

Police and Crime Panel

29th June 2018

State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2017 – HMICFRS



Report of the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

Purpose

1. To inform Police and Crime Panel members of the central points of the 'State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2017' published on the 12th June 2018.

Background

2. The 'State of Policing' is an annual, national, report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Thomas Winsor. It is an assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of policing across England and Wales for 2017.
3. The full report can be accessed online, on the HMICFRS website:
<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/state-of-policing-the-annual-assessment-of-policing-in-england-and-wales-2017/>.

Report Overview

4. Central recommendations of the report are that forces must:
 - get ahead of demand;
 - collaborate with each other and other bodies to prevent crime and deal with its causes;
 - exploit advances in technology; and
 - give emphasis and allocate resources to early intervention.
5. Among other things, the report also highlights that:
 1. The welfare of officers and staff is crucial – and that constabularies must have systems to assess staff welfare – and give support;
 2. Forces need to make better long-term plans – the best constabularies plan several years ahead, and make plans on how they will operate in the future;
 3. Police forces need a better understanding of the demand they face – and that the best constabularies carry out analysis to find where crime is most likely to be under-reported or demand likely to be hidden;
 4. There should be an open and public debate about demand – that is, the public should understand the reasons behind the choices forces make about responding to demand;
 5. Some forces are not meeting enough of their current demand – that forces must not use telephone investigations as a cheap way of dealing with a case, and that when telephone investigations are undertaken, they must be properly allocated and supervised;

6. Some demand can increase gradually – indeed, cybercrime and fraud are both areas HMICFRS intends to look at more closely in the future;
7. The police need a better understanding of their role in the CJS – officers must understand exactly how the way investigations are conducted have bearing on what happens in court; and the examination of digital devices, and supervision of case quality, are two areas in this regard highlighted as needing considerable improvement;
8. The rise of serious violence means the police must use their powers fairly and proportionately;
9. We need a concerted effort to prevent crime – and public bodies need to work together from early stages;
10. The police need to harness the power of technology – particularly artificial intelligence and machine learning:
 - *‘Police in Durham are working on a predictive AI system to help officers to decide whether a suspect should be kept in custody’.*

Recommendations

6. Panel Members are recommended to consider the information contained in this overview, and comment accordingly.

Alan Reiss
Chief of Staff

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

To be made available to members of the public as part of the engagement strategy.

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:	Jacob Cain
Job Title:	Policy and Accountability Officer
Telephone:	0191 375 2164
Email:	jacob.cain@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk