

Evidence Collection

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

In order to provide a rapid response to fly-tipping, Rotherham MBC set themselves a deadline of 24 hours to collect a fly-tip from the time of it being reported. Providing such a swift response presented its own challenges as some of the fly-tips were removed before any of the enforcement team was able to check for potential evidence.

In 2004 a series of training began to ensure that the waste collection team, who collect the fly-tipping, were able to check for any evidence before collecting the waste. The team consists of three people who have all undergone the training on evidence gathering. The training has been carried out in-house by the enforcement team and refresher training is held as and when it is needed.

Since this training began, the amount of evidence handled by the enforcement team has significantly increased, reinforcing the belief that a lot of evidence had previously been lost in the collections. The quality of the evidence and the ability of the collection team to provide witness statements, has also led directly to prosecutions from the evidence they have collected.

To improve the success even further Rotherham has now got the neighbourhood police team on board. If anyone refuses to come to the council offices for an interview the police will arrest them and interview them at the police station. The enforcement staff and the police are present at the arrest and the enforcement officer leads the interview at the police station. This has proved to be very effective especially as it was generally the worst offenders who would fail to turn up.

For further information please contact:

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