

***A joint thematic inspection of Integrated Offender Management***

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

I welcome Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) joint inspection, published 28 February 2020, that provides an overview of the joint thematic inspection of Integrated Offender Management (IOM).

Whilst in Cheshire we have been able to maintain strong cross agency partnerships, in light of the issues presented by the privatisation of the probation service, it is perhaps unsurprising to read that the findings of the inspection are described as '*disappointing*' and that '*there has been scant development of IOM since 2015*'. The Government has previously described IOM as a cross-agency response to the threat of crime and reoffending faced by local communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by partner agencies working together. As such, IOM aims to improve the quality of life within communities by: i) reducing the impact of crime and reoffending; ii) reducing the number of victims of crime; and iii) improving public confidence in the criminal justice system (MoJ and Home Office, 2015).

I note that the report provides a number of recommendations for partners, including one recommendation specific for Police & Crime Commissioners to '*assure themselves that all relevant partners and services are involved in the delivery of IOM, as a major contribution to reducing reoffending and community safety*'. As Chair of the Cheshire Criminal Justice Board, I have discussed the joint thematic inspection report with partners and have requested a full presentation of the findings of the report to be presented at the forthcoming Criminal Justice Board in June 2020. This will ensure that all partners are sighted on its findings, the recommendations contained within the report and identify how all partners can continue to enhance the partnership working through the model of IOM in Cheshire and, as a result, contribute towards ensuring safer communities throughout Cheshire.

As Police & Crime Commissioner, I will continue to maintain a keen interest in relation to how the joint IOM working between policing and probation services is influenced and impacted by the on-going probation reform programme. In addition, I will be seeking to ensure that the result is improved partnerships which do not come under the same pressure and risks that were caused by the ill thought out privatisation of probation services during the Transforming Rehabilitation programme.



David Keane  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
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