

**HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY
AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES
CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY: CRIME DATA INTEGRITY
RESPONSE OF DAVID KEANE, POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE**



I welcome Her Majesty's Inspectors' report, published 2 October 2018, which has assessed Cheshire Constabulary's crime recording as outstanding.

I am delighted that the Constabulary has been found to have substantially improved its accuracy in crime recording and that Inspectors have praised the extensive and excellent improvements. To go from the lowest level of assessment in the 2017 report to the highest level in just one year is testament to the hard work of officers and staff to ensure the appropriate processes are put in place so all crimes are recorded in the correct way.

The ongoing work to address the recommendations made by Inspectors in the 2017 report has led to a comprehensive mapping of the crime recording processes and ensured that officers and staff have a clear understanding of their roles in this process. Comprehensive training has been rolled out across the force and there is better governance, audit and departmental learning processes in place as a result. I am pleased to see both that Inspectors have recognised the hard work that has gone into and that the Constabulary has improved its understanding of the demands placed upon it and that it is able to use this understanding to keep Cheshire residents safe.

The effectiveness of a police service is crucial in ensuring the public have confidence in local policing and is fundamental to the principle of policing by consent. Therefore, it is very positive to see that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) as part of their 2017 inspections have assessed Cheshire Constabulary as being a good and effective force which keeps people safe and is reducing crime.

The report recognises that there has been a cultural change to the way officers and staff regard crime recording, and that this will ensure that victims have access to appropriate support to cope and recover from their experiences. I am reassured that the Acting Chief Constable's actions in pursuing progress has resulted in significant improvements and confirmation that Cheshire is now considered to be at an outstanding level, This should provide our communities with a high level of confidence in their police service.

Whilst there are no specific recommendations for this report I will continue to support and encourage the Constabulary in a process of constant review and improvement and welcome further scrutiny of this by the Inspectors. I am gratified that all recommendations made in 2017 have been completed and will continue to hold the Constabulary to account to ensure that this high standard is maintained.

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.

24 October 2018