

South Yorkshire Police has made some progress in how it tackles anti-social behaviour, but must 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 South Yorkshire Police has made some progress since 2010 in the way it understands and tackles ASB. It has improved how it works with partners (such as local councils) to tackle the problem; and uses social media to promote ASB successes.

However, HMIC is concerned that the current IT system does not consistently support the identification of callers who are most at risk of harm from ASB, such as repeat and vulnerable victims. Similarly, it does not facilitate the gathering of data about ASB held by partners. The force would benefit from a system that allowed it both to track and progress plans to deal with ASB, and to share best practice across the four policing districts.

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 South Yorkshire 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 Yorkshire Police should look at their current IT system to ensure consistent identification of callers. This progress is therefore only the first step in delivering a much better service to victims.”

The full report for South Yorkshire 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.