

Gwent Police has made some progress in how it tackles anti-social behaviour, but is unable to consistently identify repeat and vulnerable 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 Gwent Police has made some progress since 2010 in the way it understands and tackles ASB problems. It has recently introduced a new procedure which helps to identify particular issues and send extra patrols to 'hotspots' where incidents occur most regularly. The chief officer team has made it clear that tackling ASB is a priority for the force. Staff across the force were found to be committed, resourceful and effective in responding to ASB-related issues. There was good evidence of effective partnership working and staff were generally well equipped to tackle ASB.

However, the force is still unable to identify callers who are most at risk of harm from ASB (such as vulnerable victims and those who have called about a problem before) in a consistent way. This means some victims may not be getting the extra support they need.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Western Region, Dru Sharpling, said:

"Anti-social behaviour is a blight that can wreck lives and communities. Our review shows that Gwent Police has made some progress in how it tackles the problem, and victim satisfaction is generally 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, Gwent Police should continue to work on ensuring repeat and vulnerable callers are identified. This progress is an important step in delivering a much better service to victims."

The full report for Gwent 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.