulary to develop a coordinated approach to tackling ASB. I am confident that these measures, along with a renewed and refreshed approach to neighbourhood policing model in Cheshire will lead to a significant improvement in the handling of ASB incidents enhance the safety and well-being of our communities.

Dan Price

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire

Constabulary Response

Description	Initial Response
<p>Recommendation 1 By 31 March 2025, forces should review their processes for recording antisocial behaviour to make sure all antisocial behaviour and associated crime are recorded correctly.</p>	<p>The Constabulary have reviewed their processes and are confident that they comply with this recommendation. They have bolstered their Quality Assurance arrangements and provided additional training to staff to ensure that compliance is monitored / maintained on an ongoing basis.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2 By 30 September 2025, forces should make sure personnel are appropriately trained to identify and record antisocial behaviour and associated crime when they are first reported.</p>	<p>The Constabulary have reviewed their training provision and are satisfied that they comply with this recommendation. The Quality Assurance process within the Force Control Centre helps to monitor ongoing compliance and to target additional training where needed.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3 By 31 March 2025, forces should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review their risk assessment processes for antisocial behaviour cases to make sure that risks are properly assessed from initial contact to case closure; and • make sure completed risk assessments are retained in line with management of police information guidelines. 	<p>The Constabulary have reviewed their risk assessment process in light of this inspection report. They will consult with their Information Compliance team to ensure that they fully comply.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4 By 31 December 2024, forces should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make sure all antisocial behaviour problem-solving plans fully specify the problem, contain sufficient detail, are effectively supervised; and • evaluate all antisocial behaviour problem-solving plans for an outcome in line with National Police Chiefs' Council Neighbourhood Policing Outcome and Performance Guidelines. 	<p>The Constabulary have made improvements to their problem-solving processes to improve the compliance with this recommendation. The thematic lead for ASB has been tasked with finding good practice from other forces.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8 By 30 September 2025, forces should give all neighbourhood policing teams antisocial behaviour training that makes best use of the College of Policing's antisocial behaviour guidance and resources.</p>	<p>The Constabulary undertake a training needs analysis annually and set training priorities every year. They implemented the neighbourhood policing programme and will ensure that any further recommendations from this report are included in reviews.</p>