29/11/2025 Solving problems

# Solving problems

Using structured problem-solving to deal with local priorities, working collaboratively with communities and, where appropriate, private, public and voluntary sector partners.

First published 11 January 2021

Written by College of Policing

## Solving problems – guideline

#### Essential elements include:

- a focus on proactive prevention
- systematic use of a structured problem-solving process, such as SARA (scanning, analysis, response, assessment)
- detailed problem specifications based on multiple sources of information
- involving communities in each stage of the problem-solving process
- using evidence-based and innovative responses that target the underlying causes of problems and are tailored to local context
- routinely assessing the impact of responses and sharing good practice
- integration with other parts of the organisation to support its delivery
- working with partners (eg, by sharing data and analytical resource and delivering responses)

Problem-solving in neighbourhoods should:

- enable police and partners to address long-term issues affecting communities and provide reassurance
- reduce demand on the police service and partners

#### **Empirical evidence**

Good

#### **Practitioner evidence**

Available

### Tags

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Evidence-based policing Neighbourhood policing