

Intelligence model can target criminals but is 'resource intensive'

 The policing method used to target resources based on police intelligence will cut some crimes but take uniforms away from Britain's streets.

Ian Pointon, chairman of Kent Federation, said that the National Intelligence Model (NIM) works, but at a cost.

He said that one area in Kent had seen burglaries cut from 272 in 1993 to just 35 in January 2003 using the NIM to target offenders.

But he told delegates that there had been a price to pay because the NIM was 'resource intensive' and led to a dwindling of uniforms in towns and cities.

'If you learn nothing else it is that what gets measured gets done,' he said, but that neighbourhood policing could suffer.

He said that the right balance had to be struck between dealing with crime and reassuring the public, adding 'we need intelligence from our communities.'

Andy White, chairman of

West Mercia Federation, said that the National Intelligence Model was like an 'elephant [in terms of resources] which produced something like a mouse'.

He added: 'It's costing us something like one million just in generating evidence to put over to officers.'

Mr White said that it was taking too long for intelligence to work its way through police systems and be available up and down the country.

Steve Bungay, from Kent Police who works for the National Centre for Policing Excellence was one of the first intelligence coordinators to use the NIM.

He said that NIM should be married up to neighbourhood policing.

Mr Bungay also admitted that there were big issues around the flow of information and that this had already been highlighted in the *Bichard Inquiry*.



Ian Pointon: 'Price to pay for NIM'

Joint charging scheme needs an element of flexibility

A joint charging system between police and the Crown Prosecution Service needs to have more flexibility.


During a debate on the joint charging arrangements, where the CPS have responsibility for deciding whether defendants should be charged, one officer said there needed to be more leeway.

An inspector from the West Midlands said that the CPS only wanted to push through easy cases and did not want to take any risks when it came to prosecuting criminals.

He told delegates that one problem was that they did not have joint performance indicators and that the hours the CPS worked also needed to be extended to deal with those coming into custody outside office hours.

Anti-social behaviour orders are helping to cut crime and protect public, according to poll



 A straw poll found that more than three-quarters of police officers at a debate on policing methods found anti-social behaviour orders are proving most effective in cutting crime.

Jan Berry, chairman of the

Federation, carried out the straw poll at a discussion of policing methods including the National Intelligence Model, Anti Social Behaviour Orders, CPS charging and Fixed Penalty Notices.

She asked officers which method they found most effective when it came to reducing bureaucracy.

Around 90 per cent of the audience, representing forces from across the country, said that ASBOs had proved the most useful.

Terry Shutt, sergeants' representative from West Mercia Federation, said that they were using anti-social behaviour orders to curb a whole range of offences

from burglary to drug dealing and alcoholics.

ASBOs were introduced in 1999 to help reduce bureaucracy in dealing with low level offences and the Home Office estimate they cost, on average around £5,000.

Mr Shutt told conference 'it does what it says on the tin' and is working, one burglar is banned from 39 locations where he had repeatedly victimised the same people and was put in prison for several years.

Mr Shutt said that the legislation covered everything from burglars to sexual offenders.



Have your say:
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The Police Federation wants:

- Conference agreed that fixed penalty notices provided the greatest reduction in bureaucracy and
- ASBOs have provided the greatest protection to the public.