

# 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

Neighbourhood 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

Evidence-based policing   Neighbourhood policing