

South Wales Police has made some progress in how it tackles anti-social behaviour, but is unable to identify repeat and vulnerable victims on a regular basis.

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 South Wales Police has made some progress since 2010 in the way it understands and tackles ASB problems. It has invested in an IT system that helps it identify and send extra patrols to ASB 'hotspots', and the chief officer team has made it clear that tackling ASB is a priority for the force.

However, the force is still unable to regularly identify callers who are most at risk of harm from ASB. This means some of these victims may not be getting the extra support they need. HMIC also found that neighbourhood policing teams are not trained in the most up-to-date options available to help them deal with ASB, and that their plans to deal with specific local problems are not well monitored to make sure that they are progressing as they should be.

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 South Wales Police has made some progress in how it tackles the problem, and that victim satisfaction is 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, South Wales Police should ensuring repeat and vulnerable callers are identified regularly and that neighbourhood policing teams are trained in the most up-to-date options available to help them deal with ASB. This progress represents an important step in delivering a much better service to victims."

The full report for South Wales 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.