



HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY: CRIME DATA INTEGRITY 2017: AN INSPECTION OF CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY

RESPONSE OF DAVID KEANE, POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE

I welcome that Her Majesty's Inspector's report into Crime Data Integrity in Cheshire has found that the majority of officers and staff are placing the needs of the victim at the heart of their crime-recording decisions. However, HMIC's findings and grading of the Constabulary as inadequate raises a number of significant concerns regarding crime recording by the Constabulary.

The report did find that the Constabulary has worked hard in bringing about improvements in the knowledge and understanding of the crime-recording requirements for modern day slavery crimes among officers and staff; and that the Cheshire Cares victim support team is well-established, providing victims of recorded crime with access to support service to which they are entitled.

It must be recognised however, the report has found that the Constabulary is yet to complete all the recommendations for improvements made in HMIC's 2014 report and that as a result of the inspection HMIC found that 83.6% of reported crimes were recorded. Of particular concern are the Inspectors findings regarding inconsistency of process and understanding within the Constabulary with regards to crime recording and the current under recording in the areas of violent crime including domestic abuse, reports of rape and other sexual offences.

I support HMIC's statement that the Constabulary needs to act promptly to improve the accuracy of its' recording of crime reports and, crucially, to provide all victims with the service to which they are entitled and deserve. To this end on 3 July 2017 I held a Special Scrutiny Board in public to consider the findings of, actions taken as a result of and the future plans to respond to the HMIC report

During the meeting Chief Constable to provide an overview of the inspection report and outlined how the Constabulary has and is responding delivering a presentation focused on:

- National Crime Recording Standards
- Key Findings from 2017 Cheshire Inspection
- Initial actions undertaken in response
- Previous actions since 2014 Inspection
- New recommendations
- Key Points of learning
- Offences committed by children

During the scrutiny session I considered in depth the HMIC report raising a number of questions and concerns with the Chief Constable. I outlined that given HMIC estimated over 11,600 reports of crime have not been recorded by the Constabulary; this raises significant public concern that there has been a potential lack of justice for victims. I have clearly outlined to the Chief Constable that fundamental to resolving this, the Constabulary must take seriously HMIC observations with regard to the need to ensure a greater emphasis is placed on the initial account of victims and that correct recording processes are in place to make certain that victims are subsequently referred to appropriate support, for example Cheshire Cares. The full notes of the meeting can be found on my website along with the Constabulary presentation.

As a result of the Inspection HMIC have outlined a range of recommendations and areas of improvement to be addressed; immediately; within three months; and within six months. The Chief Constable has provided updates on the progress on all 'immediate' recommendations and areas for improvement and has provided a summary of outcomes for the additional 271 crimes referred by HMIC to the Constabulary.

In addition, following the 3 July Scrutiny Board the Chief Constable has committed that a full action plan in response to the HMIC recommendations and areas for improvement, including timescales, progress to date and completed actions would be prepared and presented to the next Scrutiny Board on 23 August to ensure both I and Cheshire residents are able to review progress.

I will be maintaining close oversight to ensure that all recommendations and areas for improvement are acted upon.



David Keane
Police & Crime Commissioner