

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

HMIC Inspection Reports

4th February 2016

SUMMARY

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is the independent inspection body for policing.

The HMIC carries out the following types of inspections:

- An annual inspection of all police forces with individual published reports. This is known as PEEL – Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy. Each of the three elements are graded. There are four possible grades: inadequate, requires improvement, good, outstanding.
- National thematic inspections – where a specific policing issue is inspected using a sample of between 6 and all 43 forces, depending on the issue. These issues are chosen either by the HMIC or by the Home Secretary
- Joint inspections with other agencies e.g. inspections on custody facilities with HM Inspectorate of Prisons
- Commissioned inspections – PCCs or the Home Secretary can commission the HMIC to carry out a force inspection on a particular topic.

As well as inspections, the HMIC also publishes data and information. This includes annual Value for Money profiles and the Rape Data Monitoring Group reports.

The PCC's role in these inspections is to receive the reports and publish his comments on the recommendations made by HMIC. The PCC should then use the findings to scrutinise the police force performance, particularly in areas which contribute to the achievement of the Police and Crime Plan.

The Police and Crime Panel's role is to ensure that the PCC is taking into account inspection reports and the recommendations therein when holding the Chief Constable to account.

INSPECTION REPORTS DECEMBER 2015

Since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting, HMIC has published three reports specifically relating to Surrey Police:

- Regional Organised Crime Units
- PEEL – the vulnerability section of the PEEL inspection process – the HMIC has published a national overview and a specific report and grading for each police force
- Child protection – HMIC has published the Surrey report which forms part of a national thematic of all police forces

A positive report was received for the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROCU), for which the Surrey PCC is jointly responsible for overseeing, although it is based in the Thames Valley area. The report found that the SEROCU was one of only two regional units providing all 13 of the national capabilities and is one of the few that has a dedicated Chief Officer.

The panel has asked for a more detailed update on the Child Protection and Vulnerability reports, provided below.

The full reports for the above inspections and the PCC's responses can be found on the HMIC website: <http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic>

VULNERABILITY AND CHILD PROTECTION REPORTS

These two reports were published in December 2015 and are linked. The Child Protection Inspection was carried out in early June 2015 and the results fed into the wider vulnerability report undertaken later in the same month. The vulnerability report is graded, taking into account child protection performance. Vulnerability covers all victims who are felt to be vulnerable including those suffering from crimes of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual offences, child sexual exploitation and missing children.

In terms of the specific child protection report, the inspectors found that of the 68 cases they considered in June 2015, 10 were rated as good against the HMIC criteria, 6 as adequate, 16 as requiring improvement and 36 as inadequate. Some good examples of work were reported on but there were also a number of cases in the report which the inspectors found needed improvement.

The report recognised that putting victims at the centre of the criminal justice system was a priority in the Police and Crime Plan and that the leadership team of Surrey Police was committed to improving services, but that *“overall we found a significant disconnect between the ambitions and aspirations of chief officers and child protection practice on the front line”*.

Four key recommendations were given in the report to be completed within six months. The HMIC also asked for a progress report within six weeks of the publication of the report and stated that it would re-inspect within six months to assess progress.

The HMIC Vulnerability inspection looked at all police forces and resulted in a national overview report as well as reports for each force, published in December. Forces were graded as outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate at protecting vulnerable people. Of the 43 forces, no force was graded as outstanding, 12 forces were judged to be good, 27 forces were judged to require improvement and four forces were judged to be inadequate. Surrey was judged to be inadequate.

In terms of the Surrey report on vulnerability, the HMIC concluded that it had “*significant concerns about the capability and capacity of Surrey Police to safeguard vulnerable people and investigate crimes committed against these vulnerable people*”. Again, HMIC recognised the priority given to protecting vulnerable people but found that current systems were ineffective and that there were inconsistencies in investigations. The report and accompanying press release recognised that ‘*some promising progress*’ had been made since the inspection.

The vulnerability report made two specific recommendations – one on improving child abuse investigations and one on reviewing the force approach to missing children.

The PCC’s comments on these reports are attached and can be found at: <http://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/information/hmic/>.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE PCC

The PCC was aware of the inspection findings following debrief sessions held in June 2015 and he had also independently identified concerns with force performance in the area of Public Protection (the term used within Surrey Police for protecting vulnerable people from harm).

On identifying concerns, the PCC commissioned a specific scrutiny of force performance in Public Protection in June, to be held in August 2015. The initial papers provided by Surrey Police were not of the required standard and this scrutiny was rescheduled for September 2015. This scrutiny meeting was held but the PCC was not satisfied that concerns were being addressed. He then wrote to the Chief Constable providing a detailed account of his concerns. The Chief Constable responded and a further scrutiny panel was set up for December 2015.

Between September and December 2015 the Office of the PCC worked with Surrey Police to ensure that a robust improvement plan was developed. Staff from the OPCC have maintained oversight and monitored progress against the plan by attending key Surrey Police board meetings. The PCC authorised increased expenditure on staff and the release of reserves to provide short term improvement funding.

At the December scrutiny meeting, Surrey Police provided the PCC with an Improvement Plan for Public Protection. This is attached and is published on the Surrey Police website. This plan also addresses HMIC recommendations. Surrey Police has recently provided the OPCC with a Public Protection Business Case outlining the case for further permanent, substantial investment into protecting vulnerable people and investigating their cases. This is currently being considered and expected to be signed off in February 2016.

During this time the PCC also considered what other actions he should take to address Chief Constable and force performance in this area of work and asked for HMIC for independent professional advice and assistance.

CURRENT POSITION

The PCC is now content that an appropriate action plan is in place and that Surrey Police has the necessary funding and staffing to improve in Public Protection. A new Temporary Chief Superintendent within a proven background in public protection matters has been appointed to lead this area of work and has been given a clear remit to make Surrey the 'market leader' in public protection issues. However, he will continue to scrutinise the achievement of actions identified and the performance of Surrey Police to ensure that the required improvements are made. A further scrutiny is planned for 10th February.

In terms of current performance, Surrey Police have provided an update report to the webcast January Management Meeting. The attached tables shows the increased scale of the levels of crimes that Surrey Police is currently dealing with – large increases in reported sexual offences, child exploitation, domestic abuse and hate crime (on top of increased reported in the previous year). The numbers of crimes solved are now also increasing, as shown below. The actions identified in the Improvement Plan are currently on track.

	Crimes Recorded 1st Apr - 22nd Dec 15	% Difference compared to 1st Apr - 22nd Dec 14	Crimes Solved 1st Apr - 22nd Dec 15	% Difference compared to 1st Apr - 22nd Dec 15
Rape and Serious Sexual Offences	1009	↑ 58.2%	150	↑ 51.5%
Rape (Subset of the category above)	404	↑ 40.8%	55	↑ 83.3%
Child Sexual Exploitation	742	↑ 271.0%	164	↑ 164.5%
Rape and Serious Sexual Offences involving a child victim	431	↑ 69.7%	77	↑ 51.0%
Domestic Abuse	5541	↑ 33.3%	1452	↑ 17.0%
Hate Crime	725	↑ 46.8%	213	↑ 33.1%

RECOMMENDATIONS

That members of the Police and Crime Panel note the report and the actions taken by the PCC.

ATTACHMENTS

- A PCC's Response to HMIC Child Protection Report
- B PCC's Response to HMIC Vulnerability Report
- C Public Protection Improvement Plan
- D Update report to January Management Meeting

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