



Staffordshire Police has made some progress in how it tackles anti-social behaviour, but does not 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 Staffordshire Police has made some progress since 2010 in the way it understands and deals with anti-social behaviour problems. It has made clear that tackling ASB is everyone's priority, and this is well understood by staff.

Local policing teams across the force are knowledgeable about their area, passionate about what they do, and committed to providing a high quality of service. Partnership working and information sharing are key strengths for the force, and clearly contribute to the successful resolution of ASB at local levels.

However, the force is still unable to identify callers who are at most risk of harm from ASB (such as vulnerable victims or callers who have reported incidents before) in a consistent way. There is a framework in place to help assess these risks – but this is not always used, which means that some victims may not be getting the extra support they need. The way the force manages ASB cases needs to be underpinned by more structured and consistent recording practices, to make sure all issues are captured and progressed. ASB training needs to be extended beyond neighbourhood teams to all staff regularly engaged in dealing with ASB.

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 Staffordshire 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, Staffordshire Police should ensure repeat and vulnerable callers are identified consistently, there is more structure around recording practices and that all staff are trained in dealing with ASB. This progress represents one step in delivering a much better service to victims.”

The full report for Staffordshire 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.