



Essex Police has made limited progress in how it tackles anti-social behaviour, and must ensure they place the right focus on dealing with the problem.

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 Essex Police has made limited progress since 2010 in the four key areas that are important if ASB victims are to receive good service. In fact, there has been a deterioration in the effective use of police intelligence to help address ASB problems. The force is also still unable to consistently identify vulnerable victims when they call or those victims who may not have previously contacted police. This means some of these victims may not be getting the extra support they need.

Over the last year the force has focused its efforts on the increasing challenge to reduce crime in Essex, and the force has reported that overall crime has been coming down for the three months to end of March 2012. Although the number of ASB incidents has fallen significantly in the last year, HMIC is concerned that this means ASB is not being prioritised in the same way as other crimes. However, when HMIC inspected the force, it was about to introduce a new local policing model, which will place greater emphasis on solving long-term problems, including ASB.

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 Essex Police has made limited progress in how it tackles the problem, although victim satisfaction is in line with the average for England and Wales.

“In particular, although (like the rest of the Police Service) the force faces significant budget cuts, Essex Police should ensure that tackling ASB remains a focus for their efforts and resources. This will help them to deliver a much better service to victims.”

The full report for Essex Police, 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.