

Derbyshire Constabulary has made some progress in how it tackles anti-social behaviour, but does not consistently identify repeat and vulnerable ASB victims

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 Derbyshire Constabulary has clearly made tackling ASB a priority. The force works well with its partners (such as local councils and housing agencies) in tackling ASB together. This will be further helped by a partnership computer system which is to be introduced to improve information sharing and the case management of ASB problems.

Dedicated officers are in place to ensure victims of ASB who are identified as most vulnerable receive the support they need. However, the force does not consistently identify these victims; which means the people who are most at risk of harm from ASB may not be getting the extra support they need. The approach to the case management of more complex and deep-rooted ASB issues by safer neighbourhood teams is inconsistent, and their plans to deal with specific local problems are not supervised as well as they could be.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Eastern Region, Zoe Billingham, said:

"Anti-social behaviour is a blight that can wreck lives and communities. Our review shows that Derbyshire Constabulary has made some progress in how it tackles the problem, and victim satisfaction remains in line with the average 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, while the progress the force has made so far represents another step towards delivering a much better service to victims, there is no room for complacency. In particular, Derbyshire Constabulary should work to ensure it is consistently identifying callers who are most at risk of harm from ASB."

The full report for Derbyshire 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.