

Police and Crime Panel

9th September 2022

HMICFRS inspections



Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Purpose

1. To brief the Police and Crime Panel on the findings of the recent report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) that has required a direct PCC comment, listed below:
 - Twenty years on, is MAPPA achieving its objectives?
 - PEEL Spotlight - The police response to burglary, robbery, and other acquisitive crime - Finding time for crime

Twenty years on, is multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) achieving its objectives?

2. This joint inspection examined the work of prisons, police, and probation in delivering MAPPA. A summary of the inspection findings is as follows:
 - Police forces to ensure those at high risk of committing domestic abuse are referred through the multi-agency risk management process appropriately.
 - Police forces to ensure that all staff involved in the MAPPA process are comprehensively trained and are enabled to understand and contribute to multi-agency forums.
 - Police forces to ensure that offenders are allocated to a suitably trained police offender manager.
 - Police forces to ensure staff managing sexual offenders are in line with national expectations, and where excessive, steps are taken to mitigate.
3. Durham Constabulary has been assessed as 'Good' in managing offenders and suspects in its most recent PEEL Inspection 2021. More widely, HMICFRS have stated 'the force understands the demand it faces in managing suspects and offenders. And it has the capacity and capability to meet that demand. Resources are generally aligned to the identified threat and risk. And monitoring and governance are in the form of threat and risk meetings at local and force level. The force is clearly committed to reducing re-offending. It understands the strengths and limitations of the local organisations it

works with. It actively evaluates the intended and actual results and benefits of initiatives. Independent institutions, including universities, often carry out these evaluations.'

4. The PCC continues to monitor the progress of the force on this inspection via performance management and accountability processes, and governance meetings.

PEEL Spotlight - The police response to burglary, robbery, and other acquisitive crime - Finding time for crime

5. This PEEL spotlight report focused upon the police response to serious acquisitive crime, which HMICFRS defined as domestic burglary, personal robbery, theft from a person, and theft of and from a motor vehicle. This took particular note to call handling, initial police response, investigation allocation, and investigation standards. A summary of the inspection findings is as follows:
 - Police forces should ensure they are consistently in line with authorised professional practice for crime scene management (or give a strong rationale for deviation). This includes giving victims timely and appropriate advice during their initial call and applying THRIVE, recording it, and identifying repeat victims for support.
 - Police forces should ensure that investigations are subject to effective supervision and direction. This includes ensuring outcomes consider the voice/opinion of victims and complying with the Victims' Code.
6. While the OPCC routinely consider acquisitive and neighbourhood crime in their business as usual accountability, work directly addressing this HMICFRS report is in its early stages due to the report being released in August 2022.
7. Notwithstanding, the inspection has highlighted national good practice ongoing in Durham Constabulary. Notably, using behavioural science to inform problem solving, with particular note to tackling student victims of burglary, and the force's use of out of court disposals to tackle root causes via the Checkpoint programme, which has proven to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. In addition, the OPCC, alongside the force, have undertaken significant scenario planning work regarding Victims' Code of Practice compliance and quality assurance, which is concomitant with some of the areas of focus held by this HMICFRS inspection.
8. Additionally, the Chief Inspector for HMICFRS has publicly highlighted Durham Constabulary as an exceptionally performing force in this inspection area.

Recommendations

9. 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

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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