

Cheshire Constabulary's response to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Police and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspections



Inspection Details:	
Inspection:	Policing the Pandemic: The police response to the Coronavirus pandemic during 2020.
Date Published:	20 th April 2021
Deadline for Response:	15 th June 2021

Type of Inspection	Recommendations
Cheshire Specific	National X
National X	Local
Thematic X	
Other	

COMMISSIONER'S RESPONSE:

The police service has faced unprecedented challenges during the coronavirus pandemic in a year like no other. Like the NHS, our police officers, staff and volunteers have remained on the front line, selflessly going above and beyond during this extraordinary time. I welcome the report published by HMICFRS which examines how policing has responded to a global health emergency, and rightly recognises the contribution that has been made. I agree that the workforce has shown determination and commitment whilst putting themselves at risk to protect the public, safeguard the vulnerable and work with the public to strengthen compliance.

Enforcing Covid-19 has presented challenges, but I am satisfied that Cheshire has provided a proportionate and intelligent response throughout the pandemic. The report references the number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued and this demonstrates there has been a tone that is serious about enforcement, but has been proportionate with appropriate use of the four Es.

The report lists five recommendations for Constabularies, and these are being tracked in Cheshire with many already complete, and a GAP analysis is ensuring that work is done to ensure lessons are learned. To protect our people, the Constabulary implemented a Test, Track and Trace policy at the beginning of the pandemic and managed organisational challenges and staff welfare with functional leads through the gold group 'Operation Pandas'.

Changes to legislation has been communicated to officers across the Constabulary and is accessible through the Covid19 website. The report highlights the risk that Registered Sex Offenders (RSO) have posed during this period and here in Cheshire normal business has resumed, with all visits now taking place in the home. The Constabulary implemented a policy at the beginning of the pandemic to adopt safe working practices whilst preventing reoffending until it was safe to return to usual business.

The effects of the pandemic will be felt for some time. Whilst there is optimism about a return to normal with the Government's road map, some working practices will not revert to pre Covid19

times. The Constabulary are currently reviewing the scale and impact of changes and determining whether these new ways of working will continue.

I am nothing less than impressed with how officers, staff and volunteers have worked throughout this period, delivering an effective police service for the people of Cheshire. They have shown professionalism, courage and resilience and I would like to take this opportunity to show my sincerest gratitude for all they have done.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Dwyer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and a stylized 'Dwyer'.

John Dwyer
Police & Crime Commissioner