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**The policing response to antisocial behaviour: PEEL spotlight report. Response by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Foster.**

This PEEL spotlight report, published on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024, examines the police response to antisocial behaviour (ASB). It highlights areas needing improvement as well as examples of effective practices being implemented by police forces nationwide to address this issue. The inspectorate has made several recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of police responses to ASB.

ASB creates a sense of insecurity within communities. The report highlights that many police forces prioritise addressing this issue, allocating specialised resources, and adopting problem-solving strategies to reduce its impact. However, significant challenges persist. These include poor data sharing, outdated IT systems, insufficient training, and inconsistent recording practices. These issues underscore national challenges and differences in how police forces address the problem and support victims.

**By 31 March 2025, forces should review their processes for recording ASB to make sure all ASB and associated crime are recorded correctly.**

West Midlands Police (WMP) is currently achieving a 61% compliance in appropriately identifying and crimeing ASB. Incident logs that are classified as ASB are currently regularly reviewed across local policing areas (LPAs) to ensure crimes and non-crimes are correctly identified. Furthermore, a task and finish group has been established to oversee the creation and implementation of improved ASB and crime recording within Force Contact, this is planned to be implemented ahead of March 2025. I expect WMP to comply with this recommendation within the prescribed timescale.

**By 30 September 2025, forces should make sure personnel are appropriately trained to identify and record ASB and associated crime when they are first reported; and should give all neighbourhood policing teams antisocial behaviour training that makes best use of the College of Policing's antisocial behaviour guidance and resources.**

WMP deliver various training sessions focused on ASB and accurate crime recording. Neighbourhood officers are currently undergoing Problem-Oriented Policing training, with plans to adopt the College of

Policing's Neighbourhood Policing training once its pilot phase is completed and rolled out—both of which place a strong emphasis on ASB. Additionally, WMP is enhancing awareness and understanding of the ASB case review process across the force, equipping officers with the tools to identify and take further action to address ASB within the community. I expect WMP to comply with this recommendation within the prescribed timescale.

**By 31 March 2025, forces should review their risk assessment processes for ASB 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.**

WMP currently employs the THRIVE (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, Engagement) risk assessment model to assess the risks and safeguarding needs associated with crime and ASB incidents. This approach ensures that each incident is evaluated comprehensively, considering potential harm to individuals and communities, as well as identifying those who may be particularly vulnerable. Recognising the unique challenges posed by ASB, WMP is exploring the adoption of a dedicated risk assessment tool specifically tailored to ASB incidents. This specialised tool would aim to enhance the force's ability to identify, prioritise, and respond to ASB cases more effectively, ensuring a consistent and focused approach to tackling this issue. I expect WMP to comply with this recommendation within the prescribed timescale.

**By 31 December 2024, forces should make sure all ASB problem-solving plans fully specify the problem, contain sufficient detail, are effectively supervised; and evaluate all ASB problem-solving plans for an outcome in line with NPCC Neighbourhood Policing Outcome and Performance Guidelines.**

All WMP neighbourhood officers are undergoing problem-solving policing training, which focuses on the SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment) model. WMP manages Proactive Management Plans (PMPs), which facilitate the recording, review, and supervision of ASB. The WMP Problem-Oriented Policing lead is evaluating PMP usage, with findings intended to guide future training and strategy to enhance responses to this recommendation. WMP offers various training programmes and works closely with the College of Policing to ensure alignment with national guidance. I expect WMP to comply with this recommendation within the prescribed timescale.

Positively, the inspectorate acknowledged an area of promising practice carried out by WMP regarding training. The force maintains an internal website that holds comprehensive information about ASB, relevant legislation, and 'go-to' guides for staff to refer to, as well as information about ASB disposals. The webpage

also includes relevant details about local authority areas and contact information for the force's ASB co-ordinator.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this report underscores the importance of improving police responses to ASB through better recording practices, problem-solving plans, and comprehensive training. WMP is actively addressing these areas by reviewing processes, enhancing training, and leveraging innovative tools like their internal ASB website. These efforts demonstrate a commitment to aligning with national recommendations, strengthening community trust, and effectively tackling ASB.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Foster', written in a cursive style.

**Simon Foster**

**West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner**