

Cheshire Constabulary has made some progress in how it tackles anti-social behaviour, but must ensure the definitions of repeat and vulnerable ASB victims are understood.

In Spring 2010, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) carried out a review to find out how the police can best tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB). The national findings were published alongside individual reports that outlined how successfully each force was dealing with the problem.

The results of a follow-up inspection published today found that Cheshire Constabulary has made some progress since 2010 in tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Cheshire. ASB is looked at in its many forms and the needs of the victim are at the centre of force plans to tackle the problem. The chief officer team is committed to tackling ASB, and have made it a force priority. The focus is on improving the quality of the professional service delivered in dealing with the problem, and to get to the root causes of issues which matter most to communities.

However, there was little evidence of sharing best practice across the force, and no system in place to consistently flag up to staff who are responding to call if it relates to a local priority. HMIC is also concerned that definitions of who should be categorised as a repeat or vulnerable victim (so that more support can be offered) are not clear. This may mean that some victims are not being identified as at particular risk from ASB and so are not getting the extra support they need.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Northern Region, Roger Baker, said:

"Anti-social behaviour is a blight that can wreck lives and communities. Our review shows that Cheshire Constabulary has made some progress in how it tackles the problem and that victim satisfaction is in line with the national figures for England and Wales. The force should be commended for this – especially as it comes against the backdrop of significant budget cuts across the Service."

"However, there is no room for complacency. In particular, Cheshire Constabulary should ensure best practice is shared across the force and that there is clarity around the definitions of who should be categorised as a repeat or vulnerable victim. This progress is therefore only the first step in delivering a much better service to victims."

The full report for Cheshire Constabulary, along with the national thematic review 'A Step in the Right Direction', can be found at www.hmic.gov.uk

Notes to editors

1. The full thematic report 'A Step in the Right Direction' and supporting material can be found at www.hmic.gov.uk
2. The review 'Stop the Rot' published in September 2010 and the accompanying force reports can be found at www.hmic.gov.uk

3. For further information, or to request an interview, HMIC's press office can be contacted during office hours from 8:30am – 5:30pm Monday – Friday on 0203 513 0600.
4. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is an independent inspectorate, inspecting policing in the public interest, and rigorously examines the effectiveness of police forces and authorities to tackle crime and terrorism, improve criminal justice and raise confidence. HMIC inspects and regulates all 43 police forces in England and Wales together with other major policing bodies such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the British Transport Police and HMRC.
5. HMIC's out-of-hours press office line for urgent media enquiries is 07836 217 729.