

North East – Stop Them In Their Tracks, Cleveland Police re: ASB

Scanning:

Motorcycle nuisance is the anti social and illegal use of motorcycles. Offenders use their machines to the annoyance of people in the locality, commit breaches of Road Traffic legislation, and often use them in the commission of crime. Intelligence also suggests that offenders are involved in other offending behaviour.

This project began when it was noted that many calls from the public related to anti-social use of motorcycles, yet this was not reflected in incident figures. Some incidents were recorded as traffic, some as anti-social behaviour, and others as miscellaneous. So, an issue that was causing major concern to the public was not indicated as significant in Force data.

Analysis:

The data recording issues had to be tackled, and a protocol for recording anti-social use of motorcycles was produced. Gaps in knowledge were identified; members of staff were unfamiliar with legislation and this meant that incidents were sometimes dealt with inappropriately. This was also the case with the officers responding to the incidents, so training was organised to address this. Once this was all in place the problem could be measured. The new codes and qualifiers allowed analysis of the new data, and old data was scrutinised and collated for comparison. Middlesbrough District appeared to have the most severe problem, and so this was chosen as the pilot district. In 14 neighbourhood wards, consultation with residents identified this issue a major priority affecting quality of life.

Response

A problem solving focus group was started; this involved the Police, Safer Middlesbrough Partnership, Erimus Housing Tenancy Enforcement, Street Wardens, Fire Brigade, Trading Standards and Environmental Health. We also involved private enterprise later on in the project, when Right Trax became involved. This group worked on collaborative methods to resolve the problem. Meanwhile, the emphasis on correct recording and deployment to the incidents was kept up, and intelligence led enforcement operations were carried out. The media was also used to great effect, particularly around Christmas, to get the message of not buying these machines as Christmas gifts for children.

Assessment:

Honest assessment has been vital, and particularly taking into account the initial data problems. There was a rise in reported incidents at first; although it would be fair to assume that this was because they were now being correctly recorded, meaning that the public were getting the appropriate response. However, since June 2007, there has been a steady fall in recorded incidents.