

POLICE:NOW

INFLUENCE FOR GENERATIONS

Internationally recognised excellence in problem solving

PC Libby Battney
South Yorkshire Police

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From Sheffield to the States: internationally recognised excellence in problem solving

Name: Libby Bettney

Force: South Yorkshire Police

Rank: Police Constable

Degree and University: BA Law, University of Manchester

Police Now Neighbourhood Programme: 2017-2019

Passionate about working with and supporting the most vulnerable in society, Libby joined the Police Now programme in 2017, having studied Law. Arriving in her community in Sheffield, Libby very quickly became at the forefront of efforts to tackle Spice use. This would form the focus of her efforts across the course of the programme, with the aim of significantly reducing the impact of Spice use in the City.

Having conducted an initial in-depth analysis of the problem to gain a deeper understanding, Libby led the response of her neighbourhood team as well as collaborating with a range of external partners. Demand on police time was high, with daily calls from members of the public regarding concerns around homeless individuals and their welfare due to Spice use. Local businesses were suffering due to the associated anti-social behaviour and therefore decreased footfall and turnover.



Libby coordinated an inter-agency response with treatment providers, the Council and local businesses to identify hot spots and devise a series of innovative approaches to tackle the problem. These measures included a drop-in clinic and mobile treatment service which was the first of its kind, introducing password protected Wi-Fi in shops and businesses, removal of street furniture and shrubbery and the installation of CCTV. Having had extensive success, Libby held a regional conference with other policing colleagues and partners to share best practice in this area and reflect on lessons learnt.

Libby's work led to the total demand on police time in the area decreasing by 20% and a decrease in crime of 35%, totalling an annual saving of £230,000. As a result, Libby and her team received extensive local media coverage, as well as being awarded a Tilley Award for excellence in problem solving nationally. The extent of her impact was also felt abroad, receiving international recognition for this work as a finalist at The Goldstein Awards in the United States.