



Northamptonshire Police has made some progress in how it tackles anti-social behaviour, but does not consistently identify 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 Northamptonshire Police has made some progress since 2010 in how it understands and tackles ASB problems.

Neighbourhood teams have a clear desire to solve ASB incidents in their area. The incident recording system used by the force is able to identify repeat callers automatically through telephone numbers, which means that victims receive the support they need from an early stage. There is good partnership working, particularly with local councils, to deal effectively with ASB.

However, the force is still unable to identify victims who are vulnerable, for example because of their age or a disability, when they call. This means that there can be delays in providing some of these victims with the extra support they may need.

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 Northamptonshire Police has made some progress in how it tackles the problem, and that victim satisfaction is higher than 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, Northamptonshire Police should make sure that vulnerable callers are consistently identified correctly. This will help ensure those victims who are most at risk of harm from ASB get the extra support they need.”

The full report for Northamptonshire 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.