



Northumbria Police has continued to improve how it tackles anti-social behaviour, but must ensure they 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 Northumbria Police has continued to improve the way it deals with ASB since its 2010 inspection. Staff show a greater understanding of the definitions of repeat and vulnerable victims, and we found victims are now better monitored and managed. The introduction of a vulnerability risk matrix has led to improvements to the way the force considers harm and assesses risk to victims. Partnership working is strong, with effective plans in place to tackle particular ASB issues with other agencies (such as local councils); these plans are now also better supervised (to make sure they are on track).

However, the control room does not always pass on relevant incident and caller history to the officers who responded to calls about ASB, especially at busy times. HMIC is also concerned that when we reviewed 100 calls from the public about ASB made to the force, we found that call takers were not consistently checking if the caller was particularly vulnerable or had been the victim of ASB before. This may mean that some victims 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 Northumbria Police has continued to improve how it tackles the problem, and that victim satisfaction higher in some cases than the national figure 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, Northumbria Police must ensure the right caller history is passed on and that repeat and vulnerable victims are consistently identified. This progress is therefore only the first step in delivering a much better service to victims.”

The full report for Northumbria 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.