

Warwickshire Police has made some progress in how it tackles anti-social behaviour, but does not consistently identify repeat and vulnerable victims as soon as they contact the police.

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 Warwickshire Police has made some progress since 2010 in the way it understands and tackles ASB problems. It has strong arrangements to work with partners to tackle ASB with regular meetings and joint tasking of resources.

However, the identification of vulnerable victims and callers who have previously called about ASB at the first point of contact is not taking place consistently. Performance management and analysis of ASB could be strengthened at a strategic level and the force would benefit from conducting a force-wide ASB profile to enable it to fully understand the risks of harm caused by ASB. Further investment is required to train staff in the identification and response to ASB incidents.

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 Warwickshire Police has made some progress in how it tackles the problem. 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 – especially as victim satisfaction is below the national figure for England and Wales. In particular, Warwickshire Police should ensure repeat and vulnerable callers are consistently identified at the first point of contact and that analysis of ASB and staff training to identify ASB should be strengthened. This progress is therefore only the first step in delivering a much better service to victims.”

The full report for Warwickshire 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.