



Thames Valley Police has made significant progress in how it tackles anti-social behaviour, but does not consistently identify repeat and vulnerable victims of ASB.

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 Thames Valley Police has made significant progress since 2010 in the way it understands and tackles ASB problems. The force has trained all neighbourhood policing teams, patrol officers and call takers to identify vulnerable ASB victims. Local policing areas have good arrangements for joint working with partners (such as local authorities and housing associations) to tackle ASB.

The force has also introduced changes to its computer systems that make it easier to flag up repeat and vulnerable victims of ASB; but these victims, who are most at risk of harm from ASB, are still not always identified. This means some of these victims may not be getting the extra support they need. The force has recently started to monitor performance in its control rooms to improve the identification of repeat and vulnerable victims.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Eastern Region, Zoe Billingham, said:

“Anti-social behaviour is a blight that can wreck lives and communities. Our review shows that Thames Valley Police has made significant progress in how it tackles the problem, and that victim satisfaction above the average 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, while the progress the force has made so far represents another step towards delivering a much better service to victims, there is no room for complacency. In particular, Thames Valley Police should continue to work on making sure repeat and vulnerable callers are identified consistently. This will help ensure those victims most at risk of harm from ASB get the extra support they need.”

The full report for Thames Valley 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.