

Police and Crime Panel

9th September 2022

IICSA Report

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner



Purpose

1. To brief the Police and Crime Panel on how the Police and Crime Commissioner is holding the force to account for the delivery of recommendations laid out by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) report (February 2022).

Background

2. The IICSA report contains criticisms and issues raised around Durham Constabulary and the Local Authority regarding how child sexual exploitation is facilitated by organised crime networks. The report includes recommendations made by HMICFRS in their 2020 Child Protection Inspection. Below contains the areas homed in on by the IICSA report which pertain to Durham Constabulary:
 - Ensuring that victim blaming is avoided
 - Child sexual exploitation services available for boys and young men
 - Recognising potentially increased vulnerability due to disability
 - Missing - Children in Care
 - Ethnic minority data
 - Recognising potentially increased vulnerability due to LGBTQ+
 - Child exploitation vulnerability tracker referral matrix
 - Child Abduction Warning Notices
 - Disaggregation of data
3. The PCC currently holds the force to account for the items detailed above using their internal performance and accountability management structure. This involves considering detailed documents produced by the force, and questioning items which either, require further assurance, or those which we anticipate issues may develop. The approach ensures that resolution is sought at the first opportunity with escalation policies in place for Executive level discussion as required. Internal to the OPCC, the IICSA report is listed to be discussed monthly, and actions are tracked accordingly with oversight provided at senior leadership level.

4. At force level, the IICSA recommendations and comments have oversight on a daily basis at Chief Superintendent level. Issues raised within the report are being addressed through continued close partnership working. Workshops are being developed as well as an operational group in order work through the actions and implement change. The working group is coordinated by the Local Authority and implemented through other current statutory meetings. Progress is reported into the force's Vulnerability Gold Group. Investigating child abuse is a core responsibility for the force and presents a fundamental risk locally, regionally, and nationally if not delivered effectively and efficiently. Moreover, this area of business often forms part of OFSTED/HMICFRS inspections. As outlined in the Policing Protocol 2011, the Chief Constable is operationally independent from the PCC in terms of day-to-day management of assets and resources.
5. Currently, the OPCC's focus regarding the IICSA report surrounds; National Police Chief Council guidance, front line officer training, wider cultural organisational learning projects, provision of appropriate staff, clear and effective methods to track vulnerability and exploitation, the force's work to support partner data returns, and the enhancement of internal data sets.
6. Whilst the OPCC is confident that these items are being dealt with appropriately by the force, there is still a requirement to track progress in this space for the foreseeable future. This will allow for greater assurance and a deeper understanding of how well the force are able to respond and manage recommendations given by independent reports.

Recommendations

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

Joy Allen
Police and Crime Commissioner

Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

Finance

N/A

Staffing

N/A

Equality and Diversity

Having greater detail of present protected characteristics at all levels of data collection contributes to the wider focus in policing on equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Accommodation

N/A

Crime and Disorder

N/A

Stakeholder/Community Engagement

N/A

Environment

N/A

Collaboration and Partnerships

The IICSA recommendations highlight the importance and renewed focus on the importance of quality and cohesive data in this space.

Value for Money and Productivity

N/A

Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities

The recommendations in IICSA pertain to a series of Key Deliverables within the Police and Crime Plan. Either directly or indirectly.

Commissioning

N/A

Other risks

N/A

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