

Police and Crime Panel

4 February 2021

HMICFRS Inspections

Report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner



Purpose

1. To brief the Police & Crime Panel (PCP) on the findings of the recent inspections conducted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), upon which Police & Crime Commissioners are required to comment.
2. In the period that has elapsed since the last PCP meeting, one report has been received by the Office of Police, Crime & Victim's Commissioner for Durham, as detailed below:
 - *HMICFRS Inspection Report: An inspection of the National Crime Agency's relationship with regional organised crime units.*

Individual inspections and findings

HMICFRS Inspection Report: An inspection of the National Crime Agency's relationship with regional organised crime units.

3. This inspection focused upon:
 - current capabilities;
 - resourcing;
 - alignment with the Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) Strategy and the National Strategic Assessment;
 - ability to provide a single, authoritative, strategic assessment of the threat from serious and organised crime; and
 - compliance with national intelligence standards and existing legislation.

4. The inspection report details national themes. Prime observations made within the report are that the APCVC is mindful of the importance of a clear need for forces and PCCs to be involved in the conversation around how the SOC system develops. It is crucial that the Force's 'local voice' is represented in national tasking discussions based on national threat.

General comment on reports from Acting Police, Crime & Victim's Commissioner

5. All recommendations and areas for improvement are taken seriously, and I have confidence that these are being dealt with by the Force appropriately, with the aim to improve methods of working and the effectiveness and efficiency of Durham Constabulary. Where the Force may operate differently to some recommendations, I am satisfied that there is a strong rationale behind doing so.
6. Please find below the following link which will direct you to the Section 55 responses presented to HMICFRS by the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Darlington and Durham:

<https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Accountability/HMICFRS-Inspections.aspx>

This will provide members of the Panel with all of the associated Durham Constabulary updates in relation to HMICFRS reports.

Known inspection schedule 2020

7. Some elements of planned thematic inspections for 2019/20 may be integrated into the PEEL all-force inspection programme; some may also be included in the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Plan. It is important to note that thematic inspections are still an essential part of the programme of work and will continue to take place alongside the PEEL inspections.

2020/21 inspection programme:

- the policing response to COVID-19 (Durham Constabulary are currently awaiting formal feedback);
- joint inspection of the investigation and prosecution of rape cases;
- proposed investigation area of super-complaints;
- initial scoping for potential thematic inspections for 2021/22 which will potentially include issues of race and disproportionality (issues surrounding these

areas will inevitably be touched upon throughout the current inspection programme); and,

- pre-charge bail and released under investigation: striking a balance.
8. HMICFRS will also continue their rolling programmes on child protection, Youth Offending Teams and crime data integrity. Crime data integrity inspections assess whether police forces record and categorise crimes correctly. This current programme of inspection is due to finish this financial year.
 9. The Force is expecting an integrated PEEL assessment in 2020.
 10. The OPCVC is currently in the process of preparing a response to HMICFRS on the 'Pre-charge bail and released under investigation: Striking a balance' report.

Recommendations

11. That the Panel notes the content of the inspection report.
12. The Panel notes that all HMICFRS inspections were postponed due to the initial Covid-19 emergency but resumed in October 2020.

Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

Finance

N/A

Staffing

N/A

Equality and Diversity

N/A

Accommodation

N/A

Crime and Disorder

N/A

Children's Act 2004

N/A

Stakeholder/Community Engagement

N/A

Environment

N/A

Collaboration and Partnerships

There will be a renewed focus upon ensuring collaborations are working as effectively as possible and in line with national guidance measures.

Value for Money and Productivity

N/A

Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities

The emergence of Covid-19 and its impacts upon policing will have an impact upon future Police and Crime Plan priorities.

Commissioning

N/A

Other risks

N/A

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