

POLICE:NOW
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Alleviating ASB in Thames Valley

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The problem

Within three months of joining the Police Now programme I was posted to a deprived urban area of inner Reading with high levels of ASB. ASB was especially problematic on one street where small groups would regularly gather to drink. This was disturbing and stressful to local residents.

The approach

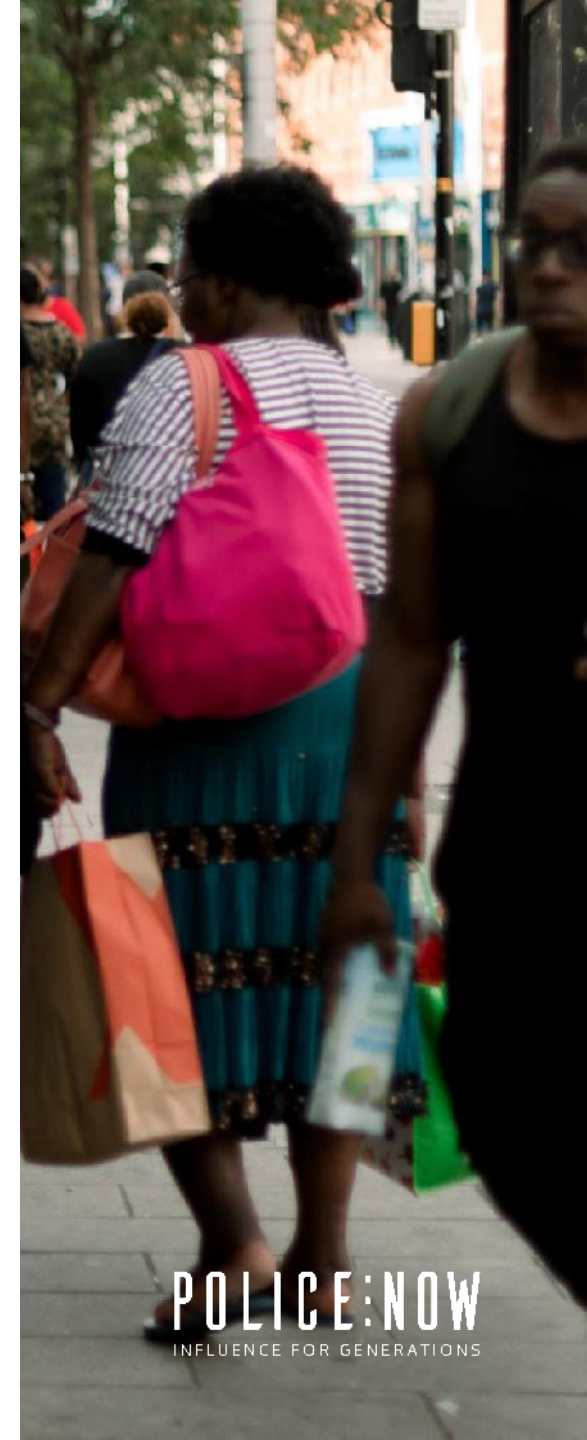
As part of my neighbourhood policing team we implemented a multifaceted and multi-agency approach including:

- Working with partners to offer alcohol and drugs treatment options for those with dependency issues.
- Street surgeries with residents to build trust in the police and discuss potential solutions.
- Targeted patrols of the area between 18:00 – 23:00.
- Hardening of the enforcement of licensing conditions and supporting the council with the introduction of “off-licence watch”.

Important methodical note

We remain committed to measuring the impact of participants on crime, ASB and public perceptions of policing in partnership with independent analysts, both as a means of holding ourselves accountable for our activities and informing programme improvements. This is despite the widely acknowledged challenges of measuring impact, limited availability of data on public confidence in policing at a neighbourhood level and the challenge of finding well matched comparison communities.

It is important to note that in the absence of a fully randomised design and without controlling for the other factors, the results presented here preclude any firm 'cause and effect' statements. The results in this report (and indeed previous reports) should therefore be treated with caution due to limitations with the data and methodology. This includes, for example, that police recorded crime and ASB figures can be affected by changes in recording practices and they only cover the incidents that come to the attention of the police. Further, it is important to note that like all officers, Police Now participants are subject to abstraction and often work on tasks beyond the boundaries of their dedicated neighbourhood area.



The impact

Quarterly reports of ASB during my time on the National Graduate Leadership Programme.



Local data suggested a steady decline in the number of reported ASB incidents during my time working with the community on the National Graduate Leadership Programme.

Although it is difficult to confidently assign this to the work of the neighbourhood team, I was proud to hear from local residents that they felt safer as a result of our work.