

**HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY
PEEL: POLICE EFFECTIVENESS 2017: AN INSPECTION
OF CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY
RESPONSE OF DAVID KEANE, POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE**



I welcome Her Majesty's Inspectors' report, published 22 March 2018, which has assessed Cheshire Constabulary as good in all areas of effectiveness.

The effectiveness of a police service is crucial in ensuring the public have confidence in local policing and is fundamental to the principle of policing by consent. Therefore, it is very positive to see that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) as part of their 2017 inspections have assessed Cheshire Constabulary as being a good and effective force which keeps people safe and is reducing crime.

I am pleased that the Constabulary continues to be an effective force, protecting vulnerable people, supporting victims and it continues to make good progress in managing the threat of serious and organised crime. Residents will be pleased to read that the victims of domestic abuse are a priority. Tackling serious and organised crime continues to be of significance and I am pleased to see the recognition of the Constabulary's disruption activities, its robust governance structures and its local and regional collaboration.

Whilst there are no specific recommendations I am aware of the suggested areas for improvement. The Constabulary remains good at identifying vulnerability, but I have taken note of the Inspectors' observations regarding the processes and guidance given to call handlers. I will be asking the Constabulary if it is satisfied that the existing procedures for appointments do not expose vulnerable persons to risk, and if they are content that they are adhering to current best practice. I have also noted the Inspectors' concerns regarding the need for consistent training and supervision to ensure that vulnerable persons risk assessments are completed to a consistent and proficient level so as to ensure that vulnerable victims are not missed. I will also be asking the Acting Chief Constable for assurance that investigation plans and supervision is in place to support all officers, especially those managing complex investigations.

I am cognisant of the difficulties inherent in obtaining feedback from victims of domestic abuse generally, and am mindful that getting meaningful feedback from those victims who do not support prosecution will not be easy. I understand however the need for such feedback and will be asking the Constabulary to address how this can be achieved.

The Inspectors' suggestion regarding the development of a joint armed policing strategic threat and risk assessment (APSTRA) with North Wales Police has been noted and I will be asking the Constabulary to have due regard to it.

HMIC have again found the constabulary to be a well performing police service and I would like to thank all the members of our police family – officers, staff and volunteers, for their hard work and dedication in keeping us safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Keane".

9 May 2018