The Tilley awards were first thought of 25 years ago to highlight and reward good practice in problem solving. Since that time, we have seen some fabulous interventions that have made a sustainable difference to the safety and well-being to members of the public.

One of the great benefits of the approach is that the SARA model - Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment provides a flexible and systematic way to understand and tackle an issue. We try and use the model ourselves, in the NPCC working group.

One of the issues, or ‘problems’, that we face is how to embed problem solving – how to increase its use across the service and our partners. In our analysis of this issue, we realised that we have focused the Tilley awards on local interventions at community or Force level. However, we realise there is a considerable amount of work conducted at a national level. For example, there are about 100 NPCC work groups, the Home Office, PCPI, Youth Endowment Fund, and of course the College of Policing, who do lots of work (and cost lots of money). However, we rarely stop to see the impact they make on specific problems. Therefore, to change this we thought we would have a separate category in the Tilley problem solving awards which encompasses national initiatives. This would also use the SARA format, so - just like the general submissions - it would require clear identification of the problem, an analysis as to why the problem exists, an intervention linked to this analysis, and of course an evaluation to show whether it worked and to what extent. We’re not bothered whether it is based on primary, secondary or tertiary prevention initiatives. What we want illustrated is whether those national initiatives work, and whether they provide value for money.

To submit an application for this award please complete the form here <https://forms.office.com/e/AXdnjaJK8S>