



## **RESPONSE TO HMIC REPORTS – PEEL Legitimacy**

In response to the specific findings relating to South Yorkshire Police arising from the PEEL Legitimacy Inspection

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

The force overall was graded as ‘Good’, this was made up of three component parts.

The force was graded as ‘Good’ with regard to the extent that we reinforce good practice and behaviour, concentrate on the wellbeing of staff and promote an ethical culture. We do continually effectively promote an ethical culture through our FIRST principles and the Code of Ethics.

It was pleasing to note that Inspectors recognised that our Health and Well Being strategy is firmly in place and working well.

In terms of improvement, there were some inconsistencies noted with discipline processes between Police and Support Staff and these will be worked through in due course.

The force was graded as ‘Good’ as to how well we understand, engage with and treat fairly the people we serve to maintain and improve legitimacy. HMIC noted a wide range of effective processes for engagement with the public and they noted that we understand the importance of doing this. Our public facing contact was found to be polite and courteous and that we are effective in supporting staff to act ethically and to uphold standards.

In terms of improvement, we accept the advice that we do need to do more to engage with staff when considering our restructure plans and the major challenges we are due to face.

The force was graded as ‘Requires Improvement’ with regard to what extent are decisions taken on the use of stop and search and Taser fair and appropriate. The key feedback here was that we do need to publish use of stop and search and also our use of Taser, and this has now been done on the South Yorkshire Police website. Important feedback was received in respect of our compliance with the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme (BUSS). We were found to be broadly compliant apart from the accuracy of how we record our grounds for each search and the supervision of the process. This will be remedied as we roll out new mobile devices to operational officers in addition to the Mobile App for the recording of stop and search. Roll out of this final part is planned for April 2016 and this will complete our compliance with the BUSS.



Our use of Taser was given good feedback in terms of use, recording and supervisory oversight. HMIC also suggested that we commission independent research into our use of stop and search and the use of an independent scrutiny panel. Both of these points have been put in place.

### **Office of the South Yorkshire PCC - Response from Dr Alan Billings, PCC**

It is pleasing to note that in respect of the overall inspection the force was graded as 'good'. Inspectors found that the force effectively promotes an ethical culture and standards through the implementation of the FIRST principles and effectively uses a wide range of approaches to engage with the diverse communities it serves.

However, it is disappointing that the force was graded as requires improvement with regard to compliance with the best use of stop and search scheme. The main criticism is that the force is not compliant with the requirement to record and publish the full range of outcomes, including whether the outcome was related to the item searched for.

I understand from having sought assurances from the Chief Constable that stop and search information is now published on the South Yorkshire Police website.

In terms of the accuracy of how the force record the grounds for searches and the supervision of the process, the Chief Constable has made reference to the new mobile app that will hopefully remedy the issues encountered in this area.

Representatives from my strategic Independent Advisory Panel for Minority Communities will also give external scrutiny when the app goes live to ensure that this is the case, as well as monitoring stop and search records more widely.