



PEEL spotlight report: Diverging under pressure
An overview of 2018/19 PEEL inspections

RESPONSE OF DAVID KEANE, POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE

I welcome Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) PEEL spotlight report, published 07 February 2020, that provides an overview of the inspection reports into all 43 police forces in England and Wales following the publication of the third and final group of 2018/19 PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) inspections. It is important to note that in 2018/19, HMISFRS adopted an integrated PEEL assessment (IPA) approach which combines the effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy pillars into a single inspection.

I note that inspections show that policing across England and Wales is largely good and welcome the recognition that forces continue to providing services to the public under the joint pressures of rising demand and falling resources.

I am pleased that Cheshire Constabulary once again received the grading of 'good' from HMICFRS for the annual assessment of effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy in 2018/19 (published September 2019). It was particularly pleasing to read the positive reflections of the Inspectorate regarding policing in Cheshire and that the Constabulary continues to perform well in relation to keeping people safe and reducing crime. In addition, I was pleased the Inspectorate recognised that the Constabulary is good at protecting vulnerable people, has a better understanding of how to support people with mental health issues and has a good understanding of the nature and scale of vulnerability across Cheshire.

The spotlight report highlights that although the effectiveness of forces is improving, inspections found a lack of capacity in neighbourhood policing to analyse and use intelligence. HMICFRS suggest that this has a detrimental impact upon the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing, keeping people safe and the ability to inform the fight against serious and organised crime. I continue to applaud the neighbourhood policing model adopted in Cheshire and the ongoing activities of dedicated PCSOs in each of the 122 local communities across Cheshire that continue to enhance the extent to which the Constabulary is connected with its communities, but also ensuring safer communities across Cheshire.

It was disappointing to read that nationally, victims of crime face increasingly divergent experiences of policing. As such, I welcome the introduction of a victim service assessment into future PEEL inspections that will track victims' experiences including the initial call and response, the recording, allocation and investigation of crime, as well as the appropriateness of the outcome. The extent to which victims are supported throughout the criminal justice system is of paramount importance and the future assessment will ensure improvements can be achieved, where necessary, to ensure greater effectiveness and efficiencies.

One of my most important roles as Police & Crime Commissioner is being responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account for maintaining an efficient and effective police service in Cheshire. I have discussed the spotlight report with the Chief Constable and in particular, the national findings highlighted. I am pleased the Chief Constable shares my ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and we continue to discuss how Cheshire Constabulary will continue to improve in order to achieve outstanding ratings in the areas of effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy in the future.