



RESPONSE TO HMIC REPORTS – PEEL Effectiveness

In response to the specific findings relating to South Yorkshire Police arising from the PEEL Effectiveness Report.

South Yorkshire Police – Response from the Chief Constable, David Crompton

There have been a number of HMIC PEEL reports published in the last few weeks. South Yorkshire Police welcomes the reports which follow from numerous visits to the force at the end of 2015.

PEEL Effectiveness – Published 18th February 2016

The force was graded overall as 'Requires improvement'. There were four component parts to this inspection, two of which were 'Good' and two were 'Requires Improvement'.

In terms of how effective the force is at preventing crime and antisocial behaviour, and keeping people safe, we were graded as 'Good'. In particular, we were recognised for working effectively with partners to tackle crime and ASB in each Local Authority area and our effective use of legal powers to tackle gangs and ASB. It was pleasing to note that our considerable efforts in the use of mobile technology have been also recognised.

Our effectiveness at investigating crime and managing offenders was graded as 'Requires Improvement'. Although we have good arrangements for managing offenders and diverting them from the criminal justice system, some of our investigations are inconsistent. It is apparent that many of our investigations are fit for purpose and adequate but we fail to record them, leading Inspectors to draw adverse conclusions. Improvement here is part of a longer-term action to improve skills of all officers and in particular supervisors.

The Inspectors graded the force as 'Requires Improvement' on how effective the force is at protecting from harm those who are vulnerable, and supporting victims. Positively, vulnerable people are being identified correctly including repeat victims. Good systems exist for missing people and we are well prepared to tackle CSE. Significantly, the Inspectors concluded that through strong leadership, we are now leading nationally in the response to CSE.

The Inspectors also noted that our new local policing structure is now firmly embedded but encouraged the force to look closely at how we value our long-term problem solving capacity. Our dedicated anti-social behaviour and offender management teams in each of our four geographic areas have been maintained and are working well. A further positive is the stabilisation of the number of PCSOs we



have across the force. It is the intention in conjunction with the PCC to maintain these numbers through till 2020. Further evaluation and review of our Local Policing model is planned for next financial year.

In terms of improvement, investigation into Domestic Abuse needs to be more consistent, in particular when considering the police response and our use of appointments. This is now part of a detailed action plan.

The force was graded as 'Good' in how effective the force is at tackling serious and organised crime, including arrangements for fulfilling our national policing responsibilities.

The Inspectors recognised that we have a good understanding of the threats posed, good threat assessments involving partners, leading to effective action at dismantling organised crime groups. Clear governance is present with good experienced staff who also support local need.

There is clear feedback regarding our criming processes and attendance at low and medium level Domestic Abuse incidents. Action is ongoing and is overseen by a Chief Officer at the Strategic Safeguarding Gold Group.

South Yorkshire PCC - Response from Alan Billings

HMIC reports are useful for me when I hold the force to account. They help me see more clearly the areas that need greater attention.

This report concentrates on how effective the force is at preventing and investigating crime and anti-social behaviour, tackling serious and organised crime and protecting victims and the vulnerable. It is a mixed picture of 'good' and 'requiring improvement'.

I am pleased that the force is considered 'good' at preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, and keeping people safe. Keeping people safe is the overall outcome of the Police and Crime Plan that I produce each year. Wherever I go, people in all communities say they want the police to keep them safe. I believe the decision to keep neighbourhood teams with PCSOs was the right one, even though numbers are becoming stretched. We shall keep PCSO numbers at existing levels – 225 – for the coming years.

It is also good news that the force is 'good' at tackling serious and organised crime and fulfilling national responsibilities, including cyber-crime. The report acknowledges that South Yorkshire has some very experienced and capable officers.

But the force will have to work at improving the way it investigates crime more generally and manages offenders. The latter will require greater co-operation with other agencies. However, I note that victim satisfaction levels remain above the



national average. I also note the strain that has been placed on the force due to cuts in grant and therefore in numbers. We need to find more savings from areas other than the workforce if the good work is to be built upon.

I shall be particularly concerned to ensure that the force thinks more carefully about how it protects from harm those who are vulnerable and those who become victims of crime.

I am very pleased that the report recognises the steps that have been taken to improve the force's response to child sexual exploitation. It states clearly that there is now strong leadership in place and it is 'well-prepared' to tackle child sexual exploitation.

But more needs to be done to understand domestic abuse and help the victims and their children.

Protecting the vulnerable will be a key priority for the renewed Police and Crime Plan which I shall be publishing in a few weeks time. We need to expand our understanding of who the vulnerable are.

There are also growing categories of victims that need sensitive help, such as those suffering domestic abuse or those caught up in modern slavery and trafficking. We are only just beginning to recognise the scale of the problem.

I will use this report to focus the attention of the police on these areas of growing concern.