

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



David Keane
Police & Crime
Commissioner
for Cheshire

***Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency
response to child exploitation in Halton***

RESPONSE OF DAVID KEANE, POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE

Between 8 and 12 July 2019, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) carried out a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to children experiencing or at risk of exploitation, including sexual and criminal exploitation, in Halton.

Given the ongoing vulnerability of children within our local communities either experiencing, or at risk of, child exploitation due to county lines, I welcome the joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) and the deep dive focus on this vulnerable group of children who are known to be in this situation of concern.

It is pleasing to note the inspection has identified that '*senior leaders in the Halton local area partnership have a clear vision and strong commitment to working together to meet the needs of vulnerable children*'. I have sought assurances from the Chief Constable that Cheshire Constabulary will continue to support the strategic partnerships across both Halton and pan-Cheshire to support this vision.

The report rightly highlights the very sad incident that occurred in Halton in 2018 in which one young person sadly lost their life due to knife crime. I applaud the response of the Constabulary, a range of partners as well as the local community following this tragic incident that has ensured not only a greater awareness and understanding of the prevalence of knife crime, but also safer communities across Halton. As an example, the Chief Constable has explained at a recent public Scrutiny Board how the learning identified specifically within Halton is now part of the Constabulary's cohesive response, in conjunction with a wide range of partners, to knife crime and associated youth violence across Cheshire.

I note that the report highlights a number of areas for improvement and I await the multi-agency response, prepared by the director of children's services by early December, which will detail the proposed action responding to the findings of the JTAI.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Keane'.

David Keane
Police & Crime Commissioner
15 October 2019