



**West Yorkshire Police has made some progress in how it tackles anti-social behaviour, but must ensure a plan is in place to monitor and manage ASB incidents.**

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 some progress has been made in West Yorkshire Police since our 2010 inspection. The ASBAT (anti social behaviour analysis tool) is now readily available to all staff which has led to a better picture of the nature and extent of the problem in West Yorkshire. It appears that all partner agencies now regard ASB as part of their core business and work effectively together to resolve issues.

However, there are areas where little has changed since 2010. There is still the perception that ASB is an issue for Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) staff, rather than for response and investigative staff; and understanding of the definition of vulnerable victims has apparently declined. The force does not have a plan for how it will tackle ASB, or a framework that would allow it to monitor how it responds to and manages incidents.

While the force's IT system can automatically flag up if a call relates to someone previously assessed to be a repeat or vulnerable victim, staff do not always exploit this functionality. While neighbourhood staff develop and deliver plans to tackle particular ASB problems, it is difficult to get an overview of how successful and widespread this is, as there is no obvious force lead. HMIC found that there are still inconsistencies across the force in how plans are recorded and monitored (to ensure they are progressing as they should be). This means that force managers do not have a clear overview of all the actions being taken, and cannot monitor that they are all meeting the required standard.

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 West Yorkshire Police has made some progress in how it tackles the problem, and that victim satisfaction is generally in line with 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, West Yorkshire Police should ensure that it consistently identifies vulnerable victims that there is a plan in place to manage and monitor ASB. This progress is therefore only the first step in delivering a much better service to victims."*

The full report for West Yorkshire Police, along with the national thematic review 'A Step in the Right Direction', can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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.