

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



Regional Organised Crime Units: An inspection of the effectiveness of the Regional Organised Crime Units

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

I welcome Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) thematic inspection report published on the 10th February 2021 'Regional Organised Crime Units: An inspection of the effectiveness of the Regional Organised Crime Units'.

We must not underestimate the impact Serious Organised Crime (SOC) has on both our urban and rural communities affecting the most vulnerable people with devastating consequences. Therefore, I am committed to ensuring that Cheshire Constabulary add value wherever possible to the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU) ensuring that our region is as unattractive as possible to organised crime. I am pleased to say a policy has been developed to improve and scrutinise collaborations effectively and the principles contained within the document will ensure a continual focus.

The report recommends that by February 2022, chief officers responsible for SOC in each region, with the chief officers of the affected forces, should make sure that systems are in place for senior investigating officers (SIOs) and lead responsible officers (LROs) to work effectively together. The regional ACC has said in the North West, a proposal will go to the May 2021 Management Board, which oversees the ROCU, for the development across the region of a series of SIO & LRO workshops to showcase best practice, including the systems in place to support the best practice, so enable and embed a consistent system across the region for SIO's and LRO's to work effectively together in tackling SOC. A terms of reference and plan to address the recommendation, consistent with NSOC leadership, will be presented to NWROCU Management Board 20th May 2021. I have been reassured that the Constabulary will support the regional ACC lead through involvement at the ROCU Management Board and are ensuring that good practice from other forces continues to be harvested and brought back into force as part of our own continuous improvement process and is cognisant of the regional and national position.

It is also required that by February 2022, the chief constable with the lead for SOC in each region, with the chief officers of the affected forces, should ensure that a chief officer is appointed with responsibility for each ROCU, as far as practicable working autonomously of force responsibilities. This recommendation is in place within the North West, with each of the six forces party to the ROCU collaboration funding a dedicated ACC post to lead the NWROCU. Therefore I am pleased this recommendation is already in effect.

The report comments on the capability and commitment of officers in tackling SOC and I do not lose sight of the challenges and dangers our officers put themselves in when working to break up serious criminal activity to protect our communities from harm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Keane', is positioned above the typed name and title.

David Keane  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
27th April 2021