

**HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY
PEEL: POLICING EFFECTIVENESS 2016: AN
INSPECTION OF CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY
RESPONSE OF DAVID KEANE, POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE**



I welcome Her Majesty's Inspectors' report, published 2 March 2017, which praises the Constabulary for high quality investigations, improvement in tackling serious and organised crime, commitment to preventing crime and anti-social behaviour and the high level of support for victims of domestic abuse.

I am pleased that the HMIC effectiveness report validates Cheshire Constabulary's quality of investigations by stating that; 'Overall the public can have confidence that Cheshire Constabulary investigates crimes to a high standard'. A review of case files, randomly selected from crimes recorded between 1 January and 31 March 2016 and assessed them against several criteria found that cases were being investigated by an officer with the appropriate level of investigation skills, and that overall, Cheshire Constabulary's gathering of evidence, initial investigation and allocation for subsequent investigation is good.

I am especially satisfied that the report assessed the Constabulary as being good at tackling serious and organised crime, a leap forward from last year's judgement of requiring improvement.

The Constabulary has continued to improve its understanding of the risks faced by its communities and make effective use of a range of techniques to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. They maximise the use of legislation in order to reduce anti-social behaviour, and it I am pleased that Inspectors recognise the effective use of preventative orders to reduce antisocial behaviour across Cheshire.

However, Inspectors have highlighted that there is an inconsistent approach across the Constabulary in the use of neighbourhood profiles and problem solving methods. The Constabulary recognise this issue and are taking steps to improve these areas by developing additional training for neighbourhood officers and ensuring we look at best practice across the country to ensure we do what we can to prevent crime and keep people safe.

Overall the HMIC effectiveness report is very positive for the Constabulary and I am delighted that all our officers, staff and volunteers' hard work is being recognised.

Whilst there are no specific recommendations for the Constabulary, the Inspectorate make some observations where improvements can be made, and I will be maintaining close oversight to ensure that any areas for improvement are acted upon.

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.