

Police and Crime Panel

3rd March 2015

Inspection Update

Report of Assistant Chief Officer



Purpose

To share with members of the panel details of:

- Inspections expected in 2015
- Recently published inspection reports
- Pending inspection reports

Expected Inspections in 2015

HMIC - Identifying vulnerability in case files

Week commencing 24th February 2015. 10 case files will be reviewed.

Previous inspection reports highlighted the lack of adequate identification of the vulnerability of victims and witnesses – meaning they do not receive appropriate support. The focus will be on agencies' response to previous recommendations, how vulnerability is identified and prioritised within case files and approaches to risk assessment and management. HMICPSI examined a timed sample in Oct/Nov 2014 and results will inform HMIC's PEEL annual all-force inspection in Jan/Feb. HMIC will conduct fieldwork in 43 forces and a composite thematic report will follow.

HMIC Inspection on Firearms Licensing

24th and 25th March 2015

The inspection will follow up on the areas of risk identified in a scoping exercise undertaken by HMIC in 2013 and forms part of the published inspection programme for 2014/15. This will be a risk based inspection of 12 forces, including 4 from the Northern Region (Cumbria, North Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Durham). The focus will be on the firearms licensing process and the risk management of that process. The purpose of this inspection is to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the arrangements in place to manage firearms licensing.

This inspection will examine how well:

- the governance structures for firearms licensing at a national, regional and local level work;
- the force understands and manages risk relating to firearms licensing on a 24/7 basis, including levels of awareness of firearms licensing related risk amongst first responders and supervisors;

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- the force learns to improve its firearms licensing including implementation of recommendations from national reports into fatal shootings by e.g. FELWG, Home Affairs Select Committee, HM Coroners and IPCC;
- Authorised Professional Practice and Home Office Guidance on Firearms Licensing Law (2014) is understood and applied by police officers and staff concerned with the firearms licensing process; and
- the force engages with stakeholders e.g. medical professionals, licensees, special interest groups, educational establishments and the public.

HMIC Missing and Absent persons

All forces to be inspected, from June 2015

Missing and absent inspection will be part of a wider vulnerability inspection in June and July and this will also include Child Sexual Exploitation and a follow up on Domestic Violence.

HMIC - Stalking and Harassment – no dates known as yet

HMIC / CJI - Local Criminal justice partnerships Fieldwork commenced Sept 2014.

Ofsted-led joint inspections: Child Protection

Due to re-start from June 2015.

HMIC Trafficking & Slavery / Honour based Violence – no dates known

HMCPSP: Digitisation in the CJS - Fieldwork from Spring 2015

Recently Published Inspection Reports

HMIC / HMCPSP - Road Traffic Accidents inc. fatalities

Inspection dates 24-26th Feb 2014. Report published February 2015.

Specialist prosecutors needed for road death prosecutions

Crown Prosecutors are failing to provide a much needed specialist role prosecuting fatal road traffic incidents largely because of a lack of tailor made training, a joint inspection report published today says.

Inspectors found there was no process to accredit specialists, national guidance was often ignored at operational level and monitoring of performance and casework outcomes was “fragmentary or non-existent.”

HMCPSP and HMIC’s “Joint Inspection of the investigation and prosecution of fatal road traffic incidents” found both police and Crown Prosecution Service aspire to deliver high standards but much work is needed to turn that into a reality.

Police overall were professional and thorough but needed to prioritise the valuable work of family liaison officers who perform a sensitive role in reassuring both victims' families and the public that a road death investigation is just as important as all other homicide cases.

The quality of the CPS's decision making was judged to be good in fewer than half the 72 cases analysed. Common failings included poor case analysis and strategy and inadequate references to sentencing guidelines.

Recommendations for area specialists to be responsible for pre-charge decisions and to retain conduct of their cases were made in HMCPSI's 2008 review - but little progress has been made since then towards a coherent model.

Reports Pending

HMIC – Building the Picture (Information management) (Savile)

Thematic report and 13 public force reports to be published w/c 2nd March. (Durham was the pilot force).

HMIC - 21st Century Child Sexual Exploitation

Report to be published by end March 2015.

Recommendation

That the panel note the report and provide any questions.

**Gary Ridley
Assistant Chief Officer**

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

Contact Officer:	Gillian Porter
Job Title:	Head of Performance and Analysis
Telephone:	0191 3752777
Email:	gillian.porter@durham.pnn.police.uk