

**HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY  
AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES & HER MAJESTY'S  
CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE INSPECTORATE**



**David Keane**  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner  
for Cheshire

***The Poor Relation: The police and CPS response to  
crimes against older people***

**RESPONSE OF DAVID KEANE, POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE**

I welcome Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS) and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) joint report, published 17 July 2019, which sets out the findings of a joint inspection of the police and CPS response to crimes against older people that was commissioned by the then Home Secretary in 2017.

It should be noted that this is a national report following the inspection of six police forces and corresponding CPS areas in England and Wales. Although Cheshire Constabulary was not one of the six forces visited by the inspection team, I welcome the recommendations and areas for improvement identified within this national thematic report.

Given the average life expectancy in the UK continues to increase, it is concerning that nationally, '*crimes against older people isn't well understood*' and police forces only have a '*superficial understanding*' of the nature and extent of crimes against older people. I note that a number of the causes of concern and recommendations identified in the report are addressed specifically to Chief Constables and I have discussed the inspection report with the Chief Constable who has provided assurance that work is ongoing to ensure such recommendations are completed.

I remain fully committed to working with the Chief Constable and Cheshire CARES (Cope and Recovery Enhanced Service), my commissioned service dedicated to providing support to all victims of crime in Cheshire, to ensure that all vulnerable victims of crime, including older people, are supported.

I applaud the Constabulary's ongoing commitment to focus upon vulnerability. To provide further assurance I have requested that the Chief Constable provides a presentation at a future public Scrutiny Board to demonstrate the extent to which Cheshire Constabulary has a clear understanding of the true scale of demand. I will also ask that this includes details of how the Constabulary is working in collaboration with partners to, as far as possible, ensure there is an efficient and effective policing response to elderly victims of crime.

In addition, as Chair of the Cheshire Criminal Justice Board, I also intend to discuss the findings of the report with the CPS and relevant partners to ensure both greater collaboration and that all vulnerable victims of crime within Cheshire receive a consistent but tailored response based upon an individual victim needs assessment.

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

David Keane  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
10 September 2019