

Problem-oriented policing (POP) guidelines

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Our new guidelines promote a problem-solving approach

News 1 min read

We've published new guidelines that aim to develop a consistent problem-solving culture across policing in England and Wales.

Problem-oriented policing (POP, or problem-solving policing) has been a feature of British policing for over three decades. It is a proactive approach that involves identifying problems before they result in criminal activity, rather than reacting after the event.

POP is core to:

- [**Policing Vision 2030**](#)
- our [**neighbourhood policing guidelines**](#)
- [**His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services inspection process**](#)
- the [**Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2018**](#)

Problem-solving and prevention has been identified as one of the 'perennial challenges' of policing. Evidence shows POP is an effective strategy for tackling crime and disorder. Adopting it consistently can make a difference in policing, and to the communities it serves.

Our guidelines committee was made up of practitioners, subject matter experts and academics, and a full consultation took place earlier this year.

The publication date coincides with policing's annual [**National Problem Solving Conference**](#).

Evidence shows us that problem-solving activity has a positive impact in reducing crime and disorder. It also shows us that working with communities and partners to solve problems improves public confidence. The introduction of these guidelines will lay the foundations for this, and will act as a national evidence-based tool all forces can draw on to support the use of problem-solving across all levels and areas of policing.

I would like to thank all those involved in the development of the guidelines. I know they will be a valuable asset in helping drive the use of problem-solving methodology, and I'm looking forward to seeing them utilised in practice.

Chief Constable Lauren Poultnay, NPCC Lead for Problem Solving

We plan to add related case study materials, including peer reviews.

[Read the guidelines](#)

Additional resources

We currently offer a range of resources to support POP, including our:

- [guide to using the SARA model](#)
- [practice bank](#)
- [crime reduction toolkit](#)
- [knife crime problem-solving guide](#)
- [homicide problem-solving guide](#)
- [serious violence hot spots policing guide](#)
- [neighbourhood policing guidance](#)

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