

## Cheshire PCCs Response to His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Police and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Inspections

<b>Title of Inspection</b>	Cheshire – National child protection inspection post-inspection review	
<b>Date Inspection Published</b>	6 June 2023	
<b>Type of Inspection</b>	Force Specific	
	Cheshire Specific	Yes
	Cheshire Quoted	Yes
<b>Recommendations</b>	National	No
	Local	Yes

### Report Summary

HMICFRS have carried out a post-inspection review further to their report published on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022. There were areas of good practice identified, however the inspection highlighted specific areas for development.

The post-inspection review clearly states that the Leadership Team are committed to making the improvements required to protect children, as well as the staff involved in investigations. Partner organisations add that relationships with the Constabulary are extremely positive.

However, there are issues progressing case files, and it was found that that some frontline officers are not always equipped with the skills needed to manage incidents. HMICFRS states that more needs to be done to prioritise those children most at risk of exploitation and where children with complex needs present, it was found that some were taken into custody unnecessarily.

### Commissioner’s Response

I have made a significant pledge in protecting children in my Police and Crime Plan, and as such, I received the post-inspection report with great interest. It is my responsibility to ensure the Constabulary responds to and delivers on the recommendations made by HMICFRS. Closely monitoring progress against the recommendations, I have consulted with the Chief Constable in a recent accountability meeting to understand what is being done to improve. I was pleased to learn that many of the recommendations are now completed, resulting in more effective ways of working as follows:

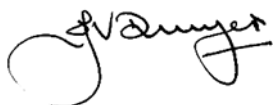
- Improved control room practices which have bolstered the quality assurance of initial risk assessments.
- Enhanced the engagement with strategic partners to improve the consistency of approach to multi-agency risk management.

- The training offer has been reviewed and refreshed which ensures that officers are appropriately obtaining and recording the “voice of the child”.
- The Constabulary has improved the recording of police protection notices, and the process has been more clearly defined.
- There has been more staff recruited in this area with increased investment in additional training. The Constabulary have improved the governance arrangements in the management of registered sex offenders.
- The pan-Cheshire protocol for youth overnight detention has been reviewed and refreshed, along with improvements to multi-agency governance arrangements and provided officers with additional training in order to improve how to manage the detention of children in Cheshire.
- “Voice of the Child” training has been given to custody officers and staff, along with a new checklist as part of the dip sampling process to improve the recording of information and decision making on custody logs relating to the detention of children.

It is pleasing to see that the work being done by a new leadership team has been highlighted in the review, and I am reassured by the praise given to the Constabulary with regard to their partnership working. However, I am aware there is still work underway at pace to improve the response to children who go missing from home and broaden the understanding of child sexual exploitation, both within the Constabulary and across multi-agency partnerships.

I look forward to receiving further updates for these remaining recommendations, which I am assured are expected imminently and will continue to maintain a relentless focus on protecting children and vulnerable people in my role as Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire.

**Commissioner’s Response:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Dwyer', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

**John Dwyer**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire**