

RESPONSE TO HMIC REPORT – INTERIM PEEL CRIME INSPECTION 2014

In response to the specific findings relating to South Yorkshire Police arising from the HMIC report: Interim PEEL Crime Inspection 2014.

Chief Constable Response

South Yorkshire Police welcomes the HMIC report 'Crime Inspection Report 2014 – South Yorkshire Police', which was generated following a number of visits to the force during 2014.

It is pleasing to note that the Inspectors observed sound and efficient practice when looking at Partnership working, early intervention and the management of offenders and described these areas as a strength. To improve on the overall rating of 'good' in this area the force needs to further embed the understanding of these issues at a local level. This will place our staff in the position of being able to value and prioritise actions in preventing crime and managing offenders more effectively.

Additionally, the Inspectors described an overall rating of 'good' in terms of dealing with issues of antisocial behaviour and managing risk. They suggested that further improvements could be made to demonstrate that we are consistent with the decision making and risk identification at the front end when handling the initial call. This is part of the ongoing training programme within Atlas Court. As you will be aware, we are planning a wholesale technology refresh of the supporting infrastructure within our communications centre. This is subject to a joint bid with our Humberside colleagues to the Home Office Innovation fund. This has been submitted recently and the result is awaited. This should substantially improve the way in which we handle calls and improve our access to data within the force therefore improving the quality of information on which we base our risk assessment decisions.

The main area of feedback from the Inspectors was in the area of investigating crime. They noted that much has changed in the force over the previous 12 months especially with improvements in the more specialist investigation of sexual and child related crime and safeguarding issues. The identification and management of prolific offenders was also thought to be a strength and this feedback is welcomed. The consolidation of our Integrated Offender Management Plan will take effect in the next 12 months and will lead to further improvements in this area.

In relation to specific recommendations. We have done much to re launch the requirements of the Victims Code to all officers and staff along with my expectations of the supervision of staff to ensure that victims are better and more consistently informed. Our ongoing first line supervisor training has a strong theme of risk assessment and assessing the needs to victims along with the code of ethics and the individual responsibility that each staff member carries. The action plan generated as a result of these recommendations will be published in due course. Specifically, within the Crime Management Unit the action plan is well advanced and the improvements and innovation necessary is thoroughly understood.

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner Response

The findings of the HMIC PEEL annual assessment provides me with some of the key information I need to hold the South Yorkshire Police force to account.

I acknowledge the positive comments made by the report, including that the force is good at reducing crime and preventing offending, has a range of effective partnership working arrangements in place and is effective at tackling anti-social behaviour and that this is a clear priority for the force.

But there is a clear need to become much more victim-focussed. Support for victims is one of my priorities and an area which I will be paying particular attention to. I do however, note that South Yorkshire Police have already taken steps to ensure that victims are better and more consistently informed.

Also, more clearly needs to be done around how the force investigates offending and I note the comments made by South Yorkshire Police that a comprehensive action plan is in place to address recommendations made within the report. I will monitor progress against the action plan through my Governance and Assurance Board.



Dr Alan Billings
Police and Crime Commissioner