

## Police and Crime Panel

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

## HMICFRS inspections

## Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

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### Purpose

1. To brief the Police and Crime Panel on the findings of the recent report by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) that has required a direct PCC comment, listed below:
  - A joint thematic inspection of the police and Crown Prosecution Service's response to rape - Phase two: Post-charge.

### **A joint thematic inspection of the police and Crown Prosecution Service's response to rape - Phase two: Post-charge.**

2. This is the second phase of an inspection into the response to rape by the Crown Prosecution service and the Police. A summary of the inspection's findings is as follows:
  - Police and prosecutors should review and significantly improve communications with victims from the point of charge onwards;
  - the Ministry of Justice should set up specialist rape offence courts to help clear the significant Crown Court backlog of rape cases; and
  - the Home Office and the Ministerial Lead for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences should consult widely on the benefits of a commissioner with explicit responsibility for tackling rape and serious sexual offences.
3. Durham Constabulary are currently working to provide assurance on a series of areas which the report highlights. This is inextricably linked to the far-reaching work which is ongoing in terms of tackling violence against women and girls. The areas which have been cited in the recommendations, and those which the PCC will be looking for further assurance upon in the coming months are, victim communication from the point of charge onwards, police role in considering bad character evidence in rape investigations, and ensuring victims are able to give victim personal statements at the earliest opportunity.

## **Recommendations**

4. That the Panel notes the content of the inspection report.

**Joy Allen**  
Police and Crime Commissioner

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**Appendix 1: Risks and Implications**

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**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**

N/A

**Value for Money and Productivity**

N/A

**Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

N/A

**Commissioning**

N/A

**Other risks**

N/A

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